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GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
REFORMS (PERSONNEL WING)

(G.O. Ms. No. 76, Puducherry, dated 01st September 2026)

NOTIFICATION

The Government of Puducherry provides a 5% horizontal reservation for Meritorious Sports Persons (MSP) in direct recruitment to Group 'C' posts under various Government Departments, in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

2. Government has reviewed the existing procedure for extending the benefit of the MSP quota and observed certain deficiencies affecting transparency, uniformity and fairness in the assessment of

sports merit Government has therefore decided to revise the existing framework to ensure that the benefit of the MSP reservation is extended only to genuine and meritorious sportspersons through a transparent, objective and verifiable system.

3. Meanwhile, Government Orders have been issued in G.O. Ms. No. 16, dated 14-07-2026 of the Chief Secretariat (Higher and Technical Education) rationalising sports disciplines eligible under the MSP quota for admissions to Higher and Technical Educational Institutions through CENTAC by adopting 35 sports disciplines, prescribing the eligibility conditions, evaluation methodology and marking system for determining sports merit.

4. In order to ensure uniformity, transparency and consistency in the assessment of sports merit for both admissions and recruitment, the Lieutenant-Governor, Puducherry, in supersession of earlier orders and Guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, is pleased to notify the revised Guidelines for extending the benefit of the 5% horizontal reservation for Meritorious Sports Persons in direct recruitment to Group 'C' posts under the Government of Puducherry, as given in the Annexure to this order.

5. These orders shall come into force with immediate effect and all direct recruitments including the ongoing recruitments for which results are yet to be declared under MSP category shall be regulated in accordance with the revised Guidelines contained in the Annexure.

(By order of the Lieutenant-Governor)

S. MURUGESAN,

Under Secretary to Government (DP&AR).

ANNEXURE

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF MERITORIOUS SPORTS PERSONS (MSP) CANDIDATES IN DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO GROUP 'C' POSTS

1. *Introduction.*—

1.1 The Government of Puducherry provides a 5% horizontal reservation for Meritorious Sports Persons (MSP) in direct recruitment to Group 'C' posts across Government Departments of

the Union Territory, in conformity with the instructions of the Government of India, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

1.2 The existing system for awarding the MSP quota in direct recruitment suffers from several deficiencies that have come to the notice of the Government. First, the present framework treats all 65 DoPT - recognised sports disciplines as equal for the purpose of awarding marks, without distinguishing between sports that are organised, played, sponsored and competed within the schools and colleges of the Union Territory and those with negligible or no presence in the Union Territory's sporting eco-system. This has enabled candidates to claim certificates in disciplines that have little or no organised infrastructure, competition calendar, or institutional support in Union territory of Puducherry, placing them on par with candidates who have excelled in sports actively nurtured by the Sports Department.

1.3 Second, the present system does not mandate that a candidate demonstrate progressive participation through the established competition ladder-from inter-school and inter-college level, through District and State level, before reaching National or International competitions. This gap has been exploited by candidates who obtain certificates of participation at high-level competitions without any verifiable grounding at the grassroots level, undermining the credibility of the quota.

1.4 These shortcomings are found to be the detriment of genuine and meritorious sports persons of the Union Territory, and necessitate a revised, transparent and verifiable framework. Hence, appropriate Guidelines are issued laying down revised and transparent modalities for determining the eligibility, category classification, and marks / weightage to be assigned to MSP candidates in such direct recruitment in accordance with the decisions taken in the High-level Committee Meeting held on 29-06-2026 pursuant to the Review taken by Hon'ble Lieutenant-Governor at Lok Nivas on 25-06-2026.

2. Present Status.—

2.1 DoPT Guidelines

At present, the Government of Puducherry, is following the instructions, issued by the DoPT, Government of India, from time to time. The latest Guidelines are:

- * DoPT O.M. No. DoPT-1668767575965, dated 18-11-2022 – Consolidated Instructions on Recruitment / Promotion for Sportspersons in Central Government Services.
- * DoPT O.M. No. DoPT-1720781414772, dated 04-03-2024 – Revised and expanded the list of eligible Sports Disciplines for recruitment covering 65 disciplines, in alignment with sports recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS).

2.2 Guidelines issued by the Government of Puducherry

The Government of Puducherry has also issued the followings Guidelines for determination of sports merit *vide* the G.O given below:

- * G.O. Ms. No. 02, dated 04-10-2024, issued by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Puducherry lays down the yardstick to be applied for deciding the sports merit for the purpose of recruitment of sportsperson against Group 'C' posts.

2.3 Reduction of number of sports disciplines

- * G.O. Ms. No. 16, dated 14-07-2026, issued by the Chief Secretariat (Higher and Technical Education), Government of Puducherry- rationalising the Sports Disciplines eligible for the Meritorious Sports Persons Quota for admissions to Higher and Technical Education Institutions through CENTAC, adopting a list of 35 Sports Disciplines out of the 65 disciplines mentioned in the DoPT list as recommended by the High-level Committee and prescribing the methodology for determining sports merit for the purpose of admission to higher educational institutions through CENTAC.

3. *Scope.*—

3.1 In order to ensure uniformity in the matter of admission to higher educational institutions and recruitment to Group 'C' posts, transparency and consistency in the assessment of sports merit across the Government, it has been decided to adopt, for recruitment purposes,

the same sports disciplines, eligibility criteria, marking system, certificate requirements and evaluation methodology as prescribed by the Government for admission under the Meritorious Sports Persons (MSP) Quota to Higher and Technical Educational Institutions *vide* G.O. Ms. No. 16, dated 14-07-2026 of the Chief Secretariat (Higher and Technical Education), Puducherry.

3.2 The said list of 35 Sports Disciplines is reproduced at Annexure-A to this Policy.

4. Posts to which Applicable.—

4.1 Appointment of meritorious sportspersons can be made to any post in Group 'C', which under the Recruitment Rules applicable thereto, is required to be filled by direct recruitment.

4.2 No such appointment of meritorious sportspersons shall be made in direct recruitment to any Group 'A' or Group 'B' post.

4.3 A meritorious sports person can be considered for appointment, notwithstanding the fact that he is already in service of the Government.

4.4 There shall be no meritorious sportsperson quota in the matter of promotion in any Group including Group 'C'.

5. Extent of such Recruitment.—

5.1 Departments of Government of Puducherry can recruit meritorious sportsmen to the extent of 5% of the total number of vacancies proposed to be filled by direct recruitment in any year.

6. Relaxation in Age-Limit for Recruitment.—

6.1 The sportsperson may be allowed relaxation in the upper age-limit up to a maximum of 5 years (10 years in the case of those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) for the purpose of appointment to posts specified earlier in these instructions.

6.2 This concession will be available only to those sportspersons who satisfy all other eligibility conditions relating to educational qualifications, *etc.*, and furnish a certificate in the prescribed form issued by the prescribed authority.

7. Reservation and Adjustment in Roster.—

7.1 These instructions will not affect the orders relating to reservation for OBC / MBC / BCM / EBC / SC / ST / BT / EWS and Ex-servicemen and Persons with Benchmark Disabilities which may be in force from time to time.

7.2 In other words, the vacancies filled in accordance with these orders in a year shall be taken into account in calculating the total number of vacancies in the service / post during that year for the purpose of applying the reservation orders.

7.3 A person appointed under the Sports Quota should be adjusted in the recruitment/reservation roster against the category *viz.* General / OBC / MBC / EBC / BT / SC / ST / EWS to which he / she belongs.

8. Determination of Sports Merit.—

8.1 Sports merit shall be assessed strictly in accordance with the Guidelines governing admission under the Meritorious Sports Persons Quota issued by the Government *vide* G.O. Ms. No. 16, dated 14-07-2026 of the Chief Secretariat (Higher and Technical Education), Puducherry.

8.2 The provisions contained in the said G.O relating to the following shall apply *mutatis mutandis*:

- * eligible sports disciplines;
- * recognised International, National, South Zone, State and District Championships;
- * categories of championships;
- * marking system prescribed;
- * tie-breaking criteria;
- * progressive participation requirements;

- * recognition of Sports Federations and Associations;
- * Competent Authorities for issue of certificates and prescribed Forms;
- * certificate verification requirements;
- * general conditions governing award of sports marks; and
- * all other conditions relating to determination of sports merit.

8.3 The eligibility period of Sports Achievement shall be reckoned for the preceding five years when recruitment happens regularly.

8.4 If, there is a long gap of more than five years between the last recruitment and the present recruitment for a particular post, eligibility period for sports merit shall be reckoned from the year in which last recruitment happened for the particular post.

8.5 Whenever, the Admission Guidelines are amended, such amendments shall automatically apply for recruitment under these Guidelines.

9. Procedure for Selection of MSP Candidates.—

9.1 The Department shall separately notify the posts to be filled under the MSP quota to the Puducherry Examining Authority (PEA) as per the Schedule notified by the PEA, after obtaining the approval of the Competent Authority.

9.2 Puducherry Examining Authority will issue a consolidated recruitment notification exclusively for meritorious sportspersons.

9.3 Eligible MSP candidates possessing the required age and educational qualifications notified for the post may apply and submit all required certificates along with their application to the PEA as prescribed in the recruitment notification.

9.4 Applications shall first be screened for basic eligibility as per the Recruitment Rules for the post.

9.5 The PEA shall constitute a Scrutiny Committee under the chairmanship of an Officer of appropriate rank from the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs with Physical Education Teachers / Lecturers as Members of the Committee. Two more Officers from among the participating Departments may be nominated as co-opted Members to the Scrutiny Committee.

9.6 Eligible applications shall be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee which will verify the applications and award of sports marks as per the criteria prescribed in the admission G.O.

9.7 The Scrutiny Committee after completion of the verification process shall draw the sports merit list and forward the same to the PEA along with the proceedings of the Committee duly signed by all Officers of the Committee in a sealed cover.

9.8 The PEA will prepare a provisional select list for each post taking into account the post preference if any, exercised by the candidate as per the sports merit finalised by the Scrutiny Committee.

9.9 The final selection under the MSP quota shall be made strictly on sports merit finalised by the Scrutiny Committee.

9.10 The PEA thereafter will call the provisionally selected candidates for certificate verification after completion of which select list will be sent to the Department concerned.

9.11 The PEA shall keep the wait list of MSP candidates in the ratio of one-third of the MSP quota vacancies notified. The wait list shall be valid for one year only. If any selected candidate declines the offer, fails to join, resigns or dies within a year from the date of notification of the results, the wait list shall be operated.

10. Direct Appointment in Exceptional Cases.—

10.1 The Government of Puducherry may directly offer the MSP quota seats to Olympic / World Championship / Commonwealth Games / Asian Games Medal Winners in exceptional cases subject to availability of MSP quota vacancies and eligibility of a candidate for the offered post.

11. *Fraudulent Claims.*—

11.1 Any candidate furnishing false information or fabricated certificates shall be liable for:

- * cancellation of candidature;
- * cancellation of appointment, if already appointed;
- * debarment from future recruitment under Government; and
- * criminal prosecution under the applicable provisions of law.

12. *Repeal, Savings and Effective Date.*—

12.1 These Guidelines supersedes all earlier office orders, circulars and Guidelines, issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Personnel Wing).

12.2 This Policy shall come into force with immediate effect and all direct recruitments including the ongoing recruitments for which results are yet to be declared under MSP category shall be regulated in accordance with this revised Guidelines contained in the Annexure.

13. *Power to Remove Difficulties.*—

13.1 If, any doubt arises regarding interpretation of these Guidelines, the decision of the Government shall be the final.

ANNEXURE – A**LIST OF SPORTS DISCIPLINES ELIGIBLE FOR SPORTS QUOTA**

Sl. No.	Name of Sport
(1)	(2)
1	Archery
2	Athletics
3	Badminton
4	Ball Badminton
5	Basketball
6	Boxing
7	Carrom

(1)	(2)
8	Chess
9	Cricket
10	Cycling
11	Deaf Sports
12	Fencing
13	Football
14	Gymnastics
15	Handball
16	Hockey
17	Judo
18	Kabaddi
19	Karate
20	Kayaking and Canoeing
21	Kho-Kho
22	Mallakhamb
23	Netball
24	Para Sports (for Sports Discipline included in Para Olympics and Para Asian Games).
25	Powerlifting
26	Roller Skating
27	Shooting
28	Swimming
29	Table-Tennis
30	Taekwondo
31	Tennis
32	Volleyball
33	Weightlifting
34	Wrestling
35	Yogasana

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