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GS IRTSA submits memorandum to Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Rly Minister Highlights IRTSA demands to Railway Minister

Classification of posts of SSE, CDMS, CMS & SE(IT) in level-8 as Group-B (Gaz).

Creation of 30 work charged posts of SSEs in level-8 in ICF for higher level of supervision in the manufacturing, testing & commissioning activities of "Vande Bharat" train sets.



15th March 2025, Chennai: K.V.Ramesh General Secretary and Er.S.Boominathan Vice President IRTSA submitted memorandum to Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister for Railways during his visit to Chennai. General Secretary IRTSA briefly explained the demands of classification of posts of SSE, CDMS, CMS & SE(IT) in level-8 as Group-B and Creation of work charged posts of SSEs in level-8 in ICF for higher level of supervision in the manufacturing, testing & commissioning activities of "Vande Bharat" train sets to Railway Minister. Hon'ble Railway Minister responded positively.



M.Shanmugam Central President IRTSA meets GS NFIR and GS AIRF

20th April 2025: M.Shanmugam Central President IRTSA met Dr.M.Raghavaiah GS NFIR and Com.S.G.Mishra GS AIRF at New Delhi in their office. He highlighted following issues

- 1) Removing ban on creation of posts in Railways,
- 2) Approval for the proposal sent by ICF for creation of SSE posts in level-8,
- 3) Early completion of cadre restructure exercise,
- 4) Report of Railway Board committee on granting Group-B status to SSEs in level-8 and other issues.



GS NFIR has spoken to Member Finance through phone and requested for earlier approval of ICF proposal for creation of 30 work charged posts of SSE in level-8. GS NFIR also said consequent to CRB's DO letter to Finance Ministry for permitting Railways for creation posts, cabinet may discuss the issue.

GS AIRF said that he has discussed all the issues with Railway Board and assured he will further follow the issues.

Follow up by GS IRTSA

After the meeting of CP IRTSA with GS NFIR and GS AIRF, as desired by CP IRTSA, GS IRTSA once again send brief justification on the above issues and spoken to both General Secretaries on 22.04.2025. In addition to the above issues, the demand of "Providing opportunity for submitting representations against gradings below "very good" recorded in APARs for the year 2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23 for the purpose of MACPS" was also highlighted.

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"SUCCESS COMES TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE"



Editorial

Huge vacancies in the safety post of SSE Alarming working conditions & safe running of trains at stake.

Open line, workshops & PUs - Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and S&T departments all suffer.

Huge vacancies in the safety category of Senior Section Engineer (SSE), CDMS and CMS due to non-filling of direct recruitment quota vacancies in level-7 through RRB for nearly 10 years is having severe effect on day to day working conditions in Railways, which may endanger safety in train operation.

Vacancies in SSE, CMS & CDMS

Designation	PL	Strength during implementation of RBE No 155/2022			
		Sanction	On roll	Vac	% Vac
SSE (All Tech Depts) & CMS	7	48546	40462	8084	16.7%
SSE (Printing Press) & CDMS	7	1927	1511	416	21.6%
Total		50473	41973	8500	16.8%

Direct recruitment quota in the post of SSE with the entry qualification of degree in Engineering is 20% of sanctioned strength in SSE. 20% DR quota remains same since 1987 even though many changes happened in the cadre structure of Technical Supervisors and steady increase in percentage of SSE. DR quota in SSE has increased to 13.4 posts from 5.4 posts for 100 sanctioned posts.

Steady increase of SSE DR quota

Effect from Year	% for SE/SSE in Technical Supervisors category	Pay Scale, GP & Pay level	% of DR in SE/SSE	Number of DR per 100 sanctioned posts
1984	27%	Rs. 700-900	20%	5.4
1993	28%	Rs. 2000-3200	20%	5.6
2003	29%	Rs. 6500-10500	20%	5.8
2008	50%	GP Rs.4600	20%	10
2013	67%	GP Rs.4600	20%	13.4
2022	67%	33.5% in L-7 + 33.5% in L-8	20%	13.4

Last RRB notification for the posts of SSE was issued in the year 2015. Direct recruitment of SSE was discontinued from year 2018. Resumption order for direct recruitment of SSE was issued in the year 2021. Till date no recruitment happened in SSE grade since 2015 notification, resulting in huge vacancies around 8500.

Technical Supervisors shoulder vital duties and multifarious responsibilities to ensure out-turn targets, optimum productivity, quality control, safety, material management, optimum utilization of man-power machinery, equipment, rolling stock and other resources for efficient train operations. Huge vacancies in the grade of SSE put -

- enormous pressure on the existing SSEs hampering daily work and it may endanger safety in train operation.

Indian Railways is not in a position to recruit Graduate Engineers for the posts of SSE, CDMS and CMS in near future. Therefore, the vacancies will further pile up making the working conditions in all technical departments from bad to worst.

Railway Board should take swift action to tide over the crisis. The actions should include,

- 1) Revising number of DR quota for Graduate Engineers by restricting the number equal to the number at the time of introduction of DR quota in then Section Engineer grade.
- 2) As a temporary measure, all the available and arising DR vacancies of SSE should be filled through promotion from eligible JEs, until recruitment of Graduate Engineers through RRB.
- 3) Same principle may be implemented in the grade of SSE in all departments, CMS and CDMS which are having element of Graduate Engineers' entry.
- 4) Equal number of Senior Technicians may be upgraded as Junior Engineers to maintain sanctioned strength in Technical Supervisors category.

GRANT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT TO THE EMPLOYEES

RAJYA SABHA QUESTION

(a) whether Government has issued orders for grant of notional increment on 1st July/1st January to the employees who retired from Central Government service on 30th June/31st December respectively for the purpose of calculating their pensionary benefits;

(b) if so, the date from which this order has been applicable and implemented; and

(c) whether the implementing of the order is applicable to the employees who have retired prior to 2023?

Answered by Dr. Jitendra Singh

(a): Yes. Instructions in this regard were issued vide D/o Personnel & Training's O.M. No. 19/ J 16/2024-Pers.Pol. (Pay)(pt) dated 14. 10.2024 in pursuance of the Interim Order dated 06.09.2024 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in M.A. Dy. No. 2400/2024, and after due consultation with D/o Legal Affairs and D/o Expenditure.

(b) and (c): It has been provided in para 6 of D/o Personnel & Training's O.M. No.19/ 116/2024- Pers. Pol. (Pay)(pt) dated 14. 10.2024 that the judgment dated 11.04.2023 will be given effect to in case of third parties from the date of the judgment, that is, the pension by taking into account one increment will be payable on and after 01.05.2023. Enhanced pension for the period prior to 30.04.2023 will not be paid. In case any retired employee has filed any application or writ petition and a beneficial order has been passed, the enhanced pension by including one increment will be payable from the month in which the application for intervention/ impleadment was filed.

All Zones / sub-units are requested to deposit membership subscription, Struggle fund, donations, etc. in IRTSA central account Name: IRTSA, Account No: 10083429358, IFSC: SBIN0050540, State Bank of India, RCF, Hussainpur, Kapurthala. (Branch Code-50540) and inform Er. Surjit Singh, Central Treasurer C-301, Silver Palm Apartments, Jalandhar Kunj, Jalandhar-144021 (9714301044)

IRTSA Mysuru Work shop, SWR Unit conducts its General Body Meeting GS IRTSA addresses the meeting

28th March: IRTSA Mysuru Work shop, SWR unit conducted its General Body Meeting at Hotel Sepoy Grande Mysuru. General Body meeting was graced by K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA. Office bearers of IRTSA MYSW unit Dr.M.B.Manjegowda President, Er.V.Suresh Secretary, Er.P.Omprakash Treasurer, Er.M.Santhosh Jt.Secy, Er.A.Ramakrishna Org Secy and Er.K.K.Pavitharan, Convener were present on the Dias. Er.Kanakaraju sung invocation song and Er.A.R.Chandrashekar welcomed the gathering.



K.V.Ramesh, GS/IRTSA explained achievements of IRTSA including grant of 1st Class pass to all JEs, uniform training period of one year for all JE & SSE and inclusion of training period for increment & pensionable service, introduction of level-8 and non-functional financial upgradation to level-9 in the cadre which will ensure present JEs reaching level-9 within 15 years, protecting the interest of senior SSEs in selection for 70% Group-B (RBE No.10/2025) etc. GS IRTSA explained about presentation made by IRTSA to the Committee formed to study stagnation amongst the supervisors and grant of Group-B (Gaz) status to SSEs. He said around 8500 vacancies in the grade of SSE is putting lot of pressure on Technical Supervisors and briefed about IRTSA's demand for filling the DR quota vacancies of SSE by promoting JEs temporally. GS IRTSA briefed about justifications submitted by IRTSA for grant of Group-B status. GS also invited suggestions for demands to be placed before 8th CPC by IRTSA.



Dr.M.B.Manjegowda delivered presidential address. Er.V.Suresh submitted his zonal secretary report. Er.P.Omprakash submitted accounts statement. Earlier Er.V.Suresh superannuating from Railway service was honoured by GS IRTSA and by IRTSA Mysuru workshop unit. Er.A.Ramakrishna was also honoured for his election as Secretary SWERS (Mysuru workshop unit). Er.Satish Kumar proposed vote of thanks. The meeting ended with dinner.

IRTSA Mysuru workshop SWR Office bearers -2025	
President	M.B. Manjegowda
Vice-President	V.Surendran
Vice-President	Shashikumar
Secretary	P.Omprakash
Joint Secretary	Madhu Jayanandan
Organizing Secretary	M.Santhosh
Treasurer	P.D.Somashekar
Auditor	Lakshmana Narayanan

IRTSA meeting with Dr.Kalanidhi Veeraswamy MP

8th March 2025: K.V.Ramesh GS IRTSA along with Er.Aranganathan, Er.Jagadeeskumar and Er.Angalamuthu Kumarasamy met Dr.Kalanidhi Veeraswamy MP at his office.

General Secretary IRTSA briefed about the demand of classifying Senior Section Engineers (SSE) in pay level-8 working in Railways as Group-B (Gaz). It was submitted that, by classifying SSEs as Group-B (gaz) stagnation in the category may ease and it will boost their morale. It will be also advantageous to Indian Railways since Railway Administration will get functional advantages without increase in pay and no other major input or expenditure are required, explained GS. Member of Parliament agreed to forward IRTSA memorandum to Railway Minister with his favorable remarks.



Following suggestion regarding Southern Railway and ICF were discussed in depth by Dr.Kalanidhi Veeraswamy MP

- 1) Attachment of part of Loco works (empty land) with ICF shell division through GSD without affecting existing setup of Loco Works
- 2) Construction of fly over by extending existing Perambur loco bridge to connect Kolathur & Perambur with Villivakkam, Ayanavaram and Anna Nagar at multiple points.
- 3) Construction of fly overs at Avadi High Road and K.H.Road near ICF signal.
- 4) New terminal at Avadi within available Rail network:
- 5) New Rail terminal near Sripermbudur

Despite his busy schedule Dr.Kalanidhi Veeraswamy MP gave sufficient time for Team IRTSA.

OA 1568/2017 at CAT, Chennai
IRTSA Vs Railway Ministry
Pleading level-7 for JEs & level-8 for SSEs
Next listed date 20.06.2025

IRTSA meeting at Electrical loco shed Royapuram

19th April 2025, IRTSA meeting was organized at Electric Loco Shed Royapuram Southern Railway. Er.K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA and Er.Sunil Kumar Secretary C&W Works addressed Engineers of ELS Royapuram.



Er.Solai Raj welcomed the gathering. Er. Sunil Kumar briefed about the activities of IRTSA headed by Central President Er.M.Shanmugam. Er.K.V.Ramesh GS IRTSA explained activities and achievements of IRTSA. Recent achievements of introduction of higher pay level-8 and pay level-9 in SSE grade and protecting the interest of senior SSEs in 70% Group-B selection by modifying the selection procedures issued by Railway Board was explained by GS IRTSA. He briefed about the achievements of 1st class pass to all JEs, uniform designation of JE and SSE, uniform of training period of one year for all Technical Supervisors, inclusion of training period as regular service counted for increment & pensionary benefits, 67% of SSE in the cadre, MACPS, etc. He also briefed about presentation made by IRTSA to the Railway Board Committee formed to study on classification of posts in level-8 as Group-B. GS further said IRTSA should get ready for the 8th CPC and getting result in its main demands like Group-B status for SSEs, inclusion of training period for MACPS, implementation of MACPS w.e.f. 01.01.2006, filling up of all vacant posts in JE & SSE grades, creation of posts for new assets, etc. While concluding GS IRTSA requested all Engineers to contribute their annual subscription through on line in UPI ID "irtsa@sbi".

IRTSA Meeting at TNPM Wagon depot, Southern Railway

11th April 2025: IRTSA sub unit of Tondiarpet Wagon Depot, Southern Railway conducted its meeting and discussed serious problems in the working conditions of Senior Section Engineers and Junior Engineers. K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA inter acted and addressed members of TNPM Wagon Depot.



Er.Mohanram Secretary TNPM welcomed GS IRTSA and members of IRTSA. He thanked IRTSA for getting pay upgradation for SSEs to Pay level-8 and then to -

- non-functional financial upgradation to Pay Level-9 after completion of four years of service in level-8. He said SSEs promoted through LDCE & Promotion quota will also reach pay level-8 and 9. He recalled various agitations organized by IRTSA at Chennai and at New Delhi. Er.K.V.Srinivas, Er.Mathivanan, Er.N.Srinivas, Er.Peter, Er.Muni Krishnan and others spoke about difficulty working conditions and continuous punishments given to SSEs and JEs working in TNPM Wagon depot.

Er.K.V.Ramesh, General Secretary IRTSA in his speech said Railways should not victimize JE & SSE of Wagon Depot for derailment of New Modified Goods (NMG) coaches within yards. NMG coaches are old ICF designed coaches converted as automobile carriers. Many divisions across Indian Railways witnessed derailment of NMG coaches in various yards especially on points and crossings at 1 in 8.5 turnouts. These turnouts in yards are basically laid for goods wagons which are shorter in length. Lengthier NMG coaches while negotiating these turnouts get derailed occasionally. Accepting the problem, Railways restricted speed of NMG rakes to 10 kmph in 1 in 8.5 turnouts. But where ever derailment happened or happening JE and SSE of wagon depots were victimized citing deviation / changes in dimensions observed after the occurrence of derailments. Mechanical Supervisors of divisions/zones holding NMG rakes are receiving punishments invariably when the derailments are occurring in other divisions.

General Secretary explained achievements of IRTSA like 50% of SSEs placed in level-8, NFU to level-9 after completion of 4 years of service in level-8 without any restrictions, protecting the interest of seniors in 70% quota selection for Group-B, 1st class pass to all JEs, uniform designation of Engineers across all technical departments, uniform training period of one year, MACPS, etc. He also briefed about presentation made by IRTSA to the Railway Board committee formed to study about grant of Group-B status to supervisors working in level-8 and expected formation of 8th CPC. GS also answered the questions raised on UPS.

IRTSA meeting at Chennai Egmore Coaching Depot, Southern Railway

6th March: An interactive meeting of IRTSA was held at Chennai Egmore Coaching Depot. K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA interacted with members of the depot. GS IRTSA briefed about important recent achievements of IRTSA. Upgradation 25,000 SSEs to level-8 w.e.f. 01.12.2022 and removing 50% restriction in granting non-functional upgradation to level-9 after completion of 4 years of service in level-8 were achieved by IRTSA after intensive persuasion by Team IRTSA.

GS briefed about, IRTSA's timely action to protect the interest of seniority in the 70% selection to Gr-B from Gr-C in Technical and other departments. Railway Board conceded the demand of IRTSA to modify the 70% selection for Group-B based on seniority and removal of gradings as 'good' and 'out standing'. This order also cleared long time demand of IRTSA to remove undue advantage given to loco pilots over SSEs in determining inter-se seniority in mechanical and electrical departments in zonal railways.

GS IRTSA briefed about efforts being made by IRTSA for getting Group-B status for SSEs in level-8 and filling up of 8500 vacancies in DR quota of SSE through promotion of JEs as one time measure. He also briefed about

..... Continued in page-5

Meeting at Egmore depot continued from page-4
presentation made by IRTSA to the Railway Board Committee constituted on the demand of granting Group-B status.

On the appeal made by General Secretary IRTSA SSEs & JEs instantaneously subscribed their annual membership.

Er.R.Prakesh and Er.R.Thanapandiyarajan made the arrangements for the meeting.

GS IRTSA addresses seminar organized by AILRS Association

18th March 2025: K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA addressed a seminar “Railway Safety – Challenges and Remedies” organized by All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) at Erode, Salem Division, Southern Railway. Seminar was organized during their 24th Biennial General Body Meeting.



Com.P.S.G.Prakash presented the paper on “Railway Safety – Challenges and Remedies”. Speaking in the seminar K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA deliberated based on important points in the paper presented. While “Vande Bharat” train sets are proved for running at 180 kmph, other main infrastructure like tracks and signals are not upgraded to match the speed of rolling stock. Pantry Cars and mini pantries in long distance and premium trains will be a safety threat and their usages should be brought down. Non-filling of safety posts as per bench marks and awarding contracts to inexperienced and unskilled agencies to makeup the shortage of men power and regular surrender of posts are posing serious threat to safety. Last recruitment of SSEs happened in the year 2015, because of non-recruitment of SSEs for nearly 10 years around 8500 SSE posts are vacant posing serious threat to safety in train operation. Huge vacancies in the cadre of Junior Engineers and technicians are real concern. Because of increase in contracting of almost all technical activities of Railways, even Engineers are turning into mangers. This trend will create knowledge dearth in all departments. Record budget allocation of around 2.55 lakh crores for two consecutive years requires

more Railway employees to augment Railway’s capacity and for adaptation of new technologies, but instead staff strength is being brought down by Railways. While concluding GS IRTSA wished all success for AILRSA in achieving their genuine demands.

In their general body meeting AILRSA discussed on the demands of loco pilots including 8 hours duty, limiting consecutive night duties to two, 30 hours periodical rest in addition to 16 hours normal rest, restriction of out duty detention to 48 hours, OPS for all railway employees, pay level-6 Assistant Loco pilots and higher pay levels for loco pilots, enhancing running allowance, 70% exemption of running allowance from income tax, etc.

General Secretary IRTSA address Erode, Salem Division open line Engineers



18th March: K.V.Ramesh General Secretary IRTSA visited Erode, Salem Division, Southern Railway and held interactive meetings with JEs and SSEs of Coaching depot and Electric Loco Shed, Erode. General Secretary briefed recent activities of IRTSA. He explained about recent achievement of upgradation of 25,000 SSEs from level- 7 to level-8 w.e.f. 01.12.2022 through RBE No.155/2022, removing the ceiling of 50% of posts in level-8 for nonfunctional upgradation to level-9 after completing 4 years of service in level-8 through RBE No 4/2025 dated 16.01.2025, protecting the interest of seniors in 70% Group-B selection through RBE No.10/2025 dated 03.02.2025 and ignoring the promotions earned in the pre-revised scales between 01.01.2006 and 01.09.2008 and subsequent merger of pre-revised feeder and promotional posts in a common grade (SE&SSE merged as SSE and JE-II&JE-I merged as JE) for the purpose of MACPS through RBE No. 21/2025, etc.

GS IRTSA explained about presentation made by IRTSA to the Railway Board Committee formed to study about grant of Group-B status to SSEs in level-8, expected formation of 8th Pay Commission and some other issues.

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Government validate Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules and Principles for expenditure on Pension liabilities from the consolidated fund of India.

Bill passed In Lok Sabha as part of finance bill on 25.03.2025

The legislation regarding Validation of the CCS (Pension) Rules and Principles for expenditure on Pension liabilities from the Consolidated Fund of India was passed in Lok Sabha on 25.03.2025 as part of the Finance Bill, 2025.

The validation legislation validates the principle that without prejudice to the Pension Rules, the Central Government has the authority to establish distinctions among pensioners as a general principle and that a distinction may be made or maintained amongst the Pensioners, which may emanate from the accepted recommendations of the Central Pay Commissions, and in particular the distinction may be made on the basis of the date of retirement. The legislation has been made effective from 1.6.1972 thereby validating all Rules made under Article 309 of the Constitution for CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021, CCS (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 2023 including all instructions issued thereunder as amended from time to time.

Secretary (P&PW) clarifies doubts about inclusion of new clauses on pension rules in Finance Bill 2025

Staff side expressed its strong discontentment on surprise action by Government, creating severe doubt among the pensioners.

29th March 2025: Secretary (P&PW) clarified doubts about inclusion of new clauses on pension rules in Finance bill 2025. Staff side was represented by Sri.S.G.Mishra Secretary JCM (Staff Side), JCM members Sri.Guman Singh, Sri.C.Srikumar, Sri.Bhosle, Sri.Shankar Rao and Sri.Roopak Sarkar and representatives of pensioners' Association across the nation were also participated in meeting held through video conferencing.

Sri.Shiv Gopal Mishra Secretary Staff side said Government's decision on inclusion of pension rules in finance bill is a way of imposing Government's authority through Parliament in maintaining distinction amongst the pensioners which violates Supreme Court's judgement. It is also a threat to accepted recommendations of 7th CPC on parity between pensioners retired before and after 01.01.2016. Expressing his apprehension he further said, present decision of Government may influence 8th CPC to discriminate between employees retiring before 01.01.2026 and after 01.01.2026 in determining their pension. Many doubts and insecurity are being felt among the pensioners and staff side, since Government has not consulted or taken the stake holders from staff side into confidence. Sri.S.G.Mishra and members spoken in the meeting asked for clear clarification and assurance from the Government that there will not be any discrimination among the pensioners retiring pre and post 2026 after implementation of 8th CPC recommendations.

Responding to apprehensions raised in the meeting, Secretary (P&PW) informed the members that there was no change of policy made by Government in pension rules. Government is only validating or reaffirming existing Central Civil Service (Pension) rules as it is. Distinction between pre-retiree 01.01.2006 and post-retiree 01.01.2006 is already existing because of Government's acceptance of 6th CPC

recommendations at that time, which cannot be reversed now. Government has no intention to take away the parity recommended by 7th CPC and accepted by Government for pre-retiree 01.01.2016 and post retiree 01.01.2016, he assured. Secretary also clarified that, there will not be distinctions between pensioners by 8th CPC even though he said it was premature to speak on 8th CPC recommendations.

Responding to another question raised by one of the members, Secretary (P&PW) said that, Government decided to refer to 8th CPC, on the demand of restoration of full pension after completion of 12 years instead of 15 years of commutation period.

Staff side asked Government to issue clarification to clear the fear and apprehensions created now and include relevant terms of reference to 8th CPC.

Promotions earned in merged grades in the pre-revised pay structure between 01.01.2006 and 01.09.2008

Railway Board issues clarification vide RBE No.21/2025, dated 11.03.2025

Promotions earned in the pre-revised pay structure between 01.01.2006 and 01.09.2008 and the subsequent merger of the pre-revised pay scales of the promotional and the feeder posts in a common grade should be ignored for the purpose of financial upgradation under MACPS.

Justice prevails after continuous persistence efforts by IRTSA. Even though some of the zones and PUs granted financial upgradation ignoring the promotions earned from SE to SSE (later merged as SSE) between 01.01.2006 and 01.09.2008, clarification asked by some zones and PUs halted grant of financial upgradation, particularly some of senior SSEs denied their 3rd MACPS, who are retiring / retired. RBE No.21/2025, dated 11.03.2025 do justice for all affected Technical Supervisors / Rail Engineers.

IRTSA whole heartedly thanks both the federation for getting the positive clarification.

C&W Staff to get Sky Blue Shirt and Navy-Blue Pant

No. E(W)/2021/UN-1/2 (RBE No19/2025), dated 20.03.2025

Sub: Change in the colour of Uniform of C&W Staff.

Ref: (i) Board's letter No. E(W)2008/UN-1/10 dated 04.05.2009.

(ii) Board's letter of even No. dated 11.03.2025.

In partial modification of Board's letter cited under Ref.(ii) on the above cited subject, para-1 of the letter should now be read as under:-

Pursuant to discussions held with the AIRF on PNM Item No. 19/2021, it has been decided by the Competent Authority to change the colour of Uniform of C&W Staff to Sky Blue Shirt and Navy Blue Pant.

2. Other terms & conditions mentioned in the aforesaid letter shall remain the same.

condolances



IRTSA condoles untimely death of Shri Atul Mone, Senior Section Engineer, Parel work shop, Central Railway in Pahalgam terror attack, which took place on April 22, 2025. IRTSA stands with the family of Sri.Atul Mone & pray God to give strength to recover from the tragedy.

Railway Board Orders

S.No. PC-VII/ 2 2.4, (RBE No. 21/2025), No. PC-V/2020/M/1(NFIR)(E), dated – 11-03.2025

Sub: Regulation of MACPS in case of promotion taking place in the pre-revised pay structure between 01.01.2006 and the date of notification of CCS (RP) Rules, 2008 and the subsequent merger of the pre-revised pay scales of the promotional and the feeder posts in a common Grade.

Ref: Rly Board's letter dated 22.04.2021 (RBE No. 31/2021). References from various Zonal Railways have been received in Board's office seeking clarification on regulation of MACP Scheme in cases involving promotion in the pre-revised pay structure between 01.01.2006 and the date of notification of the CCS (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008 i.e. 29.08.2008 and subsequent merger of pre-revised pay scales of promotional and feeder posts into a common Grade Pay on the basis of above referred letter.

2. The issue was referred to DoP&T. DoP&T re-examined the matter in the light of provisions of the ACP/MACP Scheme, clarifications issued thereon and the spirit thereof and has clarified as under:-

"it may be noted that following acceptance of recommendations of VI CPC, merger of grades/posts became effective from 29.08.2008, whereas merger of pay scales as per CCS(RP) Rules, 2008 took place from 01.01.2006 itself. In terms of this Department's OM No. 20020/4/2010-Estt.(D) dated 13.09.2012, merger of posts was made effective from 29.08.2008 and promotions took place in the merged grade till then. It was also prescribed in the OM ibid that promotion earned between 01.01.2006 to 29.08.2008 will be protected as appointments/promotions are made as per the provisions of statutory Recruitment Rules applicable to the post/grade. Hence, promotions/financial upgradations under ACP Scheme from the pre-revised pay scales which were merged in a single grade pay from 01.01.2006 will be protected till 29.08.2008. Therefore, financial upgradations under ACP Scheme in the pay scale higher than what accrued to an employee on his regular promotion is not tenable.

However, para 5 of Annexure- I of MACPS provides for ignoring of promotions earned/upgradations granted under ACP Scheme in the past to those grades which now carry the same grade pay due to merger of pay scales/upgradation of posts as a part of the 6th CPC recommendations. The benefit of merger accrues with effect from the date of notification of the Recruitment Rules for the relevant post or 01.09.2008 whichever is later. Guidelines regarding grant of financial upgradations under MACPS including that of para 5 of Annexure-I of MACPS about ignoring of past promotions/financial upgradations granted under ACP Scheme in the pre-revised pay scales which are now merged in to same Grade Pay, are effective from 01.09.2008 only.

In light of the position stated above, promotion earned by an employee during 01.01.2006 to 29.08.2008, even though in the same Grade Pay on account of both feeder grade and promotional grade carrying the same Grade Pay, entails the benefit of pay fixation under Rule 13 of CCS(RP) Rules, 2008. However, in case of merger of grades, it will be ignored from the date of notification of the Recruitment Rules for the relevant post or 01.09.2008 (date of implementation of MACP Scheme) whichever is later."

3. Accordingly, it has been decided that all the cases on the subject matter may be decided/dealt with by the concerned

ZRs/PUs in accordance with the above clarification received from DoP&T.

No. E(GP)2024/2/37 (E.No.3477173), dated: 03.04.2025

Sub: Promotions to Group 'B' posts on Indian Railways - Centralized Computer Based Test (CBT) in all departments having Organized Services for the assessment period from 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2027.

Ref.: Board's letter no. E(GP)2024/2/37 dated 12.02.2025.

In terms of Board's letter dated 12.02.2025 under reference, the upcoming Centralized CBT for promotion to Group 'B' posts (under 70% Selection quota) for the current assessment period 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2027 is scheduled to be conducted by NAIR on 04.05.2025 and 18.05.2025 across all Zonal Railways and PUs with 50% of the candidates per Department appearing on each date. Further, the Supplementary Examination is scheduled for 01.06.2025.

2. However, the Board has now decided to nominate RRB/Ajmer for conducting the aforesaid CBT in place of NAIR. The following has accordingly been decided:

i. Novation of contract between ECA and RRB/Ajmer, which was earlier executed between ECA & NAIR. Necessary action for the same shall be undertaken by NAIR under intimation to Board's office.

ii. One JAG officer will be transferred to RRB/Ajmer as Member Secretary-II, to co-ordinate the process with ECA & Railways/PUs.

iii. Necessary ministerial support staff viz., the concerned O.S. and Jr. Clerk may also be temporarily deputed from NAIR to RRB/Ajmer till conclusion of the exam / declaration of result; whereafter the staff shall be redeployed.

iv. Necessary support in terms of infrastructure viz., computers, printers etc. may be provided by NAIR to RRB/Ajmer.

RB letter No. F(E)III/2024/Misc.3(R), dated 26.03.2025

Sub: Restoration of Commuted portion of Pension before 15 years from the date of commutation.

References have been received from different Zonal Railways/Production Units seeking guidelines/clarifications on the court cases filed by railway pensioners praying for restoration of their commuted portion of pension before completion of 15 years from the date of commutation.

2. Representations have also been received from different Associations/Individuals requesting to restore the commuted portion of pension before 15 years.

3. The issue has been examined in consultation with nodal Department on pensionary matters, i.e. the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare (DOP&PW). The DOP&PW has clarified as under-

"The law regarding commutation has been well settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide their judgment dated 09.12.1986 in Writ Petition No. 3958-61 of 1983 "Common Cause" Society and others (Petitioners) Vs Union of India (1987 (1) SSC 142) in 1986. The Supreme Court considered all the relevant factors like interest rate, mortality rate etc. and the commutation table in existence in 1986 and gave a decision that the commutation period should be fixed at 15 years.

The Hon'ble Delhi High Court of Delhi in their judgment dated 17.01.2019 in WP(C) No. 1222/2015 filed by forum of Retired IPS Officer (Foripso) Versus Union of India and another observed that the pension, commutation of pension etc. are policy matters, which are examined and decided on the basis of recommendations of the Pay Commissions by the

..... Continued on page-8

.... Railway Board orders contained from page-7

authorities. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 15.04.2019 in Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal(C) No(s). 8852/2019 (arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 17.01.2019 in WP(C) No. 1222/2015 passed by the High Court of Delhi at New Delhi) delivered that "we have no reason to entertain this petition. Accordingly, the special leave petition is dismissed." Also Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana, in their order of CWP no. 9426 of 2023 (O&M) dated 27.11.2024 (containing 808 writ petitions) regarding restoration of commuted pension after 12 years have directed to effect recoveries which were stayed by way of interim orders."

4. In view of above clarification of DOP&PW, Zonal Railways/Production Units are advised to take steps in defending the court cases filed by pensioners for restoration of commuted portion of pension before completion of 15 years from the date of commutation, and also for disposal of pending references, if any.

5. This also disposes Northern Railway's letter No. NR/HQ/Pension/Court Case/2023 dated 08.10.2024.

RB letter No. F(E)III/2025/UPS/1 (RBE No. 22/2025) dated 18.03.2025

Sub: Introduction of Unified Pension Scheme as an option under the National Pension System.

A copy of Gazette Notification No. FX-1/3/2024-PR dated 24th January, 2025, issued by Department of Financial Services, (Ministry of Finance), in partial modification of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification No. F.No. 5/7/2003-ECB&PR dated 22nd December, 2003 (circulated vide Board's letter No. F(E)III/2003/PN1/24 dated 31.12.2003) and Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) Notification No. F. No. 1/3/2016-PR dated 31 January, 2019 (circulated vide Board's letter No. D-43/12/2018-F(E)III dated 21.02.2019), introducing Unified Pension Scheme, as an option under the National Pension System for the employees of the Central Government who are covered under National Pension System is enclosed, herewith, for information and compliance.

2. The Fundamental Rule 56(j) and Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 mentioned in ibid notification corresponds to Rule 1802 (a) of Chapter 18, IREC Vol. II (1987 Edition) and Railway Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1968 respectively.

RB letter No.2024-E(SCT)II/49/ 20 (RBE No. 17 /2025), dated 06.03.2025

Sub: Operation of Revised Post Based Rosters in Direct Recruitment for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), on introduction of 10% reservation for EWSs in Jobs.

Ref: (i) Board's letter No. 95-E(SCT)II/49/5(Pt.1) dated-21.08.97(RB No 113/97) & 21.03.2001.

(ii) DOP&T's OM. No. 36039/1/2019-Estt. (Res.) dated 19.01.2019 and 31.01.2019

(iii) Board's letter No. E(NG)II/2019/Misc./2 dated 05.02.2019(RBE No.19/2019).

(iv) Boards letter No. 2019-E(SCT)/25/1 dated 07.02.2019(RBE No. 21/2019) & 10.12.2019 (RBE No. 209/2019).

(v) Supreme Court's order dated 27.11.24 in SLP(Civil) No. 10017/2022 in the matter of AISC/STREA versus UOI & others.

Please refer to Board's circular No. 95-E(SCT)1/49/5(Pt.1) dated-21.08.97 vide which detailed guidelines regarding construction/operation and maintenance of Post Based Reservation Rosters for recruitment category, along with Model Rosters for cadre strength of 15 posts and above as Annexure-II and Model Roster for cadre strength upto 14 posts as Annexure-III, were issued.

2. DOP&T vide its OM. No. 36039/1/2019-Estt. (Res.) dated 19.01.2019 issued instructions for introduction of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in Civil posts and services in the Govt. of India. The said O.M. of DOP&T was circulated by E(NG) directorate to all the Zonal Railways/PUs vide letter no. E(C(NG)II/2019/Misc/2 dated 05.02.2019 (RBE No. 19/2019) for information and guidance.

2.1. Subsequently, in continuation of above O.M.(19.01.2019), DOP&T vide its O.M. No. 36039/1/2019-Estt(Res.) dated 31.01.2019 issued detailed guideline/instructions regarding providing 10% reservation in Direct Recruitment in civil posts & services to the eligible persons belonging to EWS, who are not covered under the scheme of reservation for SC/ST/OBC, which were circulated to the Railways/PUs along with DOP&T prescribed model Roster vide Board's letter No. 2019-E(SCT)/25/1 dated 07.02.2019, advising as under: ,

"...new reservation roster for direct recruitment for Schedule Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in Railway services be adopted as prescribed in the Department of Personnel and Trainings (DOP&Ts) O.M No. 36039/1/2019-Estt. (Res) dated 31.1.2019 from 1.2.2019, the date of implementation for reservation of EWSs category".

3. Railways/PUs etc. are aware of the fact that the model Reservation Roster issued vide Board's circular No. 95-E(SCT)II/49/5(Pt.1) dated-21.08.97(RB No 113/97) under reference (i) are at variance with the model Rosters as prescribed by DOP&T's base O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt.(Res.) dated 2.7.1997 vide which detailed guidelines of Post based Reservation rosters were issued due to which the Model Rosters issued and adopted by Railway Board both for 200 point Roster and L-Shaped (small cadre roster upto 14 posts) were challenged in various courts.

4. The Hon'ble High Court of judicature for Rajasthan at Jodhpur in DB Civil WP No. 9657/2014 in the matter of UOI and Ors. Vs. Ram Sukh Chaudhury and Ors.(and in connected case- 733/2015) wherein the order of CAT/JU was challenged has passed the following order dated 9.5.2017 upholding the order of CAT/JU:

" No reason has been assigned in the order of the Railway Board for departing from the roster prescribed by the DOP&T and no reason has been given to provide roster upto 14 posts instead of 13 posts. Therefore, it is clear from the memorandum issued by the Railway Board that Railway Board has not adopted the roster which is at material variance from the roster issued by the DOP&T. The submission of the petitioner is factually wrong."

4.1. Against the above order of HC/Jodhpur, All India SC/ST Railway Employees Association (AISCSTREA) filed the SLP(Civil) No. 10017/2022. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated-27.11.2024 in the above SLP10017/2022 in the matter of AISCSTREA Versus UOI & others passed the following order:

"...In view of the aforesaid statement, the impugned

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judgment is set aside and it is directed that the roster point table, adopted and applicable as per the Indian Railway Establishment manual, will apply. The roster point table issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Union of India, would not be applicable in the present Situation. The appeal is allowed and disposed of in the above terms, pending application(s), if any shall stand disposed of."

5. In pursuant to the above order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the matter has been reviewed in Board's office. Accordingly, in partial modification of Board's circular No. 2019-E(SCT)/25/1 dated 07.02.2019 (RBE No. 21/2019) and No. 95-E(SCT)/I/49/5(Pt.1) dated-21.08.97/(RB No 113/97)&21.03.2001(RBE No. 59/2001), the model Post Based Roster for Recruitment category i.e. Annexure-II(200 points Rosters)&III(L-shaped 14 point Roster) is restored with interpolation of points earmarked for EWS category along with the SCs, STs & OBCs categories for effecting 10% reservation for EWSs, in direct recruitment, in terms of the guidelines contained in DOP&T's OM. No. 36039/1/2019-Estt.(Res.) dated 19.01.2019 & 31.01.2019.

5.1 Accordingly, Revised Model Reservation Rosters i.e. Annexure-II and Annexure-III of Circular No. 95-E(SCT)/I/49/5(Pt.1) dated-21.08.97.RB No 113/97) & 21.03.2001(Corrigendum), are enclosed herewith for implementation and compliance. The rest of the content/instructions and guidelines contained in above mentioned Board's Circulars and DOP&T's O.M's would remain unchanged.

6. This will be effective from the date of issue of this circular i.e. prospectively and past cases of recruitment, if any need not to be disturbed.

RB letter No. 2025/E(Trg)/10/2, dated 14.02.2025

Sub: Promotion and Pay Fixation during training duration.

Ref: (i) NFR's letter No..E/91/138/TT&CD/Pt.I(O) dtd 08.01.2025.

(ii) Representation received from MCF, Raebareli.

Please refer to above cited references regarding admissibility of promotion and pay fixation thereof, while undergoing training as on duty.

2. Attention is invited to Railway Board's letter No. F(E)/I/2018/3(4)1 dtd 28.12.2018 (copy enclosed) thereby issuing a compendium of instructions on grant of NBR. The same endorses instructions issued vide Deptt. of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance' OM No. F.1(7)-E.IN(A)/78 dtd 14.03.1978 (copy enclosed) regarding treatment of promotion and pay fixation thereof during the period of training. Para 2 and 3 of the same are reproduced below –

"2. A question, in this connection, has been raised as to whether a Government servant, who, while undergoing training or instruction in India, is treated as on duty under FR 9(6)(b) can be promoted to the next higher grade during such training or instruction, if he is otherwise entitled to such promotion and if so, how to regulate his pay on such promotion. **The President is please to decide that in such cases, there should be no objection to the promotion of the employee to the next higher grade with effect from the date he would have been so promoted had he not proceeded on training, if conditions indicated below are fulfilled:-**

a) He has been approved for promotion to the next higher Grade; and

b) all his seniors, except those regarded as unfit for promotion to the particular higher grade, available have been promoted to that Grade.

He may also be allowed to draw such officiating pay in the next higher grade which he would have drawn from time to time had he been on duty other than duty under FR 9(6)(b).

3. The provisions of para 2 of this OM will also apply mutatis-mutandis to cases of officers deputed abroad for training under FR 51"

2. The above instructions make ample clear that a railway servant, who, while undergoing training as on duty can be promoted to the next higher grade during such training, if he is otherwise entitled to such promotion. Further, railway servant is also eligible to draw such officiating pay in the next higher grade which he would have drawn from time to time had he been on duty other than training.

RB letter No. E(NG)/I/2025/PM1/3, dated 05.03.2025

Sub: Irregularities in selections and reforms thereon.

Due to several irregularities noticed in the departmental selections in the recent past, it has been decided to revisit the departmental selection framework and all the pending selections/ LDCes/ GDCEs (within Group 'C') which have not been finalized and approved by 04.03.2025 may be treated as cancelled. No further selections may be initiated until further orders. Further instructions to regulate the selections will be issued in due course.

RB letter No. E(NG)/I/2025/PM1/3, dated 28.03.2025

Sub: Irregularities in Selections and reforms thereon.

Ref: Board's letter of even no. dated 05.03.2025.

Instructions were issued vide this office letter of even no. dated 05.03.2025 cancelling all the pending selections/LDCes/GDCEs (within Group 'C') which have not been finalized or approved by 04.03.2025.

2. Requests have been received from Zonal Railways and staff side highlighting the problem encountered in selections which were in advanced stages.

3. In this regard, information was collected regarding ongoing selections where exam was conducted but result was not published and selections where result was published but panel was not approved.

4. Taking into consideration the position received from Zonal Railways and the request of the Zones and Staff Side, it has been decided to partially rescind the decision of cancellation of the following stages of selections:

(i) Examination conducted but result awaited.

(ii) Examination conducted and result declared.

(iii) Examination conducted, result declared but panel not approved.

5. Some Zonal Railways/Pus namely **ECoR, PLW, SWR, BLW, MCF/RBL, WCR, Metro/Kolkata, RWF, RDSO and RWP** have provided information about the selection in which Notification was issued, Eligibility Condition was published and Exam was not conducted.

6. Zonal Railways/PUs have furnished a list of such selections as mentioned above, the list of which is enclosed. It has now been decided that all ongoing selections (list enclosed) where written examination were held on or before 04.03.2025 shall be finalized.

7. The list of above selections to be finalized will be finally approved with the personal signature of PCPOs/HR Heads of Zonal Railways/PUs.

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RB letter No. 2025/CRB &CEO-CC/03/04, Dated 11.04.2025

Sub: Timeline for recording of APAR for the reporting year 2024-25 onwards – reg

Ref: Board's letter No.2017/SCC/03/06 dated 27.03.2024

Attention is invited to Board's letter mentioned above stipulating therein the schedule for completion of APARs.

2. It has been decided that the timeline for completion of APAR from the reporting year 2024-25 and onwards may be followed as mentioned below:

S.N	Activity	Date by which activity to be completed by
1	Distribution of blank forms/online generation of APAR	15th May
2	Submission of self-appraisal to Reporting Authority	15th June, Auto-forwarding to Reporting Authority: 15th June
3	Forwarding of report by Reporting Authority to Reviewing Authority	31st July. Auto-forwarding to Reviewing Officer: 31st Jul
4	Forwarding of report by Reviewing Officer to Accepting Authority	30th September. Auto-forwarding to Accepting Authority: 30th September
5	Appraisal by Accepting Authority	15th December. Auto-forwarding to the next level: 15th December
6	Disclosure of APAR to the officer reported upon	26th December
7	Submission of representation. if any, on APAR	10th January 2026 i.e. within 15 days from the date of communication/disclosure
8	Forwarding of representation to the Reporting Authority for comments by the Custodian	20th January 2026
9	Forwarding of comments by Reporting Authority to Reviewing Authority	31st January 2026.
10	Forwarding of comments by Reviewing Authority to Accepting Authority	10th February 2026.
11	Forwarding of comments by Accepting Authority to Competent Authority	20th February 2026.
12	Decision of Competent Authority on representation	15th March 2026
13	Completion of the entire process	31st March 2026

Railway Board letter No. F(E)IIN/2025/PN1/2 (RBE No. 26/2025) dated: 01.04.2025.

Subject:- Condition for grant of additional pension to the retired Railway Employees covered under Railway Services (Pension) Rules, 1993 – reg.

A copy of Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoP&PW)'s O.M. No. 38/10(04)/2024-P&PW(A) (e 10124) dated 18 October, 2024 is enclosed for information and guidance. These instructions shall apply mutatis-mutandis on the Railways also. Further, Sub Rule 6 of Rule 44 of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021 [erstwhile Rule 49 (2A) of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972] corresponds to Sub Rule 2A of Rule 69 of Railway Services (Pension) Rules, 1993.

F. No. 38/10(04)/2024-P&PW(A) (e 10124)

Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, dated: 18.10.2024

Office Memorandum

Subject: Revision of pension after authorisation under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules 2021 — reg.

The undersigned is directed to say that as per Sub Rule 2 of Rule 66 of CCS(Pension) Rules 2021 [erstwhile Rule 70 of CCS(Pension) Rules 1972], subject to provisions of Rule 7 and 8 of CCS(Pension) Rules 2021, **pension or family pension once authorised after final assessment or revised under Sub Rule 1 of Rule 66 of CCS(Pension) Rules 2021 shall not be revised to the disadvantage of the pensioner or family pensioner unless such revision becomes necessary on account of detection of a clerical error subsequently.** In case the clerical error is detected after a period of two years from the date of authorisation or revision of pension or family pension, no revision of pension to the disadvantage of the pensioner or family pensioner

shall be ordered without the concurrence of Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare.

2. Further, **the question whether the revision has become necessary on account of a clerical error or not shall be decided by the administrative Ministry or Department.** If, consequent on revision of pension or family pension under sub-rule 2, an excess payment of pension or family pension is found to have been made to the pensioner or family pensioner **and if such excess payment is not on account of any misrepresentation of facts by the pensioner or family pensioner, the administrative Ministry or Department shall examine in consultation with the Department of Expenditure whether or not recovery of such excess payment can be waived off** and issue appropriate orders in accordance with the relevant rules and instructions in this regard. Where the administrative Ministry or Department decides not to waive off the excess payment of pension or family pension, the retired Government servant concerned or family pensioner shall be served with a notice by the Head of Office requiring him to refund the excess payment of pension within a period of two months from the date of receipt of notice by him. In case the Government servant fails to comply with the notice, the Head of Office shall, by order in writing, direct that such excess payment shall be adjusted in instalments by short payments of pension in future, in one or more instalments, as the Head of Office may direct.

3. All Ministries/Departments are requested that the above provisions of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021 may be brought to the notice of all concerned for compliance.

IRTSA SUBMITS MEMORANDUM FOR INCLUSION OF TRAINING PERIOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF MACPS

Sub: Counting of training period of Junior Engineers (JEs), Senior Section Engineers (SSEs) and other Technical non-gazetted staff for financial upgradation under MACPS.

1. IRTSA once again seeks your kind attention to the ongoing injustice faced by Technical Supervisors and urges its prompt resolution. **The exclusion of the training period from financial upgradation under MACPS has resulted in discrimination against Technical Supervisors in the Railways, especially compared to their counterparts in other Central Government Departments, where the training period is considered for MACPS.**

2. Persons selected for regular appointment in technical departments for the posts like Junior Engineers (JEs), Senior Section Engineers (SSEs), CMA, CMS, DMS and CDMS are required to undergo training for a period of one year. **Training being essential part of service, there is no reason not to count the period spent on training for all purposes.**

3. Non-technical employees who are not required to undergo any training recruited on the same date along with the technical employees in the same pay level earn their financial upgradation through MACPS well before the Technical Staff. This put the technical employees in a disadvantageous position vis-a-vis the non-technical employees, since the period spent in the training by the technical employees are not counted for the purpose of financial upgradation, under MACPS.

4. Railway Board's letter No.E(NG)/90/IC1/1, Dated 04.02.1991, implementing DoPT OM no 16/16/89-Estt(Pay-I) dt 22.10.1990 (Copy of letter in Annexure-I) on the subject of Counting of training period for the purpose of drawing increments, states that, in case where a Railway servant has been selected for regular appointment and before formally taking charge of the post for which selected, the Government servant is required to undergo training, the training period undergone by such Railway servant whether on remuneration of stipend or otherwise may be treated as duty for the purpose of drawing increments.

5. DoPT OM no 16/16/89-Estt(Pay-I) dt 31.3.1992 (Copy of OM in Annexure-II) allowed treating such training as duty for the purpose of increment, in case of the employees undergone such training on or after 01.01.1986.

6. These orders had been implemented for the purpose of drawing increments as otherwise the concerned employee, would be put to perpetual disadvantage vis-a-vis the staff in non-technical cadres who are recruited along with technical staff in the same scale of pay.

7. Moreover, Training imparted to those recruited through the Railway Recruitment Boards and later absorbed as Junior Engineers (JEs), Senior Section Engineers (SSEs), etc on Railways is not pre-appointment training in nature (as that of the Apprentices recruited under the Apprentices Act).

8. Railway Board in their letter No.E(NG)1-93/PM1/4 dated 18.01.93 (Copy of letter in Annexure-III) states that time spent by a Railway Servant under training immediately before appointment to service is to be counted as service for the purpose of appearing for departmental examination for promotion to Lower Gazetted Service (LGS) / Group-B.

9. Non-inclusion of training period for the purpose of financial

up-gradation under MACPS, discriminates the Technical employees compared to the non-technical employees recruited in the same Scale of Pay/Grade Pay in the same period, defeats the basic spirit of Railway Board's letter No.E(NG)/90/IC1/1, Dated 04.02.1991 in removing the disadvantageous position of Technical employees in getting their training period counted for annual increment, pensionary benefits, pass eligibility etc.

10. Ministry of Communications, Department of posts through its letter No. 44-2/2011-SPN-II, dated 24.04.2023 (copy of letter in Annexure-IV) clarified that training period is counted for all purpose i.e MACPS, Promotion, Pension, etc.

11. MACP scheme is uniformly applied for all central Government employees. As such, the counting of training period for the purpose of financial upgradation under MACPS for Railway employees is quite genuine and just.

12. In its judgment & order dated 03-01-2019 in WP(C) No. 6963/2018 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa said that, since the Training period has to be treated as regular service for the purpose of ACP as has already been observed in earlier judicial pronouncement, the Respondents (Railways) are duty bound to honour such verdict and to grant such financial upgradation treating induction of the applicant as in-service Trainee. Copy of part of the Judgement is placed at Annexure-V.

13. Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 03-01-2019 in WP(C) No. 6963/2018 passed by the High Court of Orissa, Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order said that, ***"We find no ground to interfere with the impugned order(s) passed by the High Court on the ground that the petitioners were given the regular pay-scale and the increments were also given to them right from day one. Even during the training period, increments were given to them. We have considered the policy pertaining to ACP. On perusal of the same, we find no ground to deny the benefit of training period, which was after appointment"***. Copy of part of the Judgement is placed at Annexure-VI.

14. It is, therefore requested, that the training period of Junior Engineers (JEs), Senior Section Engineers (SSEs) and other similarly placed technical employees in Chemical & Metallurgical Department and Stores on Railways be counted as regular service for the purpose of ACPs / MACPS.

CEC office bearers

- **All the CEC communications are being done through WhatsApp group "CEC IRTSA" as well as through other groups.**
- **A separate record will be maintained for CEC IRTSA office bearers for recording their presence in the meetings, agitations, seminars, etc organised by CEC IRTSA.**
- **All the CEC office bearers are requested to remit their annual membership subscription, struggle fund and subscription for "Voice of Rail Engineers" immediately and inform respective Zonal Treasurers and Central Treasurer.**
- **All are requested to mobilize 100% annual membership subscription from their zones & sub units.**

Brief of main issues represented by IRTSA to Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Rly Minister

1) **Classification of posts of SSE, CDMS, CMS & SE(IT) in level-8 as Group-B** - IRTSA hails formation of Railway Board committee (Railway Board Order No. ERB-I/2024/23/65, dated 20.11.2024) to examine issues relating to Supervisory Categories. The committee was mandated to recommend modalities to improve the promotional prospects and allotting classification as Group-B. IRTSA justified the demand of 100% upgradation of posts of SSE, CDMS, CMS & SE(IT) from level-7 to level-8 w.e.f. 01.01.2016 on par with accounts supervisors that will reestablish lost parity and do reasonable justice for removing the stagnation among SSEs. For improving the accountability in the system and to improve the status all SSE, CMS, CDMS & SE(IT) in level-8 (around 25,000) having element of direct recruitment in L-6 & L-7 should be classified as Gr-B in first phase. In second phase of implementation, Indian Railways should follow the classification aligning with classification of DoPT.

2) **Counting of training period of Junior Engineers (JEs), Senior Section Engineers (SSEs) and other Technical non-gazetted staff for financial upgradation under MACPS** - The exclusion of the training period from financial upgradation under MACPS has resulted in discrimination against Technical Supervisors in the Railways, especially compared to their counterparts in other Central Government Departments, where the training period is considered for MACPS.

3) **All the available and arising DR vacancies of SSE may please be filed through promotion from eligible JEs, until recruitment of Graduate Engineers through RRB** - Direct recruitment quota in the post of SSE with the entry qualification of degree in Engineering is 20% of sanctioned strength in SSE. 20% DR quota remains same since 1987 even though many changes happened in the cadre structure of Technical Supervisors and steady increase in percentage of SSE. DR quota in SSE has increased to 13.4 posts from 5.4 posts for 100 sanctioned posts. Last RRB notification for the posts of SSE was issued in the year 2015. Now approximately 8500 SSE posts are laying vacant because of non-recruitment for nearly 10 years. **As a temporary measure, all the available and arising DR vacancies of SSE may please be filed through promotion from eligible JEs, until recruitment of Graduate Engineers through RRB.**

4) Considering the complexities and additional quantum of work involved in manufacturing "Vande Bharat" train sets which call for a much higher level of supervision, **a proposal for creation of 30 SSE work charged posts in level-8 was sent to Railway Board on 25.09.2024 by ICF.** The proposal was concurred by Finance department of ICF. Queries asked by Railway Board on this proposal were replied by ICF on 19.11.2024 and 20.02.2025. Appropriate kind intervention is solicited for creation of SSE posts in level-8 which will boost the morale and productivity of Engineers working in ICF.

IRTSA Diamond Jubilee celebrations 7th Edition of IRTSA Premier league



IRTSA ICF zone conducted 7th edition of cricket tournament in the month of April spreading over four weeks. 12 teams from ICF and Southern Railways participated in the tournament. ICF Shell-1, ICF Shell-2, ICF Electrical, ICF Furnishing-1, ICF Furnishing-2, ICF LHB, ICF Design, SR Carriage Works-1, SR Carriage Works-2, SR Loco Works, SR Rolling Stock EMU and SR BBQ Coach Care Centre are the twelve teams participated. Trophy was won by ICF Design team and ICF Shell-1 team emerged runners up. Trophies and prizes were disturbed by M. Shanmugma Central President IRTSA.



Now Pay your IRTSA membership subscription through QR-code or UPI ID **irtsa@sbi** IRTSA-Current A/c No. **43054348149** at SBI ICF Branch, Chennai. IFSC Code: **SBIN0013065**. After transfer of fund inform **Er.Y.R.S.Banerjee**, Asst. Central Treasurer, Mob No. **9003149567**.

This CEC account is in addition to account maintained at RCF by Central Treasurer. Zones, sub units & members can deposit their fund in any one of the accounts.