PBC No. 28 / 2026
RBE No. 12 / 2026

दक्षिण रेलवे Southern Railway
प्रधान मुख्य कार्मिक अधिकारी कार्यालय
Office of the Principal Chief Personnel Officer
प्रधान कार्यालय, कार्मिक विभाग, चेन्नै-600003
Headquarters, Personnel Department, Chennai-600003

सं/No: P (R) 608 / P / GDCE / Vol. II दिनांक/Dated: 11.02.2026

All PHODs/ DRMs/ CWMs/ CEWE/ CAO/ CPM/ PDA/ Dy.CPOs/ Sr.DPOs/ Secy to GM,Chairman/RRB/MAS,TVC, Addl.Registrar/RCT/MAS, Secretary/RRT/MAS, Principal MDZTI/TPJ, SRCETC/TBM, ZETTC/AVD, DPOs/SPOs/WPOs/APOs of HQ/Divisions /Workshops/Units.

विषय/Sub :General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE) for filling up of 25% net direct recruitment quota vacancies in Group 'C' categories – Extension of currency upto 31.03.2028.

***

A copy of Railway Board's letter No.E(NG)I/2020/PM1/9 dated 10.02.2026 on the above subject is enclosed for information, guidance and necessary action.

Railway Board's letter dated 04.03.2024 referred therein has been circulated as PBC No. 45 / 2024.

Copy of Railway Board's letter dated 20.08.1993 referred therein is enclosed for reference.

संलग्नक/Encl. 04 pages.

B INDUMATHY Digitally signed by B INDUMATHY Date: 2026.02.11 15:39:08 +05'30'

वरिष्ठ कार्मिक अधिकारी / Senior Personnel Officer / Co-ordn.

प्रधान मुख्य कार्मिक अधिकारी / For Principal Chief Personnel Officer

प्रतिलिपि/Copy to: The General Secretary/SRMU
The General Secretary / DREU
The General Secretary/AISCTREA
The General Secretary/AIOBCREA
The General Secretary/NFIR
IT Section/PB/HQ - to upload in the SR website.

RBE NO.12/2026

भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
रेल मंत्रालय/MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(रेलवे बोर्ड/RAILWAY BOARD)

No. E(NG)I/2020/PM1/9 New Delhi, dated 10.02.2026

The General Manager (P),
All Zonal Railways & PUs
(As per standard List)

The Chairman;
(a) Railway Recruitment Boards
(b) Railway Recruitment Cell

Sub: General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE) for filling up of 25% net direct recruitment quota vacancies in Group 'C' categories- Extension of currency upto 31.03.2028.

*****

Since the introduction of the scheme of General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE) vide Board's letter No. E(NG)I/92/PM2/16 dated 20.08.1993 for a period of one year, the currency of the same, is being extended from time to time, and the same was last extended upto 31.03.2026 vide this Ministry's letter No. E(NG)I-2020/PM1/9 dated 04.03.2024.

The matter regarding continuity of the GDCE scheme has been under consideration of the Board for quite some time. It has now been decided that the currency of the GDCE scheme may be extended for another period of two years from 31/03/2026 i.e. upto 31.03.2028.

The other instructions and the clarification/modification related with the GDCE scheme and its procedures as issued from time to time separately shall also continue up to the time this scheme is valid as above.

Please acknowledge receipt

DA:Nil

(Ajay Goyal)
Deputy Director-III/E(NG)I
Railway Board
E-mail: ajay.2097123@gov.in
Ph. No. 47224/01123047224

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

IREE NO.129/93

NO.E(NG)I/92/PM2/16 New Delhi, dated 20.8.93

The General Managers(P)
All Indian Railways and
Production Units
(As per Standard List)

Sub: Introduction of General Departmental Competitive Examination for filling up 25% Direct recruitment vacancies in certain Group'C' categories.

As the Railway Administrations are aware, with the rapid modernisation of Indian Railways, phasing out of Steam Traction resulting in closure of Steam Loco Sheds, and closure of Goods Sheds and Transhipment Yards etc., a large number of regular staff are being retrained and redeployed in alternative jobs quickly. Instructions already exist that the surplus staff should get priority in filling up the vacancies and the indents for direct recruitment should be placed on Railway Recruitment Boards only to the extent of net requirement. However, the position still remains acute and there is need to make more and more vacancies available for redeployment of surplus staff.

2. The matter has been considered by the Board in detail and it has been decided as follows:

(i) To accelerate the process of redeployment of surpluses as a one time measure, the method of General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE) shall be adopted to fill up 25% of the net direct recruitment vacancies (for which indents are otherwise required to be placed on RRBs) in the following categories during the next one year only with immediate effect:

(a) Non-Technical popular categories - namely, Train Clerks, Ticket Collectors, Commercial Clerks, Telephone Operators, Shroffs, Accounts Clerks, Office Clerks.

(b) Operational categories - namely, Diesel/ Elect. Asstts.(where direct recruitment is made to the extent of shortfall), etc., and ASM.

(ii) This method shall be adopted for one year with immediate effect. Indents already placed on RRBs should be adjusted accordingly as necessary.

....2/-

(iii) quotas prescribed for SC & ST will be applicable to GDCE.

(iv) All regular employees possessing the prescribed educational qualifications for direct recruitment shall be eligible to appear in the GDCE, irrespective of the grade and cadre.

(v) There would be a maximum age limit of 40 years for general candidates and 45 years for SC/ST candidates.

3. GDCE will comprise a written test followed by viva-voce and the panels will be formed strictly in order of merit. The standard of examination shall be like that of direct recruitment to avoid any dilution of the cadre. If suitable candidates do not become available in adequate number as a result of GDCE, the shortfall will be made good by direct recruitment through Railway Recruitment Board.

3.1 Psychological test will be conducted for categories where it is required for direct recruitment.

4. Selection Boards for GDCE shall consist of three JAG officers, one of whom should be a Personnel Officer. The Personnel Officer may be in senior scale nonetheless he shall be an equal member of the Selection Board. Every effort should be made to include a SC/ST officer on the Selection Board, as per para 218(d) of IREM.

5. Zone of consideration for GDCE will encompass staff belonging to all the Departments/Branches in a Division/Workshop/Headquarter Office/Extra Divisional Office/Production Unit as the case may be subject to their applying through proper channel in response to the notification for GDCE.

5.1 The total requirement for direct recruitment should be vetted by the Headquarters/GM's Office as usual and thereafter GDCE for 25% thereof may be conducted by Headquarters Office of the Zonal Railway or GM's Office of the Production Unit, as far as possible, but if considered expedient by the GM, the same may be conducted centrally by a Division/Workshop/Extra Divisional Office nominated by him in the case of Zonal Railways. However, for one category or group of categories only one GDCE shall be conducted centrally on a Zonal Railway.

.....3/

6. Resultant vacancies consequent to GDCE shall as far as possible be filled up by redeploying surplus staff instead of resorting to direct recruitment or fresh faces from open market.

7. Seniority of GDCE candidates in the cadres in which they are placed shall be as admissible to direct recruits.

Please acknowledge receipt.

(K.H. CALL)
DIRECTOR ESTABLISHMENT(N)
RAILWAY BOARD.

NO.E(NG)I/92/PM2/16 New Delhi, dated 20 .C.93.

Copy to:

1) The General Secretary, All India Railwaymen's Federation, 4, State Entry Road, New Delhi-55 (with 35 spares)

2) The General Secretary, National Federation of Indian Railwaymen, 3, Chelmsford Road, New Delhi-55 (with 35 spares)

3) All Members, Departmental Council, and National Council and Secretary, Staff Side, National Council, 13-C Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi.

for SECRETARY / RAILWAY BOARD.

Copy to:

PSs to CRB, FC, MS, MT, ML, ME,
ADV(S), DG(RHS), EDE, EDV, EDE(N), EDE(Res), EDE(IR), EDPC, DE(RRB), JDE(R)I & II, JDE(D&A), DDE(N), DD(Code Revision), DDE(N), DDE(LR)I, E(NG)II, E(Rep)I,II & III, E(SCT)I & II, Sec(E), E(G) with two spares, A/C III - 15 spares.