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रेलवे तकनीशियन — ग्रेड-I सिग्नल एवं ग्रेड-III

The Railway Technician recruitment opens two quite different doors through one notification, and it matters to tell them apart. The first is Technician Grade-I Signal, a Pay Level 5 post with an initial pay of ₹29,200. Its...



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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 Technician recruitment opens two quite different doors through one notification, and it matters to tell them apart. The first is Technician Grade-I Signal, a Pay Level 5 post with an initial pay of ₹29,200. Its qualification is startling: a plain B.Sc. in Physics, Electronics, Computer Science, Information Technology or Instrumentation — no diploma or engineering degree is required, though those are accepted too. A B.Sc. is one of the commonest degrees in Rajasthan and students are routinely told it leads nowhere but teaching. This post is the answer to that. The second is the 24 categories of Technician Grade-III at Level 2, for which the qualification is Class 10 plus an ITI in a relevant trade. CEN 02/2026 carried 6,557 vacancies in all — 323 at Grade-I Signal and 6,234 at Grade-III — of which 229 were with RRB Ajmer. And one thing makes this route better than Assistant Loco Pilot for a great many candidates: there is no aptitude test here and no A-1 vision requirement — on most of these posts the vision standard is met with glasses on.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Grade-I Signal (Level 5): a B.Sc. in Physics / Electronics / Computer Science / Information Technology / Instrumentation, or a three-year engineering diploma or degree in those streams. Grade-III (Level 2): Class 10 plus an NCVT/SCVT ITI in the relevant trade, or a Course Completed Act Apprenticeship in that trade
Recruiting body	Railway Recruitment Boards (RRB), Ministry of Railways — CEN No. 02/2026 (Technician Categories)
Age limit	Grade-I Signal 18 to 33 years; Grade-III 18 to 30 years (reckoned as on 01.07.2026 in CEN 02/2026). Five years' relaxation for SC/ST and three for OBC (non-creamy layer)
Starting salary	Grade-I Signal: Level 5 of the CENTRAL pay matrix (7th CPC) — an initial basic pay of ₹29,200. Grade-III: Level 2 — an initial basic pay of ₹19,900. Both figures are stated expressly in the notification
Demand	6,557 vacancies in CEN 02/2026 — 323 at Grade-I Signal and 6,234 at Grade-III (across 24 categories). RRB Ajmer had 229 (Signal 10, Grade-III 219)

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- An interest in opening up equipment and systems, understanding them and repairing them
- Practical work in the workshop and the field, rather than work at a desk
- An interest in signalling, electrical and electronic systems — particularly for those who have studied physics or electronics

ABILITIES

- Technical understanding and problem-solving — a fault usually has to be found and fixed on a running system
- Vigilance about safety and a readiness to work shifts
- Manual skill and a grip on tools, since almost every Grade-III post is tied to a specific trade

KEY SKILLS

- The skill of your trade — Fitter, Welder, Electrician, Machinist, Carpenter, Painter, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning and so on, on which the Grade-III category depends
- For Grade-I Signal, knowledge of computers — architecture, input/output, networking, operating systems, MS Office, the internet (20 questions)
- General intelligence and reasoning, and general awareness
- For Grade-I Signal: basic science and engineering — electric circuits, Ohm's law, electromagnetic induction, basic and digital electronics, measurement. This is the largest part of that paper (35 questions of 100)
- Mathematics — at Class 10 level for Grade-III, and above it for Grade-I Signal (quadratic equations, sets, statistics, probability)
- Railway safety and operating procedures — these are taught in service

4 How to get there

- 1 First work out which level you are eligible for, because the two routes differ. If you hold a B.Sc. in Physics, Electronics, Computer Science, Information Technology or Instrumentation — or a three-year engineering diploma or degree in those streams — you are eligible for Grade-I Signal, which begins at Level 5 on ₹29,200. If you hold Class 10 plus an ITI in a trade, you are eligible for Grade-III, which begins at Level 2 on ₹19,900.

- 2 If you are eligible for both, you may apply to both, and that is a particular feature of this recruitment. The notification says a separate application must be submitted for each Pay Level, with a separate fee and a separate examination for each. But be careful: more than one application at the SAME Pay Level means all applications at that level are rejected and the candidate is debarred from all future examinations. So "one at each level" is fine; "two at one level" is disqualification.
- 3 For those taking an ITI after Class 10: the choice of trade directly settles which category you can apply to, because each category is tied to its trade. The largest categories were Fitter (PU & Workshop) at 1,109 vacancies, Welder (PU & Workshop) at 584, Carriage and Wagon at 501 and Fitter (OL) at 469 — so the Fitter and Welder trades open the most opportunities.
- 4 Those awaiting the result of their final examination should not apply — the notification says so plainly. And for Grade-III (Level 2) a diploma or degree in engineering is not accepted in place of the ITI or apprenticeship unless otherwise specified. A Graduate Act Apprentice is not accepted in place of a Course Completed Act Apprenticeship.
- 5 While applying, choose one RRB and fill in your preferences for posts. The chosen Board is final and cannot be changed; for a candidate in Rajasthan the natural choice is RRB Ajmer, which had 229 vacancies in CEN 02/2026. The preferences are final too — any zone or post left unopted is treated as unwillingness for it.
- 6 The fee is ₹500, of which ₹400 comes back on appearing at the CBT. SC/ST, ex-servicemen, persons with disability, women, transgender, minority and economically backward class candidates pay ₹250, refunded in full on appearing. Note that applying at both levels means paying the fee twice.

MAIN EXAMS

- Selection has three stages: one Computer Based Test (CBT), Document Verification and a Medical Examination. There is no interview, no physical efficiency test and no aptitude test. The call for Document Verification goes out equal to the number of vacancies (1:1).
- The examination is separate for each Pay Level, but both have the same shape: 100 questions in 90 minutes, one-third of a mark deducted for each wrong answer, and normalization of marks where it is held in multiple shifts. The minimum qualifying percentages are the same in both — UR and EWS 40%, OBC (non-creamy layer) 30%, SC 30%, ST 25%.

- The Grade-I Signal paper (indicative split): Basic Science and Engineering 35, Basics of Computers and Applications 20, Mathematics 20, General Intelligence and Reasoning 15, General Awareness 10. Note that more than half the paper — 55 questions — is science-engineering and computing, so for someone with a B.Sc. in physics, electronics or computer science this is their own subject, not a general knowledge test.
- The vision standards are the most practical thing about this recruitment and are worth reading closely, because this is where it parts company with Assistant Loco Pilot. Grade-I Signal is B-1: distance vision 6/9 and 6/12, with or without glasses (lens power up to 4D). Most of the Grade-III workshop posts are C-1, the most relaxed standard in this notification: distance vision 6/12 and 6/18, with or without glasses, and it carries no colour, night or binocular vision test at all. Assistant Loco Pilot is A-1 — 6/6 in both eyes without glasses — so a candidate who wears glasses is not eligible there and is fully eligible here, at the same pay level.
- Of the 25 post categories in CEN 02/2026, eight are "Merged Post Categories" — more than one post designation with identical parameters combined into one category. The practical meaning is that a candidate empanelled against such a category may be assigned any designation and department under it on reporting to their zone. It was done for convenience, but a candidate should apply knowing it.
- The Grade-III paper: Mathematics 25, General Intelligence and Reasoning 25, and the remainder General Science and General Awareness. The notification puts the science syllabus at Class 10 standard.
- One precise distinction about Lasik surgery, which is expensive to understand loosely: the notification says candidates who have undergone Lasik or any other refractive surgery are not eligible for posts requiring medical standard A-3. In this CEN only one category is A-3 — Track Machine, 172 vacancies — that is under 3% of the 6,234 Grade-III vacancies. Every other post is open to such a candidate. In Assistant Loco Pilot the same surgery disqualifies from the post entirely.
- This page is written from CEN 02/2026, in which applications closed on 29.07.2026. 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 Grade-III route, in the trade matching the category you want — All districts of Rajasthan (<https://dsde.rajasthan.gov.in/>)

- Government colleges offering B.Sc. in Physics, Electronics, Computer Science, IT or Instrumentation — the Grade-I Signal route, and the reason a plain B.Sc. is worth more than students are told — In every district of Rajasthan (<https://hte.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Government polytechnic colleges — the three-year diploma also accepted for Grade-I Signal — In many districts of Rajasthan (<https://dte.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/>)
- एन.पी.टी.ई.एल. — इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, विद्युत एवं मापन के निःशुल्क पाठ्यक्रम, जो ग्रेड-I सिग्नल के पाठ्यक्रम से सीधे मेल खाते हैं — Government of India (<https://nptel.ac.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://ndli.iitkgp.ac.in/>)
- एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. — निःशुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तकें — The foundation for general knowledge, maths and science (<https://ncert.nic.in/>)

FEEES

Both routes cost little, but they differ. The Grade-III qualification is an ITI after Class 10, which is very cheap at a government institute; a private ITI costs a great deal more, so try for a government one first. The Grade-I Signal qualification is a B.Sc., which at a government college takes three years at small expense — and that is the largest point about this post, because a Level 5 post is usually associated with an engineering degree costing several times as much. The recruitment fee is ₹500, of which ₹400 returns on appearing at the CBT; for reserved and other specified categories it is ₹250, refunded in full. Applying at both levels means paying twice. No expensive material is needed to prepare — the Grade-III syllabus is at Class 10 level, and the Grade-I Signal syllabus is what a B.Sc. already covers.

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

Signalling and telecommunication installations, loco sheds, carriage and wagon depots, electric traction installations, and the Railways' workshops and production units. Grade-I Signal work is chiefly in the Signal and Telecommunication department, the most technical department on the Railways. Grade-III work varies by category — track machines, bridges, coaches and wagons, diesel and electric locomotives, EMUs, or the workshop. Posting is in the zone allotted according to preference and merit.

WORK CULTURE

The technician is the person who actually has the Railways' equipment in their hands. Work is in shifts and a call can come at any hour when something fails, because the Railways do not stop. Work in the signalling department has a different character: a mistake there has an immediate and large consequence, so procedure is followed very strictly and is taught in detail. Workshop posts keep a more regular routine. The stability is the same in both — 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 zonal railways of Indian Railways — for Rajasthan chiefly North Western Railway (Jaipur) and West Central Railway
- The mechanical and electrical departments — loco sheds, carriage and wagon, EMUs, traction distribution
- The Signal and Telecommunication department — the Grade-I Signal posts sit here
- The Railways' workshops and production units — the largest Fitter, Welder, Machinist, Carpenter and Painter categories are here

DEMAND (2026)

CEN 02/2026 carried 6,557 vacancies — 323 at Grade-I Signal and 6,234 at Grade-III — of which 229 were with RRB Ajmer (Signal 10, Grade-III 219). Beyond the number, two things are worth noting. First, for someone holding a B.Sc. the competition at Grade-I Signal has a different shape: more than half the paper is science, engineering and computing, so the competition is with others who studied the same subjects — this is not a general knowledge race. Second, Grade-III and Assistant Loco Pilot have the same qualification, the same pay level, the same starting pay and the same age band, but ALP adds an aptitude test and the A-1 vision requirement. So for a candidate who wears glasses, or who would rather not carry the risk of the aptitude test, this is the same pay without those two obstacles. 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** Technician Grade-III — entry post, Level 2 of the central pay matrix (initial ₹19,900)
- 2** Technician Grade-II and Grade-I — within the same cadre by seniority and departmental examination; direct recruitment to Grade-I Signal is at Level 5 (initial ₹29,200)
- 3** Junior Engineer and Senior Section Engineer — through departmental competitive examinations, for which the Railways reserve a share of posts for their own staff
- 4** The direct route from outside also stays open alongside: someone holding a three-year diploma may apply directly in the Junior Engineer recruitment at Level 6 (initial ₹35,400)
- 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	ग्रेड-I सिग्नल: केंद्रीय पे मैट्रिक्स लेवल 5 — ₹29,200; ग्रेड-III: लेवल 2 — ₹19,900
Mid level	₹35,000 - ₹55,000 (भत्तों सहित, कुछ वर्षों की सेवा एवं पदोन्नति के बाद)
Senior level	₹60,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, संवर्ग के वरिष्ठ ग्रेड एवं अनुभाग अभियंता स्तर पर)

Neither starting figure is an estimate — the table in CEN 02/2026 states Level 5 and ₹29,200 for Grade-I Signal and Level 2 and ₹19,900 for Grade-III expressly, and both match the Staff Selection Commission's pay-scale list, where the first cell of central Level 5 is ₹29,200 and of Level 2 is ₹19,900 — two independent central sources, the same numbers. These are basic pay; dearness allowance, house rent allowance and the Railways' allowances are added on top. Housing in a railway colony, medical care at railway hospitals and travel facilities do not appear in the salary but their value is real. One caution is especially necessary here: Level 5 is ₹20,800 in Rajasthan and ₹29,200 at the Centre — the same level number, about 40% more money. So never compare by the level number; compare by 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

- Grade-I Signal gives a Level 5 post on a plain B.Sc. — ₹29,200 starting pay, on a degree students are routinely told leads nowhere but teaching
- No interview, no physical efficiency test and no aptitude test — only one written examination, the documents and a medical check
- The vision standards are lenient: Grade-I Signal is B-1 and most Grade-III workshop posts are C-1, both of which read "with or without glasses". The A-1 requirement of Assistant Loco Pilot does not apply here
- A candidate eligible for both levels may apply separately at each — two chances in one recruitment, which most examinations do not offer

The challenges

- A Grade-III category is tied to the trade of your ITI, so the choice of trade right after Class 10 settles which categories will be open later and which will not
- The chosen Board and the preferences filled in are both final; any zone or post left unopted is treated as unwillingness, and a second application at the same Pay Level means disqualification and debarment from all future examinations
- Eight of the 25 categories are "merged", meaning any designation and department under that category may be assigned after selection — the exact nature of the work is not fully known at the time of applying
- Work is in shifts and often at night, and a call can come at any hour when something fails; the Track Machine category carries the A-3 standard, where candidates who have had Lasik surgery are not eligible

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. The RRB application portal — the separate application for each Pay Level is made here — <https://www.rrbapply.gov.in/>
4. Indian Railways — Ministry of Railways (including the Indian Railway Medical Manual) — <https://indianrailways.gov.in/>
5. Department of Skill and Livelihood, Rajasthan — government ITIs — <https://dsde.rajasthan.gov.in/>

6. Department of Higher Education, Rajasthan — the government colleges where the B.Sc. that qualifies for Grade-I Signal is taken — <https://hte.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>

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