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स्पोर्ट्स स्काउट

A Sports Scout is the professional who identifies and helps recruit new sporting talent for teams, academies and sports federations. Travelling to village grounds, school and college tournaments, and district and state-level...



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Principal, DIET Barmer



श्रीमती संघमित्रा

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



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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

A Sports Scout is the professional who identifies and helps recruit new sporting talent for teams, academies and sports federations. Travelling to village grounds, school and college tournaments, and district and state-level competitions, they assess players' skill, fitness, technique and mental toughness, write reports, and connect promising athletes to coaches and selectors. In India, the arrival of Khelo India and franchise leagues (IPL, ISL) has rapidly expanded talent scouting from the grassroots right up to the professional level. It is an exciting career for those who understand a sport deeply and have an eye for spotting the right talent.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Class 12 pass; sports background + sports management/coaching course helps
Core basis	Deep sport knowledge, playing experience and networking
Starting salary	₹20,000–35,000/month
Work mode	Field/travel-based; with academies, clubs and franchises

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Deep interest in watching sport and analysing player performance
- A drive to connect with people and build networks in the sports world
- Enthusiasm for spotting new talent and travelling to grounds

ABILITIES

- A sharp eye for talent and strong assessment ability
- Deep understanding of a sport's technique and rules

- Fair judgement, patience and the stamina for constant travel

KEY SKILLS

- Talent, fitness and technique evaluation of players
- In-depth knowledge of the sport and game analysis (match and video)
- Networking and relationship-building with coaches, academies, clubs and parents
- Travel and field scouting across district, state and rural tournaments
- Preparing scouting reports, data and player profiles
- Effective communication and negotiation (recruitment and recommendation)
- Basic grasp of sports science, statistics and analytics tools

4 How to get there

- 1 Gain playing or coaching experience in one sport to build deep understanding of that game.
- 2 After Class 12, do a diploma/degree in sports management, physical education or coaching (e.g. SAI-NSNIS Patiala's Diploma in Sports Coaching).
- 3 Attach to a local club, academy or district sports association to gain hands-on field-scouting experience.
- 4 Attend Khelo India, state sports council and tournament events to learn talent identification and report writing.
- 5 Build a network with coaches, selectors, academies and franchises; add data and video-analysis skills.
- 6 With experience, progress from regional scout to chief scout and talent/recruitment head.

5 Where to study**GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES**

- राजस्थान राज्य क्रीड़ा परिषद (अकादमी व टूर्नामेंट) — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://yas.rajasthan.gov.in/content/raj/sports/rajasthan-state-sports-council/en/home.html>)
- नेताजी सुभाष राष्ट्रीय खेल संस्थान (SAI-NSNIS) – स्पोर्ट्स कोचिंग डिप्लोमा — Patiala (all-India) (<https://nsnis.org/>)
- भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण (SAI) – खेलो इंडिया / KIRTI प्रतिभा पहचान — All-India network (<https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- पूर्णिमा यूनिवर्सिटी – खेल प्रबंधन / शारीरिक शिक्षा — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://poornima.edu.in/scholarship/sports-scholarship/>)
- बोस्टन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ एनालिटिक्स – स्पोर्ट्स मैनेजमेंट व एनालिटिक्स — All-India / online (<https://bostoninstituteofanalytics.org/sports-management-and-analytics/>)

ONLINE

- स्किल इंडिया डिजिटल हब — Online (<https://www.skillindiadigital.gov.in/>)
- IISWBM – पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट डिप्लोमा इन स्पोर्ट्स मैनेजमेंट — Kolkata / online info (<https://www.iiswbm.edu/programs/pg-diploma-programs/post-graduate-diploma-in-sports-management/course-overview/>)

FEES

There is no single fixed course to become a sports scout; most learning comes from playing experience and field work. Sports coaching diplomas at government bodies like SAI-NSNIS are relatively low-cost (around ₹25,000–60,000), while private sports-management diplomas/degrees can range from about ₹50,000 to ₹3–4 lakh per year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- SAI / Khelo India Sports Scholarship (<https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)
- राजस्थान SJE छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/Scholarship_portal.aspx)
- Buddy4Study – Sports Scholarships in India (<https://www.buddy4study.com/article/sports-scholarships-in-india>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Sports grounds, stadiums, academies, school and college tournaments, district and state-level competitions, and franchise trial camps. Much of the work is on the road and in the field, with some report and video analysis done from an office or home.

WORK CULTURE

Work is seasonal and tied to the tournament calendar; it often involves weekends, travel and irregular hours. Freelance or part-time contracts are common early on, with permanent roles at franchises/academies coming with experience.

WHO HIRES

- Cricket franchise (IPL) talent-scouting teams / TRDW
- Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Khelo India talent identification
- Private sports academies (cricket, football, tennis, wrestling, etc.)
- Football clubs and academies (ISL) and grassroots programmes
- National and state sports federations and state sports councils
- Sports management and athlete-representation (sports agency) companies

DEMAND (2026)

Grassroots talent hunting in India has surged thanks to Khelo India, the KIRTI talent-identification programme and state sports academies. Franchise leagues like the IPL and ISL now run year-round scouting networks, driving demand for skilled scouts and talent-identification specialists. It is a niche but growing career field.

7 Career growth

- 1 Junior / Grassroots Scout (Trainee)
- 2 Regional / Area Scout
- 3 Chief Scout
- 4 Head of Talent Identification / Recruitment

EARNINGS

Starting	₹20,000–35,000/माह
Mid level	₹45,000–80,000/माह
Senior level	₹1,00,000–1,50,000+/माह

Per SalaryExpert (2026), a professional sports scout in India earns on average about ₹1.09 lakh/month, rising above ₹1.25 lakh/month at senior level. Entry-level and grassroots/freelance scouts earn less; income grows considerably on becoming a chief scout or recruitment head at franchise or national level.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- A chance to turn a passion for sport into a career
- The satisfaction of changing athletes' lives by discovering talent
- Growing opportunities and networks from Khelo India and franchise leagues

The challenges

- Constant travel, irregular hours and seasonal/contract-based work
- Uncertain income early on; years of effort needed for a stable post
- Pressure of misjudgement and intense competition

9 Real-life journeys

T. A. Sekhar

Former fast bowler, MRF Pace Foundation chief coach and IPL talent scout

Former India fast bowler T. A. Sekhar spent years as chief coach at Chennai's MRF Pace Foundation, honing many pace bowlers from India and abroad. He was later appointed a talent scout for Mumbai Indians and also served as the South Zone representative on India's national selection committee. His journey shows how deep technical knowledge of a sport combined with an eye for talent can turn a player into a successful scout and mentor — the very essence of sports scouting.

Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._A._Sekhar

Deepthi Bopaiah

CEO, GoSports Foundation (athlete talent identification and development)

Deepthi Bopaiah is the CEO of GoSports Foundation, which identifies India's promising Olympic and Paralympic athletes and supports them with scholarships, coaching and 'podium pathway' assistance. While this is not exactly a franchise-scout role, it is a very closely-adjacent field of talent identification and athlete development — spotting the right talent early and taking it to the world stage. Her leadership shows that women too can lead sporting talent identification and development. (Note: this is a closely-adjacent talent-development role, not a traditional team scout.)

PR Newswire · <https://www.prnewswire.com/in/news-releases/gosports-foundation-announces-deepthi-bopaiah-as-ceo-and-unmish-parthasara-thi-as-board-member-846911887.html>

10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Sports Scout — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%b8%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%aa%e0%a5%8b%e0%a4%b0%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%9f%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%b8-%e0%a4%b8%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%89%e0%a4%9f/>

2. Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) – PIB — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2013801>
3. SalaryExpert – Professional Sports Scout Salary (India, 2026) — <https://www.eri.com/salary/job/professional-sports-scout/india>
4. Careers360 – How to Become a Sports Scout — <https://www.careers360.com/careers/sports-scout>
5. Olympics.com – Inside the IPL's talent scouting process — <https://www.olympics.com/en/news/sharda-ugra-ipl-scouting-process-talent-identification>

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