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Indian Railways runs its own hospitals and health units, and fills the nursing, pharmacy, laboratory, radiography, ECG, dialysis and health inspection posts for them through a single notification. This portal's health domain...



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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

Indian Railways runs its own hospitals and health units, and fills the nursing, pharmacy, laboratory, radiography, ECG, dialysis and health inspection posts for them through a single notification. This portal's health domain carries 68 careers and almost all of them are Rajasthan state posts; this is the central counterpart for the very same qualifications. Two things make it particular. First, the shape of the paper: of 100 marks, 70 are Professional Ability — your own subject — with General Awareness 10, arithmetic and reasoning 10, and General Science 10. For someone strong in their subject and ordinary at general knowledge, there is no better-shaped examination on this portal. Second, the pay: Nursing Superintendent sits at Level 7 of the central pay matrix with an initial pay of ₹44,900, and its age band runs from 20 to 40. But one thing should be clear at the outset: this is a very small recruitment — 434 posts in the whole country and only 10 at RRB Ajmer.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Different for each post. Nursing Superintendent: a three-year GNM or a B.Sc Nursing, with registration as a Nurse and Midwife. Pharmacist: 10+2 in science with a D.Pharm or B.Pharm and registration under the Pharmacy Act 1948. Laboratory Assistant: Class 12 in science with a DMLT or an equivalent one-year certificate. Radiographer, ECG and Dialysis Technician and Health Inspector each have their own conditions
Recruiting body	Railway Recruitment Boards (RRB), Ministry of Railways — CEN No. 03/2025 (Paramedical Categories)
Age limit	From 18 to 33 depending on the post; 20 to 40 for Nursing Superintendent and 20 to 35 for Pharmacist (reckoned as on 01.01.2026). Reserved categories get relaxation on top
Starting salary	Levels 3 to 7 of the CENTRAL pay matrix by post — Nursing Superintendent ₹44,900 (Level 7), Dialysis Technician and Health Inspector ₹35,400 (Level 6), Pharmacist and Radiographer ₹29,200 (Level 5), ECG Technician ₹25,500 (Level 4), Laboratory Assistant ₹21,700 (Level 3)
Demand	434 posts across the country in CEN 03/2025 — Nursing Superintendent 272, Pharmacist 105, Health Inspector 33, Laboratory Assistant 12, and four each in the remaining three categories. Only 10 posts at RRB Ajmer

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- An interest in patient care and in the supporting role in treatment
- Being part of a large institution's hospital system, where the patients are employees and their families
- Depth in your own technical subject — laboratory, radiography, pharmacy or nursing

ABILITIES

- A firm grip on your own subject — it is 70 per cent of the examination
- A readiness for shift and night duty, which is the nature of hospital work
- Care and accuracy, because a slip in a test, a medicine or a dose falls on the patient

KEY SKILLS

- The professional knowledge of your post — nursing, pharmacy, laboratory technique, radiography, ECG or dialysis
- General awareness — 10 marks
- Keeping records and writing reports, part of the daily work of every paramedical post
- General science — 10 marks in the paper
- General arithmetic, intelligence and reasoning — 10 marks
- Speaking calmly with patients and their families — not taught, but built by practice

4 How to get there

- 1 Choose the post that matches your qualification, because each category has its own condition and an application is made for one post. Nursing Superintendent needs a three-year GNM or a B.Sc Nursing with registration as a Nurse and Midwife. The notification also says that those who obtained the qualification under the Indian Nursing Council's special concessions for ANMs, midwives and B-grade nurses are eligible too.
- 2 Pharmacist needs 10+2 in science with a D.Pharm, or a B.Pharm — and in either case registration as a Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act, 1948 is compulsory. Get that registration as soon as the course ends, because it is part of the qualification and not a formality.

- 3 Laboratory Assistant Grade II needs Class 12 in science with a DMLT, or an equivalent certificate course — but the notification's conditions are strict: the course must be at least one year, full time, from an institution recognised by a University or a State/Central Government technical board, and must end in an examination. A short or part-time certificate is not accepted.
- 4 Radiographer needs 10+2 with physics and chemistry and a two-year diploma in radiography or X-ray technology; the notification says science graduates holding that diploma will be preferred. ECG Technician needs 10+2 or graduation in science with a certificate, diploma or degree of at least one year in ECG or cardiology.
- 5 Two posts rest on a B.Sc and science graduates often do not look at them. Dialysis Technician needs a B.Sc plus a diploma in haemodialysis, or two years of training or experience in haemodialysis at a reputed institution. Health and Malaria Inspector Grade II needs a B.Sc with chemistry as a main or optional subject, plus a one-year Health or Sanitary Inspector diploma or the NCVT National Trade Certificate in it.
- 6 Apply online when a CEN appears. The chosen RRB cannot be changed later, and within a pay level, once empanelled, the right to be considered for any other post or category is forfeited. For a candidate in Rajasthan the Board is RRB Ajmer, which had 10 posts in this CEN.

MAIN EXAMS

- Selection has three stages: a single Computer Based Test (CBT), Document Verification and a medical examination. There is no interview, no physical test and ordinarily no second stage — though the notification reserves the right to hold additional CBTs if needed.
- This is the most important thing about the recruitment and the whole plan of preparation should rest on it: 100 questions in 90 minutes, of which 70 marks are Professional Ability — your own subject. The remaining 30 are split three ways: General Awareness 10, general arithmetic with intelligence and reasoning 10, and General Science 10. No other central examination on this portal weights your own subject so heavily.
- One-third of a mark is deducted for each wrong answer. Minimum qualifying marks: UR and EWS 40%, OBC and SC 30%, ST 25%. A two-mark relaxation is given for PwBD candidates if sufficient numbers are not available.
- The call for Document Verification goes out equal to the number of vacancies — 1:1, and the notification says plainly that there will be no standby list. The practical consequence is that exactly as many people are called as there are posts, so having your documents complete and in original matters as much as the marks.

- A tie is broken by age, with the older candidate placed higher. Zone allotment follows merit, medical standard and preference, and once empanelled the right to be considered for the next preference is forfeited.
- Medical standards vary by post and most are lenient: Nursing Superintendent, Health Inspector and ECG Technician are C-1 and Pharmacist is C-2, where vision with glasses is accepted. Dialysis Technician, Radiographer and Laboratory Assistant are B-1. The A-1 standard of Assistant Loco Pilot, which requires 6/6 vision without glasses, applies to none of these posts.
- This page is written from CEN 03/2025, which reckons age as on 01.01.2026 and whose timelines were revised by a corrigendum. The dates here are historic and are given to date the source. Eligibility, the shape of the examination and the pay levels 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 nursing colleges and schools of nursing in Rajasthan — the GNM and B.Sc Nursing that qualify for Nursing Superintendent — At the district headquarters of Rajasthan (<https://rajswasthya.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Government paramedical institutes of Rajasthan — DMLT, radiography, ECG and other diploma courses this CEN names — Across Rajasthan (<https://rajswasthya.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Government pharmacy colleges — the D.Pharm and B.Pharm, and the Pharmacy Council registration the post requires — Across Rajasthan (<https://rajasthanpharmacycouncil.org/>)

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/>)
- भारतीय नर्सिंग परिषद — नर्सिंग की योग्यताएँ एवं वे रियायतें जिनका उल्लेख इस अधिसूचना में है — Government of India (<https://www.indiannursingcouncil.org/>)
- 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 is that of the course you would take anyway: GNM, B.Sc Nursing, D.Pharm, DMLT, or a radiography or ECG diploma. At government institutions these cost far less than at private ones and the gap is large, so try for a government institution first. One expense people put off, and which is part of the qualification here: registration under the Pharmacy Act, 1948 for Pharmacist, and the Registered Nurse and Midwife certificate for Nursing Superintendent — without them the application is not valid at all. Little needs to be spent on preparation material, and the reason is the shape of the paper: 70 of the 100 marks are your own subject, which you have already studied. For the other 30, NCERT science books and a newspaper 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 — 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

Indian Railways' own hospitals, divisional hospitals, health units and dispensaries — across the country. 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

A railway hospital serves a closed and familiar community: railway employees, their families and pensioners. The patient load is therefore smaller and steadier than in a government district hospital, and the same faces return — the pressure is of a different kind, less chaotic and more personal. Alongside it sits the Railways' emergency medical responsibility, which comes alive at an accident or a major incident. Shift and night duty are an ordinary part of hospital work. In return come permanent central government employment, housing in a railway colony, the railway hospital's own medical facility, and travel facilities for the employee and family.

WHO HIRES

- The zonal railways of Indian Railways and their hospitals — for Rajasthan chiefly North Western Railway (Jaipur) and West Central Railway
- The medical establishments attached to the Railways' production units
- Railway divisional hospitals, health units and dispensaries

DEMAND (2026)

Two things are true here at once and both should be known. First, the quality of the opportunity. Nursing Superintendent sits at Level 7 of the central pay matrix with a starting pay of ₹44,900 — the highest central pay level on this portal reached on a three-year diploma, above RRB Junior Engineer at Level 6 — and its age band runs to 40, wider than any central recruitment written here. And 70 per cent of the paper is your own subject. One more thing is worth noticing: this portal's Rajasthan pages for pharmacist, radiographer and laboratory technician say honestly that their pay matrix level is not officially confirmed and that the upper age limit could not be read from the rules; this central notification prints both figures for the same professions, in a table. Second, and just as important: this is a very small recruitment. 434 posts in the whole country, of which RRB Ajmer had only 10 — three Nursing Superintendent, three Health Inspector and four Pharmacist, with nothing at all in the other four categories at Ajmer. Four of the seven categories carry four posts each for the entire country. It should not be an only plan; hold it alongside the state health department recruitments, whose preparation largely overlaps. 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 The entry post, at Levels 3 to 7 by category — from Laboratory Assistant Grade II (Level 3) to Nursing Superintendent (Level 7)
- 2 The next grades in the same cadre — from Laboratory Assistant up to Laboratory Superintendent, and in nursing to the senior posts — through seniority and departmental examination
- 3 Supervisory and administrative posts within the Railways' medical department, through departmental selection
- 4 The route of further study stays open alongside: an M.Sc Nursing after a B.Sc, or a degree after a diploma — which leads on to higher posts and to teaching
- 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	पद के अनुसार केंद्रीय पे मैट्रिक्स लेवल 3 से 7 — ₹21,700 से ₹44,900 तक
Mid level	₹40,000 – ₹65,000 (भत्तों सहित, कुछ वर्षों की सेवा एवं पदोन्नति के बाद)
Senior level	₹75,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, संवर्ग के वरिष्ठ एवं पर्यवेक्षी पदों पर)

None of the starting figures is an estimate — the table in CEN 03/2025 states the pay level and initial pay of every post expressly: Nursing Superintendent Level 7 ₹44,900, Dialysis Technician and Health Inspector Level 6 ₹35,400, Pharmacist and Radiographer Level 5 ₹29,200, ECG Technician Level 4 ₹25,500, Laboratory Assistant Level 3 ₹21,700. All of them match the Staff Selection Commission's own pay-scale list as well, so two independent central sources give the same numbers. These are basic pay; dearness allowance, house rent allowance, nursing allowance and the Railways' other allowances are added on top. Housing in a railway colony and the medical and travel facilities do not appear in the salary but their value is real. One caution is especially necessary on this page: pay matrix level numbers do not mean the same money in the state and at the Centre — Rajasthan's Level 7 and the Centre's Level 7 are not the same amount — so when comparing with this portal's Rajasthan health pages, look at the rupees and not at the level number. 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

- Seventy per cent of the paper is your own subject — no other central examination on this portal weights the subject so heavily. For someone strong in their subject and ordinary at general knowledge, it is the best-shaped paper there is
- Nursing Superintendent gives Level 7 (₹44,900) on a three-year GNM, and its age band runs to 40 — wider than any central recruitment written here
- No interview, no physical test, and ordinarily only a single-stage examination
- The medical standards are lenient — most posts are C-1 or C-2, where vision with glasses is accepted

The challenges

- The recruitment is very small: 434 posts nationally and only 10 at RRB Ajmer. Four of the seven categories carry four posts each for the whole country, and Ajmer had none at all in those four
- Document Verification is at 1:1 with no standby list — so a gap in the documents leaves no second chance
- The qualification conditions are strict and specific: Pharmacist requires registration under the Pharmacy Act, and the Laboratory Assistant certificate course must be full time, at least one year, and from a recognised institution
- Posting may fall outside your own state, and hospital work runs in shifts and on night duty

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 — one account for all CENs — <https://www.rrbapply.gov.in/>
4. Indian Nursing Council — nursing qualifications and registration — <https://www.indiannursingcouncil.org/>
5. Rajasthan Pharmacy Council — registration under the Pharmacy Act, which this post requires — <https://rajasthanpharmacycouncil.org/>
6. Department of Medical and Health, Rajasthan — the state's paramedical courses and recruitments — <https://rajswasthya.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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