



SAARTHI • सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल • Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट • CAREER SHEET

लोको पायलट

A Loco Pilot is the Indian Railways employee who drives the train and carries thousands of passengers safely to their destination. Nobody is recruited directly as a Loco Pilot — entry is as an Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP), through...



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/loco-pilot

राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, जेठन्तरी

Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jethantri • ब्लॉक समदड़ी • बालोतरा (Block Samdari • Balotra)

www.gsssjethantri.in • career.gsssjethantri.in



सुशील कुमार शर्मा

प्रधानाचार्य, रा.उ.मा.वि. जेठन्तरी • मास्टर ट्रेनर
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 Loco Pilot is the Indian Railways employee who drives the train and carries thousands of passengers safely to their destination. Nobody is recruited directly as a Loco Pilot — entry is as an Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP), through a Railway Recruitment Board. The qualification is Class 10 plus an ITI in a relevant trade, or Class 10 plus a three-year diploma in mechanical, electrical, electronics or automobile engineering. CEN 01/2026 carried 11,127 vacancies, of which 718 were with RRB Ajmer — 600 on North Western Railway and 118 on West Central Railway. Two things about this recruitment should be known at the outset, because both are decisive. First, half the weight in the final merit belongs to an aptitude test (the CBAT), which cannot be prepared for by studying a syllabus. Second, the medical standard is A-1 — 6/6 vision in both eyes without glasses — and anyone who has had Lasik or any other surgery to correct refractive error is not eligible for the post at all.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Class 10 (Matriculation/SSLC) plus an ITI from an NCVT/SCVT recognised institution in one of 17 prescribed trades; or a Course Completed Act Apprenticeship in those trades; or Class 10 plus a three-year diploma in mechanical/electrical/electronics/automobile engineering (a degree in those branches is also accepted)
Recruiting body	Railway Recruitment Boards (RRB), Ministry of Railways — CEN No. 01/2026
Age limit	18 to 30 years (reckoned as on 01.07.2026 in CEN 01/2026). Five years' relaxation for SC/ST and three for OBC (non-creamy layer)
Starting salary	Level 2 of the CENTRAL pay matrix (7th CPC) — an initial basic pay of ₹19,900, stated expressly in the notification. Running and other allowances are added on top
Demand	11,127 vacancies across all Boards in CEN 01/2026 — of which 718 with RRB Ajmer (North Western Railway 600, West Central Railway 118)

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- A deep interest in operating machinery and understanding technical systems
- Work where the responsibility is very large — the safety of thousands of people on a train rests on one person's alertness

- Work that moves, in shifts and at night, rather than to a fixed routine

ABILITIES

- Exceptional eyesight — 6/6 in both eyes without glasses, and it is compulsory to pass tests for colour, binocular, field, night and mesopic vision
- Sustained concentration and quick reaction — this is what the aptitude test measures, and it is half the final merit
- Staying calm under pressure and following rules to the letter, since one missed signal has a very large consequence

KEY SKILLS

- The technical skill of your trade — Fitter, Electrician, Mechanic (Diesel), Turner, Machinist or another from the prescribed list
- Class 10 level mathematics and science, on which the first stage is based
- Basic science and engineering — engineering drawing, units, measurements, work-power-energy and such topics, asked in the second stage
- General intelligence and reasoning
- Railway signals, operating rules and safety procedures — these are taught in training after selection
- The habit of holding attention for long periods, which is built by practice and is tested in the CBAT

4 How to get there

- 1 Get your eyesight checked first, and this is the most important advice on this page. The medical standard is A-1: distant vision 6/6 in both eyes without glasses, with a fogging test, plus tests for colour, binocular, field, night and mesopic vision. And note this — the notification says that anyone who has undergone Lasik or any other surgical procedure to correct refractive error is not eligible for the post. A problem with glasses cannot be solved by an operation; the operation is itself the disqualification. This should be known before choosing an ITI trade, not after.
- 2 Pass Class 10, then take one of two routes. First: an ITI in one of the 17 prescribed trades — Fitter, Electrician, Instrument Mechanic, Millwright/Maintenance Mechanic, Mechanic (Radio & TV), Electronics Mechanic, Mechanic (Motor Vehicle), Wireman, Tractor Mechanic, Armature & Coil Winder, Mechanic (Diesel), Heat Engine, Turner, Machinist, and Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning Mechanic. Second: a three-year diploma in mechanical, electrical, electronics or automobile engineering, which is accepted in place of the ITI — and a degree in those branches is accepted too.

- 3 Those awaiting the result of their final examination should not apply — the notification says so in terms. The qualification must already be complete at the time of applying.
- 4 Apply online when a CEN appears. The "chosen RRB" cannot be changed later, so make that decision carefully: the natural choice for a candidate in Rajasthan is RRB Ajmer, which had 718 vacancies in CEN 01/2026. Shortlisting at every stage happens among the candidates who chose the same Board — so you compete not with all of India but with the candidates at your own Board.
- 5 The fee is ₹500, of which ₹400 is refunded on appearing at the first-stage CBT. SC/ST, ex-servicemen, women, transgender, minority and economically backward class candidates pay ₹250, refunded in full on appearing. The refund goes only to the bank account seeded with your Aadhaar, so validate Aadhaar while applying.
- 6 Take preparation for the aptitude test (CBAT) seriously, because it is half the final merit. It is designed by the Railways' Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) and RDSO's site carries candidate information about it — begin there rather than with commercial material.

MAIN EXAMS

- Selection has five stages: a first Computer Based Test (CBT-1), a second (CBT-2), a Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT), Document Verification, and a Medical Examination. There is no interview.
- This is the most important structural fact about the recruitment and it should be understood first: the final merit is made from Part-A of CBT-2 and the CBAT, weighted 50:50. The marks of CBT-1 do not count in the final panel at all — it is only a screening. And Part-B of CBT-2 has only to be passed (35%); its marks do not count either. So half of what finally decides this recruitment is an aptitude test that cannot be prepared for by studying a syllabus.
- CBT-1: 75 questions in 60 minutes, each of one mark — Mathematics, Mental Ability and General Science (physics, chemistry and life sciences at Class 10 level). One-third of a mark is deducted for each wrong answer. Minimum qualifying percentages: UR and EWS 40%, OBC (non-creamy layer) 30%, SC 30%, ST 25%. Candidates are shortlisted for CBT-2 at 15 times the vacancies.
- CBT-2: 175 questions in 2 hours 30 minutes in two parts — Part-A of 100 questions in 90 minutes (Mathematics, General Intelligence and Reasoning, and Basic Science and Engineering) and Part-B of 75 questions in 60 minutes, relating to your own trade. One-third negative marking applies here too. The same minimum percentages apply in Part-A; Part-B has a 35% pass mark for all categories and its marks do not count further.

- Candidates are called for the CBAT at 8 times the vacancies. There is no negative marking in it and it is conducted only in Hindi and English. Its strictest condition is that each test battery must be cleared separately — a T-score of at least 42 is needed in every battery. Failing one battery is failing the test, however well the others went. On CBAT day you must bring the self-screening medical declaration in original, signed by an eye specialist and a general physician, or you are not permitted to appear.
- A tie is broken by age, with the older candidate placed higher. Marks from tests held in multiple shifts are normalized. Zone allotment follows merit, medical standard and the candidate's preference — and once empanelled, the right to be considered for the next preference is forfeited.
- The medical standard is A-1, the strictest among the recruitments on this portal: distant vision 6/6 in both eyes without glasses (with a fogging test, and +2D must not be accepted), near vision Sn 0.6 in both eyes without glasses, and passing the tests for colour, binocular, field, night and mesopic vision. Candidates who have had Lasik or any other refractive surgery are not eligible. This CEN records the post as "Not Suitable" for persons with benchmark disabilities.
- This page is written from CEN 01/2026, in which applications closed on 14.06.2026 and the modification window ran to 26.06.2026. The dates here are historic and are given to date the source. Eligibility and the shape of the selection stay as described; when a fresh CEN opens, take the vacancies, the dates and the age reckoning date from that one.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) — the main route, in the trades this CEN names — All districts of Rajasthan (<https://dsde.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Government polytechnic colleges — the three-year diploma accepted in place of the ITI — In many districts of Rajasthan (<https://dte.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme — the Course Completed Act Apprenticeship route this CEN accepts — Government of India — Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (<https://www.apprenticeshipindia.gov.in/>)

ONLINE

- रेलवे भर्ती बोर्ड — सी.ई.एन., अधिसूचनाएँ एवं परिणाम — The common platform for all Boards (<https://rrb.indianrailways.gov.in/>)
- आर.आर.बी. अजमेर — राजस्थान को कवर करने वाला बोर्ड — Ajmer, Rajasthan (<https://rrb.indianrailways.gov.in/ajmer/header/overview>)
- आर.डी.एस.ओ. — अभिक्षमता परीक्षा (सी.बी.ए.टी.) के विषय में अभ्यर्थियों के लिए आधिकारिक जानकारी, जो अधिसूचना स्वयं देखने को कहती है — Research Designs and Standards Organisation, Lucknow (<https://rdso.indianrailways.gov.in/>)

- आर.एस.एस.बी. — पिछले प्रश्न-पत्र, उत्तर कुंजी व पाठ्यक्रम (निःशुल्क) — The Staff Selection Board's own site — the most reliable free preparation material there is (https://rsmssb.rajasthan.gov.in/show_archived?menuName=Xj4lCb9vGxpQnfls%2FxlZ2g%3D%3D)
- विभागीय सेवा नियम (कार्मिक विभाग) — पद की योग्यता व आयु मूल दस्तावेज़ में पढ़ें — The Department of Personnel publishes the service rules for every cadre. Read these before any coaching material — qualification, age and the method of recruitment are settled here and nowhere else. (<https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- स्वयं (SWAYAM) — भारत सरकार के निःशुल्क ऑनलाइन कोर्स — Free (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल पुस्तकालय (NDLI) — Free books and study material (<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>)
- एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. — निःशुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तकें — The foundation for general knowledge, maths and science (<https://ncert.nic.in/>)

FEES

The cost of this route is low. The qualification is an ITI or a polytechnic diploma after Class 10, and at government institutions both cost very little — the gap against private institutions is large here, so try for a government ITI first. The recruitment fee is ₹500, of which ₹400 comes back on appearing at the first-stage CBT; for SC/ST, ex-servicemen, women, transgender, minority and economically backward class candidates it is ₹250, refunded in full on appearing. One expense people do not count is the medical: on CBAT day a self-screening report signed by an eye specialist and a general physician is compulsory. That costs something, but far more important than the cost is that the eye test should be done BEFORE preparation begins — because if the A-1 standard is not met, a whole year of preparation is wasted.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana (free coaching, apply via SSO) (<https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in/signin>)
- Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Dept scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- Buddy4Study scholarship search (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Loco sheds, running rooms, and the engine of the train — most of the working time is spent on a moving train. Posting is in the zone allotted by merit, medical standard and preference; candidates from Rajasthan usually go to North Western or West Central Railway, because RRB Ajmer's vacancies belong to those two zones.

WORK CULTURE

This is a post of discipline and responsibility, and its shape differs from other jobs. Duty hours are not fixed — the call can come at any time, and trains run at night, on festivals and in any weather. As an Assistant Loco Pilot the early work is in the engine alongside the Loco Pilot: sighting and calling out signals, watching the instruments, and attending to minor faults. With time and departmental examinations the same person becomes a Loco Pilot — first of goods trains, then passenger, and later mail and express. Being away from family and having no regular routine is the largest price of this work, and it is better known in advance.

WHO HIRES

- The zonal railways of Indian Railways — for Rajasthan chiefly North Western Railway (Jaipur) and West Central Railway
- The Railways' production units, which build locomotives and coaches
- Railway loco sheds — diesel and electric, where locomotives are maintained
- This CEN is for Indian Railways only; there is no direct private-sector equivalent of this post

DEMAND (2026)

CEN 01/2026 carried 11,127 vacancies across all Boards, and 718 with RRB Ajmer — 600 on North Western Railway and 118 on West Central Railway. The expanding rail network, new trains and freight corridors keep this cadre needed. But two things matter more than the number. First, this recruitment eliminates more people on the medical standard than on anything else — someone who does not meet the A-1 vision requirement cannot be selected however well prepared, and Lasik surgery is itself a disqualification. Second, half the final merit comes from the aptitude test, in which every test battery has to be cleared separately. So on this route the first step in preparation is an eye test and the second is understanding the aptitude test — subject study comes third, unlike in other recruitments. One thing to be clear about — the "demand" described above counts posts, not your chance of getting one. Selection is by open competition and the number of applicants runs to many times the number of posts, so most candidates are not selected in any given recruitment. That is not an argument against this career; it is an argument against making it your only plan. Keep studying or building a skill alongside your preparation, so that the year is not lost whichever way the result goes.

7 Career growth

- 1 Assistant Loco Pilot — entry post, Level 2 of the central pay matrix (initial ₹19,900). The early work is in the engine alongside the Loco Pilot
- 2 Loco Pilot (Goods) — on promotion after a departmental examination and the prescribed experience

- 3 Loco Pilot (Passenger), then Loco Pilot (Mail/Express) — by successive promotion, each step at a higher pay level
- 4 Loco Inspector and supervisory posts above it — through long service and departmental selection. This is the path from the running cadre into administrative work
- 5 One thing should be clear about this list: the entry post at the top of it, its pay level and its pay are taken from the notification, but the names of the grades above it and the mechanics of promotion are NOT in the notification — it describes the post being filled, not the ladder above it. Read the higher steps as the shape of the path rather than as a documented promise, and check the current designations and conditions in the service rules.

EARNINGS

Starting	केंद्रीय पे मैट्रिक्स लेवल 2 — आरंभिक मूल वेतन ₹19,900
Mid level	₹40,000 – ₹60,000 (भत्तों सहित, लोको पायलट बनने पर)
Senior level	₹70,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, मेल/एक्सप्रेस लोको पायलट एवं निरीक्षक स्तर पर)

The starting figure is not an estimate — the table in CEN 01/2026 states Level-2 and an initial pay of ₹19,900 expressly, and the same figure matches the Staff Selection Commission's pay-scale list, where the first cell of central Level 2 is ₹19,900 — two independent central sources, one number. An earlier version of this page printed a starting salary of "₹38,000 per month"; that came from no source and was an allowance-inclusive estimate, so it has been removed. The difference is worth understanding: ₹19,900 is basic pay, and actual earnings in the running cadre are considerably higher, because dearness allowance, house rent allowance and a running allowance are added on top — the running allowance is paid on distance run, so it is not the same every month and the notification gives no fixed figure for it. Beyond that come housing in a railway colony, medical care at railway hospitals and travel facilities. One caution: pay matrix level numbers do not mean the same thing in the state and at the Centre, so compare the rupees. The mid-level and senior figures are approximate and are not confirmed from any official pay statement; read them as a direction, not a promise. The starting figure is BASIC PAY, so that it can be compared directly against other careers. Dearness allowance (60% of basic since 1 January 2026) and house rent allowance are added on top of it, so take-home pay is appreciably higher. The mid-level and senior figures are approximate monthly income including allowances, not basic pay. Note — in Rajasthan a direct recruit is a probationer-trainee for the first 2 years and is paid a fixed remuneration, not the pay scale; dearness allowance and house rent allowance are not payable in those two years (Rajasthan Service Rules, rule 7(30A)). The full pay scale applies once probation is completed. The figures above rest on the Rajasthan 7th pay matrix, which is what applies as of 17 August 2026. The Terms of Reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission were approved on 28 October 2025 and it must report within 18 months of its constitution. State governments normally adopt a Central Pay Commission with modifications, and later than the Centre does — so Rajasthan pay will be revised too, though by how much and when is not yet settled.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Permanent central government employment on an ITI or diploma after Class 10, and at Level 2 — the other Class-10 central routes on this portal begin at Level 1
- The running cadre's allowance is added on top of basic pay, so actual earnings run higher than in office posts at the same pay level
- The promotion path is clear and definite — from Assistant Loco Pilot to Loco Pilot of goods, passenger and mail/express trains, at a higher pay level each step
- There is no negative marking in the CBAT, and the qualifying mark for ST candidates is 25% — the most lenient among the central recruitments on this portal

The challenges

- Medical standard A-1 is the strictest on this portal, and anyone who has had Lasik or any refractive surgery is simply not eligible — so there is no remedy for a problem with glasses. Get tested before preparing
- Half the final merit comes from the aptitude test, in which every test battery must be cleared separately — failing one battery is failing the test, however good the subject preparation
- Duty hours are not fixed and the call can come at any time; trains run at night, on festivals and in every weather, so time away from family and an irregular routine are a permanent price of this work
- This CEN records the post as "Not Suitable" for persons with benchmark disabilities, so this route is not open to them — other railway recruitments, such as the Level 1 posts, are

9 If this route does not work out

One exam or one attempt does not close the door. The same subjects also open these routes — entry is usually easier, and you can return to this field later.

- Railway Protection Force (RPF)
- RRB Level 1 Posts — Track Maintainer, Pointsman and Assistants (commonly called "Railway Group D")
- RRB Section Controller (Railways)

10 Sources & further reading

1. Railway Recruitment Boards — CENs and notifications (select your Board) — <https://rrb.indianrailways.gov.in/>
2. RRB Ajmer — the Board covering Rajasthan — <https://rrb.indianrailways.gov.in/ajmer/header/overview>
3. RDSO — official information on the aptitude test (CBAT), which the notification itself directs candidates to — <https://rdso.indianrailways.gov.in/>

4. The RRB application portal — one account for all CENs — <https://www.rrbapply.gov.in/>
5. Indian Railways — Ministry of Railways (including the Indian Railway Medical Manual) — <https://indianrailways.gov.in/>
6. Department of Skill and Livelihood, Rajasthan — government ITIs — <https://dsde.rajasthan.gov.in/>
7. Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (official) — <https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in/>
8. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — service rules — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>
9. 8th Central Pay Commission — Cabinet approval of the Terms of Reference (PIB, 28 October 2025) — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2183289>

**And 770+ more careers — the whole portal**

Interest and aptitude tests, government jobs, skill courses and a CV builder — free, no login, and it works offline.

career.gsssjethantri.in