CIVIL SERVICES · MAP #38

Lekhpal and Patwari — the bottom of the revenue service, where the way up is another exam

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This site already maps Naib Tehsildar. Same records, same tehsil, same system, entered twenty years lower. A Lekhpal holds the land record for a group of villages, which is the most consequential paperwork in rural India. The first promotion is most of a decade away, and the rung above that is not really a promotion at all: for most people it is the state civil services exam, sat again.

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THE 30-YEAR JOURNEY

A Lekhpal is the person who holds the land record for a group of villages. Who farms which plot, where a boundary runs, what the crop was this season, and whose name the khatauni carries. Almost every rural dispute and almost every rural entitlement passes through that record at some point, which makes this the most consequential paperwork in the district and the reason the post has the reputation it has. The career shape is unusual and worth stating early. The first promotion, to Kanungo, is eight to twelve years away and gated by a departmental exam. The rung after that, Naib Tehsildar, is for most people not a promotion at all. It is the state civil services exam, sat again, years into a career.

SALARY PROJECTION

If you joined today

Figures as of September 2026

State 7th CPC equivalents, UP reference. State DA and small-town HRA differ from central rates, and NPS is deducted. All figures approximate and state-dependent.. The left column is the departmental ladder, which is the realistic path for someone who does not sit another exam. The right column is the state civil services exam, which is a fresh competitive exam rather than a promotion and is the reason this map exists alongside the Naib Tehsildar one. The Kanungo row carries an unresolved level conflict, flagged on the row. We update this every year.

YEAR	MILESTONE	THE DEPARTMENTAL LADDER Lekhpal to Kanungo and whatever follows	THE STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAM Naib Tehsildar, sat for again
0	On joining	**L3 · ₹30k** Both paths identical so far · Lekhpal	

YEAR	MILESTONE	THE DEPARTMENTAL LADDER Lekhpal to Kanungo and whatever follows	THE STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAM Naib Tehsildar, sat for again
10	Ten years in	**L4 · ₹37k** Revenue Inspector (Kanungo) Eight to twelve years is the reported range and it is vacancy-bound. Sources conflict on whether this rung is Level 4 at ₹25,500 or Level 5 at ₹29,200.	**L8 · ₹72k** Naib Tehsildar Only on clearing the state civil services exam. This is a separate competitive exam rather than a promotion, and entry is Level 8 in some states and Level 7 in others.
20	Twenty years in	**L4–L5 · ₹44k** Kanungo, and state supervisory grades Where the departmental path usually settles. One source puts the full departmental route at fifteen to twenty years.	**L8+ · ₹85k** Tehsildar and above Indicative. The ladder above Naib Tehsildar is mapped properly in this site's Naib Tehsildar map rather than here.

UP reference. State DA and HRA vary widely, so figures swing between states even at the same pay level. The Kanungo level is disputed in the sources. Promotion timings are reported ranges, not schedules. Snapshot dated September 2026.

Sarkari Job Guide does not claim this salary structure. The figures come from the verified sources listed on the career page.

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Visual career maps for government jobs in India. Each map shows the full 30-year path: pay at every stage, promotion timelines, and the costs nobody mentions.

Salaries and rules change. Read the latest version:
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