



**भारतीय प्रेस परिषद्**  
**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**

सूचना भवन, 8 सी.जी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स,  
लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110 003  
Soochna Bhawan, 8 CGO Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

F.No. 1/6/2020-PCI (Admn.) (Part-III)

Dated: 26.09.2026

**VACANCY CIRCULAR**

In continuation of the Vacancy Circular dated **18.05.2024**, the examination conducted on **04.05.2025** and the subsequent Cancellation vide Notice dated **18.06.2026**, applications are hereby again invited from eligible Indian citizens to fill the vacancies for the post of **Assistant Section Officer (Group 'B', Non-Gazetted)** in the **Press Council of India**. The details of the vacancies are as follows:

| Sl. No. | Name of Post and Pay Scale                                                                                              | Vacancies |     |    |    |       |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|----|----|-------|
|         |                                                                                                                         | UR        | OBC | SC | ST | Total |
| 1.      | Assistant Section Officer (Group B Non-Gazetted)<br>Level - 6<br>(pre-revised PB-2 Rs. 9,300-34,800+G.P.<br>Rs. 4200/-) | 02        | 01  | 00 | 00 | 03    |

2. All candidates who had applied earlier in response to the Advertisement Notice dated 18.05.2024 and were issued Admit Cards for the examination conducted on 04.05.2025 shall be eligible to appear in the direct recruitment examination for the aforesaid posts of Assistant Section Officer (ASO) in PCI, irrespective of the upper age limit prescribed for fresh applications. Such candidates shall, however, submit a fresh application in the prescribed proforma indicating there in the Roll No. allotted to them for the examination conducted on 04.05.2025. They shall be exempted from payment of the examination fee for reappearing in the said examination.

**3. QUALIFICATION**

**Minimum:**

Bachelor's Degree from a recognized University/Institute.

**Preferred/Desirable:**

- (i) Post Graduate degree from a recognized University or
- (ii) Degree in Law from a recognized University or
- (iii) Degree/Diploma in Journalism/Mass Communication or
- (iv) Knowledge of additional Indian language apart from English/Hindi.

Candidates will be required to qualify typing test of 15 minutes duration on computer at a minimum speed of 30 w.p.m in English or 25 w.p.m in Hindi within a period of two years from the date of appointment to the post of Assistant Section Officer. In the event of their failure to pass the test within the prescribed period, they shall not be entitled to draw any further increment till they pass such test or are exempted from this requirement and on passing or being exempted from the test their pay will be refixed as if their increments have not been withheld but no arrears of pay shall be allowed for the period for which the increment has been withheld.

#### 4. AGE LIMIT: 20-30 years

**Note-I:** The upper age limit for the post is relaxable as per extant orders of Government of India.

**Note-II:** The crucial date of age limit is reckoned with reference to closing date of submission of application. Candidates should note that the Date of Birth as recorded in the Matriculation/ Secondary Examination certificate or an equivalent certificate only will be accepted by the Council for determining the Age eligibility and no subsequent request for its change will be considered or granted.

**Note-III:** A person seeking appointment under OBC category must ensure that he/she does not fall in Creamy Layer on the crucial date i.e. the closing date of submission of application. The applicants of OBC category, who are not covered under Creamy Layer in terms of extant orders of Government of India as amended from time to time, shall invariably submit the requisite certificate as per format (Annexure-II). The candidature of such OBC category applicants will remain provisional subject to verification of his/her claim by the Appointing Authority.

#### 5. FEES:

Fee of Rs 100/- (Rs. One Hundred Only) is payable. SC/ST and Women candidates, Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) and Ex-servicemen (ESM) are exempted from payment of fee. The candidate may make the payment through the following modes:

- (i) Demand Draft in favour of Secretary, Press Council of India
- (ii) Cheque in favour of Secretary, Press Council of India.
- (iii) Online payment: The candidate can make online payment directly to PCI in its bank account as per the details below and **a copy of payment receipt (UTR no.) is mandatory to be provided alongwith the application form.**

| S.No. | Particulars                        | Remarks                                                                                                                  |
|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.    | Name of Beneficiary                | Press Council of India                                                                                                   |
| 2.    | Destination Bank's Name and Branch | State Bank of India<br>Scope Complex Delhi,<br>Ground Floor, Core 6 Scope Complex,<br>Lodhi Road,,<br>New Delhi- 110003. |
| 3.    | Account Number                     | 52142907714                                                                                                              |
| 4.    | Branch IFSC Code                   | SBIN0020511                                                                                                              |
| 5.    | Beneficiary's Address              | Soochna Bhawan, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor,<br>08-CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,<br>New Delhi.                                      |

#### 6. SCHEME OF EXAMINATION:

##### a) Objective Type (200 Questions) Tier-I

| Part | Paper                                        | Total Questions | Total Marks | Sectional Cut-Off         | Duration    |
|------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| I    | General Intelligence and Reasoning           | 50              | 50          | 40% for UR<br>35% for OBC | 150 Minutes |
| II   | General Awareness                            | 50              | 50          |                           |             |
| II   | Mathematical Abilities/Quantitative Aptitude | 50              | 50          |                           |             |

|     |                       |    |    |  |  |
|-----|-----------------------|----|----|--|--|
| III | English Comprehension | 50 | 50 |  |  |
|-----|-----------------------|----|----|--|--|

**Note-I:** There will be negative marking penalty of 0.25 marks for each wrong answer.

**Note-II:** Candidates will be required to secure the minimum qualifying marks in each of the four sections of the Tier-I Examination separately. Shortlisting for the subsequent Tier-II Examination will be subject to achieving the qualification threshold in each individual section of Tier-I examination.

**b) Descriptive Type (Tier-II) (Qualifying Nature)**

| Scheme of Examination                                                                                                        | Maximum Marks | Cut-off                   | Time Allotted |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Descriptive paper in English or Hindi (Writing Ability and Critical Analysis through Essay /Precis/ Letter/Application etc.) | 100           | 65% for UR<br>60% for OBC | 60 Minutes    |

7. (a) The Council reserves the right to add an additional Tier in the scheme of Examination.  
 (b) Question papers of Tier-I Examination will be printed bilingually in Hindi and English, with the sole exception of the English Language Comprehension section, which will be available exclusively in English.  
 (c) The Tier-II examination must be answered either in English or in Hindi. Answering some Questions in English and some Questions in Hindi will result in disqualification of the candidate.

**8. INDICATIVE SYLLABUS FOR EXAMINATION:**

**(1) Objective Type Examination:**

- **General Intelligence & Reasoning:** It would include questions of both verbal and non-verbal type. This component may include questions on analogies, similarities and differences, space visualization, spatial orientation, problem solving, analysis, judgment, decision making, visual memory, discrimination, observation, relationship concepts, arithmetical reasoning and figural classification, arithmetic number series, non-verbal series, coding and decoding, statement conclusion, syllogistic reasoning etc. The topics are, Semantic Analogy, Symbolic/Number Analogy, Figural Analogy, Semantic Classification, Symbolic/Number Classification, Figural Classification, Semantic Series, Number Series, Figural Series, Problem Solving, Word Building, Coding & de-coding, Numerical Operations, Symbolic Operations, Trends, Space Orientation, Space Visualization, Venn Diagrams, Drawing inferences, Punched hole/ pattern- folding & unfolding, Figural Pattern-folding and completion, Indexing, Address matching, Date & city matching, Classification of centre codes/roll numbers, Small & Capital letters/numbers coding, decoding and classification, Embedded Figures, Critical thinking, Emotional Intelligence, Social Intelligence.
- **General Awareness:** Questions in this component will be aimed at testing the candidates' general awareness of the environment around him and its application to society. Questions will also be designed to test knowledge of current events and of such matters of every day observations and experience in their scientific aspect as may be expected of any educated person. The test will also include questions relating to India and its neighboring countries especially pertaining to History, Culture, Geography, Economic Scene, Politics, General Policy & Scientific Research.

- **English Language & Comprehension:** Vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, synonyms, antonyms and their correct usage; Spot the Error, Fill in the Blanks, Synonyms/ Homonyms, Antonyms, Spellings/ Detecting mis-spelt words, Idioms & Phrases, One word substitution, Improvement of Sentences, Active/ Passive Voice of Verbs, Conversion into Direct/ Indirect narration, Shuffling of Sentence parts, Shuffling of Sentences in a passage, Cloze Passage, Comprehension Passage. To test comprehension, three or more paragraphs to be given and questions based on those will be asked. At least one paragraph to be a simple one based on a book or a story and the other two paragraphs to be on current affairs, based on a report or an editorial.
- **Quantitative Aptitude:** The questions will be designed to test the ability of appropriate use of numbers and number sense of the candidate. The scope of the test will be computation of whole numbers, decimals, fractions and relationships between numbers, Percentage. Ratio & Proportion, Square roots, Averages, Interest, Profit and Loss, Discount, Partnership Business, Mixture and Alligation, Time and distance, Time & Work, Basic algebraic identities of School Algebra & Elementary surds, Graphs of Linear Equations, Triangle and its various kinds of centres, Congruence and similarity of triangles, Circle and its chords, tangents, angles subtended by chords of a circle, common tangents to two or more circles, Triangle, Quadrilaterals, Regular Polygons, Circle, Right Prism, Right Circular Cone, Right Circular Cylinder, Sphere, Hemispheres, Rectangular Parallelepiped, Regular Right Pyramid with triangular or square base, Trigonometric ratios, Degree and Radian Measures, Standard Identities like  $\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$ , etc., Complementary angles, Heights and Distances, Histogram, Frequency polygon, Bar diagram & Pie chart; Mean, median, mode; standard deviation; simple probabilities.

## (2) Descriptive Type Examination:

The Tier-II Examination shall be of **descriptive type** and shall assess the candidate's writing ability, comprehension, analytical skills, and knowledge of the prescribed syllabus. The Paper in Tier-II will have to be answered either in Hindi or in English. Part paper written in Hindi and part in English will be awarded zero marks.

## 9. INSTRUCTION FOR EXAMS:

### (i) Tier I (Objective Type Examination)

The examination will be conducted by Computer Based Testing or by Manual method using an **OMR (Optical Mark Recognition) Answer Sheet**. In manual method, following instructions shall be observed:

- Candidates shall use **only a blue or black ballpoint pen** to fill the OMR Answer Sheet, unless otherwise instructed.
- Candidates must correctly fill in the **Roll Number, Question Booklet Series/Code and other required particulars** in the designated spaces. Incorrect or incomplete particulars may lead to rejection of the OMR Answer Sheet.
- Answers shall be marked by **completely darkening only one circle** corresponding to the correct option. Tick marks, crosses, dots, or partially filled circles shall not be considered valid, and will accordingly be treated as incorrect response.
- **Multiple responses** for a question shall be treated as an incorrect response.
- Candidates shall **not use correction fluid, erasers, blades, or overwrite** on the OMR Answer Sheet.
- Candidates shall not make any **stray marks**, scratches, holes, tears, write outside the designated areas, or perform rough work on the OMR Answer Sheet.
- The OMR Answer Sheet shall not be folded, torn, crumpled, soiled, or otherwise damaged.

- Candidates shall verify that the **Question Booklet Series/Code** entered on the OMR Answer Sheet matches with that on the Question Booklet supplied before commencing the examination.
- The OMR Answer Sheet will be evaluated by **computerized scanning**, and the responsibility for correct marking and filling of particulars shall rest entirely with the candidate.
- Violation of any of these instructions shall result in disqualification of the candidature.
- No request for re-evaluation or manual verification of the OMR Answer Sheet shall be entertained except as provided in the examination rules.

#### (ii) Tier II (Descriptive Type Examination)

- Answers shall be written **legibly** in blue or black ballpoint pen, unless otherwise specified. Illegible handwriting may adversely affect evaluation.
- Candidates shall write their **Roll Number and other particulars** only in the space provided on the answer booklet. They shall not write their name or make any identifying marks anywhere in the answer booklet, failing which the candidature may be liable to be cancelled.
- Candidates shall answer the questions in the space provided in the answer booklet.
- Candidates shall not remove any page from the answer booklet or damage, deface, or write anything other than the answers and the required particulars.
- Candidates shall hand over the answer booklet to the Invigilator before leaving the examination hall. No candidate shall be permitted to leave the examination hall with the answer booklet or any part thereof.

#### 10. RESOLUTION OF TIE CASES:

In case where more than one candidate secures equal aggregate marks, tie will be resolved by applying following methods one after another:

- Marks in Tier- I (i.e., Objective Type Examination)
- Marks in Section I of Tier-I (i.e. Objective Type Examination)
- Marks in Tier-II (i.e., Descriptive Type Examination)
- Date of birth, with older candidate placed higher.
- Alphabetical order in which names of the candidates appear.

#### 11. MINIMUM QUALIFYING MARKS / CUT-OFF MARKS

- A candidate must secure the **minimum qualifying marks** in all the sections of **Tier-I (Objective)** and **Tier-II (Descriptive)** examinations separately.
- The minimum qualifying marks for Tier I shall be as follows:
  - Unreserved (UR): 40%
  - Other Backward Classes (OBC): 35%
- The minimum qualifying marks for Tier II shall be as follows:
  - Unreserved - 65%
  - Other Backward Classes - 60%
- Merely securing the minimum qualifying marks shall **not** confer any right to selection or inclusion in the merit list.
- The Council reserves the right to prescribe **higher or lower cut-off marks** in Tier-I and/or Tier-II for shortlisting candidates, depending upon the number of vacancies, the number of candidates appearing, and the overall performance in the examination.
- The Tier-II Examination (Descriptive Type – Writing Ability and Critical Analysis of Selected Topic(s)) is **qualifying in nature**. Only those candidates who secure a **minimum of 60% marks (OBC) and 65% marks (UR)** in Tier-II shall be considered for

inclusion in the merit list. The final merit list shall be prepared solely on the basis of the marks obtained in the Tier-I Examination.

## **12. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- (i) Candidates must satisfy themselves that they possess the required educational qualifications, experience, age limit, etc. before applying for the examination
- (ii) All eligibility criteria and experience thresholds will be calculated as on the last date of submission of application.
- (iii) Candidates are not permitted to use Mobile Phone, Calculator, smart watches, bluetooth device or any other electronic/electrical device for answering any question paper. Candidates must not, therefore, bring Mobile Phone, Calculator or any other electronic/ electrical /communication device inside the Examination premises. Possession of these items, whether in use or not, will be considered as "use of unfair means" in the Examination and candidature of such candidates will be cancelled forthwith. Such candidates are also liable for debarment upto a period of 3 (three) years.
- (iv) Candidates shall not use unfair means or indulge in any malpractice during the examination. Any such act shall render the candidate liable to disciplinary action, including cancellation of candidature and debarment from future examinations.
- (v) Candidate shall comply with all instructions issued by the Council from time to time. Failure to comply with the instructions may result in disqualification from the examination.
- (vi) Candidates serving in Government/Public Sector Undertaking are required to send their applications through proper channel/with No-Objection Certificate issued by Competent Authority of their employer.
- (vii) Applications which do not meet the criteria given in the advertisement and/or incomplete applications are liable to summarily rejected.
- (viii) **The Council reserves the right to cancel the examination at any stage of recruitment without assigning any reasons.**
- (ix) Admission to any stage of the recruitment process is purely provisional and subject to verification of documents at later stage.
- (x) Candidates furnishing any particulars that are found to be false, tampered, fabricated or suppress any material/information while submitting the application and self-certified copies/testimonial, will stand disqualified.
- (xi) The number of posts advertised may vary, and the Secretariat of the Council reserves the right not to fill up some or all the posts advertised, if the circumstances so warrant.
- (xii) OBC candidates, who are selected on their own merit without relaxed standards, will be accommodated against the unreserved vacancies in the post as per their position in the overall merit **or** vacancies earmarked for their category, whichever is advantageous to them. The reserved vacancies will be filled up separately from amongst the eligible OBC candidates.
- (xiii) Candidates called for written test shall do so at their own expenses. No TA/DA shall be paid.
- (xiv) Original certificates including educational, caste and birth certificates must be provided during the document verification along with a self attested copy of all such documents.
- (xv) Any addenda, corrigenda or updates regarding the examination dates and syllabus will be published only on the official website of the Press Council of India. Candidates are responsible for checking the website regularly.
- (xvi) Eligible candidates will receive their Admit Cards transmitted through their registered Email IDs and backed up via physical post. Candidates must download & carry a physical copy, alongwith two colour passport size photographs, and original valid photo ID proof

such as (i) Aadhaar Card/Printout of E-Aadhaar, (ii) Voter's ID Card, (iii) Driving License, (iv) PAN Card and (v) Passport.

- (xvii) Form of Certificate is to be produced by Other Backward Classes applying for appointment to the post Assistant Section Officer in the Press Council of India. (Annexure-II); and by other candidates claiming age relaxation under specific categories (after satisfying themselves that such claim will not make them ineligible for selection against unreserved vacancies), and by PwBDs having difficulty in writing who wish to avail assistance of scribe, as per prescribed formats of Government of India for each such category.
- (xviii) The outermost mailing envelope must be boldly super scribed: **"APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICER (ASO) – DIRECT RECRUITMENT"**.
- (xix) The eligible and interested candidate are required to submit their application in the attached proforma alongwith self-attested copies of the certificates, date of birth, experience (if any), etc. to The Under Secretary (Administration), Press Council of India, Room No. 346, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Soochna Bhawan, 8 CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003 within 30 days of the date of publication of Short Notice in the Employment News.



(Sanjay Kumar Bharti)  
Under Secretary (Admn.)