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करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

जिलेदार (जल संसाधन / सिंचाई विभाग, राजस्थान)

The Zileदार is the Irrigation Department's field officer for the distribution of canal water — girdawari of the irrigated area, assessing and recovering the water charge (abiana), running the canal rotation (warabandi),...



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श्री चेनाराम चौधरी

प्रधानाचार्य, डाइट बाड़मेर
Principal, DIET Barmer



श्रीमती संघमित्रा

वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता, डाइट बाड़मेर (सहयोग)
Sr. Lecturer, DIET Barmer (Support)



भरत चौधरी

अभिकल्पना व विकास · व्याख्याता (इतिहास)
Designed & developed · Lecturer (History)

विशेष धन्यवाद · SPECIAL THANKS



सुरेन्द्र सिंह राठौड़

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. कानाना



सुरेश कुमार सैन

व्याख्याता (भूगोल) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



वनिता कुमारी

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



कमलेश चौधरी

व्याख्याता (राजनीति विज्ञान) · रा.उ.मा.वि. टापरा

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 Zildar is the Irrigation Department's field officer for the distribution of canal water — girdawari of the irrigated area, assessing and recovering the water charge (abiana), running the canal rotation (warabandi), preventing water theft and encroachment, and the daily contact between farmers and the department. In a Rajasthan of the Indira Gandhi Canal, the Chambal and the Mahi, this post sits directly on a farmer's crop. The qualification is a degree in any subject, but read the arithmetic of the posts carefully — half are filled by promotion, and of the remaining half, half again goes to a limited departmental examination for serving graduate Patwaris. For a candidate from the open market, a quarter of the posts are genuinely open.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Graduation in any subject + a qualified CET Graduate Level score
Recruiting body	Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB), Jaipur
Age limit	18 attained and 40 not attained — 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	About a quarter of the posts are genuinely open — the rest go by promotion and a departmental examination

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- An interest in farming, irrigation and water management
- Field work among villages and farmers

- Work involving measurement, calculation and records

ABILITIES

- Accuracy in calculating area and volumes of water
- Deciding impartially in a dispute — water sharing is the most sensitive issue there is
- Doing field work outdoors, in the heat and over distances

KEY SKILLS

- A working understanding of the canal system, distributaries and minors
- Fixing and running warabandi, the water rotation
- Girdawari of the irrigated area and assessment of the water charge
- Recovery of abiana and the revenue records
- Booking cases of water theft, canal cutting and encroachment
- Coordinating with farmers, water users' associations and the panchayat
- Reading maps and identifying boundaries in the field

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 12 in any stream.
- 2 Complete graduation in any subject — the rules ask only for a graduate of a University established by law in India.
- 3 Qualify the RSB CET Graduate Level examination; the score stays valid for 3 years.
- 4 Apply online through the SSO portal when the advertisement is issued, and take the competitive examination. Note that the total in an advertisement may include the departmental-examination share — look for the open-market share separately.
- 5 After document verification, join at a canal division or sub-division.
- 6 Know the alternative route — joining the Irrigation Department as a Patwari and, being a graduate, reaching Zildar through the limited departmental examination.

MAIN EXAMS

- CET Graduate Level (RSB) — the Zildar of the Engineering Subordinate Irrigation Service is named in Schedule-I of the CET Rules 2022. The score stays valid for 3 years.
- The Zildar competitive examination, under the scheme laid down in Schedule-II of the service rules. Open-market selection is made through it.

- The limited departmental examination — a separate examination, only for serving graduate Patwaris of the department. Half the direct-recruitment posts are filled through it, so a candidate from outside cannot sit it.
- 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 colleges of Rajasthan — graduation in any faculty — In every district (<https://hte.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Water Resources Department, Rajasthan — canal projects and departmental structure — Jaipur and the canal division offices (<https://water.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana — the state's largest canal system — Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in>)

ONLINE

- जल संसाधन विभाग, राजस्थान — नहर परियोजनाएँ एवं जल प्रबंधन — The department this post belongs to (<https://water.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- अपना खाता (ई-धरती) भू-अभिलेख पोर्टल — To understand girdawari and khasra records in practice (<https://apnakhata.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- 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://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>)
- एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. — निःशुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तकें — The foundation for general knowledge, maths and science (<https://ncert.nic.in/>)

FEES

Graduation at a government college costs roughly Rs 3,000 - 15,000 a year. CET and the competitive examination cost a few hundred rupees, with a concession for reserved categories. No technical degree or expensive course is needed — knowledge of the canal system and warabandi comes with the job, and a student whose family farms in a canal command area already has the groundwork.

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

Canal division and sub-division offices, the canals, distributaries and minors, irrigated fields, meetings of water users' associations and the water-charge camps held in villages. Postings are usually in the command area of a project such as the Indira Gandhi Canal, the Chambal, the Mahi, the Gang Canal or Bhakra.

WORK CULTURE

Most of the work is in the field and tied to the irrigation season — during the rabi and kharif rotations it can mean being on the canal day and night. Water sharing is the most sensitive subject in a village; the tension between head-reach and tail-end farmers arrives directly in front of the Zildar, and the pressure comes from both sides. Impartiality on this post is therefore not merely a virtue but a condition of doing the job at all. On the other side, a Zildar's word carries weight in a village, because the fate of a crop rests on that arrangement.

WHO HIRES

- Water Resources Department, Government of Rajasthan
- The Chambal, Mahi and Gang Canal projects
- The Colonization Department in the canal areas
- The Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana
- Canal divisions and irrigation sub-division offices
- Water users' associations and participatory irrigation management programmes

DEMAND (2026)

Rajasthan's irrigation runs on canals and Zildar posts are sanctioned in every canal division, so the post is permanent. But the numbers must be read carefully, and this is the most important thing on this page. Under the service rules 50% of the posts go by promotion. Of the remaining 50%, half go through a limited departmental examination for serving graduate Patwaris of the department and half to the open market. Which means roughly one quarter of the whole cadre is open to a candidate from outside. On top of that, 12.5% of the direct-recruitment posts are reserved for the department's ministerial staff. Any advertisement's total is these shares added together — count the posts actually available to you separately. 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 Zildar (on probation) — posted to a canal sub-division
- 2 Deputy Collector — 100% by promotion under the Schedule to the service rules, on experience as Zildar
- 3 Senior administrative posts in the irrigation and colonization departments

EARNINGS

Starting	विज्ञप्ति में घोषित पे मैट्रिक्स स्तर के अनुसार
Mid level	₹35,000 – ₹48,000 (भत्तों सहित, कुछ वर्षों बाद)
Senior level	₹55,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, उप कलेक्टर स्तर पर)

In promotion terms this post is unusually good — the Schedule to the service rules fills the post of Deputy Collector 100% by promotion, from Zileidar. So although it is a Subordinate Service post, it carries a direct route towards the state administrative structure, which few of these 21 posts do. 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

- Any graduate is eligible and the age band is 18 to 40
- A promotion route to Deputy Collector — one of the best ladders among these 21 posts
- For a student from a canal command area the work is familiar from the start

The challenges

- Only about a quarter of the posts are genuinely available to the open market
- Constant pressure from both sides of a water dispute
- Long, irregular hours in the irrigation season, mostly out in the field

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.

- Patwari (Revenue Department, Rajasthan)
- Rajasthan Administrative Service (RAS/RTS)
- Gram Vikas Adhikari (VDO / Gram Sevak)

10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Engineering Subordinate Service (Irrigation Branch) Rules, 1967 (Department of Personnel) — https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/modulCategory/202304130400444913079Irrigation1967pdf24_merged.pdf
2. CET Rules 2022 — Zileidar in Schedule-I — https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/modulCategory/202307180332158017147CET-18-7-2023_merged.pdf

3. Water Resources Department, Government of Rajasthan — <https://water.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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