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रेलवे सुरक्षा बल (आर.पी.एफ.)

The Railway Protection Force is Indian Railways' own armed force, protecting passengers, their belongings and railway property. There are two doors into it and their conditions differ sharply. For Constable (Executive) the...



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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

The Railway Protection Force is Indian Railways' own armed force, protecting passengers, their belongings and railway property. There are two doors into it and their conditions differ sharply. For Constable (Executive) the qualification is only a Class 10 pass — the tenth, not the twelfth — and the post sits at Level 3 of the central pay matrix with an initial pay of ₹21,700. For Sub-Inspector (Executive) a graduate degree in any discipline is enough, and that post is at Level 6 with an initial pay of ₹35,400 — the same level as the Railways' Junior Engineer recruitment, which asks for a three-year diploma. CEN RPF 02/2024 carried 4,208 Constable posts and CEN RPF 01/2024 carried 452 Sub-Inspector posts. And one thing matters particularly for this portal's girls: by Government of India instruction, 15% of all vacancies are reserved for women, and their physical standards are set separately and lower.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Constable (Executive): Class 10 pass or equivalent from a recognised Board. Sub-Inspector (Executive): a graduate degree in any discipline from a recognised university
Recruiting body	Railway Recruitment Boards (RRB), Ministry of Railways — CEN RPF 02/2024 (Constable) and RPF 01/2024 (Sub-Inspector)
Age limit	Constable 18 to 28 years; Sub-Inspector 20 to 28 years (both reckoned as on 01.07.2024). Five years' relaxation for SC/ST and three for OBC
Starting salary	Constable: Level 3 of the CENTRAL pay matrix — an initial basic pay of ₹21,700. Sub-Inspector: Level 6 — an initial basic pay of ₹35,400. Both figures are stated expressly in the notifications
Demand	4,208 Constable posts (3,577 male, 631 female) and 452 Sub-Inspector posts (384 male, 68 female) — 15% of total vacancies reserved for women and 10% for ex-servicemen

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- An interest in security and law-and-order work, and a wish to serve in uniform
- Physically active work rather than work at a desk
- Working among people — station, train and yard bring new people every day

ABILITIES

- Physical capability and stamina — the run, long jump and high jump are compulsory and failing them ends the process
- Restraint and discipline — conduct in uniform is taken as the conduct of the force
- Alertness and quick judgement, because a situation in a crowd changes in a moment

KEY SKILLS

- Arithmetic — 35 marks of the paper, at Class 10 level: number system, percentages, ratio, averages, interest, profit and loss, time and distance
- General awareness — 50 marks, the largest part of the paper: Indian history, art and culture, geography, economics, polity and the Constitution, sports, general science
- Skills taught in service: weapon handling, crowd management, the Railways Act and the process of prosecution
- General intelligence and reasoning — 35 marks: analogies, series, coding and decoding, syllogism, visual memory
- Regular physical practice — running and jumping capacity is built over months, not weeks

4 How to get there

- 1 First, the thing the earlier version of this page had wrong and which is corrected here: the qualification for Constable is a Class 10 pass, not Class 12. The notification's words are "10th Pass or Equivalent from recognised Board". The door is open to someone who stopped studying after the tenth, and 4,208 of the 4,660 posts in these two notifications are this one.
- 2 If you are a graduate or about to be, look at the Sub-Inspector post. The qualification is a degree in any discipline — no professional qualification is needed — and the pay level is 6, starting at ₹35,400. That is the same level as the Railways' Junior Engineer recruitment, which requires a three-year technical diploma.
- 3 Begin physical preparation alongside the written preparation, not after it. Constable (male) must run 1600 metres in 5 minutes 45 seconds, long jump 14 feet and high jump 4 feet. Constable (female): 800 metres in 3 minutes 40 seconds, long jump 9 feet and high jump 3 feet. The Sub-Inspector standards are a little lighter — male 1600 metres in 6 minutes 30 seconds, female 800 metres in 4 minutes.
- 4 Know the physical measurement condition in advance too, because practice does not change it. Height: UR, EWS and OBC male 165 cm and female 157 cm; SC/ST male 160 cm and female 152 cm. Chest for men is 80 cm unexpanded and 85 cm expanded (76.2 and 81.2 cm for SC/ST).

- 5 This is worth reading particularly if you are a girl: by Government of India instruction, 15% of total vacancies are reserved for women — 631 posts at Constable and 68 at Sub-Inspector. The physical standards are also set separately and lower for women. This is a fixed, published share in a uniformed force, not an exception.
- 6 Apply online when a CEN appears, and read the fee structure, which follows the other railway recruitments. One warning is explicit in the notification: those awaiting the result of their final examination should not apply — the qualification must be complete by the closing date.

MAIN EXAMS

- Selection has four stages: a Computer Based Test (CBT), a Physical Efficiency Test (PET), a Physical Measurement Test (PMT) and Document Verification, followed by a medical examination. There is no interview.
- The CBT is 120 questions in 90 minutes — Arithmetic 35 marks, General Intelligence and Reasoning 35 marks, and General Awareness 50 marks. One-third of a mark is deducted for each wrong answer. Note that the largest part is general awareness, not arithmetic — which sets this examination apart from several other central ones and changes what to prepare first.
- The Physical Efficiency Test is pass or fail and carries no marks — the notification says so expressly. Constable (male): 1600 metres in 5 minutes 45 seconds, long jump 14 feet, high jump 4 feet. Constable (female): 800 metres in 3 minutes 40 seconds, long jump 9 feet, high jump 3 feet. Sub-Inspector (male): 1600 metres in 6 minutes 30 seconds, long jump 12 feet, high jump 3 feet 9 inches. Sub-Inspector (female): 800 metres in 4 minutes, long jump 9 feet, high jump 3 feet.
- The Physical Measurement Test measures height and, for men, chest, and the standards vary by category: UR/EWS/OBC male 165 cm and female 157 cm; SC/ST male 160 cm and female 152 cm; for Garhwalis, Gorkhas, Marathas, Dogras, Kumaonese and other categories specified by Government, male 163 cm and female 155 cm. Chest for men is 80 cm unexpanded and 85 cm expanded (76.2 and 81.2 for SC/ST).
- Candidates are called for PET, PMT and Document Verification at 10 times the vacancies, separately for male, female and ex-servicemen in each category. If there is a shortfall a second round is held, but there are at most two rounds. Know one thing plainly: if female or ex-servicemen posts remain unfilled after the second round, they are filled by male candidates of the same category — so the reserved share works only when enough women come through and meet the standard.
- Ex-servicemen are exempt from the Physical Efficiency Test but must still take the Physical Measurement Test. Both posts are recorded "Not Suitable" for persons with benchmark disabilities, and this page does not hide that, because hiding it wastes a candidate's fee and time.

- This page is written from CEN RPF 02/2024 and 01/2024; applications in both opened on 15.04.2024 and closed on 14.05.2024, so both cycles have moved on. The dates here are historic and are given to date the source. Eligibility, the physical standards 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 schools of Rajasthan — the Class 10 pass that is the whole qualification for Constable — In every district of Rajasthan (<https://education.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Government colleges of Rajasthan — the degree in any discipline that qualifies for Sub-Inspector — In every district of Rajasthan (<https://hte.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- District sports stadiums and government school grounds — where the running and jumping standards are actually practised, at no cost — At the district headquarters of Rajasthan (<https://sports.rajasthan.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://rrbajmer.gov.in/>)
- रेलवे सुरक्षा बल — बल का अपना परिचय एवं कार्य — Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways (<https://rpf.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

This is among the cheapest routes on this portal. The Constable qualification is Class 10, which at a government school is close to free; the Sub-Inspector qualification is a degree in any discipline, which at a government college takes three years at small expense. Preparation material is not costly either: the largest part of the paper is general awareness, whose foundation is NCERT books and a newspaper read regularly, and the arithmetic is at Class 10 level. The largest investment is not money but time — running and jumping preparation runs over months and needs no fee at all, only a ground and regularity. District sports stadiums and school grounds are enough. The recruitment fee is set by category in the notification and, as in the other railway recruitments, much of it is refunded on appearing at the examination — take the exact amount from the official CEN.

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

Railway stations, moving trains, yards, goods sheds and railway property — across the country. The Railway Protection Special Force is filled through the same notifications alongside the Railway Protection Force. Posting is in the group or region applied for, and it can fall outside your own state.

WORK CULTURE

This is the disciplined life of a uniformed force and its routine is exactly that: duty in shifts, night duty, and extra deployment at festivals and other crowded occasions. Much of the work is among passengers — the safety of women and children, preventing human trafficking, stopping theft of railway property, and helping in emergencies. Authority comes with responsibility: under the Railways Act the force holds powers of enquiry and prosecution, so procedure is taught strictly. Training follows selection and covers weapon handling, law and crowd management. In return come permanent central government employment, housing in a railway colony, medical care at railway hospitals, and travel facilities for the employee and family.

WHO HIRES

- The Railway Protection Force (RPF), Ministry of Railways — at railway stations and on trains across the country
- This post belongs to Indian Railways alone; there is no direct private-sector equivalent
- The Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF), filled through these same notifications

DEMAND (2026)

These two notifications carried 4,660 posts — 4,208 Constable and 452 Sub-Inspector. But the real point of this route is not the number, it is the comparison, and that only appears when four pages on this portal are set side by side. There are four Class-10 central routes here: SSC MTS (Level 1, ₹18,000, age 18–25), RRB Level 1 (Level 1, ₹18,000, age 18–33), SSC GD Constable (Level 3, ₹21,700, age 18–23) and RPF Constable (Level 3, ₹21,700, age 18–28). The last two have the same pay level, the same starting pay and the same qualification — and RPF gives five more years of age. This portal's own SSC GD page calls 18–23 "the narrowest age window among the central examinations on this portal"; for a candidate past 23, the route into uniform has not closed. And the Sub-Inspector post gives Level 6 (₹35,400) on a degree in any discipline — the same level for which the Railways' Junior Engineer recruitment asks a three-year technical diploma. 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 Constable (Executive) — entry post, Level 3 of the central pay matrix (initial ₹21,700)
- 2 Head Constable and Assistant Sub-Inspector — by promotion through seniority and departmental examination
- 3 Sub-Inspector (Executive) — Level 6 (initial ₹35,400); reached both by direct recruitment from outside and by departmental promotion
- 4 Inspector and above, up to gazetted officer level — through long service and departmental selection; direct recruitment at that level is through the Union Public Service Commission
- 5 The last step in this list is the exception and it is verified: "Indian Railway Protection Force Service, Group A" appears in the service list of the UPSC Civil Services Examination, recorded in this project's facts/upsc-service-lists-2026-08-28.json.

- 6 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	आरक्षक: केंद्रीय पे मैट्रिक्स लेवल 3 — ₹21,700; उप-निरीक्षक: लेवल 6 — ₹35,400
Mid level	₹35,000 – ₹55,000 (भत्तों सहित, कुछ वर्षों की सेवा एवं पदोन्नति के बाद)
Senior level	₹65,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, निरीक्षक एवं उससे ऊपर के पदों पर)

Neither starting figure is an estimate — CEN RPF 02/2024 states Level 3 and ₹21,700 for Constable, and CEN RPF 01/2024 states Level 6 and ₹35,400 for Sub-Inspector, expressly, and both match the Staff Selection Commission's pay-scale list. An earlier version of this page printed a start of "₹30,000 a month" and a note claiming ₹27,900–31,270 for Constable and ₹43,300–52,030 for Sub-Inspector; those came from no source and were allowance-inclusive estimates, so they have been removed. These are basic pay; dearness allowance, house rent allowance, uniform allowance and other force-related allowances are added on top, so the amount in hand is considerably higher. Housing in a railway colony, medical care at railway hospitals and travel facilities for the employee and family come alongside. 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

- The Constable qualification is only Class 10, and the pay level is 3 (₹21,700) — the other two Class-10 central routes on this portal begin at Level 1 (₹18,000)
- The age band is 18 to 28, where the SSC GD Constable examination at the same pay level and qualification closes at 23 — five more years
- 15% of total vacancies are reserved for women and their physical standards are set separately and lower — in a uniformed force this is a fixed, published share
- The Sub-Inspector post gives Level 6 (₹35,400) on a degree in any discipline with no professional qualification behind it; and there is no interview

The challenges

- The physical measurement condition cannot be changed by practice — if the prescribed height (and chest, for men) is not met, no performance in the written test leads to selection
- Passing the Physical Efficiency Test is compulsory and it carries no marks — so it can only eliminate, never help
- Posts reserved for women and ex-servicemen, if unfilled after two rounds, are filled by male candidates of the same category — the reserved share means something only when enough women come through and meet the standard
- This is a uniformed-force job: shift and night duty, extra deployment at festivals, posting outside your own state, and tense situations in crowds. Both posts are recorded "Not Suitable" for persons with benchmark disabilities

9 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://rrbajmer.gov.in/>
3. Railway Protection Force — the force and its work — <https://rpf.indianrailways.gov.in/>
4. The RRB application portal — one account for all CENs — <https://www.rrbapply.gov.in/>

5. Indian Railways — Ministry of Railways — <https://indianrailways.gov.in/>
6. Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (official) — <https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in/>
7. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — service rules — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>
8. 8th Central Pay Commission — Cabinet approval of the Terms of Reference (PIB, 28 October 2025) — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2183289>

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