

State Forest Guard Syllabus 2026

State Forest Departments — State Forest Department — Forest Guard (Common Pattern)

Vacancies	Announced independently by each state's forest department
Age Limit	18–25 years typically (varies by state; relaxation per respective state government norms)
Qualification	Passed Class 10 or Class 12 from a recognised Board (varies by state)
Application Fee	Varies by state, typically in the ₹100–₹300 range for General/OBC candidates, with reductions for reserved categories
Official Website	Varies by state (respective state forest department portals)
Last Reviewed	27 Apr 2026

Overview

State Forest Guard recruitment follows a broadly common pattern across most Indian states — field-level forest protection and conservation roles responsible for patrolling forest areas, preventing illegal activities like poaching and encroachment, and supporting wildlife and forest management operations. While each state conducts its own independent recruitment through its respective forest department, the overall selection structure is consistent: a written examination testing general knowledge, reasoning and basic science with an emphasis on forestry and environmental topics, a Physical Efficiency Test and Physical Standard Test given the field-intensive nature of the role, and a medical examination.

What's New in the 2026 Cycle

- Each state conducts recruitment independently — always confirm vacancy count, eligibility and exam dates against your specific state's official notification.
- PET/PST standards tend to be demanding given the genuinely field-intensive, often remote nature of forest guard duties.
- The written exam typically includes a distinct emphasis on basic forestry, wildlife and environmental science topics, beyond generic General Knowledge.
- Postings frequently involve remote or forested locations, which candidates should factor into their career planning.

Exam Pattern

Written Examination (common pattern)

Mode: Online/Offline objective MCQ (mode varies by state) | Duration: 2 hours (varies by state)

Section	Questions	Marks
General Knowledge & Current Affairs (state-specific emphasis)	—	Qualifying
Basic Forestry, Wildlife & Environmental Science	—	Qualifying
Reasoning & Mental Ability	—	Qualifying

Numerical/Quantitative Aptitude	—	Qualifying
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Negative marking: Varies by state — verify against your specific state's official notification | **Nature:** Merit-determining for shortlisting to PET/PST.

Physical Efficiency Test (PET) & Physical Standard Test (PST)

Mode: Field test — running, height, chest (male) & weight measurement | Duration: Conducted on scheduled test dates

Section	Questions	Marks
Race, Height/Chest/Weight measurement	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: Not applicable — qualifying (pass/fail) only | **Nature:** Mandatory gate; standards vary by state, category and gender.

State Forest Guard — Detailed Subject-Wise Syllabus

General Knowledge & Current Affairs

Blend state-specific and national current affairs — many states weight local knowledge meaningfully.

- Current affairs — national & international, state-specific news
- Indian history, geography & polity
- State-specific geography and administrative structure

Basic Forestry, Wildlife & Environmental Science

Rewards genuine, state-specific study — generic environmental science alone isn't sufficient.

- Basic forest types & ecosystems of the specific state
- Wildlife conservation basics
- Environmental protection laws & awareness
- Forest-related government schemes

Reasoning & Mental Ability

Standard competitive-exam reasoning — consistent practice yields quick improvement.

- Analogies, classification, coding-decoding
- Series completion
- Direction sense & blood relations
- Non-verbal reasoning

Numerical/Quantitative Aptitude

Foundational-level questions — consistent practice on fundamentals covers most of the syllabus.

- Number system, simplification
- Percentage, ratio & proportion, average
- Mensuration, time & work

Selection Process

- 1 Written Examination — pattern and syllabus emphasis vary by state.
- 2 Physical Efficiency Test (PET) and Physical Standard Test (PST).
- 3 Document Verification.
- 4 Medical Examination.

Salary & Job Profile

State Forest Guard posts are typically placed around Pay Level 2–3 of the respective state's pay matrix (broadly comparable to ₹19,900–₹69,100 under the central 7th CPC-equivalent scale), with the exact figure varying by state, plus Dearness Allowance and field/remote-posting allowances where applicable.

Best Books for Preparation

- Lucent's General Knowledge
- Basic Environmental Science & Ecology — standard NCERT-level references
- A Modern Approach to Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning — R.S. Aggarwal
- State-specific Forest Guard previous year papers — various publishers

Previous Cut-off Trends (Approximate)

Since each state conducts its own independent recruitment, cut-offs vary enormously by state, category, gender and vacancy count — there is no single national cut-off for this exam. Always check your specific state forest

department's official cut-off release.

Preparation Tips

- Always prepare from your specific state's official syllabus rather than a generic pattern, since exact section weightage differs by state.
- Build genuine, dedicated knowledge of your state's forest types, wildlife and conservation schemes — this section rewards specific, non-generic study.
- Begin physical training early, checking your specific state's PET/PST standards rather than assuming a uniform national requirement.
- Balance written exam preparation with sustained physical fitness building throughout your preparation timeline, not as an afterthought.

Exam Day Guidelines

- Carry the Admit Card and a valid original photo ID as specified by your state's forest department.
- Begin PET training well in advance — standards tend to be demanding given the genuinely field-intensive nature of the role.
- No electronic devices are typically allowed inside the exam hall — confirm specific rules with your state's notification.
- Consider your comfort with remote or forested postings early, since this is a genuine and common feature of forest guard roles.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is State Forest Guard a single national exam?

No, each state conducts its own independent recruitment through its respective forest department, with state-specific vacancy counts, eligibility and exam calendars.

Are forest guard postings usually remote?

Yes, postings frequently involve remote or forested locations given the field-based nature of forest protection and conservation duties — candidates should factor this into their career planning.

Does the written exam test forestry-specific knowledge?

Yes, most states include a section on basic forestry, wildlife and environmental science alongside general knowledge, reasoning and aptitude.

Is there a physical test for this recruitment?

Yes, PET and PST are standard components across most states, given the genuinely field-intensive and physically demanding nature of forest guard duties.

Compiled and reviewed by Syllabus Hub against the official State Forest Departments notification as of 27 Apr 2026. Exam patterns, vacancies and dates are subject to change — always cross-check with the official notification at Varies by state (respective state forest department portals) before applying. © 2026 Syllabus Hub.