

DRDO CEPTAM MTS Syllabus 2026

DRDO CEPTAM (Centre for Personnel Talent Management) — Defence Research & Development Organisation — CEPTAM Multi-Tasking Staff

Vacancies	Announced periodically for Multi-Tasking Staff posts across DRDO laboratories nationwide
Age Limit	18–28 years typically (relaxation per government norms for SC/ST/OBC/PwBD/ex-servicemen)
Qualification	Passed Class 10 with ITI in the relevant trade, or Class 12 (post-dependent), from a recognised Board/institute
Application Fee	■100 (General/OBC/EWS candidates). Women and SC/ST/PwBD/ex-servicemen candidates are exempted.
Official Website	drdo.gov.in / ceptam.drdo.gov.in
Last Reviewed	30 Jan 2026

Overview

DRDO CEPTAM MTS recruits Multi-Tasking Staff for support roles across DRDO's network of defence research laboratories nationwide, working alongside scientists and engineers on India's defence research and development programmes. It's one of the more accessible DRDO recruitment routes given its Class 10/ITI-level qualification bar, though the selection process still involves two written tiers and, for trade-specific posts, a Skill Test — reflecting DRDO's need for both general aptitude and specific technical/trade competence in support staff working in sensitive research environments.

What's New in the 2026 Cycle

- Tier I is a screening stage; Tier II (and the Skill Test, where applicable) determines final merit.
- Recruitment spans multiple DRDO laboratories nationwide, each potentially requiring specific trade skills depending on the lab's research focus.
- Given the sensitive nature of defence research environments, document verification and background checks tend to be thorough.
- MTS posts offer a pathway into DRDO's work environment even without an engineering degree, appealing to ITI-qualified candidates specifically.

Exam Pattern

Tier I (Screening)

Mode: Online, objective MCQ | Duration: As specified in the current notification

Section	Questions	Marks
General Intelligence & Reasoning	—	Qualifying
Numerical Aptitude	—	Qualifying

General Awareness	—	Qualifying
General English/Hindi	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: As per the current notification (verify against the official notice) | **Nature:** Screening stage — used to shortlist for Tier II.

Tier II (Merit-Deciding)

Mode: Online, objective MCQ | Duration: As specified in the current notification

Section	Questions	Marks
Trade/Discipline-specific technical questions, at a Class 10/ITI level	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: As per the current notification | **Nature:** Forms the basis of merit, combined with the Skill Test where applicable.

Skill Test (trade-specific posts)

Mode: Practical skill demonstration | Duration: Varies by trade

Section	Questions	Marks
Trade-specific practical skill assessment	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: Not applicable — qualifying only | **Nature:** Mandatory for trade-specific posts.

DRDO CEPTAM MTS — Detailed Subject-Wise Syllabus

General Intelligence & Reasoning

Standard pattern-based reasoning — quick to improve with regular timed practice.

- Analogies, classification
- Series completion
- Coding-decoding
- Non-verbal reasoning

Numerical Aptitude

Foundational-level questions — consistent practice on fundamentals is the fastest route to improvement.

- Number system, simplification
- Percentage, ratio & proportion
- Basic algebra & mensuration

General Awareness

Broad and current-affairs-heavy — a steady daily revision habit works better than cramming.

- Current affairs — national & international
- General science
- Static GK relevant to defence and government functioning

General English/Hindi

Basic comprehension at a Class 10 level — a light-touch but consistent revision approach is sufficient.

- Basic grammar & comprehension at a Class 10 level

Trade/Discipline-specific (Tier II & Skill Test)

The real differentiator in DRDO CEPTAM MTS selection — genuine hands-on trade competence matters more than written theory alone.

- Syllabus corresponds to the candidate's specific ITI trade or applied discipline, as notified by DRDO CEPTAM

Selection Process

- 1 Tier I — screening stage.
- 2 Tier II — merit-determining, trade/discipline-specific.
- 3 Skill Test — for trade-specific posts.
- 4 Document Verification (including thorough background checks given the defence research environment).

Salary & Job Profile

DRDO CEPTAM MTS posts are placed around Pay Level 1–2 of the 7th CPC matrix, plus Dearness Allowance, HRA and Transport Allowance, with the exact scale depending on the specific post.

Best Books for Preparation

- Lucent's General Knowledge
- Fast Track Objective Arithmetic — Rajesh Verma (Arihant)
- A Modern Approach to Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning — R.S. Aggarwal
- Trade-specific ITI reference material relevant to your applied trade

Previous Cut-off Trends (Approximate)

DRDO CEPTAM MTS cut-offs vary by trade, laboratory-wise vacancy allocation and category each cycle. Always check the trade-wise and category-wise official cut-off list rather than a single overall figure.

Preparation Tips

- Since Tier I is only a screening stage, don't over-invest revision time there once comfortably past the expected cut-off — shift focus to Tier II's trade-specific content.
- Revise your specific ITI trade curriculum systematically for Tier II and the Skill Test, rather than relying only on generic MCQ practice.
- Build a steady General Awareness habit, since this section draws broadly from current affairs and general science.
- Practise previous years' CEPTAM MTS papers to understand the balance between general aptitude and trade-specific content.

Exam Day Guidelines

- Carry the Admit Card and a valid original photo ID to both Tier I and Tier II.
- Prepare thoroughly for your specific trade's Skill Test if applicable — this is a genuinely practical assessment.
- No electronic devices are allowed inside the exam hall.
- Be ready for thorough document and background verification given the sensitive nature of DRDO's research environment.

Frequently Asked Questions

What qualification is needed for DRDO CEPTAM MTS?

Typically Class 10 pass with an ITI certificate in the relevant trade, or Class 12 depending on the specific post, from a recognised Board/institute.

Is there a practical test in DRDO CEPTAM MTS selection?

Yes, a Skill Test is required for trade-specific posts, assessing genuine practical competence in the applied trade.

Are DRDO CEPTAM MTS posts spread across specific laboratories?

Yes, recruitment covers DRDO's network of laboratories nationwide, and specific trade requirements can vary by the lab's particular research focus.

Is background verification more thorough for DRDO posts?

Given the sensitive nature of defence research environments, document verification and background checks for DRDO posts tend to be more thorough than typical government recruitment.