

IBPS PO Ex-Servicemen Reservation 2026: Is There Any Reservation?

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Article Image

IBPS PO Ex Servicemen Reservation 2026 no reservation 5 year age relaxation eligibility rules

IBPS PO Ex-Servicemen Reservation 2026 – Check the official rules on Ex-Servicemen reservation, age relaxation, eligibility, and recruitment guidelines for IBPS PO 2026.

Latest Update - 10 September 2026: The IBPS PO Preliminary Examination under **CRP PO/MT-XVI** was conducted on **22 and 23 August 2026**. As of 10 September 2026, the Preliminary Examination result has **not yet been officially released**. The notification schedule places the Prelims result in September 2026. The IBPS PO Main Examination is scheduled for **4 October 2026**. According to the latest vacancy update published by IBPS on **27 August 2026**, the total indicative vacancies have increased to **7,565**. There is **no separate Ex-Servicemen reservation in the Officers' Cadre**.

Quick Answer: Ex-Servicemen Reservation in IBPS PO: No. However, eligible Ex-Servicemen and specified Commissioned Officers covered by the notification can receive **5 years of upper-age relaxation**. The candidate must satisfy the military-service, release, educational qualification and other eligibility conditions prescribed under CRP PO/MT-XVI.

The **IBPS PO Ex Servicemen Reservation 2026** rule is an important eligibility point for defence personnel planning a second career in the banking sector. Candidates often confuse **reservation** with **age relaxation**, but the two benefits are completely different.

According to the IBPS PO 2026 detailed notification for **CRP PO/MT-XVI**, **there is no reservation for Ex-Servicemen in the Officers' Cadre**. Since Probationary Officer / Management Trainee is an Officer Cadre recruitment, IBPS does not provide a separate ESM vacancy quota under this category.

However, the absence of reservation does not mean that eligible former defence personnel cannot apply. The notification provides a **5-year relaxation in the upper age limit** for specified Ex-Servicemen and Commissioned Officers, including eligible Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECOs) and Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs), subject to prescribed conditions.

This article explains the current **IBPS PO Ex Servicemen Reservation 2026** position, the difference between reservation and age relaxation, eligibility conditions, latest vacancies, recruitment stages and documents required for candidates claiming the applicable Ex-Servicemen benefit.

IBPS PO Ex-Servicemen Reservation 2026 Highlights

Particular	Details
Exam Name	IBPS PO 2026 – CRP PO/MT-XVI
Post	Probationary Officer / Management Trainee
Recruiting Body	Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)
Recruitment Cadre	Officer Cadre
Latest Indicative Vacancies	7,565 as per 27 August 2026 update
Normal Age Limit	20 to 30 years as on 1 July 2026
Normal DOB Range	02.07.1996 to 01.07.2006, both dates inclusive
Ex-Servicemen Reservation	Not Available in Officers' Cadre
Applicable ESM Age Relaxation	5 Years , subject to notification conditions
Preliminary Examination	Conducted on 22 and 23 August 2026
Prelims Result	Awaited as of 10 September 2026
Main Examination	4 October 2026
Selection Process	Prelims → Mains → Personality Test → Interview → Provisional Allotment
Official Recruitment Cycle	CRP PO/MT-XVI – Vacancies of 2027–28

Is There Any Reservation for Ex-Servicemen in IBPS PO 2026?

No. There is no separate Ex-Servicemen reservation in IBPS PO 2026.

The IBPS PO/MT recruitment is for posts in the **Officers' Cadre**. The detailed notification specifically clarifies that **there is no reservation for Ex-Servicemen in the Officers' Cadre**.

Therefore, candidates applying only on the basis of Ex-Servicemen status do not receive:

- A separate ESM vacancy quota
- ESM-reserved Officer Cadre seats
- A separate ESM merit list
- A separate Ex-Servicemen-specific cutoff category

This provision must not be confused with the Ex-Servicemen reservation rules applicable to some other recruitments, including certain non-Officer posts.

Official Position: The CRP PO/MT-XVI notification states that there is **no reservation for Ex-Servicemen in the Officers' Cadre**.

An Ex-Serviceman can nevertheless apply for IBPS PO if all eligibility requirements are met and can claim the age relaxation specifically permitted under the notification.

Why Is Ex-Servicemen Reservation Not Available in IBPS PO?

IBPS PO recruits candidates as **Probationary Officers / Management Trainees** in participating public sector banks. These posts form part of the Officer Cadre.

The applicable recruitment notification does not provide an ESM reservation quota for Officer Cadre recruitment. Therefore, Ex-Servicemen status by itself does not create reserved PO/MT vacancies.

Candidates should remember that reservation rules vary depending on the recruitment and cadre. An ESM benefit available in a clerical or another Government recruitment cannot automatically be applied to IBPS PO.

The absence of an ESM reservation quota does **not** make Ex-Servicemen ineligible. Eligible candidates can compete through the normal IBPS PO recruitment process and claim the specific age relaxation allowed under CRP PO/MT-XVI.

IBPS PO Reservation and Age Relaxation Are Different

One of the most common misunderstandings regarding **IBPS PO Ex Servicemen Reservation** is treating age relaxation as reservation.

Reservation	Age Relaxation
Provides vacancies reserved for a notified category	Permits an eligible candidate to apply beyond the normal upper age limit
Changes category-wise vacancy distribution	Does not create additional reserved vacancies
Exists only where the recruitment rules specifically provide it	Can be granted independently of reservation
No ESM reservation in IBPS PO Officer Cadre	5-year relaxation for the eligible notified ESM / Commissioned Officer category

Therefore, the **5-year IBPS PO Ex Servicemen Age Relaxation** should not be described as an Ex-Servicemen reservation quota.

IBPS PO Ex Servicemen Age Relaxation 2026

For CRP PO/MT-XVI, the normal age requirement is:

Minimum Age: 20 years Maximum Age: 30 years Age calculated as on: 1 July 2026

A candidate under the normal age criteria must have been born **not earlier than 02.07.1996 and not later than 01.07.2006**, with both dates inclusive.

The notified Ex-Servicemen / Commissioned Officer category receives an upper-age relaxation of **5 years** subject to satisfying the prescribed conditions.

Age Rule	CRP PO/MT-XVI Position
Minimum Age	20 Years
Maximum Age	30 Years
Age Cut-off Date	1 July 2026
Normal Date of Birth Range	02.07.1996 to 01.07.2006, both inclusive
Eligible Ex-Servicemen / Commissioned Officer Relaxation	5 Years

Important: The 5-year concession is an **upper-age relaxation only**. It does not provide reserved PO vacancies. Eligibility depends on satisfying the exact military-service and release conditions specified in the IBPS notification.

IBPS PO Ex-Servicemen Age Relaxation Conditions

The 5-year upper-age relaxation applies to the category specified in the notification comprising **Ex-Servicemen and Commissioned Officers, including Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECOs) and Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs)**, who meet the prescribed conditions.

The candidate must have:

- Rendered at least **5 years of military service**.
- Been released on completion of assignment, subject to the conditions mentioned in the notification.
- Not been dismissed or discharged because of misconduct or inefficiency.
- Satisfied the notification provisions concerning release, including eligible cases where the assignment is due to be completed within the permitted period.
- Satisfied the applicable ceiling under Government guidelines.

The notification also covers the specified circumstances relating to physical disability attributable to military service or invalidment.

Candidates claiming this relaxation must be able to prove their eligibility through the documents prescribed for the recruitment process.

Can Age Relaxations Be Combined?

The CRP PO/MT-XVI rules state that relaxation in the upper age limit for **SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer)** candidates may be allowed on a cumulative basis with **only one** of the other applicable relaxation categories specified in the notification.

Therefore, candidates belonging to more than one category should rely on the exact cumulative-relaxation provision in the official notification rather than simply adding every available age concession.

Can Ex-Servicemen Apply for IBPS PO 2026?

Yes.

The fact that IBPS PO does not provide a separate Ex-Servicemen reservation quota does not stop eligible former defence personnel from applying.

The candidate must satisfy all applicable eligibility conditions, including:

- Nationality / citizenship requirements
- Educational qualification
- Age requirement after applicable relaxation
- Military-service and release conditions for claiming the ESM-related age relaxation
- Document verification requirements

The prescribed educational qualification is a **Degree (Graduation) in any discipline** from a University recognised by the Government of India or an equivalent qualification recognised by the Central Government.

For CRP PO/MT-XVI, the candidate must have the required Graduation result/documentation within the qualification cut-off prescribed in the detailed notification, which is **21 July 2026**.

IBPS PO Selection Process for Ex-Servicemen

Ex-Servicemen do not receive exemption from the normal IBPS PO recruitment stages merely because of ESM status.

The CRP PO/MT-XVI process consists of:

1. **Online Preliminary Examination**
2. **Online Main Examination**
3. **Personality Test**
4. **Common Interview**
5. **Provisional Allotment**

The Personality Test is a **self-report assessment**. It is **non-qualifying**, but appearing in it is mandatory for candidates who are eligible to proceed to the Interview. The personality profile generated through the test is placed before the Interview panel.

Final merit is determined using the scores of the **Main Examination and Interview** in the prescribed **80:20 weightage**. Preliminary Examination marks do not count towards final allotment.

An Ex-Serviceman must therefore clear the applicable examination and selection requirements in the same manner as other eligible candidates, subject to any independently applicable category provisions.

Current IBPS PO 2026 Status for Ex-Servicemen Candidates

Event	Current Status as on 10 September 2026
Detailed Notification	Released on 1 July 2026
Initial Indicative Vacancies	6,715
Vacancy Update – 20 July 2026	Increased to 7,365
Latest Vacancy Update – 27 August 2026	Increased to 7,565
Online Registration	1 July to 26 July 2026 — Closed
Application Edit Window	29–30 July 2026 — Closed
Prelims Call Letter	Released on 14 August 2026
Preliminary Examination	Conducted on 22 and 23 August 2026
Preliminary Examination Result	Awaited as of 10 September 2026
Main Examination	Scheduled for 4 October 2026
Main Examination Result	Scheduled in the recruitment timeline for November 2026
Personality Test	Scheduled in the recruitment timeline for November 2026
Interview	Scheduled in the recruitment timeline for November / December 2026
Provisional Allotment	Scheduled in the recruitment timeline for January 2027

Result Alert: No exact IBPS PO Prelims Result 2026 date should be treated as official until IBPS publishes the result notice/link. The official recruitment timeline specifies **September 2026** for the Preliminary Examination result.

Latest IBPS PO Vacancy Update and Ex-Servicemen Reservation

The CRP PO/MT-XVI recruitment originally carried **6,715 indicative vacancies**. IBPS subsequently updated the vacancy position.

The figure increased to **7,365** through the July update and was revised again on **27 August 2026**. The latest indicative total is **7,565 vacancies**.

The latest revision does **not** introduce an Ex-Servicemen quota for the PO/MT Officer Cadre. Therefore, the increase in total vacancies should not be interpreted as the creation of separate ESM vacancies.

Can Ex-Servicemen Claim Reservation After Joining Civil Employment?

The IBPS notification contains a general Ex-Servicemen provision dealing with candidates who apply for multiple vacancies before joining civil employment.

Broadly, an Ex-Serviceman who has already availed the benefit of Ex-Servicemen reservation for obtaining civil employment may, subject to Government rules and the prescribed declaration/undertaking requirements, seek the benefit for subsequent employment applications made before joining that civil employment.

However, this provision operates only in a recruitment where an Ex-Servicemen reservation benefit is otherwise available.

It does **not** create an ESM reservation quota in IBPS PO because the PO/MT notification expressly states that Ex-Servicemen reservation is not available in the Officers' Cadre.

What Benefits Are Available to Ex-Servicemen in IBPS PO 2026?

Although there is no separate **IBPS PO ESM Reservation 2026** quota for the Officer Cadre, eligible candidates can still receive benefits specifically permitted by the notification.

These include:

- **5-year upper-age relaxation** for candidates satisfying the notified Ex-Servicemen / Commissioned Officer conditions.
- Eligibility to compete for PO/MT vacancies when all other eligibility conditions are satisfied.
- Recognition of eligible military-service status for the purpose of applicable age relaxation.
- Ability to claim an independently applicable SC/ST/OBC-NCL/PwBD benefit where permitted by the notification and supported by valid documents.

Ex-Servicemen status alone should not be treated as an Officer Cadre reservation category.

Categories Receiving Reservation in IBPS PO 2026

Reservation in IBPS PO/MT is implemented according to the Government of India policy and the provisions contained in the detailed notification.

Category	Reservation Position
Scheduled Caste (SC)	Applicable as per notified Government reservation provisions
Scheduled Tribe (ST)	Applicable as per notified Government reservation provisions
Other Backward Classes – Non-Creamy Layer (OBC-NCL)	Applicable as per notified Government reservation provisions
Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)	Applicable as per notified Government reservation provisions
Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD)	Horizontal reservation applies as provided in the notification
Ex-Servicemen as an Officer-Cadre ESM category	No separate ESM reservation

An Ex-Serviceman who independently belongs to another recognised reservation category may claim that category subject to satisfying the relevant conditions and producing valid supporting certificates.

IBPS PO Ex Servicemen Reservation vs IBPS Clerk ESM Reservation

Candidates should never copy the Ex-Servicemen rules applicable to clerical recruitment and apply them directly to IBPS PO.

Point	IBPS PO / MT	IBPS Clerk / CSA
Cadre	Officer Cadre	Clerical / Customer Service Associate Cadre
ESM Reservation	No Ex-Servicemen reservation in Officers' Cadre	ESM/DESM reservation provisions apply as specified in the relevant CSA notification
PO ESM Age Rule	5-year relaxation for the eligible notified Ex-Servicemen / Commissioned Officer category	Different ESM age-relaxation provisions apply under the CSA notification
Can PO and CSA ESM Rules Be Interchanged?	No	

This distinction is particularly important because the eligibility framework for Ex-Servicemen varies according to the cadre and recruitment notification.

Important Documents for IBPS PO Ex-Servicemen

The detailed CRP PO/MT-XVI notification prescribes specific documents for an Ex-Serviceman candidate at the Interview/document-verification stage.

An Ex-Serviceman candidate is required to produce:

- **Service Book or Discharge Book**, as applicable.
- **Pension Payment Order (PPO)**.
- **Documentary proof of the rank last or presently held**, including substantive as well as acting rank, as applicable.
- For candidates still in defence service, a **certificate from the competent authority** confirming that they will be relieved from defence services on or before **20 July 2027**.
- Valid Interview Call Letter and system-generated application form, when called for Interview.
- Proof of Date of Birth.
- Valid photo identity proof.
- Graduation marksheets/certificates and required proof of qualification.
- Applicable SC/ST/OBC-NCL/EWS/PwBD certificate if another category benefit is being independently claimed.
- Any other eligibility document prescribed by IBPS or the participating bank.

Important Document Rule: The detailed notification states that candidates who are still in defence service must submit the competent-authority certificate showing that they will be relieved on or before **20.07.2027**. Failure to produce the required certificate/documentation can lead to disqualification.

Common Misconceptions About IBPS PO Ex-Servicemen Reservation

Myth 1: Every bank recruitment gives Ex-Servicemen reservation.

Fact: No. Reservation provisions depend on the recruitment and cadre. IBPS PO/MT is an Officer Cadre recruitment, and the notification specifically states that there is no Ex-Servicemen reservation in the Officers' Cadre.

Myth 2: A 5-year age relaxation means a 5-year reservation benefit.

Fact: No. Age relaxation only changes the upper age eligibility limit. It does not create reserved vacancies.

Myth 3: IBPS PO has a separate Ex-Servicemen cutoff.

Fact: There is no separate ESM reservation category in the PO/MT Officer Cadre and therefore no separate ESM-reserved vacancy/cutoff framework. A candidate independently belonging to another applicable category is governed by that category's provisions.

Myth 4: Defence service guarantees selection as an IBPS PO.

Fact: No. Eligible candidates must qualify the applicable recruitment stages and satisfy all eligibility/document requirements.

Myth 5: Defence service removes the Graduation requirement.

Fact: No. Ex-Servicemen must satisfy the educational qualification prescribed for CRP PO/MT-XVI.

Myth 6: Every retired defence candidate automatically receives 5 years of age relaxation.

Fact: No. The 5-year relaxation applies only to candidates who fall within the category and satisfy the military-service, release and other conditions specified in the notification.

IBPS PO Ex Servicemen Reservation 2026 - Key Takeaways

- There is **no separate reservation for Ex-Servicemen in the IBPS PO Officers' Cadre.**
- Eligible Ex-Servicemen / specified Commissioned Officers may receive **5 years of upper-age relaxation.**
- The normal age limit is **20-30 years as on 1 July 2026.**
- The normal DOB range is **02.07.1996 to 01.07.2006**, both inclusive.
- The latest indicative IBPS PO vacancy figure is **7,565 as per the 27 August 2026 update.**
- IBPS PO Prelims was conducted on **22 and 23 August 2026.**
- As of **10 September 2026**, the Prelims result is still awaited.
- The Main Examination is scheduled for **4 October 2026.**
- The selection process includes Prelims, Mains, mandatory non-qualifying Personality Test, Interview and Provisional Allotment.
- There is no separate Ex-Servicemen Officer-Cadre vacancy quota or ESM-specific merit list.

Official IBPS PO 2026 Resources

- **CRP PO/MT-XVI Official Updates**
- **IBPS PO/MT-XVI Detailed Notification**
- **IBPS PO Updated Vacancies - 27 August 2026**
- **IBPS Exam Calendar 2026-27**

IBPS PO Ex Servicemen Reservation 2026 - Conclusion

The answer to the question “**Is there any Ex-Servicemen reservation in IBPS PO 2026?**” is **No**. The CRP PO/MT-XVI notification clearly provides that there is **no reservation for Ex-Servicemen in the Officers' Cadre**.

However, specified eligible Ex-Servicemen and Commissioned Officers, including eligible ECOs and SSCOs, can claim a **5-year relaxation in the upper age limit** if they meet the military-service, release and other conditions prescribed in the notification.

Candidates must therefore distinguish between an **ESM reservation quota** and an **ESM age-relaxation benefit**. The former is not available for IBPS PO Officer Cadre recruitment, while the latter is available to eligible candidates under the notified conditions.

As of **10 September 2026**, IBPS PO Prelims has already been conducted, the Prelims result is awaited, the latest indicative vacancies stand at **7,565**, and the Main Examination is scheduled for **4 October 2026**.

Official Advice: Candidates should rely on the latest CRP PO/MT-XVI notices published at **ibps.in** for the final position on reservation, age relaxation, result dates, vacancies, eligibility and document requirements. Any future corrigendum or notice issued by IBPS will supersede information published earlier.

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