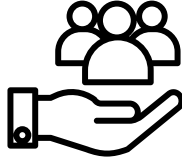


THE EDUCAFÉ TIMES



Driving Change, Serving the State

Prescribing Success: Interview with Sakshi Jain , Rajasthan Administrative Service Officer

Career Queries

Message from the Editor

Hello Readers!

We bring another edition of The Educafé Times where we talk about another sought-after career opportunity - State Administrative Services. Here we discuss the scope of the career, the challenges, and the skill sets required.

Have some new ideas for our newsletter? Share them at educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com and get a shoutout.

Happy Reading!!

Driving Change, Serving the State

Are you passionate about making a difference in society? Do you want to contribute to governance and development in your state? The State Administrative Services (SAS) offers a prestigious opportunity to lead at the grassroots level and create a meaningful change in your community.

What is the State Administrative Service?

The UPSC conducts national-level exams like the Civil Services Examination (CSE) to recruit candidates for All India Services (IAS, IPS, IFoS) and Central Services (IRS, IFS, etc.), while each state has its own State Public Service Commission (SPSC) that conducts exams to recruit candidates for administrative roles within the state. Officers under the State Administrative Services serve primarily in the state that recruited them and focus on state-level administration. They hold Administrative positions like Deputy Collector, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Tehsildar, District Education Officer, etc., specific to the state. The Exam structure is similar to the CSE and includes Prelims, Mains, and Interview. The Syllabus and difficulty level vary by state, often including a focus on the state's history, geography, culture, and governance.

The State Administrative Services (SAS) is vital for regional governance. SAS officers manage public resources, implement policies, and tackle societal challenges. This career is perfect for those who want to lead purposefully and serve the public in their State.

If you are passionate about creating societal change in the people around you, pursue this career. Follow these steps!

CAREER PATH

- To pursue a career in this field, you could specialize in any of the three streams— Arts, Science, or Commerce—in your 11th /12th or +2 levels.
- After your 11th /12th or +2 you could pursue your graduation in the stream of your choice and further a post-graduation if you wish. After graduation, you will be eligible to appear for the entrance exam for the State level exams for the State Government cadre.



SAS is more than a job; it's a mission to lead and serve. If you're ready to meet challenges and want to make an impact, this career is for you.

We encourage aspiring change-makers to set ambitious goals and start their journey. Stay tuned for updates and inspiring stories in future editions!

Prescription to Success

Sakshi Jain is a proud RAS [Rajasthan Administrative Services] officer from the 2024 batch. She is currently employed in the Department of Cooperatives, focusing on enhancing the welfare of dairy cooperative societies. She holds a postgraduate degree from the esteemed Delhi School of Economics and is passionate about continuous learning and expanding her horizons. Sakshi believes in embracing new challenges while constantly evolving, both professionally and personally.



Snippets of an interview conducted with Sakshi Jain

What motivated you to pursue a career in the Rajasthan Administrative Service?

Many people pursue a career in the Administrative Service to serve the nation, impact lives, and drive meaningful change. In addition to these reasons, I was motivated by the desire to work in a diverse range of job roles, including planning, policy formulation, and implementation. Moreover, the ability to influence key decisions, tackle pressing issues, and work toward the welfare of the people makes it a deeply fulfilling and respected career choice.

Can you share the most significant moment in your journey to becoming an RAS officer?

The most crucial moment in my journey was learning to embrace Sisyphus's resilience. In mythology, Sisyphus was condemned to roll a boulder up a hill, only for it to roll back down every time he neared the top. He symbolizes the idea of endless struggle. Similarly, I faced failure three times in UPSC but persevered, learning from each attempt, and ultimately succeeded in my first attempt in Rajasthan Administrative Services. This experience taught me the value of persistence and unwavering determination.

What does a typical day in your role as an RAS officer look like? How do you balance your personal and professional life?

As an RAS officer, my day usually involves a combination of desk work and field visits. I focus on engaging with people at the grassroots level, addressing their challenges, and implementing solutions to enhance their lives. To balance my personal and professional life, I fully utilize my prescribed holidays while remaining dedicated to my duties whenever the nation needs me. This balance is also made possible by the unwavering support of my family, who manage things seamlessly when I am occupied with work.

What are the biggest challenges you face in your job, and how do you tackle them?

As an officer, I face challenges like managing heavy workload days, navigating bureaucratic hurdles, and balancing conflicting interests among stakeholders. Resource constraints, frequent transfers, and handling crises also add to the complexity of the role—additionally, ethical dilemmas and public scrutiny demand careful decision-making and integrity.

Can you share an example of a project or policy you implemented that significantly impacted you?

I have been involved in implementing the 'Chief Minister Dugd Utapadak Sambal Yojana,' which provides an incentive of Rs. 5 per liter to milk producers supplying milk to the Jaipur Dairy Milk Cooperative Society. My role included promoting financial literacy among the producers and integrating them into the banking system to ensure financial inclusion and minimize leakages in fund transfers. This approach not only streamlined the process but also empowered the producers economically.

How do you balance administrative responsibilities with the need to engage with the public?

Balancing requires effective time management and prioritization. I focus on desk work and policy implementation while regularly visiting the field to interact with the public, understand their challenges, and gather feedback. These interactions help me make informed decisions and build trust.

What advice would you give to aspiring RAS officers who are preparing for the exams?

Based on my limited experience, my advice would be to treat these exams as just that—an exam—and not let it consume your life. If you face setbacks at any stage, don't take it personally. Instead, focus on enhancing your skills as a problem-solver and analyst. It's important to maintain a broad perspective and approach every issue with a clear, strategic mindset. This mindset will not only help in the journey but also in the professional challenges that follow.

What skills, both soft and technical, are essential for success in civil services?

As Daniel Goleman has quoted, "In a very real sense we have two minds, one that thinks and one that feels." This is why both soft skills and technical skills are equally important in administrative careers. While technical skills keep you updated with global standards and bring efficiency to policy implementation, soft skills enable you to get social approval of modern ideas and establish new ideas as social ethics.

How has being an RAS officer shaped your perspective on governance and public service?

Being in the services has deepened my understanding of the complexities involved in decision-making, balancing public needs with resource constraints, and ensuring that policies are inclusive and impactful. I've learned the importance of transparency, accountability, leadership, and constant communication with the public. I have learned to look at any policy with a bird's eye view to understand its larger impact.



What vision do you have for the future, and how do you aim to contribute to it through your role?

My vision for the future is to contribute to changing India from a developing to a developed country, where smart cities co-exist with smart villages. With the motto of 'small is beautiful', I envision a sustainable living of coexistence with mother nature.

I aim to achieve this vision by modernizing the processes of milk collection, processing, and packaging. Additionally, I will ensure value addition in the supply chain by facilitating ease of doing business.



Career Queries

by : Dr. Sudha Bhogle



As a 12th-grade student, I am interested in pursuing a career in the government sector, but I am unsure about the job options available. Could you guide me on the different career opportunities in this field?

Dear Student,

Thank you for contacting us. We appreciate your communication and want to assure you that we are here to help you. After completing 12th grade, there are numerous government job opportunities available, depending on your stream and interests. Some options include:

- **Banking Sector:** Entry-level positions like clerks and assistants are accessible through exams such as the IBPS Clerk and SBI Clerk. Preparation should focus on numerical ability, reasoning, English, and general awareness.
- **Defence Services:** The National Defence Academy (NDA) trains officers for the Army, Navy, or Air Force. Recruitment rallies for soldiers and tradesmen also exist. Physical fitness and knowledge in mathematics and general ability are crucial.
- **Police Services:** Entry-level constable positions are available in state and central police forces (e.g., CISF, CRPF, BSF), requiring physical fitness and basic educational qualifications.
- **State-Level Jobs:** Common roles like patwari and village development officer are filled through State Public Service Commissions (PSCs), with eligibility varying by state.
- **Civil Services:** Both UPSC and State Administrative Services offer excellent career opportunities, but the choice depends on the individual's aspirations, interest in national vs. state-level governance, and willingness to compete at different levels.

Preparation for these roles involves understanding the exam patterns, practising mock tests, staying physically fit (for defence and police roles), and keeping up with current affairs. With consistent effort, these roles can offer job security, steady income, and a rewarding career.

We will talk about this in our next Edition.

Can you guess?

Mail us your answers at educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com

Confused about your career?



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