



SAARTHI - सारथी

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करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

नेचर गाइड

A Nature Guide takes tourists on jungle safaris, birding walks and nature trails, explaining tigers, leopards, birds, plants and the whole forest ecosystem in an engaging way. In Rajasthan, national parks like Ranthambore,...



Scan for everything on this career

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

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Principal, GSSS Jethantri · Master Trainer



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

A Nature Guide takes tourists on jungle safaris, birding walks and nature trails, explaining tigers, leopards, birds, plants and the whole forest ecosystem in an engaging way. In Rajasthan, national parks like Ranthambore, Sariska and Keoladeo (Bharatpur) are major hubs for this work. A good nature guide can identify wildlife, read animal calls and pug marks, tell information like a story, and keep tourists safe. It is a wonderful career for young people who love nature, wildlife and talking to people, and who want to work outdoors rather than at a desk.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Class 8/10 pass + age 18 (NSQF Level 4)
Course/training	Forest Dept nature-guide training & licence
Starting salary	₹8,000–15,000/month (per-safari basis)
Work mode	Outdoor, seasonal, in parks/resorts

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Deep interest in nature, forests, birds and wildlife
- Keen to work outdoors, moving around in the field
- Enjoy meeting new people and sharing interesting information

ABILITIES

- Sharp observation — spotting animal signs, pug marks and calls
- Good communication and people skills
- Physical fitness and stamina for long hours

KEY SKILLS

- Wildlife and bird identification (birding, tiger/leopard/deer, plants)
- Storytelling — presenting information in an engaging way

- Communicating in Hindi, English and other languages
- Tracking animals by reading pug marks and calls
- Knowledge of forest rules, conservation and eco-friendly conduct
- Tourist safety, first aid and handling emergencies
- Using binoculars, cameras and field guides

4 How to get there

- 1 Complete Class 8/10 and reach the age of 18.
- 2 Build knowledge of nature, birds and wildlife; practise identifying local flora and fauna.
- 3 Join the nature-guide training run by the Rajasthan Forest Department / at Ranthambore, Sariska, Keoladeo.
- 4 Obtain a nature-guide licence/ID card from the forest department/park authority.
- 5 Learn English and other languages; sharpen skills via courses like NCF or The Naturalist School.
- 6 Gain experience as an assistant guide with a park, resort or tour company and grow from there.

MAIN EXAMS

- Rajasthan Forest Dept / park authority nature-guide licence assessment
- Ministry of Tourism / IITTM Regional Level Guide certification (optional)

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- राजस्थान वानिकी एवं वन्यजीव प्रशिक्षण संस्थान (RFWTI), वन विभाग — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://forest.rajasthan.gov.in/content/raj/forest/en/aboutus/departmental-wings/forest-training-institute.html>)
- रणथंभौर नेचर गाइड एसोसिएशन (RNGA) — Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan (<https://www.ranthambhoreguides.com/>)
- भारतीय पर्यटन एवं यात्रा प्रबंधन संस्थान (IITTM) – रीजनल गाइड प्रशिक्षण — Gwalior/Noida (Ministry of Tourism) (<https://iittm.ac.in/>)
- एनआईओएस व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण केंद्र — Online / locate nearest centre (<https://voc.nios.ac.in/registration/locate-study-centre>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- The Naturalist School – Certified Nature Guide — All-India / field camps (<https://naturalist.school/certified-naturalist/>)
- Pugdundee Safaris – Naturalist Training Course — Central India tiger reserves (<https://www.pugdundeefaris.com/naturalist-training-course-india>)

ONLINE

- NCF India – Online Nature Guide Training Course — Online (<https://www.ncf-india.org/conservation-leadership/online-nature-guide-training-course>)
- स्किल इंडिया डिजिटल हब (एनएसडीसी) — Online (<https://www.skillindiadigital.gov.in/>)

FEES

Forest-department/park nature-guide training is mostly free or very low cost. NCF's online nature-guide course is free (only about ₹500 for study material). Private naturalist/wildlife-guide courses can cost roughly ₹5,000–40,000.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/fresh/onlineInstituteSearchIndex>)
- Buddy4Study – ITI/Vocational Scholarships (<https://www.buddy4study.com/article/iti-scholarships>)
- SJE Rajasthan – Scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

National parks and tiger reserves (Ranthambore, Sariska, Keoladeo), wildlife sanctuaries, zoos, jungle resorts and lodges, travel/eco-tourism agencies, camping and trekking companies.

WORK CULTURE

Work is mostly on morning and evening safaris, so days start early. It is seasonal — busiest in the tourist season. Most time is spent outdoors, in a jeep or on foot in the jungle, facing sun, dust and weather. Opportunities for women in this field are now growing too.

WHO HIRES

- | | |
|--|---|
| • National park and tiger reserve authorities (Ranthambore, Sariska, Keoladeo) | • Jungle resorts, wildlife lodges and luxury camps |
| • Eco-tourism and safari tour-operator companies | • Nature-guide associations (e.g. Ranthambore Nature Guide Association) |

- Travel agencies, birding and wildlife-photography tour companies
- NGOs and conservation bodies (e.g. WWF India, wildlife projects)

DEMAND (2026)

Wildlife and eco-tourism are growing fast in India, especially in Rajasthan — Ranthambore, Sariska and Keoladeo draw lakhs of Indian and foreign tourists, keeping demand for trained nature guides steady. As luxury jungle resorts and birding tours expand, good naturalists command more respect and income. It is seasonal, but offers local youth a respectable livelihood close to home.

7 Career growth

- 1 Assistant Nature Guide / Trainee
- 2 Licensed Nature Guide
- 3 Senior Naturalist / Resort Head Naturalist
- 4 Wildlife Expert / Eco-tourism Manager / Conservation Consultant

EARNINGS

Starting	₹8,000–15,000/माह
Mid level	₹18,000–30,000/माह
Senior level	₹35,000–60,000+/माह

Per Indeed, a naturalist in India earns on average about ₹24,000/month (₹2.9 lakh/year). Forest-licensed safari guides usually earn a per-safari fee (roughly ₹400–700 per trip), so income depends on the number of trips and the season. Experienced head naturalists at luxury resorts and guides on foreign birding tours earn considerably more.

8 The good parts · The challenges**The good parts**

- Working outdoors amid nature and wildlife — no desk confinement
- Respectable work close to home; meeting people from India and abroad
- Growth to head naturalist and good income with experience and language skills

The challenges

- Seasonal work — income can drop outside the tourist season
- Very early mornings, sun and dust, long hours and hard physical effort
- Income is often per-safari, so it can be irregular

9 Real-life journeys

Suraj Bai Meena

First woman naturalist/nature guide of Ranthambore National Park

Raised in a village bordering Ranthambore, Suraj Bai Meena took nature-guide training from the Forest Department at age 15 and earned her licence in 2007. As a tribal woman she faced family opposition, broken English and the belief that 'this is men's work'. She taught herself conversational English in 18 months and today runs 40–45 safaris a month, showing tourists tigers, leopards and deer while spreading a message of cleanliness and conservation. She was even honoured with a 'Best Lady Guide' award by the Maharaja of Jaipur. Her journey inspires every girl who wants a career in nature and wildlife.

YourStory · <https://yourstory.com/socialstory/2024/10/meet-suraj-bai-meena-woman-naturalist-ranthambore-national-park>

Daulat Singh Shaktawat

Veteran Ranthambore/Sariska forest officer and wildlife conservationist, 'Man of the Wild'

Daulat Singh Shaktawat joined the Rajasthan Forest Department in 1977 and served over 40 years across Keoladeo, Sariska and Ranthambore tiger reserves. In 2010 he was grievously injured during an operation to save a straying tiger, yet stayed devoted to wildlife conservation. After retiring he trained staff at Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve and today works as a consultant for WWF India's tiger-conservation programme; he is also an accomplished wildlife photographer and author. His lifelong dedication to the jungle shows how far a career that begins with nature and wildlife can go.

Ranthambore Nature Guide Association · <https://www.ranthambhoreguides.com/blog/man-of-wild-daulat-singh-shaktawat-ranthambore-safari-national-park-tiger>

10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Nature Guide — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%a8%e0%a5%87%e0%a4%9a%e0%a4%b0-%e0%a4%97%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%87%e0%a4%a1/>
2. Rajasthan Forest Dept – Forestry & Wildlife Training Institute — <https://forest.rajasthan.gov.in/content/raj/forest/en/aboutus/departamental-wings/forest-training-institute.html>
3. Ranthambore Nature Guide Association (RNGA) — <https://www.ranthambhoreguides.com/>
4. Indeed – Naturalist Salary (India) — <https://in.indeed.com/career/naturalist/salaries>



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