

F. No. ADMIN-65013/6/2026-P-I
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Prithvi Wing, 1st Floor,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003
Dated: 12.08.2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Seeking comments from stakeholders on the draft 'Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Group 'B' posts (Non-Ministerial, Environment Cadre) Recruitment Rules, 2026' - regarding.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the subject cited above and to state that this Ministry is in the process of amending the Ministry of Environment and Forests Technical Posts (Group 'B' Gazetted and Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2010 (RR, 2010). Upon notification, 'Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Group 'B' posts (Non-Ministerial, Environment Cadre) Recruitment Rules, 2026' shall supersede the RRs, 2010.

2. In this regard, the draft RRs, 2026 (copy enclosed) are being placed on the Ministry's website for a period of 30 days for inviting comments from all stakeholders.

3. All stakeholders are, therefore, requested to furnish their comments, if any, in a tabular form (in a MS word format), clearly indicating the paragraph/column number, original content and the suggested change along with reason w.r.t. the original content, latest by 11.09.2026. The comments may preferably be sent by email to admin.p1-moefcc@gov.in.


(Bhaskar Seal)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Encl: As above

To,

- i. NIC/IT Cell - with the request to upload the draft RRs, 2026 on the Ministry's website and also upload the same on the e-office.
- ii. ROHQ/all Regional Offices - with a request to intimate concerned stakeholders in this regards.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

New Delhi, the DD/MM/2026

G.S.R. 105.- In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution and in supersession of the Ministry of Environment and Forests Technical Posts (Group 'B' Gazetted and Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2010 except as respects things done or omitted to be done before supersession, the President hereby makes the following rules regulating the method of recruitment to the posts of Research Officer (Environment) Grade-I, Research Officer (Environment) Grade-II and Research Assistant (Environment) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, namely:-

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) These Rules may be called the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Technical Posts (Group 'B' Gazetted and Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Number of the posts, classification and Level in the Pay Matrix.- The number of said posts, their classification and Level in the Pay Matrix attached thereto shall be as specified in columns 2 to 4 of the Schedule annexed thereto.

3. Method of recruitment, age limit, qualifications etc.- The method of recruitment, age limit, qualifications and other matters relating thereto shall be as specified in columns 5 to 14 of the said Schedule.

4. Disqualification. - No person, -

(a) who has entered into or contracted a marriage with a person having a spouse living, or

(b) who, having a spouse living, has entered into or contracted a marriage with any person,

shall be eligible for appointment to the said posts;

Provided that the Central Government may, if satisfied that such marriage is permissible under the personal law applicable to such person and the other party to the marriage and that there are other grounds for so doing, exempt any person from the operation of this rule.

5. Power to relax. - Where the Central Government is of the opinion that it

is necessary or expedient so to do, it may by order, for reasons to be recorded in writing, and in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission, as per requirements, relax any of the provisions of these rules with respect to any class or category of persons.

6. Savings. - Nothing in these rules shall affect reservation, relaxation of age limit and other concessions required to be provided for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other special categories of persons in accordance with the orders issued by the Central Government from time to time in this regard.

SCHEDULE

Name of the post	No. of posts	Classification	Level in the Pay Matrix	Whether Selection post or Non- Selection post	Whether benefit of added years of service admissible under Rule 30 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972	Age limit for direct recruits
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Research Officer (Environment) Grade-I	03* (2026) *Subject to variation depend ent on workload	General Central Services, Group 'B' Gazetted, Non-Ministerial	Level- 8, (Rs. 47,600-1,51,100/-)	Selection	Not applicable	Not applicable
Educational and other qualifications required for direct recruits						
		Whether age and educational qualifications prescribed for direct recruits		Period of probation, if any		

	will apply in the case of promotees	
(8)	(9)	(10)
Not applicable	Not applicable	Nil
Method of recruitment whether by direct recruitment or by promotion or by deputation/absorption and percentage of the vacancies to be filled by various methods	In case of recruitment by promotion/deputation/absorption, grades from which promotion/deputation/absorption to be made	
(11)	(12)	
Promotion failing which by deputation including short-term contract	Promotion: Research Officer (Environment) Grade-II, Level-7, (Rs. 44,900- 1, 42,400/-) with two years' regular service in the grade. Note 1: Where juniors who have completed their qualifying/eligibility service are being considered for promotion, their seniors would also be considered provided they are not short of the requisite qualifying/eligibility service by more than half of such qualifying/eligibility service or two years, whichever is less, and have successfully completed their probation period for promotion to the next higher grade along with their juniors who have already completed such qualifying or eligibility service. Note 2: For the purpose of computing minimum qualifying service for promotion, the service rendered on a regular basis by an officer prior to 1-1-2016/the date with effect from which the revised pay structure	

structure based on the Seventh Central Pay Commission recommendations has been extended shall be deemed to be service rendered in the corresponding grade pay/pay scale extended based on the recommendations of the Pay Commission.

Deputation (including short-term contract):

Officers under the Central Government/State Governments / Union Territories /Universities/ Recognized Research Institutes /Public Sector Undertakings /Semi-Government/Statutory or Autonomous Organisations :

(a) (i) Holding analogous post on regular basis in the present cadre/department; or

(ii) With two years' service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis in posts in Level-7(Rs.44,900- 1,42,400), or equivalent in the parent cadre/Department; and

(b) Possessing the following educational qualifications and experience:-

(i) Master's Degree in Environmental Sciences /Earth Sciences/ Botany/ Zoology/Chemistry/Bio-Chemistry/Bio Technology or Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/ Technology in Environmental Sciences /Bio-Technology from a recognized University/Institute.

(ii) Three years' experience in collection and analysis of data on Environmental Sciences.

Note: For the purpose of appointment on deputation/absorption basis, the service rendered on a regular basis by an officer prior to 1-1-2016

	/the date from which revised pay structure based on the seventh CPC recommendations has been extended shall be deemed to the service rendered in the corresponding Grade Pay/Pay Scale extended based on the recommendations of the Commission except where there has been merger of more than one pre-revised scale of pay into one grade with common Grade Pay/Pay Scale, and where this benefit will extend only for the post (s) for which that Grade Pay/Pay Scale is in the normal replacement grade without any upgradation. (The departmental officers in the feeder category who are in the direct line of promotion shall not be eligible for consideration for appointment on deputation). Similarly, deputationists shall not be eligible for consideration for appointment by promotion. Period of deputation including short term contract including period of deputation (including short term contract) in another ex-cadre post held immediately preceding this appointment in the same or some other organization/department of the Central Government shall ordinarily not exceed 3 years. The maximum age limit for appointment by deputation (including short-term contract) shall be not exceeding fifty-six years as on the closing date of the receipt of applications.
If a Departmental Promotion Committee exists, what is its composition	Circumstances in which Union Public Service Commission is to be consulted in making recruitment
(13)	(14)
Group 'B' Departmental Promotion	Consultation with Union Public Service Commi

Committee (for considering promotion): 1. Joint Secretary (Administration) - Chairman 2. Director/Dy. Secretary (Administration) - Member 3. Director / Dy. Secretary (In- charge of Indian Forests Service Division) - Member				ssion is not necessary.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
2. Research Officer (Environment) Grade-II	17*(2026)*Subject to variation dependent on workload	General Central Service, Group 'B' Gazetted, Non-Ministerial	Level-7, (Rs. 44,900- 1,42,400/-)	Selection	Not applicable	Not applicable
(8)			(9)			(10)
Not applicable			Not applicable			Nil
(11)			(12)			
75.00% by promotion failing which by deputation including short-term contract.			Promotion: Research Assistant (Environment) in Level-6 (Rs. 35,400 - 1,12,400) with five years' regular service in the grade.			

25.00% by deputation including short-term contract.

Note 1: Where juniors, who have completed their qualifying/eligibility service are being considered for promotion, their seniors would also be considered, provided they are not short of the requisite qualifying/eligibility service by more than half of such qualifying/eligibility service or two years, whichever is less, and have successfully completed their probation period for promotion to the next higher grade along with their Juniors who have already completed such qualifying/eligibility service.

Note 2 : For the purpose of computing minimum qualifying service for promotion, the service rendered on a regular basis by an officer prior to 1st January, 2016/the date from which the revised pay structure based on the 7th CPC recommendations has been extended, shall be deemed to be service rendered in the corresponding grade pay/pay scale extended based on the recommendations of the Commission.

Deputation: (including short-term contract) :

Officers under the Central Government/State Governments/ Union Territories/ Recognized Research Institutions/ Universities /Public Sector Undertakings/ Semi-Government, Statutory or Autonomous Organisations :-

(a) (i) Holding analogous post on regular basis in the present cadre/ Department; or
(ii) With five years' service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis in posts in Level-6(Rs.35,400-1,12,400/-) or equivalent in the parent cadre/ Department; or
(iii) With ten years' service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis in posts in Level-5 (Rs. 29,200–92,300/-) or equivalent in the parent cadre/Department; and

(b) Possessing the following educational qualifications

and experience :-

(i) Master's Degree in Environmental Sciences/Earth Sciences/ Botany/

Zoology/Chemistry/Bio-Chemistry/ Bio Technology or Bachelor's Degree

in Engineering/ Technology in Environmental Sciences/Bio-Technology from a recognized University/Institute.

(ii) Two years' experience in collection and analysis of data on Environmental subjects/subjects quoted in b(i).

Note : For the purpose of appointment on deputation/ absorption basis, the service rendered on a regular basis by an officer prior to I-I-2016/the date from which revised pay structure based on the seventh CPC recommendations has been extended shall be deemed to be the service rendered in the corresponding Grade Pay/Pay Scale extended based on the recommendations of the Commission except where there has been merger of more than one pre-revised scale of pay into one grade with a common Grade Pay/Pay Scale, and where this benefit will extend only for the post (s) for which that Grade Pay/Pay Scale is in the normal replacement grade without any upgradation. (The departmental officers in the feeder category who are in the direct line of promotion shall not be eligible for consideration for appointment on deputation).

Similarly, deputationists shall not be eligible for consideration for appointment by promotion. Period of deputation including short-term contract including period of deputation (including short-term contract) in another ex-cadre post held immediately preceding this appointment in the same or some other organization/department of the Central Government shall ordinarily not exceed 3 years. The maximum age limit for appointment by deputation (including short-term contract) shall be not exceeding fifty-six years as on the closing date of the receipt of applications.

(13)			(14)			
Group 'B' Departmental Promotion Committee (for considering promotion): 1. Joint Secretary (Administration) -Chairman 2. Director/Dy. Secretary (Administration) -Member 3. Director/Dy. Secretary (In-charge of Indian Forest Service Division) -Member			Consultation with Union Public Service Commission is not necessary while appointing an officer on deputation (including short-term contract).			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
3. Research Assistant (Environment)	16* (2026)* (Subject to variation dependent on workload)	General Central Service, Group 'B' Non-Gazette, Non-Ministerial	Level-6, (Rs.35,400/-)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not exceeding thirty years. The crucial date for determining the age limit shall be the closing date for receipt of applications from candidates in India and not the closing date prescribed for those in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Union Territory of Ladakh, Lahaul and Spiti District and Pangi Sub-Division of Ch

					Imba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and. Nicobar Islands and. Lakshadweep.
(8)	(9)	(10)			
Essential: Master's Degree in Environmental Sciences/Earth Sciences/ Botany/ Zoology/Chemistry/Bio-Chemistry / Bio Technology or Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/ Technology in Environmental Sciences/Bio-Technology from a recognized University/Institute. Note : Qualifications are relaxable at the discretion of the SSC for reasons to be recorded in writing in case of candidates otherwise well qualified.	Not applicable	Two years for direct recruits			

(11)	(12)
Direct Recruitment: Vacancies caused by the incumbents being away on deputation or long illness or study leave or under other circumstances for a deputation of one year or more may be filled on deputation basis from officers of Central Government: (a)(i) Holding analogous posts on regular basis in the parent <i>cadre</i> / Department; or (ii) With six years' service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on regular basis in posts in Level-5 (Rs. 29,200- 92,300/-) or equivalent in the parent <i>cadre</i> /Department and (b) Possessing the educational qualifications prescribed for direct Recruitment under column 8.	Not applicable
(13)	(14)
Group 'B' Departmental Promotion Committee for considering confirmation: 1. Joint Secretary (Administration) - Chairman 2. Director (Administration)/ Dy. Secretary (Administration)- Member 3. Director / Dy. Secretary (In-charge of Indian Forest Service Division) -	Consultation with Union Public Service Commission is not necessary.

Member

--	--