



वार्डर / जेल प्रहरी (कारागार विभाग, राजस्थान)

The Warder — commonly called Jail Prahari — is the most grassroots uniformed employee of the Prisons Department. Custody and counting of inmates inside the jail, watching the barracks, visits and searches, escort at court...



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करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। • An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

The Warder — commonly called Jail Prahari — is the most grassroots uniformed employee of the Prisons Department. Custody and counting of inmates inside the jail, watching the barracks, visits and searches, escort at court production, and holding discipline are all this post's work. The qualification is only Secondary (Class 10), recruitment is 100% direct, and it is one of the few posts that leads to permanent uniformed government service straight after Class 10. The most important thing, and it is rarely said: this is the first rung of the same cadre that the Deputy Jailor sits at the top of. Under the rules, 50% of Deputy Jailor posts are filled by promotion from Head Warder — so a Class 10 pass can reach the officer grade by the route the rules themselves lay down.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Secondary (Class 10) or equivalent from a recognised board. Some branches carry an extra qualification on top — see below
Recruiting body	Prisons Department, Rajasthan (under the rules the appointing authority is the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons) — recent cycles run through the Staff Selection Board
Age limit	18 attained and 24 not attained, on the 1 January following the last date for applications — the upper limit is relaxed for reserved categories and for women (detail below)
Starting salary	Pay matrix level not officially confirmed — see the advertisement
Demand	Posts in every central, district and sub-jail in the state; 100% direct recruitment

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- An interest in uniformed work, discipline and security
- Working in shifts as part of a team
- Understanding how people behave, and believing in reform

ABILITIES

- Alertness — holding attention through a long duty
- Self-control under stress, and staying calm under provocation
- Physical fitness and good eyesight

KEY SKILLS

- Counting inmates, searches, and the security drill for the barracks
- Managing visits and preventing prohibited articles from getting in
- Defusing a quarrel before it grows
- First aid and responding to an emergency
- Custody during court production and hospital escort
- Keeping registers and the duty record
- A working knowledge of the Rajasthan prison rules and prisoners' rights

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 10 (Secondary) from a recognised board — that is the minimum the rules ask.
- 2 Work out the age early — 18 attained and 24 not attained. The window is narrow and it opens and closes quickly after Class 10.
- 3 Start physical preparation now — under the rules a candidate under 168 cm in height, with a deflated chest under 81 cm or an inflated chest under 86 cm, is not deemed physically fit. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates get a relaxation of up to 5 cm.
- 4 Get your eyes tested early — the vision standard for a Warder is stricter than for other posts in the department: without glasses, distant 6/6 and 6/6, and near J5 and J5.
- 5 If you hold an extra qualification, look for its branch — a heavy vehicle driving licence, an ITI certificate in a mechanical trade, a physical training certificate, or an ex-serviceman background: the rules keep separate branches for each.

- 6** Apply online when the advertisement appears, take the written examination, then the physical measurement and efficiency test. After selection, complete the departmental training.

MAIN EXAMS

- The written examination — its marking scheme, duration and syllabus are published in that cycle's advertisement. Note that this post is not in the Schedules to the CET Rules 2022, so no CET is required for it — a large difference from Deputy Jailor, for which CET Graduate Level is compulsory.
- Physical standards — 168 cm height, 81 cm deflated chest and 86 cm inflated chest are the minimums; below them a candidate is not deemed physically fit. Up to 5 cm relaxation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates, and a separate provision on height for candidates from hill areas.
- Vision standards — for both Warder and Deputy Jailor, distant vision without glasses must be 6/6 and 6/6, and near vision J5 and J5. The standard for the department's other posts is 6/9 and 6/18, so this is distinctly stricter.
- Ten branches, one post — the rules keep these branches under Warder: Warder-M.T. Driver, Warder-Armourer, Warder-PTI, Warder-Mechanic, Warder-Band Master, Warder-Machineman, Warder-Electrician, Warder-Barber, Warder-Washerman and Warder-Cook. Secondary alone is enough for the general branch; the others need it plus an extra qualification.

- What the branches add — M.T. Driver: Secondary plus a valid heavy and light vehicle driving licence, 3 years of driving experience and knowledge of roadside repair. PTI: Secondary plus a physical training certificate from a recognised institute, or an ex-serviceman with at least 3 years as a PTI. Mechanic: Secondary plus a National or State Trade Certificate in a mechanical trade. Armourer: an ex-serviceman or ex-CPO person with experience as an armourer.
- Relaxation in the upper age limit — 5 years for male candidates of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, More Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections; 5 years for women candidates of the General category; and 10 years for women candidates of those same categories. Which means plainly that the bare figure printed against a post understates a reserved-category woman's eligibility by a decade — if you are in that category, work out your eligibility only after adding the relaxation. In Rajasthan, 30% of the posts in direct recruitment are reserved category-wise for women candidates. Widows and divorced women have no upper age limit at all — the rules say it in those words. It is Rule 13(9) of the Rajasthan State and Subordinate Services (Direct Recruitment by Combined Competitive Examination) Rules 1999, it appears again as the same proviso in the Rajasthan Medical & Health Subordinate Service Rules, and RPSC advertisements reproduce it. A widow must furnish a certificate of the death of her husband from the competent authority, and a divorced woman the proof of divorce. The exact terms of relaxation and reservation are given in that recruitment's own advertisement.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Government secondary schools — Class 10 — In every block
- Rajasthan State Open School — for completing Class 10 later in life; reached through the School Education Department portal — Jaipur and district centres (<https://education.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Government ITI — mechanical trades, and driving, for the branch posts — All districts of Rajasthan
- District sports stadiums and school grounds — free physical preparation — District headquarters and blocks

ONLINE

- कारागार विभाग, राजस्थान — विभाग एवं जेल ढाँचा — The department this post belongs to (<https://jail.rajasthan.gov.in>)
- राजस्थान कारागार अधीनस्थ सेवा नियम, 1998 — मूल दस्तावेज़ — The qualification, the age, the physical and vision standards and the promotion order are all in here (https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/modulCategory/202305260341224100470Jail1998_merged.pdf)
- आर.एस.एस.बी. — पिछले प्रश्न-पत्र, उत्तर कुंजी व पाठ्यक्रम (निःशुल्क) — The Staff Selection Board's own site — the most reliable free preparation material there is (https://rsmssb.rajasthan.gov.in/show_archived?menuName=Xj4lCb9vGxpQnfLs%2FxlZ2g%3D%3D)
- विभागीय सेवा नियम (कार्मिक विभाग) — पद की योग्यता व आयु मूल दस्तावेज़ में पढ़ें — The Department of Personnel publishes the service rules for every cadre. Read these before any coaching material — qualification, age and the method of recruitment are settled here and nowhere else. (<https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- स्वयं (SWAYAM) — भारत सरकार के निःशुल्क ऑनलाइन कोर्स — Free (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल पुस्तकालय (NDLI) — Free books and study material (<https://ndli.iitkgp.ac.in/>)
- एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. — निःशुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तकें — The foundation for general knowledge, maths and science (<https://ncert.nic.in/>)

FEES

Schooling to Class 10 at a government school is close to free and physical preparation costs nothing — running and exercise on village roads or a school ground, and on this post that is the largest part of the preparation. The examination fee is a few hundred rupees, with a concession for reserved categories. If you are aiming at one of the branches (driver, mechanic, electrician), the ITI trade certificate or the heavy vehicle licence is a separate cost — but that qualification also counts in the private sector, so it is not a bet on this post alone.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana (free coaching, apply via SSO) (<https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in/signin>)
- Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Dept scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- Buddy4Study scholarship search (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Central jails, district jails, sub-jails, open prisons and women's jails across the state. Duty is inside the compound — the barracks, the main gate, the watchtower and the visits room — and outside it during court production and hospital escort.

WORK CULTURE

This is uniformed, disciplined service and duty runs in shifts — nights, festivals and holidays included. The pressure of alertness is constant, because one lapse can cost a great deal. The Warder is the employee closest to the inmates, so the strictness of custody and humane treatment have to be carried together — which is the real difficulty of the work and also its importance. There are separate Lady Warder posts for the women's jails and women's wards, and under the rules only a Lady Head Warder can be promoted and posted as Matron at a women's jail.

WHO HIRES

- Prisons Department, Government of Rajasthan
- District and sub-jails
- Open prison camps
- Central jails — Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Udaipur, Kota, Alwar, Bharatpur
- Women's jails and women's wards
- Prison training institutions and departmental units

DEMAND (2026)

Warder posts are sanctioned in every central, district and sub-jail in the state and this is the department's largest cadre, because a jail runs round the clock in shifts and one jail therefore needs many Warders. Under the rules the post is filled 100% by direct recruitment, so the whole cadre is open to candidates from outside — an important difference from Deputy Jailor, where half the posts go by promotion. The most useful thing to know about this post is that it is not the end of the road. Under the Schedule, promotion from Warder to Head Warder is 100%, from Head Warder to Chief Head Warder or Matron likewise, and 50% of Deputy Jailor posts are filled by promotion from Head Warder. Which means plainly that a student who joins as a Warder on a Class 10 pass can, by continuing to study while in service, reach the officer grade by the route the rules lay down — and because promotion to Head Warder asks for less experience from a graduate, that study pays directly. One thing to be clear about — the "demand" described above counts posts, not your chance of getting one. Selection is by open competition and the number of applicants runs to many times the number of posts, so most candidates are not selected in any given recruitment. That is not an argument against this career; it is an argument against making it your only plan. Keep studying or building a skill alongside your preparation, so that the year is not lost whichever way the result goes.

7 Career growth

- 1 Warder / Lady Warder — 100% direct recruitment, Class 10 pass
- 2 Head Warder / Lady Head Warder — 100% by promotion. Fewer years of experience if you are a graduate, more on Senior Secondary, and 5 years for others.
- 3 Chief Head Warder / Matron — 100% by promotion; only a Lady Head Warder can become Matron at a women's jail
- 4 Deputy Jailor — 50% of the posts by promotion from Head Warder (the other 50% by direct recruitment)
- 5 Jailor and above — by promotion from Deputy Jailor

EARNINGS

Starting	विज्ञप्ति में घोषित पे मैट्रिक्स स्तर के अनुसार
Mid level	₹28,000 – ₹38,000 (भत्तों सहित, हेड वार्डर स्तर पर)
Senior level	₹45,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, उप जेलर स्तर पर पदोन्नति के बाद)

Being a uniformed post, a uniform allowance and duty-linked allowances are payable separately, and departmental accommodation is usually provided. One thing to weigh when comparing — the real value of this post is not in the starting pay but in the ladder built above it: Warder to Head Warder, then Chief Head Warder, and from there Deputy Jailor. Completing a degree while in service directly increases the speed of that climb. The starting figure is BASIC PAY, so that it can be compared directly against other careers. Dearness allowance (60% of basic since 1 January 2026) and house rent allowance are added on top of it, so take-home pay is appreciably higher. The mid-level and senior figures are approximate monthly income including allowances, not basic pay. Note — in Rajasthan a direct recruit is a probationer-trainee for the first 2 years and is paid a fixed remuneration, not the pay scale; dearness allowance and house rent allowance are not payable in those two years (Rajasthan Service Rules, rule 7(30A)). The full pay scale applies once probation is completed. The pay matrix level for this post could not be confirmed on this page from an official document — it is not in the service rules and not in the CET Rules 2022 schedule. No level is therefore stated here. The correct figure is printed in the official advertisement for the recruitment; check it there before applying. The figures above rest on the Rajasthan 7th pay matrix, which is what applies as of 17 August 2026. The Terms of Reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission were approved on 28 October 2025 and it must report within 18 months of its constitution. State governments normally adopt a Central Pay Commission with modifications, and later than the Centre does — so Rajasthan pay will be revised too, though by how much and when is not yet settled.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Permanent uniformed government service on a Class 10 pass — and no CET is needed for it
- 100% direct recruitment, and a clear, rule-bound promotion ladder that reaches Deputy Jailor
- Separate branches for extra qualifications (driver, mechanic, PTI), where the competition is narrower

The challenges

- The age window is only 18 to 24 — it closes quickly after Class 10
- Strict height, chest and eyesight standards, with only limited relaxation
- Night shifts, duty on festivals, and the constant mental pressure of staying alert

9 If this route does not work out

One exam or one attempt does not close the door. The same subjects also open these routes — entry is usually easier, and you can return to this field later.

- Class IV Employee (Peon, Chowkidar, Farrash and similar posts — Government of Rajasthan)

10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Jails Subordinate Service Rules, 1998 (Department of Personnel) — https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/modulCategory/202305260341224100470Jail1998_merged.pdf
2. Prisons Department, Government of Rajasthan — <https://jail.rajasthan.gov.in>

3. School Education Department, Rajasthan — the route to the Rajasthan State Open School — <https://education.rajasthan.gov.in/>
4. Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (official) — <https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in/>
5. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — service rules — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>
6. 8th Central Pay Commission — Cabinet approval of the Terms of Reference (PIB, 28 October 2025) — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2183289>

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