



जीवाश्म विज्ञानी

Paleontologists study fossils preserved in rocks to understand the history of life on Earth. India has yielded dinosaur eggs and ancient marine fossils, making this both an exciting and deeply scientific field.



Scan for everything on this career

Salary, exams, colleges, the routes in and the steps after — all on the portal.

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/paleontologist

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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

Paleontologists study fossils preserved in rocks to understand the history of life on Earth. India has yielded dinosaur eggs and ancient marine fossils, making this both an exciting and deeply scientific field.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	B.Sc. in Geology/Biology, then M.Sc./Ph.D.
Core work	Fossil discovery and analysis
Starting salary	Rs 30,000–50,000/month
Work mode	Field, museums, universities

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Interested in science and ancient life
- Like careful observation and analysis
- Enjoy digging and discovery in the field

ABILITIES

- Deep observation skills and patience
- Physical stamina for fieldwork
- Reasoning and problem-solving ability

KEY SKILLS

- Fossil excavation and preservation
- Understanding geological strata (stratigraphy)
- Research paper and report writing
- Fossil identification and classification
- Lab analysis and microscopy
- Data and modelling software

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass class 12 science (physics, chemistry, biology).
- 2 Complete a B.Sc. in Geology or Biology.
- 3 Do an M.Sc. in Geology / Applied Geology / Palaeontology.
- 4 Pursue a Ph.D. for research and teaching.
- 5 Use CSIR-NET/GATE for fellowships and jobs.

MAIN EXAMS

- CSIR-UGC NET (Earth Sciences)
- UPSC Combined Geo-Scientist exam
- GATE (Geology)
- University M.Sc./Ph.D. admission

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- University of Rajasthan (Dept. of Geology) — Jaipur (<https://www.uniraj.ac.in/>)
- Mohanlal Sukhadia University — Udaipur (<https://www.mlsu.ac.in/>)
- Panjab University (Dept. of Geology) — Chandigarh
- IISER (Earth & Climate Science) — Pune/Kolkata

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Fergusson College — Pune
- Sri Guru Ram Rai University — Dehradun
- Devgiri College — Aurangabad

ONLINE

- SWAYAM / NPTEL - Earth Sciences — Online (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)
- IGNOU (distance) — Distance learning (<https://www.ignou.ac.in/>)

FEES

B.Sc./M.Sc. fees range roughly Rs 10,000 to Rs 2,00,000. Ph.D. students often receive fellowships.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- National Scholarship Portal (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)

- INSPIRE Fellowship (DST) (<https://online-inspire.gov.in/>)
- CSIR-UGC JRF (<https://csirnet.nta.ac.in/>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Government and private research institutes, natural-history museums, universities, the Geological Survey of India and the Wadia Institute.

WORK CULTURE

Not a desk job—fieldwork involves fossil digs and travel, with lab work and writing the rest of the time. Usually 5–6 days a week; research timelines can be flexible. Opportunities also exist for persons with disabilities.

WHO HIRES

- Geological Survey of India (GSI)
- Universities and IISERs/IITs
- Oil & gas exploration companies
- Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow
- Natural-history museums
- Environmental and research organisations

DEMAND (2026)

This is a specialised field, so posts are limited but stable—mainly in research institutes, universities and GSI. Micro-fossil experts are also sought in fossil-fuel exploration.

7 Career growth

- 1 Trainee / Research assistant
- 2 Paleontologist
- 3 Senior paleontologist
- 4 Deputy Director
- 5 Director / Professor

EARNINGS

Starting	₹30,000–50,000
Mid level	₹60,000–1,00,000
Senior level	₹1,30,000+

Figures are 2026 estimates; research and teaching pay depends on experience and institute.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Thrill of uncovering Earth's ancient mysteries
- A mix of research, fieldwork and teaching
- Global research and collaboration opportunities

The challenges

- Limited posts; long study up to Ph.D.
- Tough fieldwork at remote sites
- Patience needed for a permanent position

9 Real-life journeys

Devapriya Chattopadhyay

Paleontologist, IISER professor

Devapriya Chattopadhyay is among the few Indian women who have made a strong mark in palaeontology. She did a B.Sc. in Geology at Jadavpur, an M.Sc. in Applied Geology at IIT Bombay and a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. Today she researches ancient marine life at IISER.

The Life of Science · <https://thelifeofscience.com/2017/11/01/devapriya-new-era-indian-palaeontology/>

Ashok Sahni

Paleontologist, discovered dinosaur eggs in India

Professor Ashok Sahni is a renowned Indian vertebrate paleontologist. He played a pioneering role in discovering dinosaur eggs and nesting sites in India and taught for decades at Panjab University. He has long campaigned for laws to protect India's fossil heritage.

Science (AAAS) · <https://www.science.org/content/article/india-s-paleontologists-fight-destruction-its-fossil-riches>

10 Sources & further reading

1. Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences — <https://www.bsip.res.in/>
2. Geological Survey of India — <https://www.gsi.gov.in/>
3. CSIR-UGC NET — <https://csirnet.nta.ac.in/>
4. Source career guide (Govt. of Rajasthan) — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/>



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