



Estt. Srl. No. 151/2024  
RBE No- Nil

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
प्रधान मुख्य कार्मिक अधिकारी का कार्यालय/  
Office of the Principal Chief Personnel Officer  
रेल सदन, द्वितीय तल, भुवनेश्वर - 751017  
Rail Sadan, IInd Floor, Bhubaneswar-751017

पूतरे/कार्मिक/आर ECoR/Pers/R/Recruitment.

Date:16.10.2024

**ALL PHODs/CHODs,  
DRMs/CWM/CAO&CPM,  
East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar.**

**Sub: Master Circular- Consolidated instructions in respect of GDCE examination.**

उपर्युक्त विषय पर रेलवे बोर्ड पत्र सं. E(NG)I/2023/PM1/19 दिनांक 08.10.2024 की प्रतिलिपि सूचना, मार्गदर्शन एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु अग्रेषित है।

A copy of Railway Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2023/PM1/19, dated 08.10.2024 on the above quoted subject is forwarded herewith for information, guidance and necessary action.

**Digitally Signed by  
Nandigam Simhananda Kumar  
Date: 16-10-2024 18:45:44  
Reason: Approved**

Encl: As above,

**( Nandigam Simhananda Kumar )  
Assistant Personnel Officer - I  
For Principal Chief Personnel Officer.**

**Copy to:-**

1. Secy. to GM & AGM,
2. Chairman-RRB&RRC-BBS,
3. Dy.CPOs /Sr.DPOs, DPOs/SPOs, WPO/APOs of Personnel Department,
4. General Secretary's- ECoRSC & ECoRSU.

क.स./Sl.No. RB-1375  
दिनांक/Date 9/10/24  
आशय/Initial. H



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11/10

PCPO

ब.प./G.M.  
सचिव/Secy.  
कार्य/Initial

hkh  
09/10/24

Master Circular No. 69/2024

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

No. E(NG)I/2023/PM1/19

New Delhi, dated 07.10.2024

The General Manager (P),  
All Zonal Railways,  
Production Units & others  
(as per standard mailing list)

SPG/HB  
on 15/10

Chos/Perth

Chos/Railway

Sub: Master Circular- Consolidated instructions in respect of GDCE examination

A number of Orders/Circulars on the above subject have been issued by the board from time to time which are scattered in a number of circulars/orders. It has been decided to consolidate all such instructions issued till date for the information and guidance of all concerned. While referring to this Circular, the original letter referred to therein should be read for proper appreciation and in case of doubt, the original letter should be relied upon as authority.

2. Since only the important instructions on the subject have been included in this Master Circular, some instructions might not have found place herein. Instruction contained in circulars not included in the Master Circular, should not be deemed to have been superseded simply because of their non-inclusion.
3. The number and date of the relevant Letter has been mentioned under each instruction, which can be accessed from this Ministry's website <https://indianrailways.gov.in>.
4. Hindi version will follow.

Sanjay  
(Sanjay Kumar)  
Deputy Director Estt.(N)  
Railway Board.  
07/10/24



New Delhi, dated 07.10.2024

Copy forwarded to:-

1. The General Secretary, AIRF, Room No.253, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi (35 copies).
2. The General Secretary, NFIR, Room No.256-E, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi (35 copies).
3. All Members/Departmental Council & National Council & Secretary/Staff Side, National Council, 13-C, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi (60 spares).
4. The Secretary General, FROA, Room No.256-A, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi (5 spares).
5. The Secretary General, IRPOF, Room No.268, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi (5 spares).
6. The Secretary, RBSS Group 'A' Officers Association, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. The Secretary, RBSS Group 'B' Officers Association, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. The Secretary, Railway Board Ministerial Staff Association, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. The Secretary, Railway Board Group 'D' Employees Association, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. The Secretary, Railway Board Promotee Officers Association, Room No.341-C, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
11. General Secretary, All India SC&ST Railway Employees Association, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.

for PED(IR)/Railway Board

Advisor/MR, PSs/MoSR(D), MOSR (J), EDPG/MR, OSD/MR, OSD/Coord/MR

PPSs to Chairman & CEO, M(F), M(Infra), M(T&RS), M(O&BD), Secretary, DG/RHS and DG/RPF.

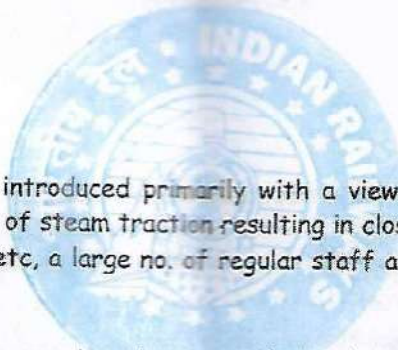
PPSs to AM(Comml.), AM(CE), AM(C&IS), AM(Elec.), AM(Budget), AM(F), AM(Mech.), AM(Plg.), AM(Project), AM(PU), AM(Sig.), AM(Stores), AM(Tele), AM(Traffic), AM(Works), AM(T&C), AM(Staff), AM(HR), PED(Vig.) and PED(Infra).

PSs to ED/Safety(M), EDCE(G), ED(E&R), EDE, EDE(N), EDME(W), EDRS(G), EDE(Res.), EDE(RRB), EDF(B), ED(RE), ED/Track(M), EDF(X)I, EDF(X)II, ED(H), EDE(GC), ED(Stat), ED(Track/MC), EDME(Chg.), EDME(Traction), ED(Works), EDME(Dev.), EDRS(C), EDRS(W), EDPC, EDF(E), EDA, EDV(A), JS(G) and IG/RPF.

DPC-II, DE(G), D(IH), D(H&FW), D(MPP), DE(N)II, DE(R), DE(D&A), DE(LL), JD(OL), JDE(Rep), JDE(RRB), DD(Code Revision), DDE(LR)I, DDE(LR)II, DDE(LR)III, DDV(A&P), DD(OL)I, E(NG)II, E(Rep)I, E(Rep)II, E(Rep)III, E(SCT)I, E(SCT)II, E(RRB), PC-III, PC-IV, PC-V, E(P&A)I, E(P&A)II, CE-I, CE-II, CE-III, Sec.(E), Sec.(ABE), E(MPP), Safety Branch, A/C-III and Code Revision Cell.

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1. GDCE scheme has been introduced primarily with a view to accommodate surplus staff generated due to phasing out of steam traction resulting in closure of steam sheds and closure of goods and transshipment etc, a large no. of regular staff are restrained and redeployed in alternative jobs quickly.
2. All regular employees possessing the prescribed educational qualification for direct recruitment shall be eligible to appear in GDCE examination.
3. GDCE will comprise of a written test 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.
4. Psychological test will be conducted for categories where it is required for direct recruitment.
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.
6. 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 a group of categories only one GDCE shall be conducted centrally on a Zonal Railway.
7. Seniority of GDCE candidates in the cadres in which they are placed shall be as admissible to direct recruits.

(Ref: Board's letter No. E(NG)I/92/PM2/16 dated 20.08.1993)

8. Running Staff fulfilling the qualifications prescribed for direct recruitment to Junior Engineer Gr.II may also be allowed to appear in the GDCE in the categories of Junior Engineer Gr.II in the pay scale of Rs.5000-8000(RSRP).

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I-92/PM2/16/Vol.II dated 08.04.1999).

9. In partial modification of instructions contained in Board's letter E(NG)I/92/PM2/16 dated 20.08.93, the practice of holding viva-voce test as part of the selections under the scheme of GDCE for categories covered under the scheme should be discontinued with immediate effect

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I-99/PM1/13 dated 07.05.1999)



10. In the PNM-NFIR meeting, the federation pointed out that some Railways by misinterpreting have taken a view that the GDCE once conducted for a category cannot be applied again for that category. The Board desires to clarify that the very fact that the scheme of GDCE has been extended from time to time, it has never been the intention to restrict conducting GDCE only once in the specified categories. Therefore, as long as the scheme of GDCE is in vogue, the railways while placing indent on RRBs for filling direct recruitment vacancies in the specified categories shall earmark 25% thereof for GDCE.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/92/PM2/16/Vol.II Dated 11.06.1999)

11. It has been decided that since the scheme of GDCE has been carved out from the direct recruitment quota of vacancies, the same will be treated as direct recruitment and therefore, the reservation for OBCs to the extent permissible will be applicable.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/98/PM1/49 Dated 07.10.1999).

12. (i) The scope of GDCE has been further widened to include all those categories, except the categories of Law and Catering Supervisors grade Rs.3200-4900 and the Accounts cadres, which are having a direct recruitment quota of 25% or more,

(ii) to relax the age limit for candidates appearing in the GDCE from the existing 40 years to 42 years for General Candidates, 43 years to 45 years for OBCs and 45 years to 47 years for SC/ST candidates; and

(iii) That GDCE should be conducted by relevant Railway Recruitment Boards along with direct recruitment examination conducted for the same category by RRB with a separate merit list of GDCE candidates.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I-2000/PM2/12 dated 21.08.2001 )

13. General Managers have been delegated powers to allow filling up direct recruitment quota vacancies by GDCE in excess of 25% of the direct recruitment quota vacancies already earmarked to be filled by GDCE under the existing scheme, up to the limit of 50% of the direct recruitment quota vacancies in individual cases, under their personal approval, so as to expedite the filling up of vacancies in essential categories as well as to expedite the redeployment of surplus staff.

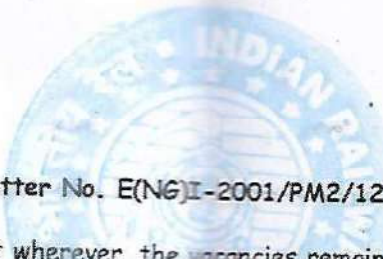
(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2001/PM2/12 dated 21.01.2002)

14. It has been decided that the RPF/RPSF personnel cannot be allowed to appear in the GDCE. They will not be eligible to appear in other Department Selection in Department other than RPF/RPSF.

(Ref: Board's letter No. E(NG)I/2002/PM2/9 dated 11.08.2003)

15. In respect of GDCE that may be held hereafter for filling up the post of Dsl./Elec. Asstt., no distinction be made between GDCE for 25% of DR quota and additional 25% of DR quota, if so decided to be filled by the General Manager, and a single selection be held.





(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I-2001/PM2/12 dated 22.07.2004)

16. It has been decided that wherever, the vacancies remain unfilled in Promotion Quota, the same may be carried forward to LDCE/GDCE, If any, and unfilled vacancies of LDCE/GDCE may be carried forward to direct recruitment quota for the next year/next selection. In case there is no LDCE/GDCE for that post, the unfilled vacancies may be diverted to direct recruitment quota of the upcoming year.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2010/PM1/16 dated 10.09.2014)

17. It has been decided that GDCE for all posts, may be conducted in single stage only in view of small number of Railway employees appearing against the same.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2008/PM1/16 dated 10.06.2015)

18. It has been decided that the Railways who want to conduct GDCE online may do so with the condition that expenditure for conduct of these ONLINE exams will be borne by Railway itself.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2008/PM1/6 Part dated 02.03.2017)

19. It has been decided that in supersession to Board/s letters (i) E(NG)I-2004/PM2/3 dated 05.08.2004 & 20.10.2005 and No. E(NG)I-2008/PM1/6 dated 23.06.2017

- a. Eligible staff working in grades lower than the grades/pay scale for which GDCE is being conducted be permitted to appear in GDCE selections or all categories.
- b. Eligible staff working in same grade/pay scale for which GDCE is being conducted may be permitted to appear in selection for GDCE from Non-safety to safety category posts as well as Safety to Safety category posts.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2008/PM1/6 Part dated 24.07.2017)

20. Vide Board's letter No. E(NG)I/2019/PM4/8 Pt dated 27.12.2022 the reservation for PwBD, which is a horizontal reservation, will be applicable in GDCE also to the permissible extent. However EWS are outside the ambit of reservation for GDCE scheme.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I-2018/PM1/23 dated 23.04.2019 &

Board's Letter No E(NG)I/2019/PM4/8 Pt dated 27.12.2022)

21. All departmental promotions examinations for serving employees are set in Hindi and English only. Accordingly, there is no necessity for GDCE question papers (Where such GDCE is conducted separate from the examination for Direct Recruitment from open market) to be set in languages other than Hindi and English. However, it is clarified that letter dated 21.08.2019 does not restrict Railways from setting up the GDCE question papers in local/regional language(s).

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2018/PM1/4 dated 21.08.2019 & dated 09.09.2019)



22. It has been decided under:-

a. Negative marking to continue for GDCE as for RRB examinations.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2018/PM1/4 dated 14.11.2019)

23. It has been decided that an employee of a production unit can have opportunity for GDCE in only one Zonal Railway with which each is clubbed for the purpose of GDCE.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2018/PM1/23 dated 07.01.2020)

24. (i) The staff of Accounts Department are allowed to appear in GDCE of other department.  
(ii) Staff of other Departments are allowed to appear in GDCE of Accounts Department ( for the post of Accounts Clerk and junior Accountant Assistant ) subject to the condition that those employees qualifying as JAA through GDCE, have to qualify Appendix-II IREM Examination in 2 chances within a period of 3 years, Failure to do so will render such employees to be appointed as Accounts Clerk. Further promotion of such employees to the post of JAA will be governed by extant promotion rules including qualifying Appendix-II IREM Examination.  
(iii) Above provision is applicable for a period of 2 years whereafter, this will be reviewed.  
(iv) GDCE is also permitted in the category of Law Assistants.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2020/PM9/1 dated 24.11.2021)

NOTE: Further review is under process.

25. It has been clarified that in cases where panels have not been formed and where representations are received for cancellation of CBT held as part of selection/LDCE/GDCE due to technical glitches on a sufficiently large scale or any other major irregularity or procedural lapse, appropriate decision may be taken in the matter by the panel approving authority.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2021/PM5/2 dated 30.03.2022)

26. Instructions have been issued vide letter E(NG)I/2021/PM1/8 dated 27.04.2022 regarding procedure for selection of Examination Conducting Agency (ECA) for conduct of CBT against GDCE Quota. The Exam Conducting Agency (ECA) has sole responsibility to ensure a robust mechanism for preparation of questions and a secure mechanism for the transmission of the same to the computer nodes in all the venues during examination. The Examination conducting Agency shall adhere to ensure to maintain highest standard of confidentiality in creation, processing, maintenance, storage, encryption and administration of question set. Accordingly, it is clarified that henceforth, the responsibility for setting of question paper for GDCE shall lie with the ECA selected for conduct of CBT for GDCE.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2021/PM1/8 dated 29.11.2022)

27. It has been decided that instructions contained in Railway Board's letter No. 20221/E(RRB)/23/O-9 dated 22.10.21 and E(NG)II/2022/RR-I/8 dated 15.03.2022, which stipulate that Zonal Railways may seek replacement list from Railway Recruitment Cells as per



their requirement and available vacancies in the event of any shortfall on account of non-joining of the candidates within the stipulated time given for joining the post or resignation/demise of the candidate within a period of one year from the date of joining of the candidate provided the currency of the panel is live and no fresh panel is available, may also be made applicable for GDCE.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2022/PM1/32 dated 20.04.2023)

28. The powers are being delegated to authorities as given hereunder for cancellation of Indent/Enhancement/Reduction of indents at different stages of examination:-

SN	Proposal for	Examination Stage	Authority
1.	Cancellation of Indent/ Enhancement/Reduction upto any extent	Before issue of Notified vacancies.	PCPO
2.	Enhancement/Reduction upto 50% of notified vacancies.	Before conducting of written examination.	General Manager
3.	Enhancement/reduction of more than 50% of notified vacancies.	Before conducting of written examination.	AM/Staff
4.	Enhancement/reduction of notified vacancies or cancellation of indent	After conduct of written examination(s) if it is to be followed by final examination or interview.	DG/HR
5.	Reduction of notified vacancies or cancellation of Indent.	After conduct of Ist/IInd stage written examination/ interview but before publication of panel.	DG/HR

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2023/PM1/12 dated 16.02.2024)

29. It has been decided that the Currency of the GDCE scheme may be extended for a further period of two years i.e. upto 31.03.2026.

(Ref: Board's Letter No. E(NG)I/2020/PM1/9 Dated 04.03.2024)

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**General:**

- While referring to this Circular, The Original letters referred to herein should be read for a proper appreciation. This circular is only a consolidation of the instructions issued so far and should not be treated as a substitution to the originals. In case of doubts, the original circular should be relied upon as authority.
- The instructions contained in the original circulars referred to have only prospective effect from the date of issue unless specifically indicated otherwise in the concerned



PCPO

circular. For dealing with old cases, the instructions in-force at the relevant time should be referred to; and

- (c) If any circular on the subject, which has not been suspended, has not been taken into consideration while preparing this consolidated letter, the said circular, which has been missed through oversight, should be treated as valid and operative. Such a missing circular, if any, may be brought to the notice of the Railway Board.

The consolidation has been made from the following circulars/letters:

1. No. E(NG)I/92/PM2/16 dated 20.08.1993
2. No. E(NG)I-92/PM2/16/Vol.II dated 08.04.1999.
3. No. E(NG)I-99/PM1/13 dated 07.05.1999.
4. No. E(NG)I/92/PM2/16/Vol.II Dated 11.06.1999.
5. No. E(NG)I/98/PM1/49 Dated 07.10.1999.
6. No. E(NG)I-2000/PM2/12 dated 21.08.2001.
7. No.E(NG)I/2001/PM2/12 dated 21.01.2002.
8. No. E(NG)I/2002/PM2/9 dated 11.08.2003.
9. No. E(NG)I-2001/PM2/12 dated 22.07.2004.
10. No. E(NG)I/2010/PM1/16 dated. 10.09.2014.
11. No. E(NG)I/2008/PM1/16 dated. 10.06.2015.
12. No. E(NG)I/2008/PM1/6 Part dated. 02.03.2017.
13. No. E(NG)I/2008/PM1/6 Part dated. 24.07.2017.
14. No. E(NG)I-2018/PM1/23 dated. 23.04.2019
15. No. E(NG)I/2018/PM1/4 dated. 21.08.2019.
16. No. E(NG)I/2018/PM1/4 dated. 09.09.2019.
17. No. E(NG)I/2018/PM1/4 dated. 14.11.2019.
18. No. E(NG)I/2018/PM1/23 dated. 07.01.2020.
19. No. E(NG)I/2020/PM9/1 dated. 24.11.2021
20. No. E(NG)I/2021/PM5/2 dated. 30.03.2022.
21. No. E(NG)I/2021/PM1/8 dated. 29.11.2022.
22. No E(NG)I/2019/PM4/8 Pt dated. 27.12.2022.
23. No. E(NG)I/2022/PM1/32 dated. 20.04.2023
24. No. E(NG)I/2023/PM1/12 dated. 16.02.2024.
25. No. E(NG)I/2020/PM1/9 Dated 04.03.2024.

Sent  
14/10/24