



SAARTHI • सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल • Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट • CAREER SHEET

आर.आर.बी. — सेक्शन कंट्रोलर (रेलवे)

The Section Controller is the Indian Railways officer who sits in the control room and directs the movement of trains across their section — which train waits where, which is let through first, where crossings happen, and how the...



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/rrb-section-controller

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

The Section Controller is the Indian Railways officer who sits in the control room and directs the movement of trains across their section — which train waits where, which is let through first, where crossings happen, and how the whole sequence is rebuilt when there is a delay or a disruption. In railway language, this is the person who runs the trains without being on the track. It is a graduate-level post whose responsibility bears directly on safety, which is why the Railways apply their strictest medical standard to it — A-2. For that reason the post carries a condition that has to be known long before applying: candidates who have undergone Lasik surgery, or any other surgical procedure to correct refractive error, are not eligible. CEN 03/2026 notified 119 vacancies across all Railway Recruitment Boards.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	A University Degree or its equivalent. With it, medical standard A-2 — and candidates who have had Lasik or any other refractive-error surgery are NOT eligible
Recruiting body	Railway Recruitment Boards (RRB), Ministry of Railways — CEN No. 03/2026
Age limit	20 to 33 years (reckoned as on 01.07.2026 in CEN 03/2026) — note the minimum is 20, not 18
Starting salary	Level 6 of the CENTRAL pay matrix — initial pay ₹35,400 (7th CPC), stated expressly in the notification's vacancy table
Demand	119 vacancies across all Boards in CEN 03/2026 — a small and specialised cadre

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- An interest in working with order, sequence and timetables
- Understanding how the railway operating system works
- The control room environment, and taking decisions in real time

ABILITIES

- The ability to hold the position of many trains in your head at once — the core skill of the post
- Clear, brief communication, since instructions are spoken and leave no room for ambiguity
- Deciding quickly and calmly under pressure, since one delay propagates across the section

KEY SKILLS

- Railway operating procedures and safety rules — taught in training after recruitment
- Practical knowledge of timetables and routes
- Using communication equipment and keeping message logs
- Reading and maintaining the control chart
- Rebuilding the sequence in an emergency
- Sustaining alertness — shifts are long and there is no room for attention to drift

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 12 in any stream, then take a graduation in any subject. The notification asks only for a University Degree or its equivalent and sets no subject condition — the route is equally open from arts, commerce and science.
- 2 Get your eyes checked first, and this is the most important advice on the page. Medical standard A-2 applies to this post — the strictest on the Railways — and the notification says in plain terms that candidates who have undergone Lasik surgery, or any other surgical procedure to correct refractive error, are not eligible. The condition is permanent and carries no relaxation. A self-declaration on the point must also be given at document verification.

- 3 The practical meaning of that condition should be understood, because it affects people who did nothing wrong. Surgery to correct refractive error is an ordinary, sensible decision and many young people have had it. But for this railway post it closes the door permanently. If you want this post and are currently considering such surgery, make that decision knowing this — it cannot be reversed afterwards. The detailed standards are in Chapter 5 of the Indian Railway Medical Manual Volume I, and the notification itself advises reading it.
- 4 Your age must be between 20 and 33, reckoned as on 01.07.2026 in CEN 03/2026. Note the minimum is 20 rather than 18 — unlike most central recruitments on this portal. The upper limit of 33 is generous and leaves several years after finishing a graduation.
- 5 Choose only one Railway Recruitment Board when applying. The notification states that multiple applications for a post at the same Pay Level, whether to different Boards or the same one, carry serious consequences.
- 6 Apply online when the CEN appears on the RRB website. For candidates in Rajasthan the relevant Board is RRB Ajmer.

MAIN EXAMS

- It is right to speak first about the medical standard, because it affects the most people and is mentioned the least. Section Controller carries the A-2 standard — the strictest on the Railways. The reason lies in the nature of the post: this person directs the movement of trains, so the requirements on vision and colour vision are severe. The notification also says the standard given is indicative rather than exhaustive and that candidates should read Chapter 5 of the Indian Railway Medical Manual. For anyone with a condition affecting vision, reading it before applying saves time rather than costing it.
- The Lasik condition is repeated separately because it appears in almost no summary and its consequence is final. The notification's words are that candidates who have undergone Lasik surgery, or any other surgical procedure to correct refractive error, are not eligible for the post of Section Controller, and that a self-declaration in the prescribed form must be given at document verification. This is not a condition that can be quietly passed.

- The qualification condition, by contrast, is very simple, and that is this post's attraction: a University Degree or its equivalent, with no subject condition. The notification settles it in a single line, calling it a "Graduate Post". Compare several other recruitments on this portal where the qualification varies post by post or a specific branch is demanded — here any graduate is eligible. What filters on this post, in other words, is not education but the medical standard and the examination.
- The pay is notably good for so small a cadre: Pay Matrix Level 6, initial pay ₹35,400 — the same level as Junior Engineer, but that post requires a three-year technical diploma and this one takes any degree. For a student doing an ordinary graduation without a technical qualification, the routes to Level 6 are few, and this is one of them. One caution: pay matrix level numbers do not mean the same thing in the state and at the Centre; compare the rupees, not the level numbers.
- The cadre is small and this should be known: CEN 03/2026 notified 119 vacancies in total across all Railway Recruitment Boards. For comparison, CEN 04/2026 in the same period carried 3,993 vacancies for Junior Engineer and Depot Material Superintendent. This is a specialised and limited recruitment and should be planned for as such — do not depend on this one post. The notification also records that PwBD-LD candidates are eligible under this CEN but that no vacancy is present for them in it.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- University of Rajasthan and the state universities — a graduation in any subject qualifies — Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Ajmer and Kota (<https://uniraj.ac.in/>)
- Government colleges across Rajasthan — B.A., B.Com. and B.Sc. at very low fees — In nearly every district (<https://hte.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota — for completing a graduation alongside work — Kota, Rajasthan (<https://www.vmou.ac.in/>)

ONLINE

- रेलवे भर्ती बोर्ड — सी.ई.एन. एवं अधिसूचनाएँ (अपना बोर्ड चुनें) — Read the medical standard and the Lasik condition here (<https://rrb.indianrailways.gov.in/>)
- भारतीय रेल — रेल मंत्रालय; भारतीय रेल चिकित्सा नियमावली का अध्याय 5 यहाँ उपलब्ध है — The detailed medical standards (<https://indianrailways.gov.in/>)

- आर.आर.बी. अजमेर — राजस्थान को कवर करने वाला बोर्ड — Ajmer, Rajasthan (<https://rrb.indianrailways.gov.in/ajmer/header/overview>)
- 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 educational cost is that of an ordinary graduation, and at Rajasthan's government colleges that is very low — a B.A., B.Com. or B.Sc. is available in nearly every district, and with no subject condition no expensive course is needed. If study has to run alongside work, the graduation can be done through Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota. The one "cost" that matters most on this post is not financial: an eye test. It is inexpensive, can be done with any ophthalmologist, and should be done before preparation begins — because the strictest gate on this post is the medical standard, not the examination. Anyone who has had refractive-error surgery is not eligible, and knowing that can save months of preparation. Expensive coaching is not needed — the Railway Recruitment Boards publish the CEN and all examination-related information free on their website. One warning: do not pay any middleman who claims he can arrange a recruitment — selection happens only through the computer-based examination and the stages that follow.

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

The divisional control rooms of the zonal railways — for Rajasthan chiefly North Western Railway, headquartered at Jaipur. The work is entirely inside the control room and runs in shifts around the clock.

WORK CULTURE

Control room work differs from every other railway post and is worth understanding. A Section Controller spends an entire shift at a desk, but that desk is the centre of the section: where the trains are, which is running late, where to arrange a crossing, which goods train to hold so a passenger train can pass — those decisions are theirs and have to be taken immediately. The pressure is mental rather than physical, and it is continuous: one train's delay spreads to several others, so the consequence of every decision shows at once. The work is in shifts and night shifts are ordinary, because the Railways never stop. Sustaining alertness is the hardest part of the post — a long shift leaves no room for attention to drift, because the post bears directly on safety. In return it gives something few railway posts do: an understanding of how an entire section is operated, and the experience that becomes the basis for promotion in the Railways' operating department. Many control room staff describe it as the most interesting work on the Railways, for the very reason that no two days present the same situation.

WHO HIRES

- The zonal railways of Indian Railways — including North Western Railway, headquartered at Jaipur
- Railway divisional and zonal headquarters
- Divisional control rooms and the operating department
- The Railways' operating cadre, within which promotion follows

DEMAND (2026)

The cadre that directs train movement is indispensable to the Railways and its work never ends, so the need is a standing one. Three things should be known honestly alongside. First, the cadre is small — 119 vacancies across all Boards in CEN 03/2026, against 3,993 for Junior Engineer in the same period. This recruitment does not come every year and cannot be depended on alone. Second, the number of applicants will be very large, because the qualification is simply a graduation and the pay is Level 6 — an attractive combination. Third, and most important, the real filtering happens on the medical standard. A-2 is strict and candidates who have had Lasik or refractive-correction surgery are excluded entirely. One consequence of that works in the candidate's favour: for someone whose vision meets the standard, the competition is not as large as the applicant count suggests. The same graduate qualification also keeps SSC CGL, banking and other central recruitments open, so the preparation does not rest on this one post. 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 Section Controller — the entry post, central Pay Matrix Level 6 (initial ₹35,400)
- 2 Chief Controller grade posts — by seniority and promotion within the control organisation
- 3 Supervisory posts in the operating department — at divisional level
- 4 Gazetted officer level — through long service and departmental selection

EARNINGS

Starting	केंद्रीय पे मैट्रिक्स लेवल 6 — आरंभिक वेतन ₹35,400
Mid level	₹55,000 – ₹75,000 (भत्तों सहित, कुछ वर्षों की सेवा के बाद)
Senior level	₹90,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, मुख्य नियंत्रक एवं उससे ऊपर)

The starting figure is not an estimate — the vacancy table in CEN 03/2026 states Level 6 and an initial pay of ₹35,400 under the 7th Pay Commission expressly. The same figure matches the Staff Selection Commission's pay-scale list and the Railways' own CEN 04/2026 — three independent sources, one number. It is basic pay; dearness allowance, house rent allowance and railway allowances are added on top, and shift-related allowances apply as well. Some railway facilities do not appear in the salary but their value is real: housing in a railway colony, medical care at railway hospitals, and travel facilities for the employee and family. It is worth noting that this level is reached on a graduation in any subject, whereas the Junior Engineer post at the same level requires a technical diploma. One caution: pay matrix level numbers do not mean the same thing in the state and at the Centre; compare the rupees, not the level numbers. 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

- Level 6 pay on a graduation in any subject — unusual for a non-technical graduate
- Age 20 to 33 — several years of runway after finishing a graduation
- Because the medical standard is strict, the real competition is smaller than the applicant count
- An understanding of how a whole section is operated, which becomes the basis for advancement in the operating department

The challenges

- Candidates who have had Lasik or refractive-correction surgery are wholly ineligible — a permanent bar
- A very small cadre — only 119 vacancies across all Boards in CEN 03/2026
- Shift work including night shifts, and a demand for sustained alertness across a long shift
- Continuous mental pressure — one delay spreads across the whole section

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://rrb.indianrailways.gov.in/ajmer/header/overview>
3. Indian Railways — medical standards (IRMM Volume I, Chapter 5) — <https://indianrailways.gov.in/>

4. RRB — the online application portal — <https://www.rrbapply.gov.in/>
5. Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (official) — <https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in/>
6. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — service rules — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>
7. 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