UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

A Century Of Meritocracy And Inclusion

100 MILESTONES

(1926 - 2026)






UPSC
A CENTURY OF MERITOCRACY AND INCLUSION

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संघ लोक सेवा आयोग
UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

MESSAGE



A hundred years is a long journey for any institution. For an institution entrusted with the selection of those who serve the Nation, it is much more than a measure of time. It is a century of changing India, changing aspirations and changing expectations, while holding steadfast to an enduring principle: that public service must rest on merit, fairness and integrity.

This volume is being released to commemorate the centenary of the Union Public Service Commission, marking a hundred years since the establishment of the first Public Service Commission in India on 1 October 1926. The formal institutional journey of the Commission, known as the Federal Public Service Commission before Independence, must, however, be viewed against a longer history of organised civil service recruitment. From its beginnings within the framework of colonial administration, the institution evolved after Independence into an independent constitutional body under the Constitution of India, with the mandate under Articles 315 to 323 to discharge its responsibilities with independence, impartiality and fairness.

Over these hundred years, the Commission has witnessed, and itself reflected, an extraordinary transformation in the scale and character of the nation it serves. Yet, through these changes, one expectation has remained constant: that entry into the higher civil services should be governed by an impartial, fair and credible process.

That trust is perhaps the Commission's greatest achievement.

This volume, comprising 100 milestones from the Commission's journey, seeks to capture that remarkable evolution. The milestones are not merely dates, examinations, reforms or administrative developments. Taken together, they tell a larger story of an institution that has continuously adapted to the needs of a changing nation while preserving the principles that give it legitimacy.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the UPSC journey is that the institution has had to evolve without losing its character. Technology has transformed examinations. Social and demographic changes have transformed the profile of aspirants. The nature of governance itself has changed profoundly. Yet the fundamental principles of merit, equal opportunity, confidentiality, impartiality and fairness remain as relevant today as ever.

An institution that has endured for a hundred years does so not because it resists change, but because it knows what must never change.

The volume also pays tribute to the generations of Members, officers and staff of the Commission, and to the countless public servants across the administrative, defence, engineering, medical, scientific and economic services whom the Commission has had the privilege of selecting for service to the nation.

May this volume serve both as a record of a remarkable century and as an inspiration for the century ahead.

Dr. Ajay Kumar

Chairman, UPSC

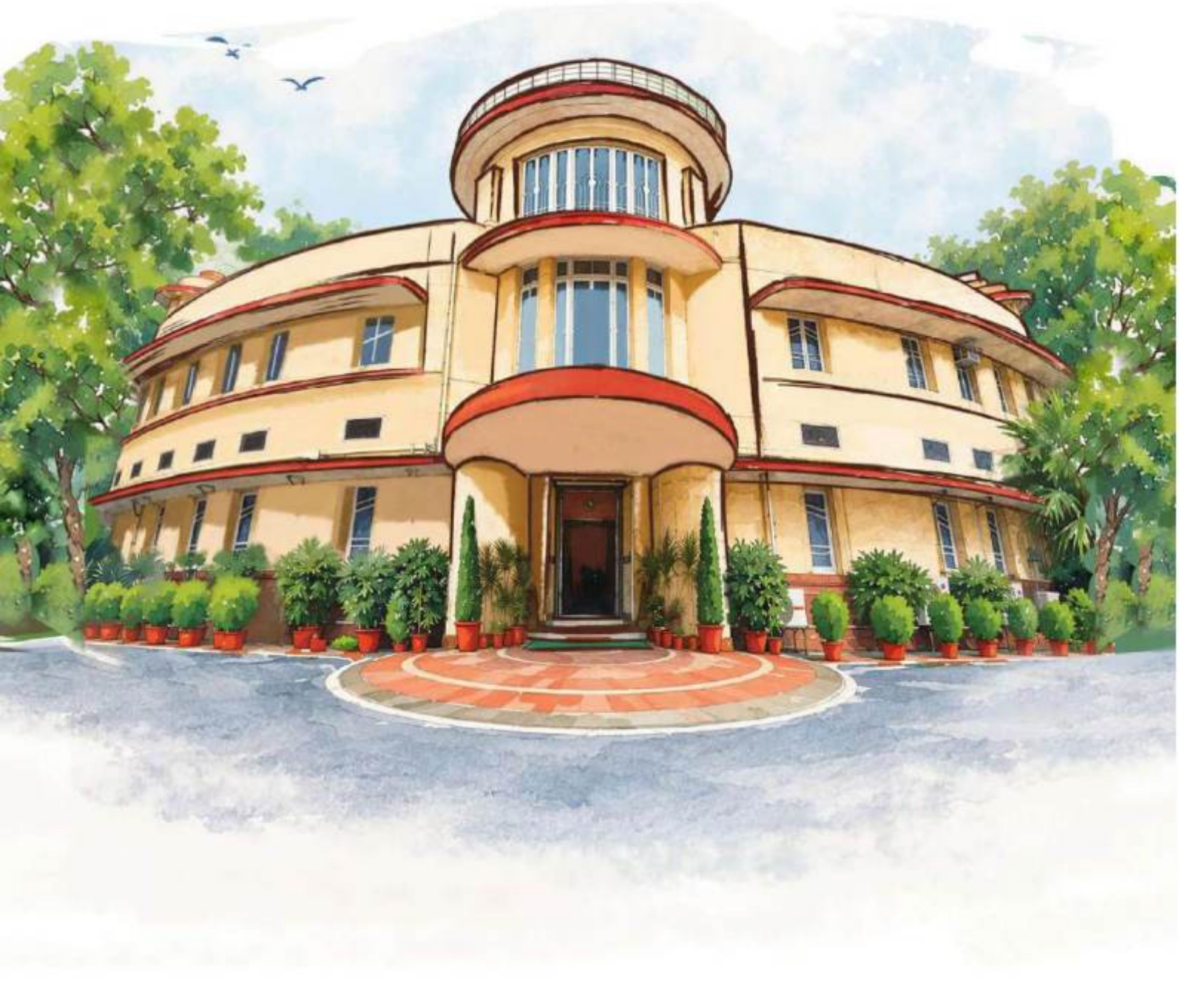
Since its inception, UPSC has been a symbol of transparency, fairness, and meritocracy, ensuring the selection of the most deserving candidates through a rigorous and impartial process for senior-level positions in Government services.

- Dr. Ajay Kumar, Chairman, UPSC

Prelude to a Century

The Making of the Commission

The origins of the merit-based Public Administration in India traces back to 1855, when the Indian Civil Service Examination was instituted in London, replacing the East India Company's system of patronage-based nomination with open competition. This established the principle that entry into the higher administrative services would be determined by merit rather than influence or connections. In 1864, Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to succeed in this examination. The Government of India Act, 1919, enacted pursuant to the Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms, provided for the establishment of a Public Service Commission to oversee recruitment to the Public Services in India. The Act divided the Imperial Services into the All India Services and Central Services. Pursuant to demand of nationalist leaders for conducting the Indian Civil Services Exam in India, in 1922, the examination was held for the first time at Allahabad, alongside the existing London centre, widening access for Indian candidates. In 1924, the Lee Commission, chaired by Lord Lee of Fareham, recommended the immediate establishment of a statutory Public Service Commission as envisaged under the Government of India Act, 1919, to ensure merit-based recruitment with greater Indian representation.



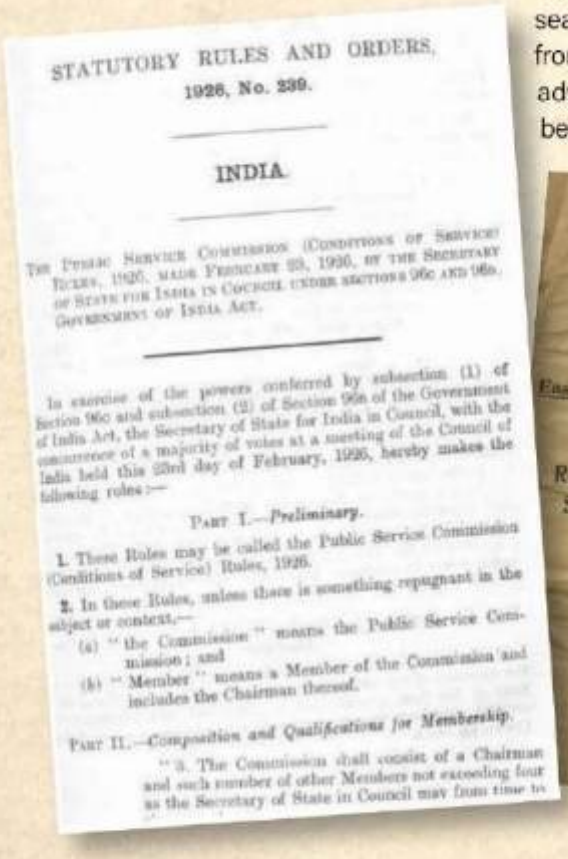


The Journey: 1926-2026

1926

Birth of the Commission: First Public Service Commission of India

The institutional journey of the Union Public Service Commission began on 01 October 1926, with the establishment of India's first Public Service Commission, pursuant to the Government of India Act, 1919 and the recommendations of the Lee Commission (1924). Sir Ross Barker, a member of the Home Civil Service of the United Kingdom, was appointed as its first Chairman, assisted by four other members. The Commission was established under the Public Service Commission (Functions) Rules, 1926, framed on 23 February 1926 under Sections 96B and 96C of the Government of India Act, 1919. Its Chairman and Members were appointed by the Secretary of State for India in London, and not by any authority in India; its functions were assigned by rules and could be varied by rules, and its role remained advisory, the obligation of the Government to consult it being neither comprehensive nor secured against alteration; in form, it remained an instrument of imperial administration. This limitation drew sustained criticism from the leaders of the freedom movement and highlighted the need for a more effective system of public service recruitment, ultimately contributing to the reforms introduced under the Government of India Act, 1935. Yet a permanent body charged with recruitment to the public services now existed in India, seated and staffed in India, and separated in principle from the departments upon whose appointments it advised. 1 October 1926 is accordingly treated as the beginning of the institutional history recorded.



STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

1926, No. 239.

INDIA.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) RULES, 1926, MADE FEBRUARY 23, 1926, BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL UNDER SECTIONS 96C AND 96B, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT.

In exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (1) of Section 96c and subsection (2) of Section 96b of the Government of India Act, the Secretary of State for India in Council, with the concurrence of a majority of votes at a meeting of the Council of India held this 23rd day of February, 1926, hereby makes the following rules:—

PART I.—*Preliminary.*

1. These Rules may be called the Public Service Commission (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1926.

2. In these Rules, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "the Commission" means the Public Service Commission; and

(b) "Member" means a Member of the Commission and includes the Chairman thereof.

PART II.—*Composition and Qualifications for Membership.*

"3. The Commission shall consist of a Chairman and such number of other Members not exceeding four as the Secretary of State in Council may from time to



East India (Civil Services in India

Report of the Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India

2

1926

Metcalfe House, Delhi – The First Headquarters

The newly constituted Commission was initially housed at Metcalfe House, Delhi, which was built in 1835 by Sir Thomas Metcalfe. It became the Commission's first operational base and remained associated with civil service administration well into the post-Independence period, when it also housed the All India Administrative Service Training School.





3

1928

ICS Examination Venue Shifted from Allahabad to Delhi

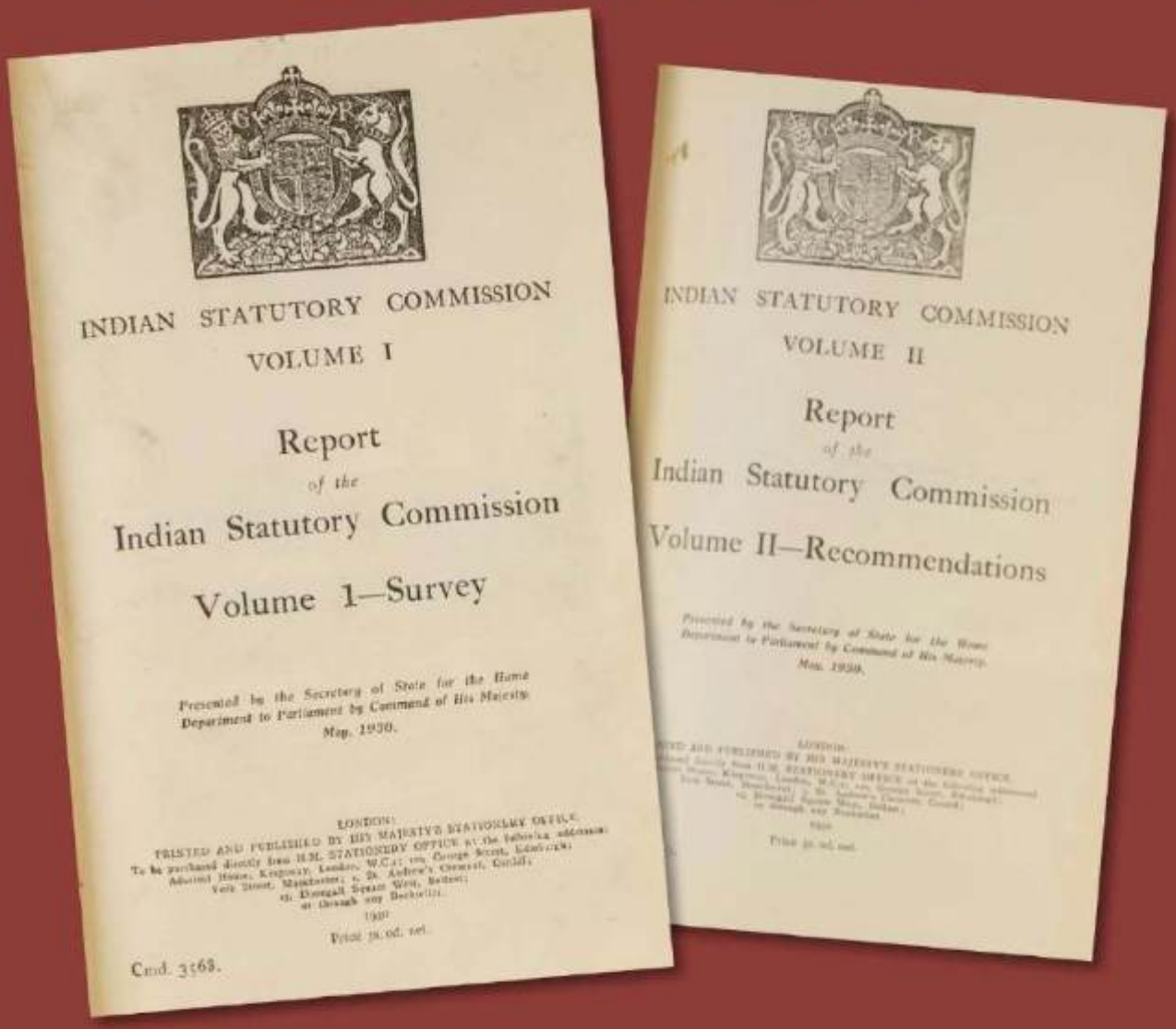
In 1922, the ICS examination was held in India for the first time at Allahabad, alongside the examination in London. In 1928, the Indian examination centre was shifted from Allahabad to Delhi, the newly established capital of British India. The intention was that the Indian examination would be the main avenue of Indian recruitment.



1930

Simon Commission Report – Enumeration of All-India Services

The Report of the Indian Statutory Commission (the Simon Commission), published in 1930, examined the constitutional and administrative arrangements in British India, including the organisation and recruitment of the public services. In its consideration of the services, the Commission recommended the continuance of the two Services - Indian Civil Service (ICS) and Indian Police Service (IPS)—on an All-India basis. The Report also considered the position of other services, including the Indian Forest Service, Indian Educational Service, Agricultural Service, Veterinary Service, Medical Service and Engineering Service, in the context of the proposed constitutional reforms. The Report thus reaffirmed the importance of All-India recruitment for the key services.



INDIAN STATUTORY COMMISSION

VOLUME I

Report

of the

Indian Statutory Commission

Volume I—Survey

Presented by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to Parliament by Command of His Majesty

May, 1930.

LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;

or through any Bookseller.

1930

Price 3s. 0d. net.

Cmd. 3568.

INDIAN STATUTORY COMMISSION

VOLUME II

Report

of the

Indian Statutory Commission

Volume II—Recommendations

Presented by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to Parliament by Command of His Majesty

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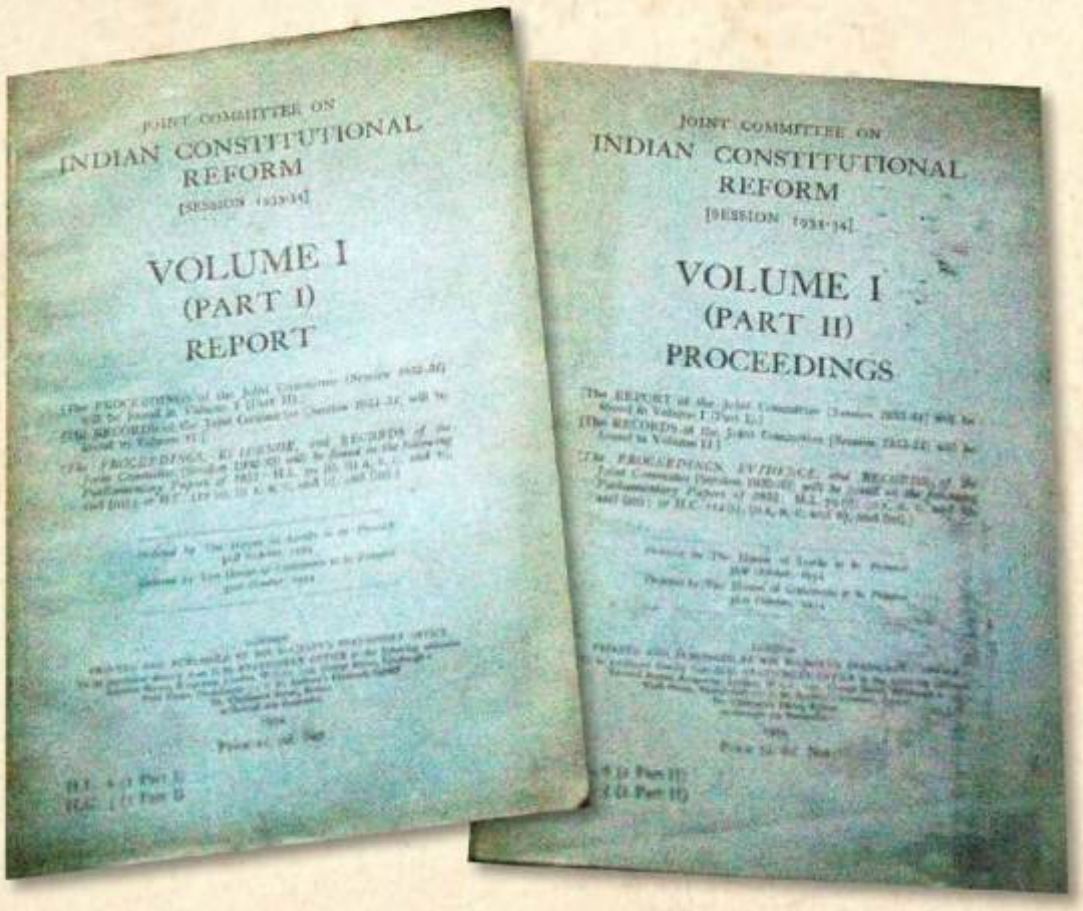
1930

Price 3s. 0d. net

1933

White Paper on Constitutional Reform – A Federal Vision

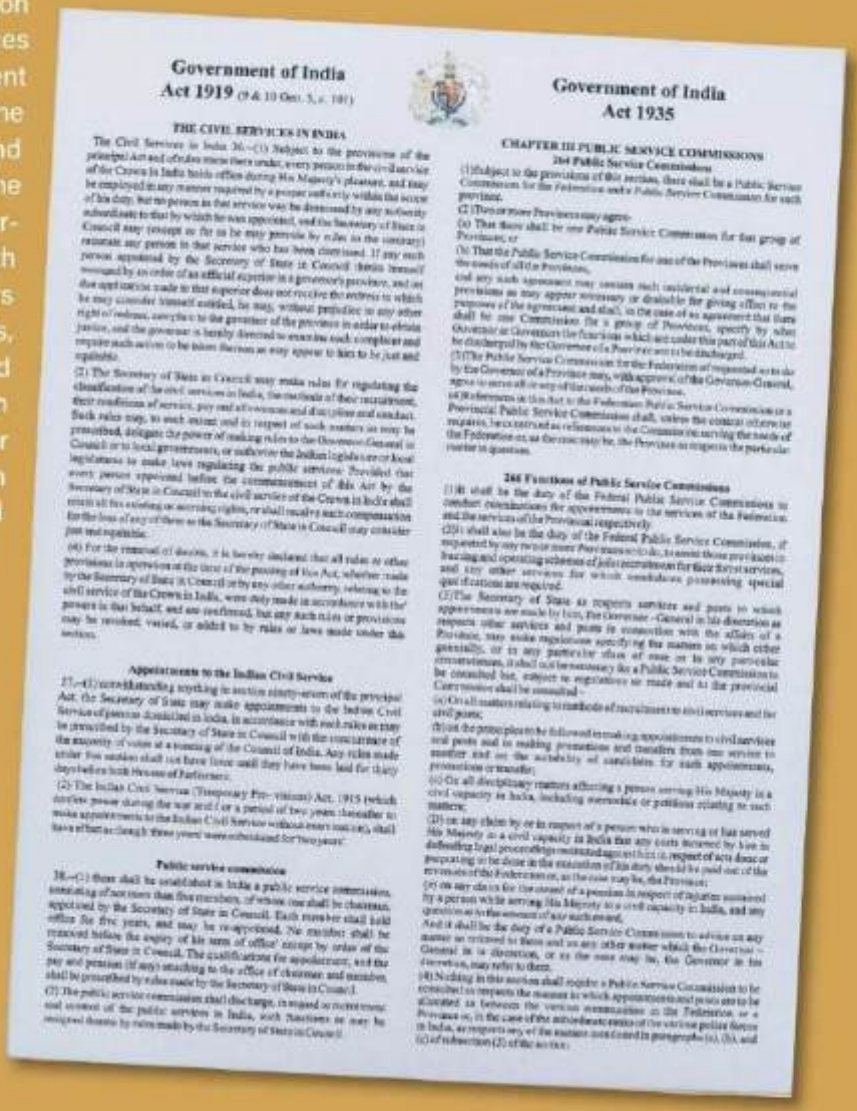
The White Paper on Constitutional Reform, issued in March 1933, provided a blueprint for structure of Public Service Commissions. It envisaged a Federal Public Service Commission for the Federation and a Provincial Public Service Commission for each Province or Group of Provinces. These proposals were further endorsed by the Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform (1934) and incorporated into the Government of India Act, 1935. This marked an early blueprint for the recruitment architecture that independent India would later adopt under Articles 315–323 of the Constitution.



1935

Government of India Act, 1935 – Strengthening the Commission

The Government of India Act, 1935 marked a significant step towards Indian self-government. The Act envisaged a Public Service Commission for the Federation and a Provincial Public Service Commission for each Province or group of Provinces to oversee civil service recruitment and administration. It transferred the authority to appoint the Chairman and Members of the Commissions from the Secretary of State to the Governor-General, and made consultation with the Commission mandatory on matters relating to recruitment, appointments, promotions, disciplinary cases and service rules. These provisions laid an important institutional foundation for the Union Public Service Commission framework that was later incorporated into the Constitution of India.



Government of India
Act 1919 (9 & 10 Geo. 5, c. 101)

THE CIVIL SERVICES IN INDIA

The Civil Services in India 30.—(1) Subject to the provisions of the principal Act and of rules made thereunder, every person in the civil service of the Crown in India holds office during His Majesty's pleasure, and may be employed in any manner required by a proper authority within the scope of his duty, but no person in that service may be dismissed by any authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed, and the Secretary of State in Council may (except as far as he may provide by rules to the contrary) reinstate any person in that service who has been dismissed. If any such person appointed by the Secretary of State in Council thinks himself wronged by an order of an official superior in a governor's province, and on due application made to that superior does not receive the redress to which he may consider himself entitled, he may, without prejudice to any other right of redress, complain to the governor of the province in order to obtain justice, and the governor is hereby directed to examine such complaint and require such action to be taken thereon as may appear to him to be just and equitable.

(2) The Secretary of State in Council may make rules for regulating the classification of the civil services in India, the methods of their recruitment, their conditions of service, pay and allowances and discipline and conduct. Such rules may, to such extent and in respect of such matters as may be prescribed, delegate the power of making rules to the Governor-General in Council or to local governments, or authorise the Indian legislature or local legislatures to make laws regulating the public services: Provided that every person appointed before the commencement of this Act by the Secretary of State in Council to the civil service of the Crown in India shall retain all his existing or accruing rights, or shall receive such compensation for the loss of any of them as the Secretary of State in Council may consider just and equitable.

(4) For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that all rules or other provisions in operation at the time of the passing of this Act, whether made by the Secretary of State in Council or by any other authority, relating to the civil service of the Crown in India, were duly made in accordance with the powers in that behalf, and are confirmed, but any such rules or provisions may be revoked, varied, or added to by rules or laws made under this section.

Appointments to the Indian Civil Service

17.—(1) Notwithstanding anything in section ninety-seven of the principal Act, the Secretary of State may make appointments to the Indian Civil Service of persons domiciled in India, in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State in Council with the concurrence of the majority of votes at a meeting of the Council of India. Any rules made under this section shall not have force until they have been laid for thirty days before both Houses of Parliament.

(2) The Indian Civil Service (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1915 (which confers power during the war and for a period of two years thereafter to make appointments to the Indian Civil Service without examination), shall have effect as though "three years" were substituted for "two years".

Public service commission

38.—(1) There shall be established in India a public service commission, consisting of not more than five members, of whom one shall be chairman, appointed by the Secretary of State in Council. Each member shall hold office for five years, and may be re-appointed. No member shall be removed before the expiry of his term of office except by order of the Secretary of State in Council. The qualifications for appointment, and the pay and pension (if any) attaching to the office of chairman and members, shall be prescribed by rules made by the Secretary of State in Council.

(2) The public service commission shall discharge, in regard to recruitment and conduct of the public services in India, such functions as may be assigned thereto by rules made by the Secretary of State in Council.

Government of India
Act 1935

CHAPTER III PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONS

264 Public Service Commissions

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, there shall be a Public Service Commission for the Federation and a Public Service Commission for each province.

(2) Two or more Provinces may agree—

(a) That there shall be one Public Service Commission for that group of Provinces; or

(b) That the Public Service Commission for one of the Provinces shall serve the needs of all the Provinces,

and any such agreement may contain such incidental and consequential provisions as may appear necessary or desirable for giving effect to the purposes of the agreement and shall, in the case of an agreement that there shall be one Commission for a group of Provinces, specify by what Governor or Governors the functions which are under this part of this Act to be discharged by the Governor of a Province are to be discharged.

(3) The Public Service Commission for the Federation if requested so to do by the Governor of a Province may, with the approval of the Governor-General, agree to serve all or any of the needs of the Province.

(4) References in this Act to the Federation Public Service Commission or a Provincial Public Service Commission shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as references to the Commission serving the needs of the Federation or, as the case may be, the Provinces as respects the particular matter in question.

265 Functions of Public Service Commissions

(1) It shall be the duty of the Federal Public Service Commission to conduct examinations for appointments to the services of the Federation and the services of the Provinces respectively.

(2) It shall also be the duty of the Federal Public Service Commission, if requested by any two or more Provincial Councils so to do, to assist those provinces in framing and operating schemes of joint recruitment for their State services, and any other services for which candidates possessing special qualifications are required.

(3) The Secretary of State as respects services and posts to which appointments are made by him, the Governor-General in his discretion as respects other services and posts in connection with the affairs of a Province, may make regulations specifying the matters on which either generally, or in any particular class of case or in any particular circumstances, it shall not be necessary for a Public Service Commission to be consulted but, subject to regulations so made and to the provisions of this Act, the Provincial Commission shall be consulted—

(a) On all matters relating to methods of recruitment to civil services and for civil posts;

(b) on the principles to be followed in making appointments to civil services and posts and in making promotions and transfers from one service to another and on the suitability of candidates for such appointments, promotions or transfer;

(c) On all disciplinary matters affecting a person serving His Majesty in a civil capacity in India, including memorials or petitions relating to such matters;

(d) on any claim by or in respect of a person who is serving or has served His Majesty in a civil capacity in India that any costs incurred by him in defending legal proceedings instituted against him in respect of acts done or purporting to be done in the execution of his duty should be paid out of the revenues of the Federation or, as the case may be, the Province;

(e) on any claim for the award of a pension in respect of injuries sustained by a person while serving His Majesty in a civil capacity in India, and any question as to the amount of any such award,

And it shall be the duty of a Public Service Commission to advise on any matter so referred to them and on any other matter which the Governor-General in in discretion, or as the case may be, the Governor in his discretion, may refer to them.

(4) Nothing in this section shall require a Public Service Commission to be consulted as respects the manner in which appointments and posts are to be allocated as between the various communities in the Federation or a Province or, in the case of the subordinate ranks of the various police forces in India, as respects any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (3) of the section.

7

1937

Renamed Federal Public Service Commission

With the Government of India Act, 1935 coming into force on 1 April 1937, the Public Service Commission became the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), in accordance with the provisions of the Act. In terms of the provisions, Provincial Public Service Commissions were also set up for the first time to independently manage recruitment to provincial services.



Group Photo: Federal Public Service Commission 1940

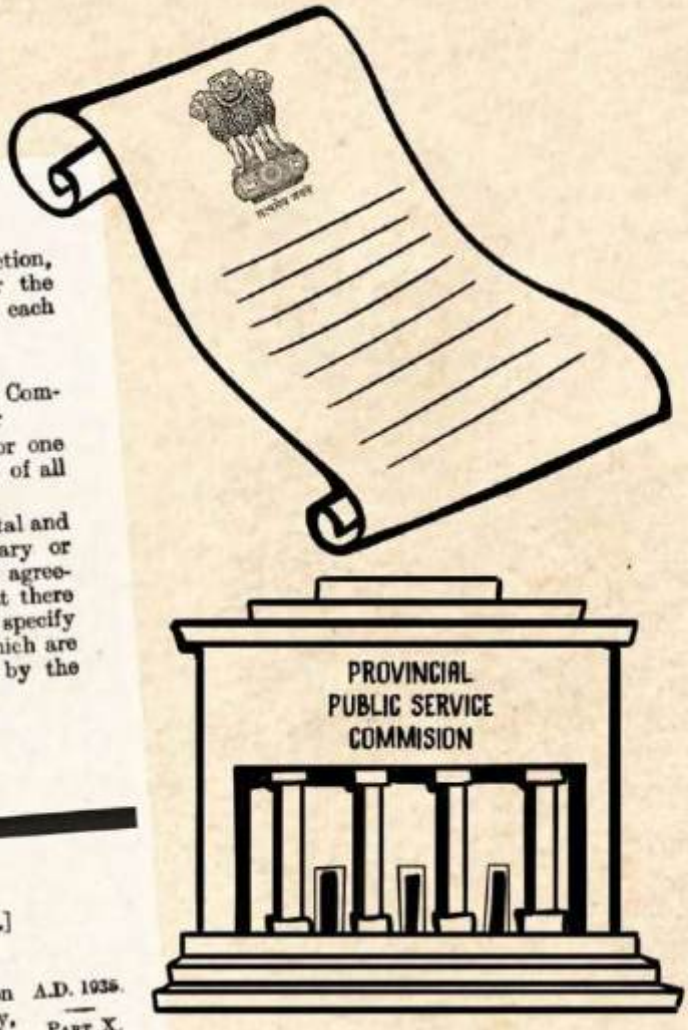
1937

8

Establishment of Provincial Public Service Commissions

Section 264 of the Government of India Act, 1935 provided for the establishment of a Public Service Commission for the Federation and a separate Commission for each Province, while also permitting two or more Provinces to agree to have a common Commission. Under Section 266, Provincial Public Service Commissions were entrusted with conducting examinations for appointments to the services of the respective Provinces.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935



CHAPTER III.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONS.

Public Service Commissions.

264.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, there shall be a Public Service Commission for the Federation and a Public Service Commission for each Province.

(2) Two or more Provinces may agree—

(*a*) that there shall be one Public Service Commission for that group of Provinces; or

(*b*) that the Public Service Commission for one of the Provinces shall serve the needs of all the Provinces,

and any such agreement may contain such incidental and consequential provisions as may appear necessary or desirable for giving effect to the purposes of the agreement and shall, in the case of an agreement that there shall be one Commission for a group of Provinces, specify by what Governor or Governors the functions which are under this Part of this Act to be discharged by the Governor of a Province are to be discharged.

162

[26 GEO. 5.] *Government of India Act*, 1935. [CH. 2.]

A.D. 1935.

PART X. —*cont.*

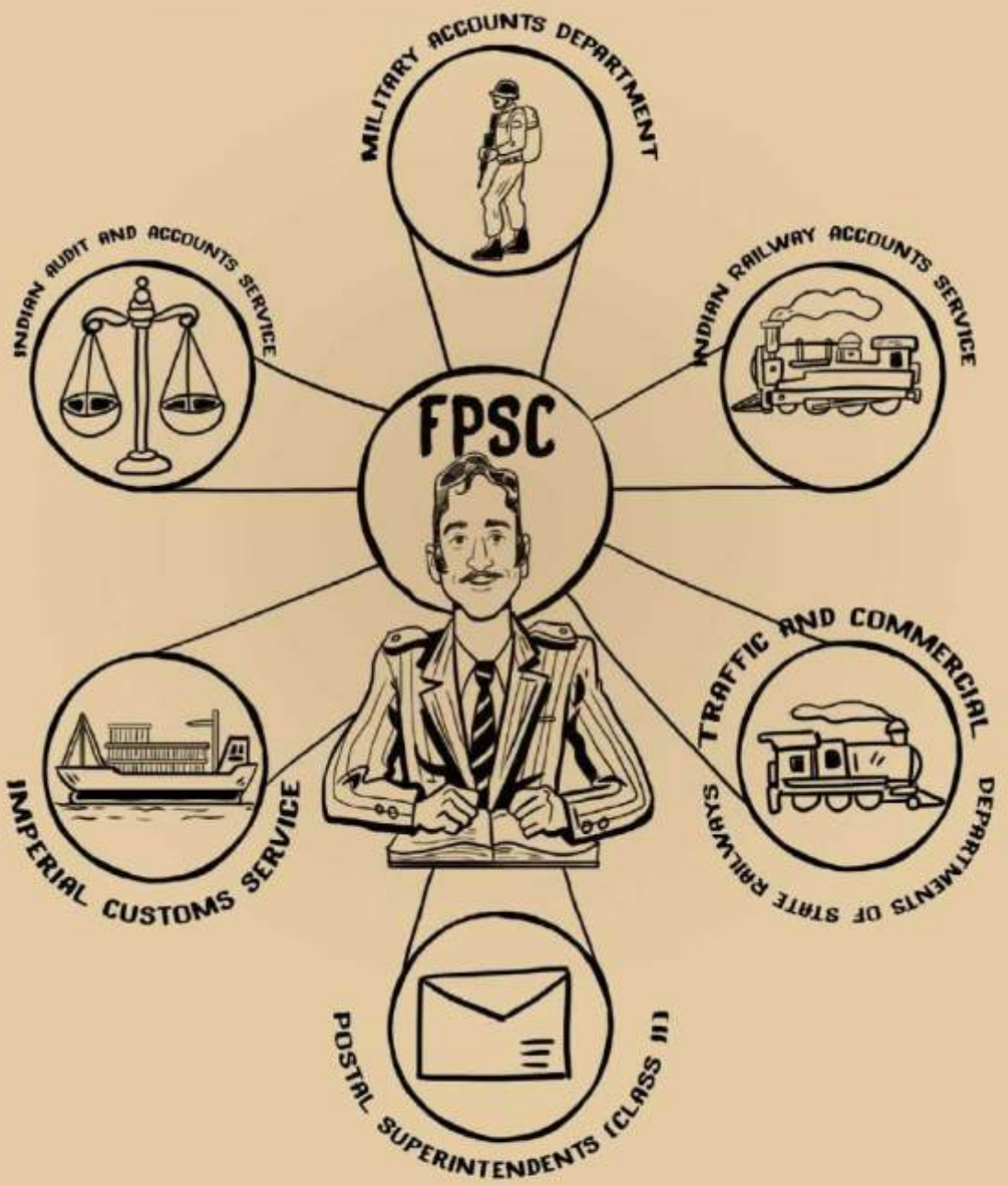
(3) The Public Service Commission for the Federation if requested so to do by the Governor of a Province may, with the approval of the Governor-General, agree to serve all or any of the needs of the Province.

(4) References in this Act to the Federal Public Service Commission or a Provincial Public Service Commission shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as references to the Commission serving the needs of the Federation or, as the case may be, the Province as respects the particular matter in question.

1938

Expansion to Multi-Service Recruitment

The FPSC began conducting Combined Competitive Examinations for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Military Accounts Department, Indian Railway Accounts Service, Imperial Customs Service, Postal Superintendents (Class II), and the Traffic and Commercial Departments of State Railways—marking an evolution toward unified, multi-service recruitment.

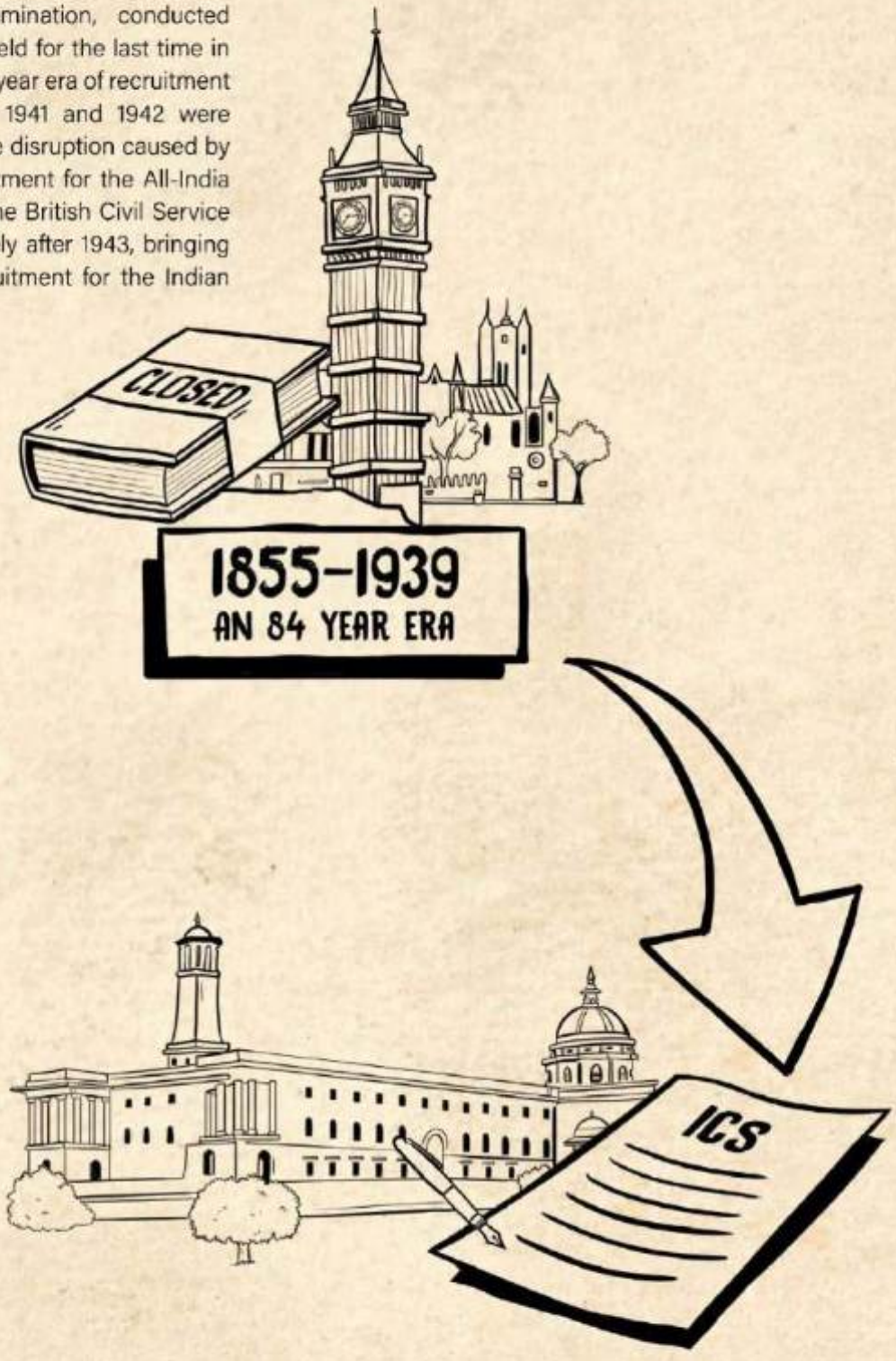


10

1939

Last ICS Examination Held in London

The London-based ICS examination, conducted continuously since 1855, was held for the last time in 1939, marking the end of an 84-year era of recruitment in London. Officers for 1940, 1941 and 1942 were nominated directly owing to the disruption caused by the Second World War. Recruitment for the All-India and Central Services held by the British Civil Service Commission stopped completely after 1943, bringing the era of London-based recruitment for the Indian Civil Service to a close.

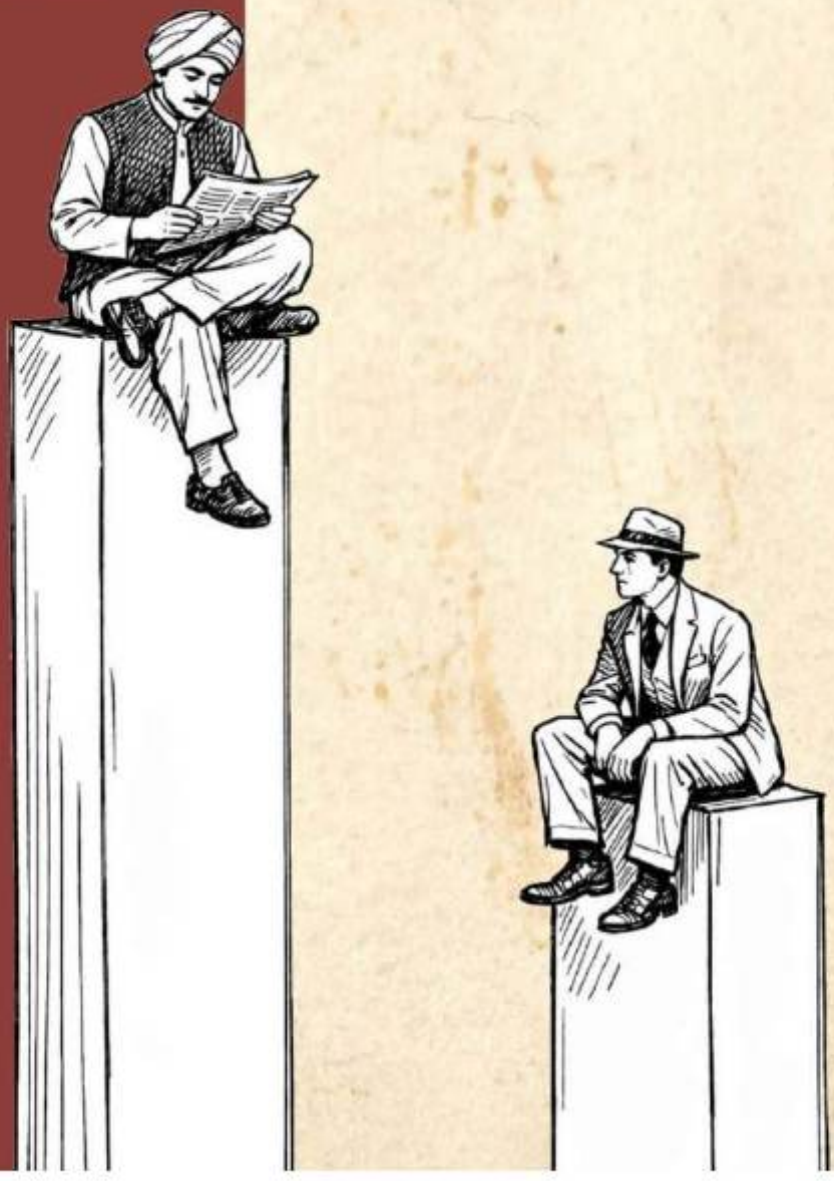


11

1940

First Time Indians Outnumber British Officers in the ICS

Indian representation in the ICS grew steadily, from 52 Indian officers in 1907 and 78 (of 1,255) in 1919 to the point where, by Jan 01, 1940, there were 625 Indians as against 575 Europeans, outnumbering British officers in the service for the first time. The shift happened in response to the demands of Indian nationalist leaders and the widening of examination access after 1922; a comparable trend was recorded in the Indian Police, to which more Indians were appointed from 1939 onwards.



1946



Home Department Memorandum on Departmental Promotion Committees

The Home Department issued a landmark memorandum on 17th June 1946 introducing Departmental Promotion Committees (DPC) in government departments and emphasising the active association of the FPSC in promotion matters. The measure extended the Commission's role beyond initial recruitment into the career progression of officers, strengthening merit, impartiality and uniformity in promotional appointments — a function the UPSC continues to discharge today.

13

1947

First Indian Chairman of the FPSC

Shri. H.K. Kripalani was appointed the first Indian Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) as India approached Independence, marking the transfer of leadership of the institution into Indian hands. He served as Chairman from 1 April 1947 to 13 January 1949, presiding over the Commission during the crucial period of transition from colonial rule to independent India.



Shri. H.K. Kripalani



1947

The Origin of Civil Services Day

On 21 April 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, independent India's first Home Minister, addressed the first batch of civil service probationers at Metcalfe House, New Delhi. In his inspiring address, he emphasised the values of integrity, neutrality and service to the nation, and described the civil services as the "steel frame of India." His address symbolised a new era of national service and democratic accountability. The day is commemorated annually as Civil Services Day.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel meeting Civil services probationers

1947

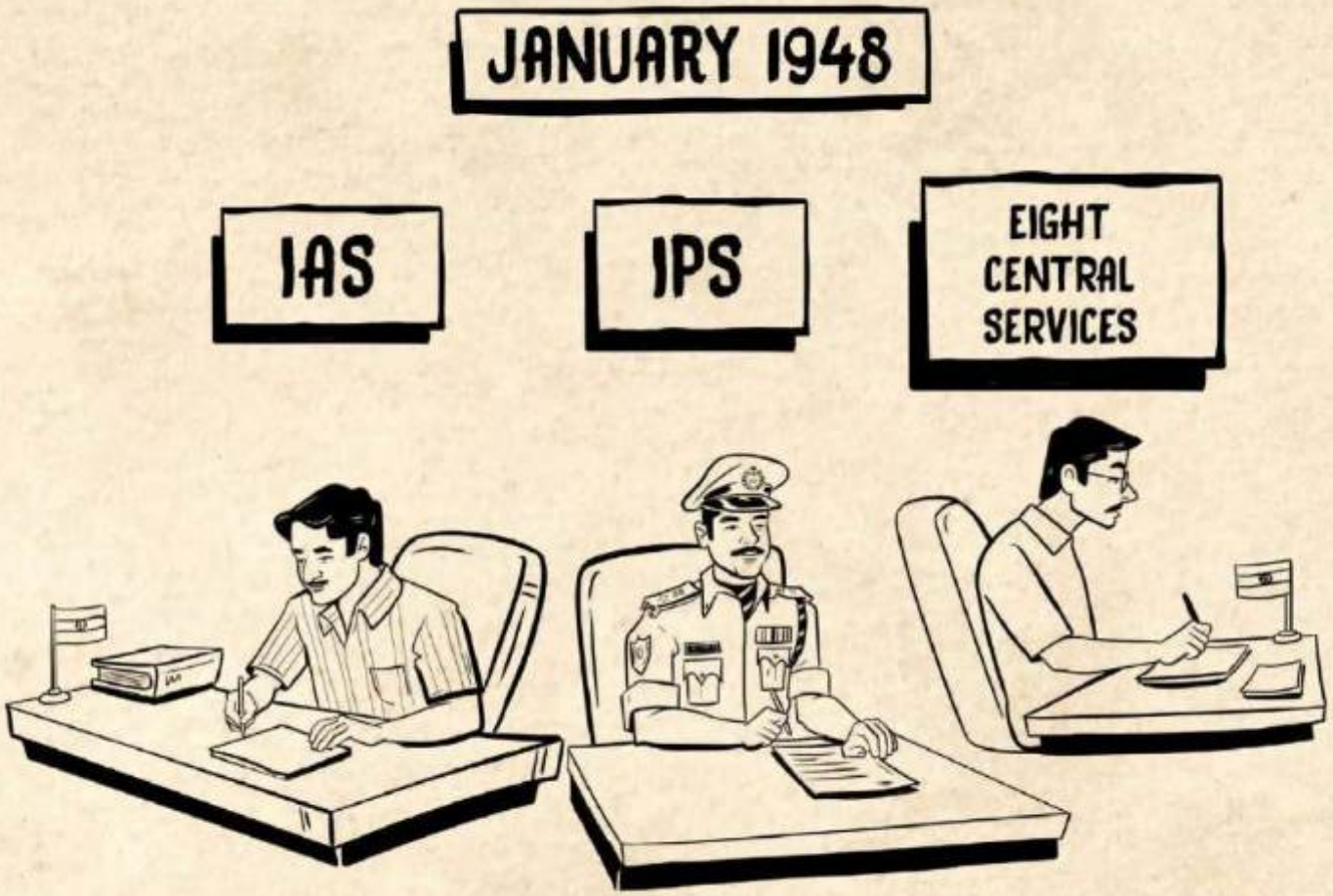


Transition from ICS to IAS

The last open competitive examination for the Indian Civil Service was held in 1943, simultaneously in the United Kingdom and India. Owing to the dislocation caused by the disturbances in 1947, preliminary arrangements for resuming the examinations could not be completed in time. The first examination after Independence was held in December 1947, marking the formal transition from the colonial-era Indian Civil Service (ICS) to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). This historic change laid the foundation for a new civil service dedicated to the governance of independent India and marked the beginning of a new chapter in the country's administrative history.

1947

16



First Combined Competitive Examination for Independent India

The Commission (then Federal Public Service Commission) conducted the first Combined Competitive Examination for the IAS, IPS, and eight Central Services, laying the foundation for merit-based recruitment in sovereign India.

17

1948

First Recruitment to the Indian Foreign Service

In September 1946, on the eve of India's Independence, the Government of India decided to establish the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) for India's diplomatic, consular and commercial representation overseas. Following Independence in 1947, the Foreign and Political Department of the British Indian Government was transformed into the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. In 1948, the first batch of IFS officers recruited through the combined Civil Services Examination conducted by the UPSC (then FPSC) joined the service. This mode of recruitment subsequently became the principal avenue of entry into the Indian Foreign Service.



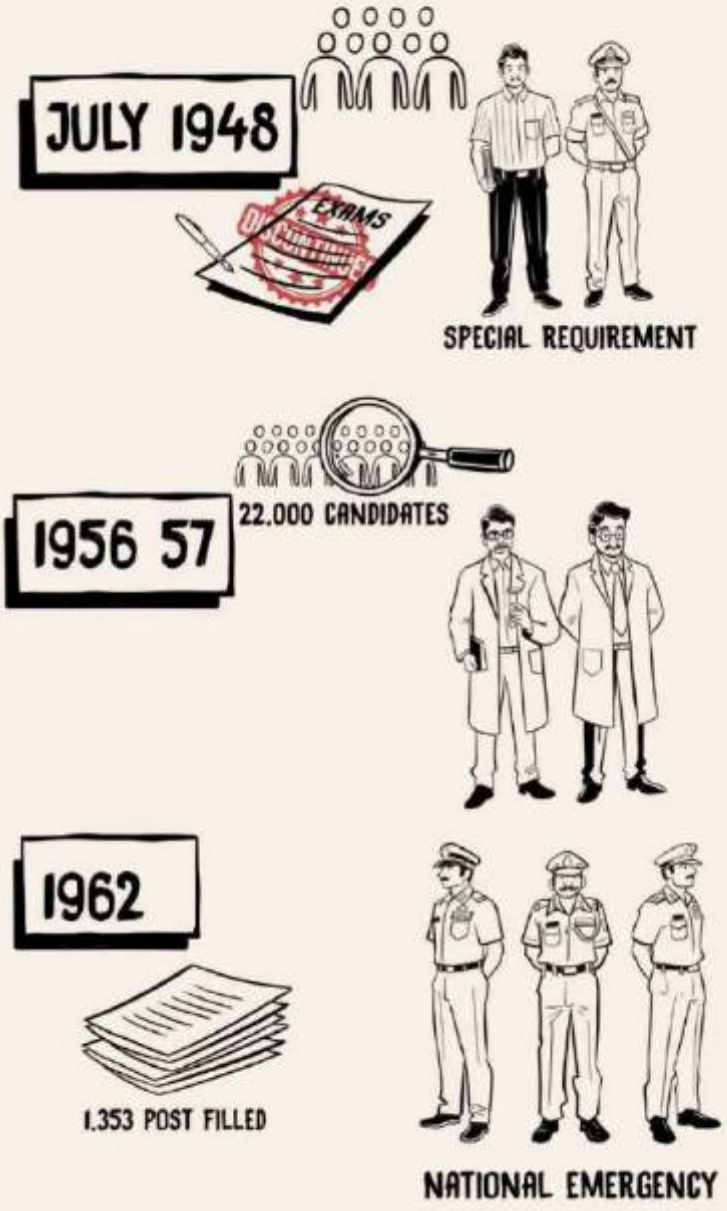
विदेश मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

1948-1962

Special and Emergency Recruitment Initiatives

Across its first decade and a half, the Commission devised a series of special and emergency recruitment mechanisms to address manpower requirements that could not be met through the normal annual examination. Following the suspension of regular recruitment in 1943 during the Second World War, the post-Partition exodus of British and Muslim officers created an urgent need for personnel. In July 1948, a Special Recruitment Board was constituted, with the concurrence of the Federal Public Service Commission, to recruit over-age personnel aged 27 to 45 years for the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service. The Board did not conduct written examinations, relying instead on records and interviews.

In 1956–57, the Commission undertook another special recruitment drive, screening over 22,000 candidates to address the continuing shortage of officers. In 1958, a Special Recruitment Board was established for the selection of highly qualified scientists and technologists for the Pool of Scientists and Technologists, based primarily on academic qualifications and professional achievement rather than written examination. In its first year, 197 candidates, including applicants from overseas, were selected, and by 1962 the Pool's authorised strength had risen to 500. In 1962, following the national emergency, the Commission constituted an Emergency Commission for defence-related posts, which filled 1,353 posts within two months. These initiatives demonstrated the Commission's capacity to employ flexible and responsive recruitment mechanisms in exceptional circumstances.



19

1949

Inception of the National Conference of Public Service Commissions

The National Conference of Chairpersons of the State Public Service Commissions was established in 1949 as a unique forum for the Chairpersons of State PSCs to share experiences, exchange ideas, discuss issues of common concern and learn from each other. In 1999, a significant reform designated the Chairman of the UPSC as the ex-officio Chair of the Conference. Since then, the Conference has been meeting regularly under the guidance of UPSC and has served as a valuable platform for the exchange of knowledge, information and best practices in areas of mutual interest and concern.

Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, the then Vice President of India and Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India at the reception hosted by the UPSC Chairman at the Conference of Chairmen of the State Public Service Commissions in 1953.



Smt Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India addressing Chairmen of Public Service Commissions in 1974.





Shri Sanjiva Reddy, the then President of India with Chairmen and Members of the Union and State Public Service Commissions in 1977.



Smt. Draupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India with Chairpersons and members of the UPSC and SPSCs during the 26th National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions.

1949

20

Constitutional Vision for Public Service Commissions

On 22 August 1949, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, moved the draft Constitution Articles 284 and 285 relating to the establishment and functions of the Union Public Service Commission, State Public Service Commissions and Joint Public Service Commission. These deliberations were later articulated in Part XIV (Articles 315–323) of the Constitution, which gave the Commission its independent constitutional status.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, in his valedictory address to the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949, highlighted the importance of independent constitutional bodies, including the Public Service Commissions for the Union and the States. He emphasized that their independent status is essential to ensure impartiality in public appointments and to guard against jobbery, nepotism and favouritism, thereby laying the foundation for a fair and merit-based public service system under the Constitution.



Members of the Constituent Assembly

21

1949

Constitutional Framework for Public Service Commissions

With the commencement of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, Articles 315–323 provided a constitutional framework for Public Service Commissions at different levels of governance. This established the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for the Union, a State Public Service Commission for each State, and the provision for a Joint State Public Service Commission for two or more States by mutual agreement and through Parliamentary legislation. The Constitution also enabled the UPSC, with the approval of the President and at the request of a State Governor, to serve all or any of the needs of that State.

Article-315	Public Service Commissions for both the Union and for the States
Article-316	Appointment and term of office of members
Article-317	Removal and Suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission
Article-318	Power to make regulations as to conditions of service of both members and staff of the Commission
Article-319	Prohibition as to the holding of offices by members of Commission on ceasing to be such members
Article-320	Functions of Public Service Commissions
Article-321	Power to extend functions of Public Service Commissions
Article-322	Expenses of Public Service Commissions
Article-323	Reports of Public Service Commissions

1950

22

Constitutional Safeguards for Appointment and Tenure

Article 316 of the Constitution of India provided that the Chairman and Members of the UPSC would be appointed by the President of India, while those of State Public Service Commissions would be appointed by the respective Governors. It also provided that, as far as possible, half of the members should have at least ten years of government service experience. Members were given a six-year term, subject to the prescribed age limit. These provisions ensured experienced leadership, continuity, and independence in the functioning of Public Service Commissions.

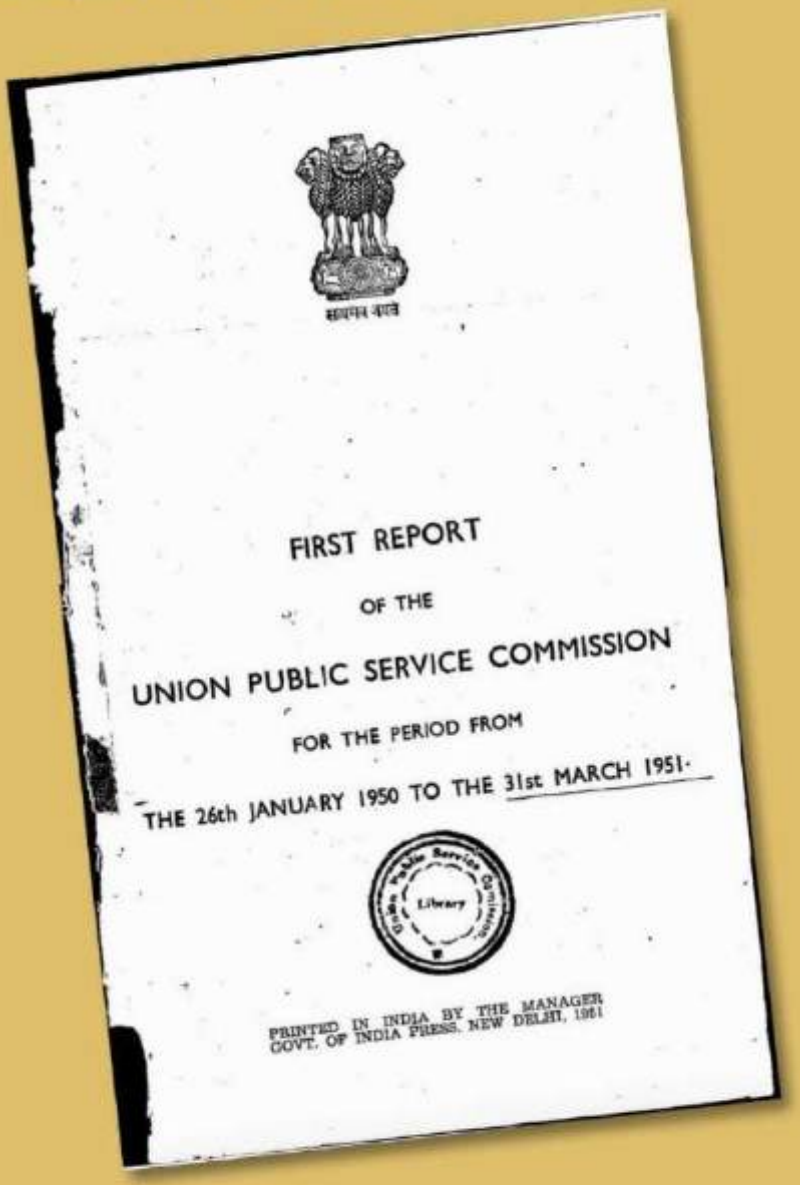


23

1950

Federal Public Service Commission Becomes UPSC

The Federal Public Service Commission came to be known as the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after the Constitution of India came into force on January 26, 1950. The Chairman and Members of the Federal Public Service Commission became the Chairman and Members of the Union Public Service Commission by virtue of Clause (1) of Article 378 of the Constitution. Sh. R. N. Banerjee (former Secretary, Department of Commonwealth Relations, 1944–48) served as the first Chairman of the UPSC. The Commission then comprised six members, including the Chairman. The Members were Sh. Javad Hussain, Sh. W. R. Puranik, Sh. G. C. Chatterji, Sh. N. Govindarajan, Sh. C. B. Nagarkar, and Sh. N. K. Sidhanta.



सत्यमेव जयते

FIRST REPORT

OF THE

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR THE PERIOD FROM

THE 26th JANUARY 1950 TO THE 31st MARCH 1951.

Library

PRINTED IN INDIA BY THE MANAGER
GOVT. OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI, 1951

1950

24

Joint Military Wing Examination

The first post-war examination for admission to the Indian Military Academy was held by the Commission in 1950. The Commission are also concurrently holding examinations for admission to the Joint Services Wing of the National Defence Academy. The scheme of the examinations consisted of a written test by the Commission and a test of personal qualities conducted by Services Selection Boards constituted by the Ministry of Defence. These examinations for the Military Wing, Joint Services Wing, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy were later restructured as NDA/NA examination and Combined Defence Services Examination and are being conducted by UPSC twice a year.



The batch of 58 Pilots Course, 1952

1950-2022

Progressive Expansion of Services Recruited through the Civil Services Examination

Over the following decades, UPSC progressively brought a widening range of Central Services under the ambit of the Civil Services Examination. The First Combined Indian Administrative Service, etc. Examination, 1950, held by the Commission, included 10 central services, viz. Indian Foreign Service, Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Indian Railway Accounts Service, Indian Postal Service, Indian Customs and Excise Service, Military Accounts Department (Later renamed as Indian Defence Accounts Service), Income Tax Officers' Service, Transportation, Traffic and Commercial Departments of the Superior Revenue Establishment of the State Railways, Central Secretariat Service, Class II (Assistant Superintendents) and Military Lands & Cantonments Service. The Indian Civil Accounts Service was added later, in 1977, and the Indian Information Service Class-I (Previously Known as Central Information Service) was added under the Civil Services Examination since 1963; the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service from 1969; the Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts & Finance Service from 1973; the Indian Trade Service from 1985; and the Indian Corporate Law Service from 2009. In 2022, four existing Group A services of Railways under the Civil Services Examination were unified into the Indian Railway Management Service, Gr. A.

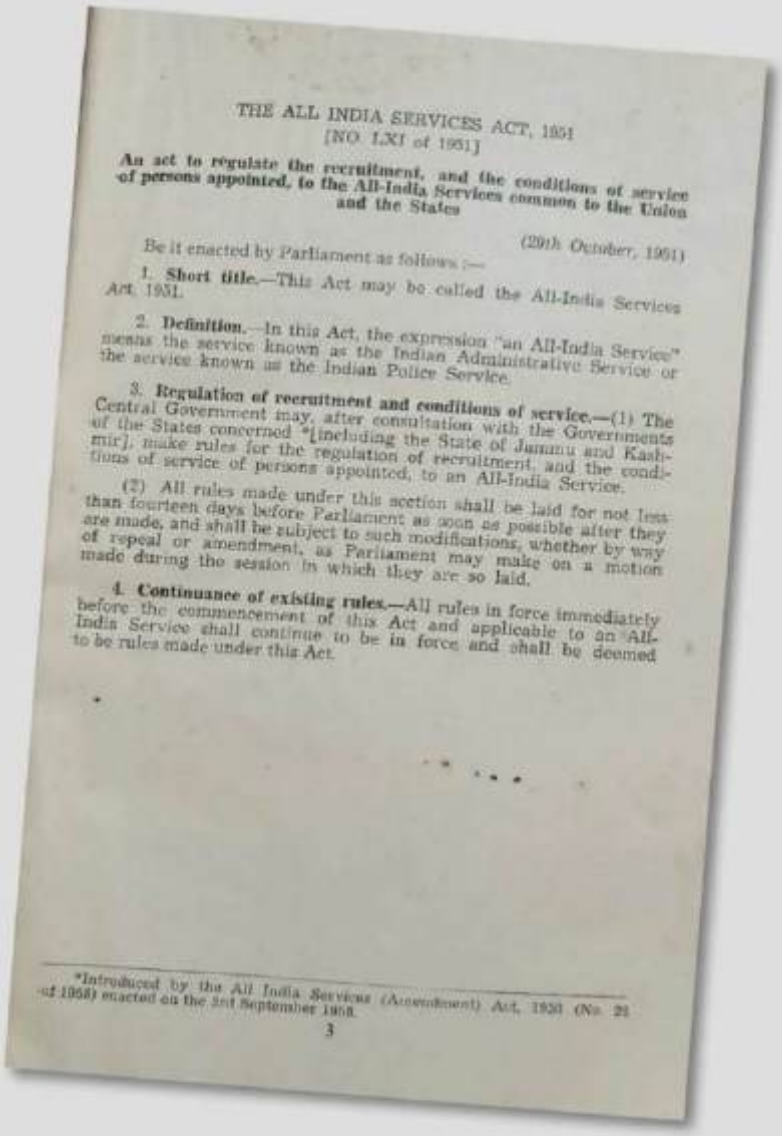


1951

26

All-India Services Act Enacted

On 29 October 1951, Parliament enacted the All-India Services Act, 1951, providing a statutory framework for the recruitment and conditions of service of All-India Services. The Act empowered the Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments, to frame rules governing recruitment and conditions of service of All-India Services. It also provided for the constitution of three new All-India Services - the Indian Service of Engineers, Indian Forest Service, and Indian Medical and Health Service, from such dates as notified by the Central Government.



THE ALL INDIA SERVICES ACT, 1951
[NO. LXI of 1951]

An act to regulate the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to the All-India Services common to the Union and the States

(29th October, 1951)

Be it enacted by Parliament as follows :—

1. **Short title.**—This Act may be called the All-India Services Act, 1951.

2. **Definition.**—In this Act, the expression "an All-India Service" means the service known as the Indian Administrative Service or the service known as the Indian Police Service.

3. **Regulation of recruitment and conditions of service.**—(1) The Central Government may, after consultation with the Governments of the States concerned *[including the State of Jammu and Kashmir], make rules for the regulation of recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to an All-India Service.

(2) All rules made under this section shall be laid for not less than fourteen days before Parliament as soon as possible after they are made, and shall be subject to such modifications, whether by way of repeal or amendment, as Parliament may make on a motion made during the session in which they are so laid.

4. **Continuance of existing rules.**—All rules in force immediately before the commencement of this Act and applicable to an All-India Service shall continue to be in force and shall be deemed to be rules made under this Act.

*Introduced by the All India Services (Amendment) Act, 1958 (No. 21 of 1958) enacted on the 2nd September 1958.

3

27

1950-51

First Regular Recruitment to All-India Services by UPSC

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducted the first regular competitive examination for recruitment to the All-India Services [IAS and IPS] under the constitutional framework of independent India. This marked the beginning of a modern, merit-based system of recruitment to the All-India Services. Following the examination and selection process, 29 candidates were recommended for appointment to the IAS and 31 candidates to the IPS, marking an important milestone in the evolution of India's professional and merit-based civil services.

ALL-INDIA SERVICES

29

IAS

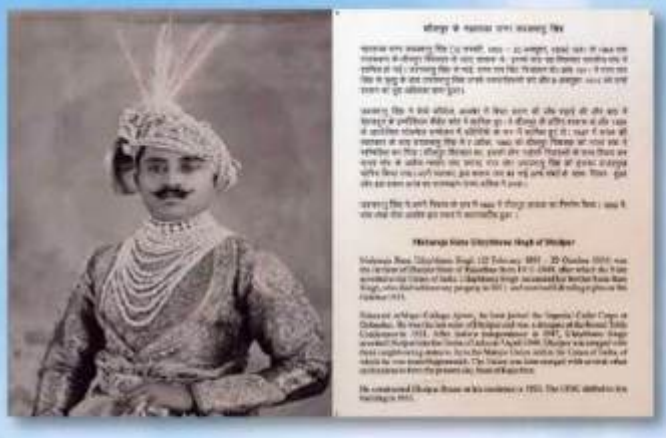
31

IPS

1952

Dholpur House: Beginning of a New Chapter

In 1952, UPSC shifted its headquarters to Dholpur House, New Delhi, which continues to serve as the Commission's headquarters today. Originally built in 1920 in the Art Deco style by Maharaja Rana Udaybhanu Singh, the ruler of the erstwhile princely State of Dholpur, the building was conceived as his transit residence during visits to Delhi. Following the merger of Dholpur State with the Union of India on 7 April 1949, Dholpur House became Government of India property. Three years later, in 1952, it was chosen as the permanent headquarters of the UPSC. Today, the address Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi remains synonymous with India's premier constitutional recruitment body.



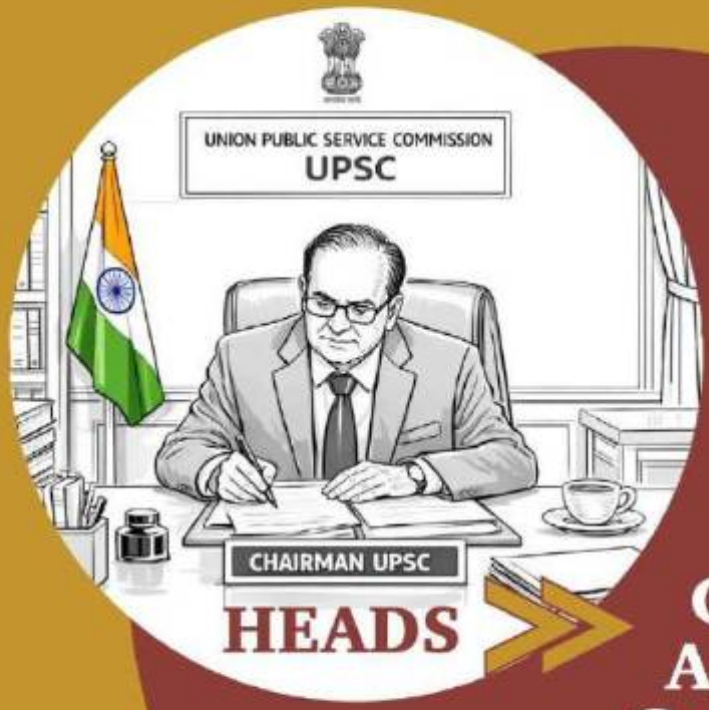


29

1958

UPSC Chairman Heads Central Advisory Committee

Under Section 115 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, a Central Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of the then Chairman of UPSC, was constituted to assist the Government of India in considering representations submitted by service personnel affected by the provisions of the Act. The Committee began functioning on 1 November 1958. By 31 March 1959, it had received 391 representations, from officers of the State of Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Punjab and Rajasthan. The Committee tendered its advice in 104 cases, and the Government accepted its recommendations in every case.

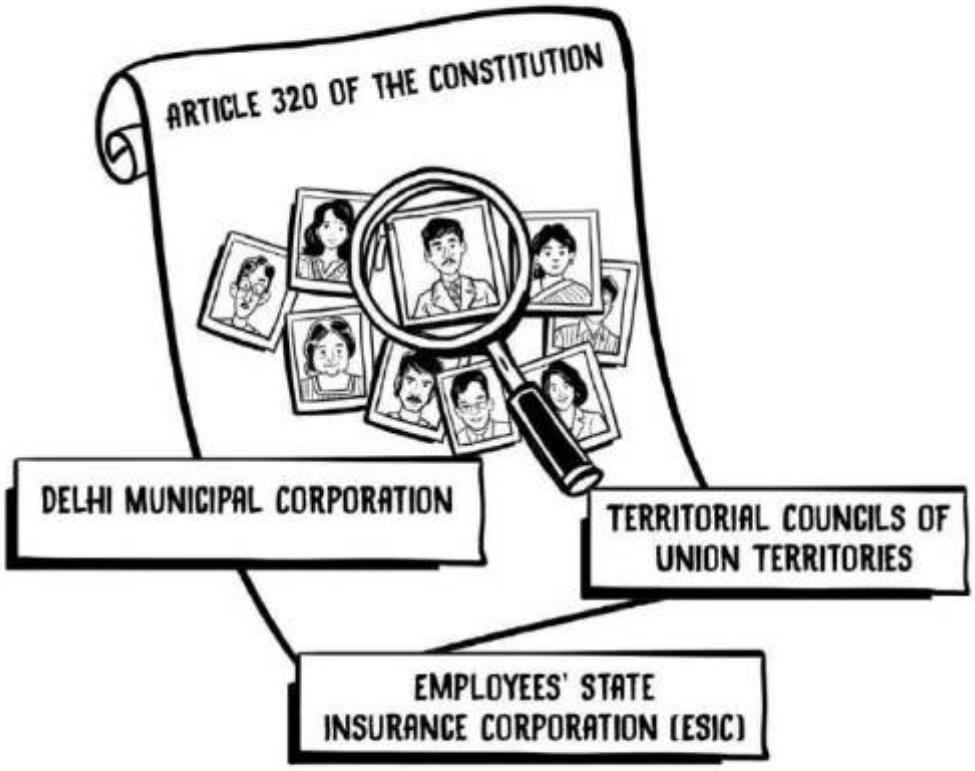


HEADS

Central Advisory Committee

1960-61

30



Recruitment for Statutory Bodies

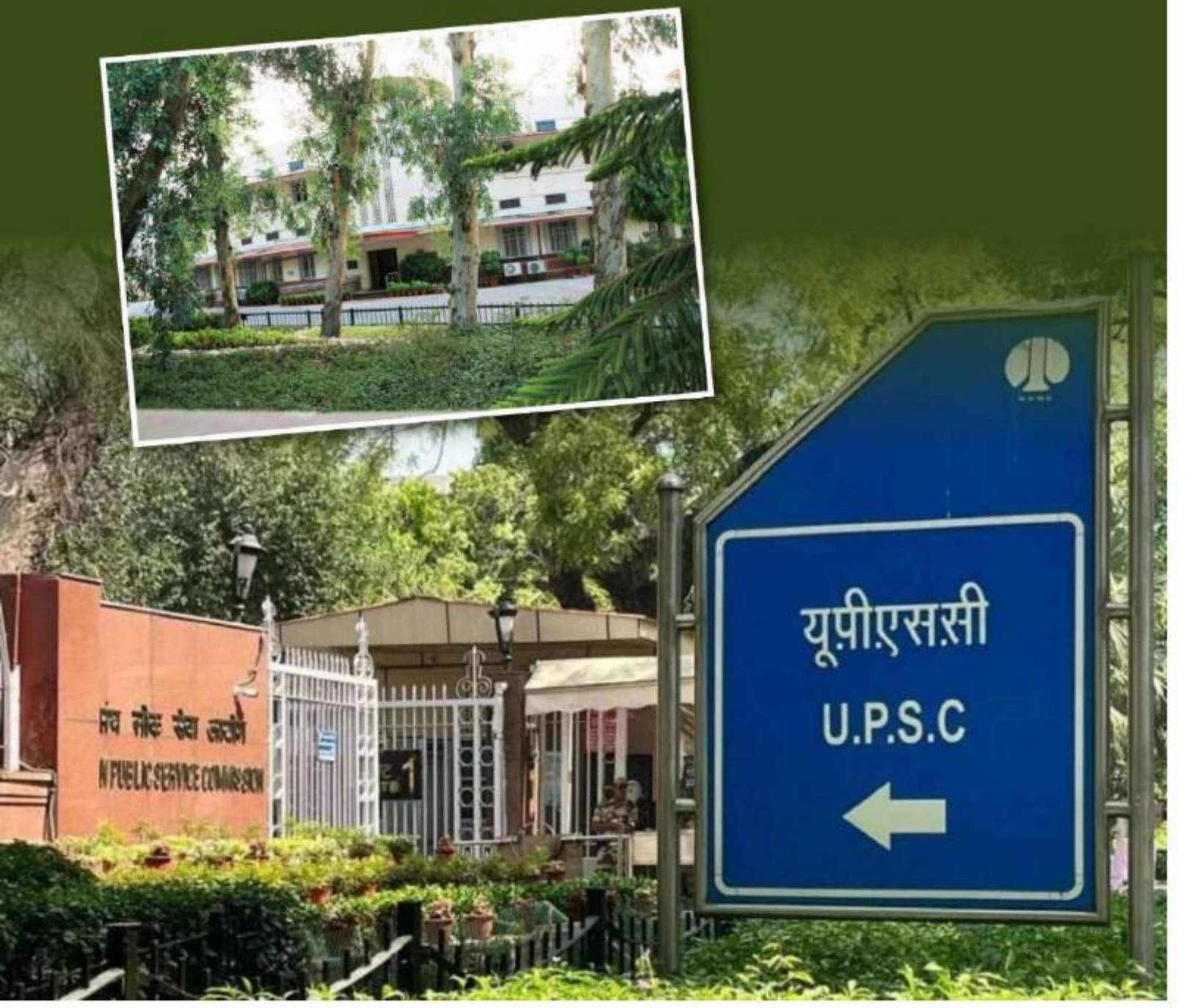
Under Article 320 of the Constitution, the Commission agreed to undertake recruitment for posts in statutory bodies such as the Delhi Municipal Corporation, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and the Territorial Councils of Union Territories, expanding its mandate beyond central services.

31

1964

Expansion of the UPSC Examination Building

The Commission's physical infrastructure has evolved over time. In response to a rising number of candidates, the Commission expanded its Examination Building in 1964 to accommodate the growing administrative and logistical demands of large-scale examinations. The building was completed and taken over in 1966.



32

1966

Indian Forest Service added to the All-India Services

The Indian Forest Service (IFoS) was constituted as the third All India Service, alongside the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), with effect from 1 July 1966. It was established through an amendment to the All India Services Act, 1951, to provide a dedicated cadre for the management and protection of India's forest resources. The first selection of IFoS officers was conducted in 1967.



9- THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE (PROBATIONERS' FINAL EXAMINATION) REGULATIONS, 1968

In pursuance of rule 8 of the Indian Forest Service (Probation) Rules, 1968, the Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments and the Union Public Service Commission, hereby makes the following regulations, namely :—

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) These regulations may be called the Indian Forest Service (Probationers' Final Examination) Regulations, 1968.

(2) They shall be deemed to have come into force on 1st April, 1968.

2. **Definitions.**—(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, "Schedule" means a Schedule appended to these regulations.

(2) All other words and expressions used in these regulations and not defined shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Indian Forest Service (Probation) Rules, 1968.

3. **Final Examination.**—(1) Every probationer shall, during and at or about the end of the period of training at the Institute, appear at the Final Examination comprising :

(i) written and practical examinations,

(ii) exercises, and

(iii) qualifying tests.

(2) The written and practical examinations shall be held as follows :—

(i) First year Examination at or about the end of the first year of training at the Institute, and

(ii) Second year Examination at or about the end of the second year of training at the Institute.

(3) Exercises in field work shall be held during the course of training at the Institute and during tours undertaken according to a phased programme.

(4) The Final Examination shall be conducted by the President in the manner laid down in these regulations.

(5) The dates on which and the places at which the various examinations and tests shall be held shall be fixed by the Central Government in consultation with the President.

690

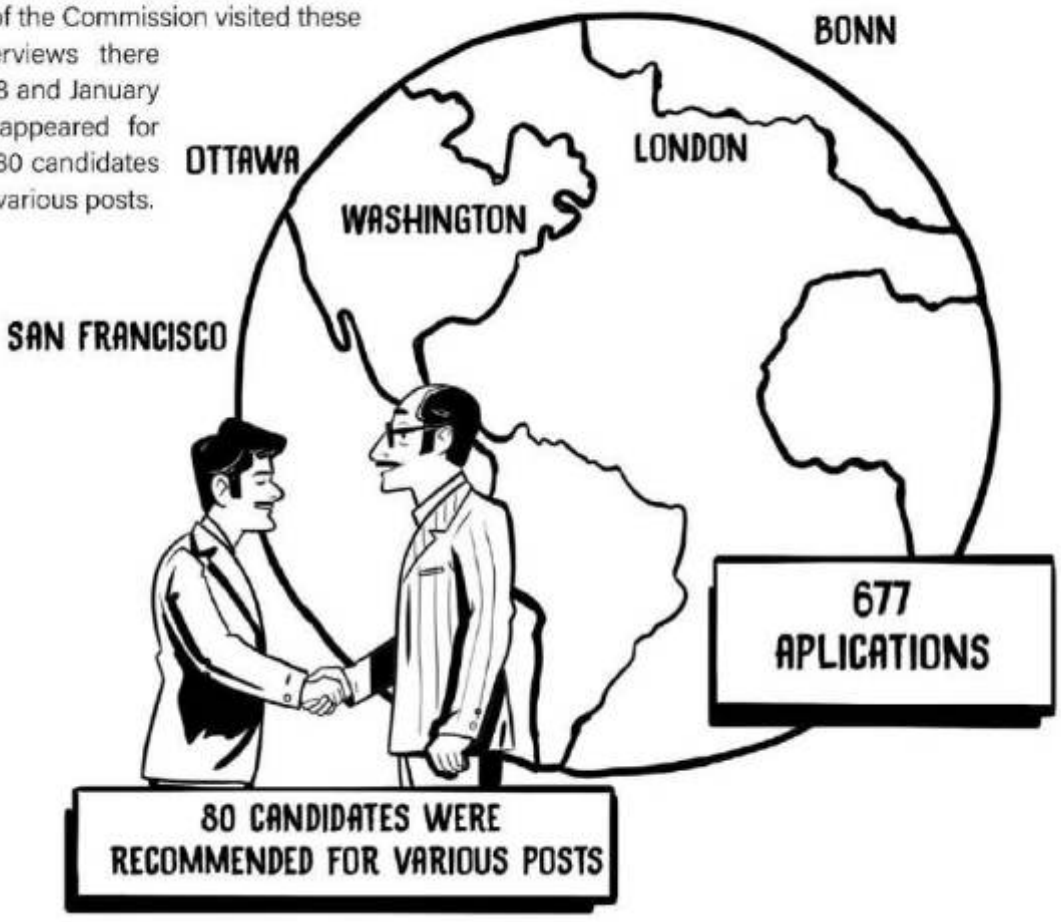


33

1968-69

UPSC's Overseas Recruitment Drives

UPSC conducted interviews in Bonn, London, Ottawa, Washington and San Francisco to attract qualified Indian nationals residing overseas in the fields of medicine, engineering, science and technology. The Scheme was advertised in June 1968. The Commission received 677 applications during the year. Out of these, 277 candidates were selected for interviews at Bonn and London. The Chairman of the Commission visited these centres and held interviews there between November 1968 and January 1969. 208 candidates appeared for the interview. Of these, 80 candidates were recommended for various posts.



1969

Introduction and Institutionalisation of Eighth Schedule Languages in the Civil Services Examination

In 1969, the Commission introduced the fifteen languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as options for the compulsory Essay and General Knowledge papers of the Civil Services Examination. This was carried further in 1979, when UPSC formalised the use of these Eighth Schedule languages alongside English in the Civil Services Main Examination, ensuring linguistic inclusivity and constitutional alignment. Presently, the scheme of the civil services examination offers a candidate the option to take the exam in twenty-two languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

অসমীয়া | বাংলা | ગુજરાતી | हिन्दी

ಕನ್ನಡ | كأشُر | कोंकणी | മലയാളം

মৈতৈলোন্ | मराठी | नेपाली | ଓଡ଼ିଆ

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ | संस्कृतम् | سنڌي | தமிழ் | डोगरी

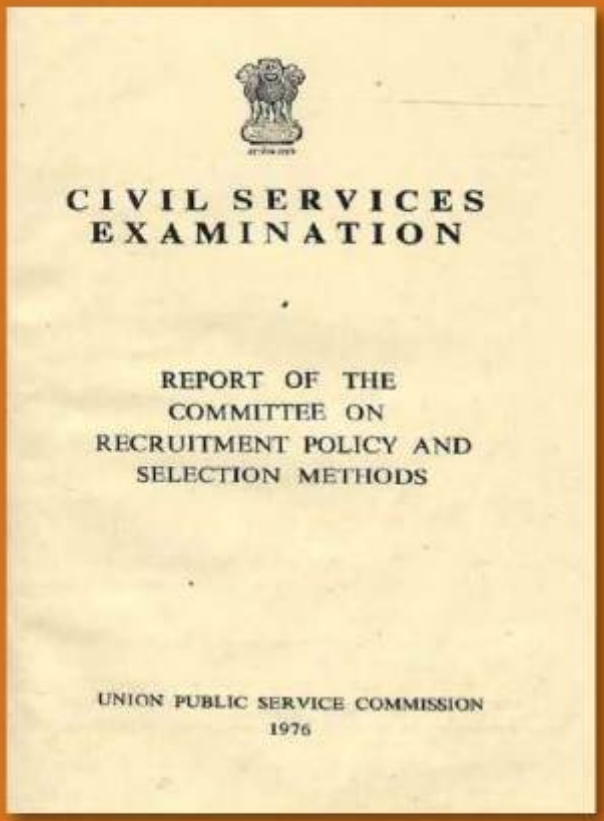
తెలుగు | اردو | ৰৱ' | ꯃꯩꯇꯩꯂꯣꯟ | मैथिली

35

1974

D.S. Kothari Committee to Review Recruitment Policy and Selection Methods

Appointed in March 1974 under the chairmanship of Dr. D.S. Kothari, former Chairman of UGC and Chancellor of JNU, the Committee on Recruitment Policy and Selection Methods reviewed the existing system of recruitment to certain services and posts. It submitted its report on 29 March 1976, covering recruitment to the All India and Central Services (Class I). The Committee proposed a unified Civil Services Examination comprising three stages: a Preliminary Examination of the objective type for screening candidates; a Main Examination consisting of written papers followed by an interview for entry to the Training Academy; and a post-training test conducted by the UPSC after completion of the Foundation Course to assess qualities and attributes relevant to the Civil Services.



CIVIL SERVICES
EXAMINATION

REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
RECRUITMENT POLICY AND
SELECTION METHODS

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
1976

1976

Golden Jubilee of the Commission and Commemorative Postal Stamp

The year 1976 marked the Golden Jubilee of the Commission, commemorating fifty years since its establishment in 1926 and recognising its enduring legacy of merit-based and impartial recruitment. To mark the occasion, a Conference of Chairmen and Members of the Public Service Commissions in India was held in November 1976, where matters of common interest and future recruitment policy were discussed. On 8 November 1977, the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department issued a 25 Paise commemorative postage stamp to mark the Golden Jubilee. The stamp depicted the sun, symbolising "impartiality and equal opportunity to all," along with the national tricolour signifying the Commission's role as a national institution.

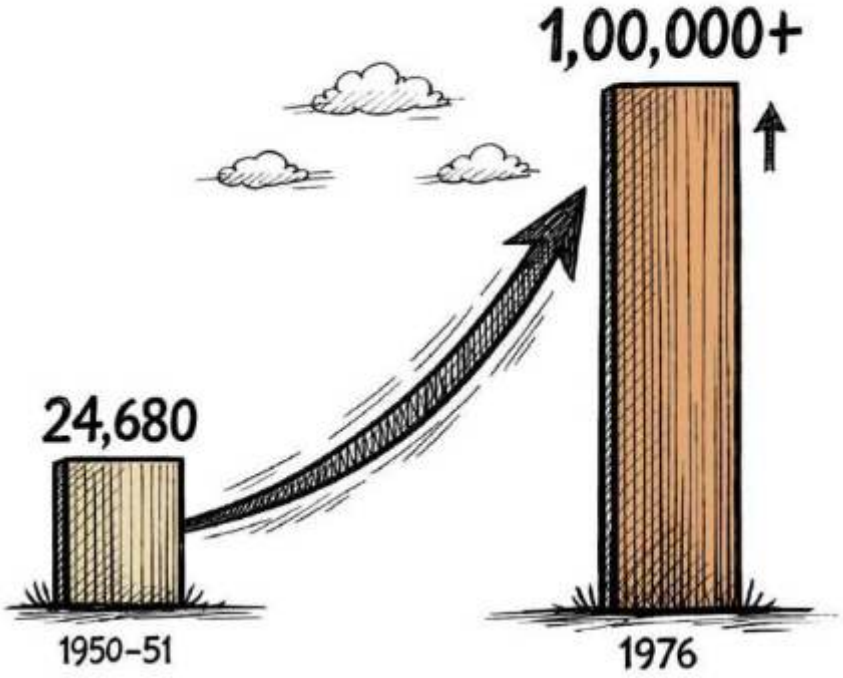


37

1976

Applicants Cross One Lakh for the First Time

In 1976, the number of candidates applying for the different examinations crossed the one-lakh mark for the first time, marking a significant milestone in the growing reach of the examination. This represented a substantial increase in the Commission's workload.



38

1977

First Combined Medical Services Examination Conducted

The Commission conducted the first Combined Medical Services Examination on 18 February 1977; until then, recruitment to these medical posts had been made solely based on interview. The Indian Civil Accounts Service was also constituted in the same year and was later brought under the Civil Services Examination.

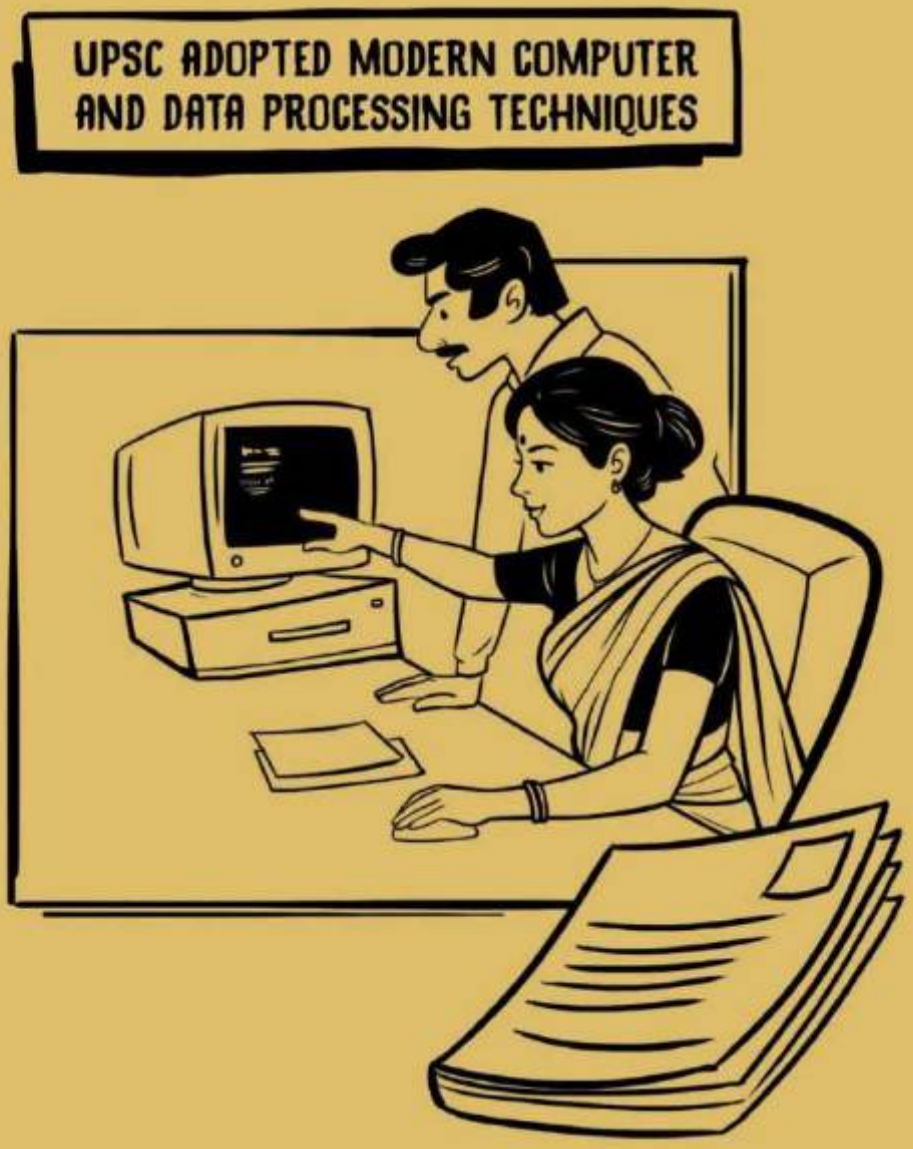


39

1978

UPSC Enters the Computer Era

In 1978, the UPSC adopted modern computer and data-processing techniques to cope with the growing volume of examination and recruitment work. Computers facilitated the processing of applications, marking of answer sheets and preparation of supporting statements, making these processes faster, more accurate and objective. The Commission also envisaged using computers to maintain records relating to experts, seniority lists, appointments and other administrative matters, marking an important step towards modernising its functioning.



1979

40

Discontinuation of the London Examination Centre

In 1979, the UPSC decided to discontinue London as a centre for the Civil Services Examination, as the number of candidates appearing there had become too small to justify its continuation. The decision applied to the Civil Services (Main) Examination, 1979, and to subsequent Preliminary and Main examinations, marking the closure of the Commission's overseas examination centres.

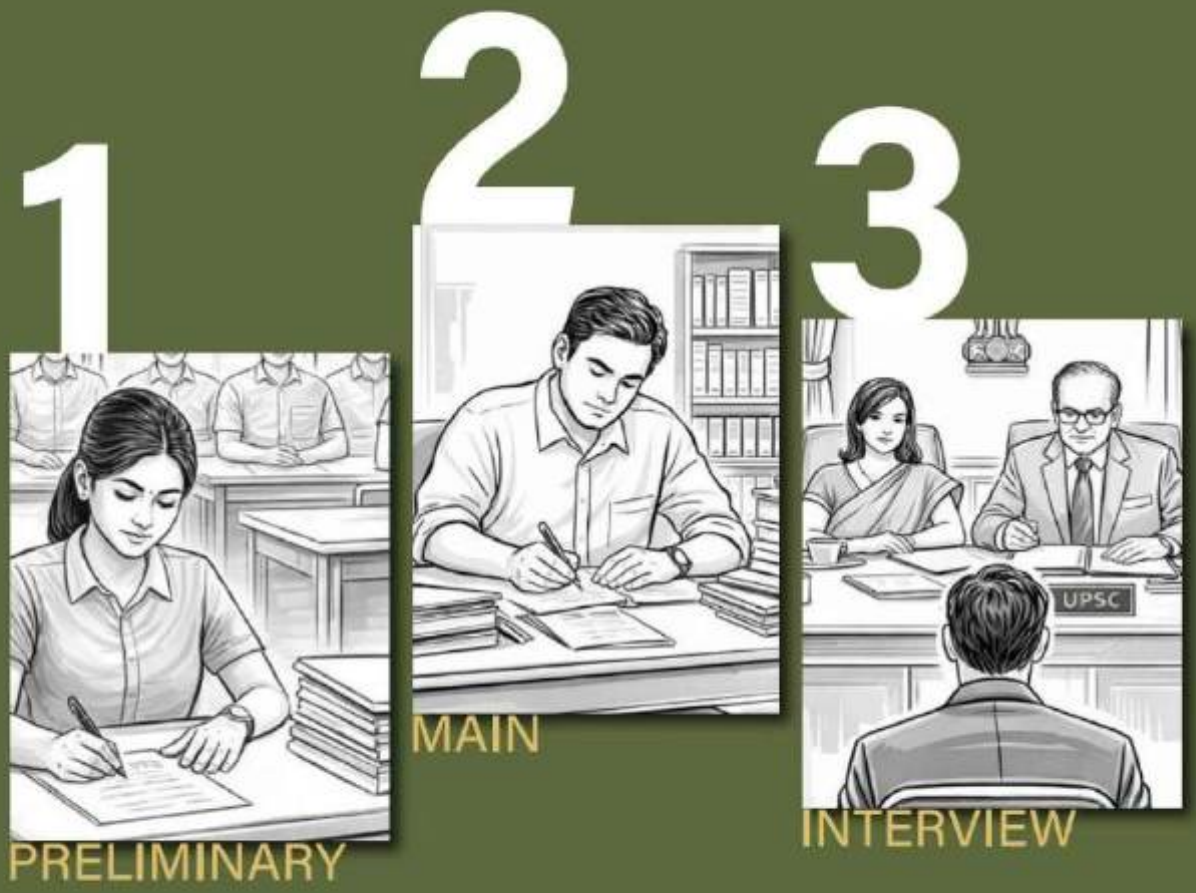


41

1979

Three-Stage Civil Services Examination Format Standardised

Building on the Kothari Committee's recommendations, UPSC introduced the now-standard three-stage Civil Services Examination format — Preliminary, Main and Interview — driven partly by the growth in aspirants, from under 3647 in 1950 to over 1,00,748 by 1979.



1985

42

Commission Expands to Ten Members

In 1985, the Government sanctioned two additional posts of Members, increasing the UPSC's sanctioned strength from one Chairman and eight Members to one Chairman and ten Members. The Commission had eight Members as against its actual sanctioned strength of ten during the year. Sh. H K L Capoor, was the Chairman and the Members were Sh. Jaswant Rai Bansal, Air Vice Marshal A K S Bakshi, Sh. A M Abdul Hamid, Dr. K. Venkata Ramiah, Sh. Sivaprasad Samaddar, Sh. Jagdish Rajan, Sh. Jagdish Prakash Gupta, Dr. R. Arockiasamy and Sh. Surendra Nath.

1 Chairman and ~~8~~ 10 Members

43

1988

Satish Chandra Committee on Civil Services Examination

In 1988, the UPSC constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of Professor Satish Chandra, former Chairman of the University Grants Commission, to review the scheme of the Civil Services Examination. The Committee, constituted on 12 September 1988, submitted its report in August 1989, recommending several reforms, including increasing the number of examination centres to even out regional representation, a 200-mark essay paper in the Main Examination, negative marking in the Preliminary Examination, an increase in interview marks to 300, and continuation of the 21–26 age limit.

RECOMMENDED SEVERAL
REFORMS
TO THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM

01 More examination centres for balanced regional representation

02 200-mark Essay Paper in the Main Examination

03 Negative marking in the Preliminary Examination

04 Interview marks increased to 300

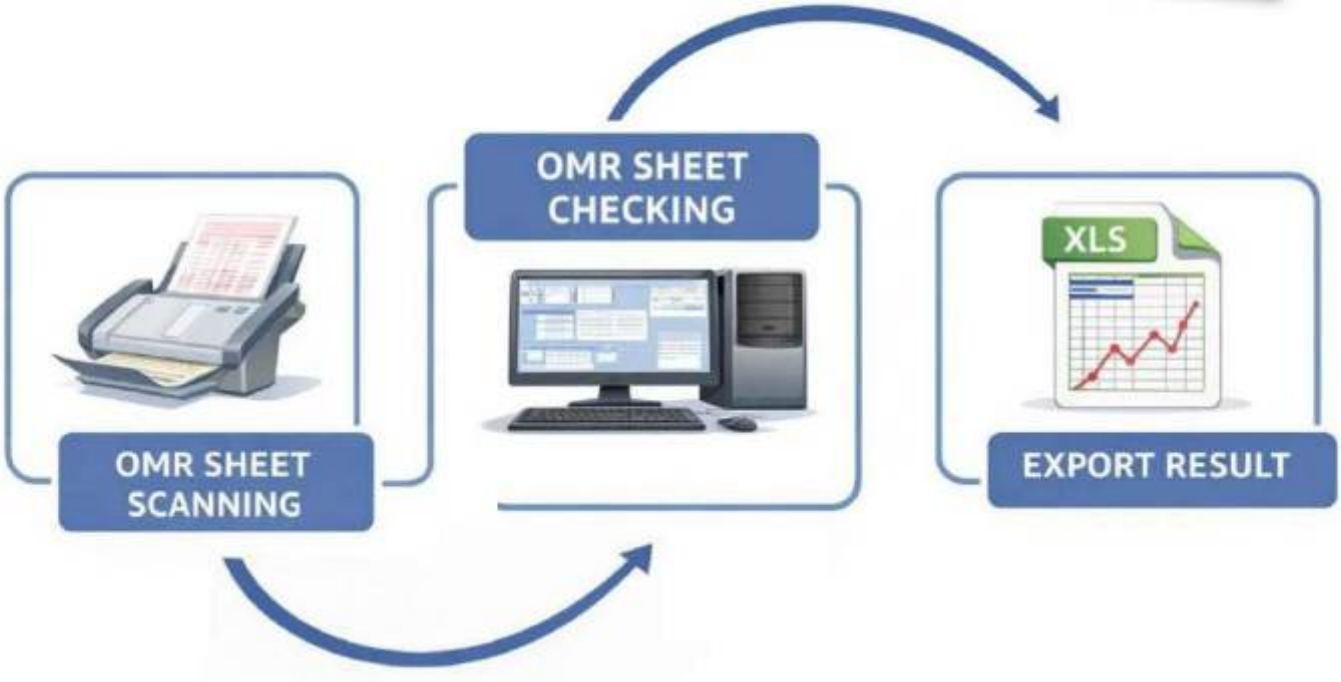
05 Retention of the 21–26 years age limit

1989

Introduction of OMR Technology

In 1989, the UPSC introduced Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) technology to strengthen and modernise its examination and recruitment processes. Two OFSCAN 2020 Optical Mark Reading and Processing Systems, along with a modern LAN-based computer system and 16 PC terminals, were installed to support the growing volume of examination and recruitment work. This technological initiative was further advanced in 1999–2000 through SAMPERA (Scanning and Mechanised Processing of Examination and Recruitment Applications), which introduced a Common Application Form using OMR and Intelligent Character Recognition, reducing manual errors and streamlining application processing.





1992

First Woman Chairperson of the UPSC

In 1992, Rose Millian Bathew (Kharbuli) became the first woman to serve as Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission, marking a significant milestone in the Commission's history. She had been a Member of the UPSC since 1987 and continued as Chairperson until 23 August 1996. Prior to her association with the UPSC, she had served as a Member of the Meghalaya Public Service Commission.



Smt. Rose Millian Bathew (Kharbuli)

1993

Essay Paper Introduced and Interview Marks Raised

An essay paper was introduced in the scheme of the Civil Services (Main) examination. The marks assigned for the Interview Test were also raised from 250 to 300. With this, the total marks prescribed for the Civil Services (Main) Examination, 1993, have added up to 2300 as against 2050 marks prescribed for the earlier Main Examinations.



निबन्ध

ESSAY

निर्धारित समय : तीन घंटे
Time Allowed : Three Hours

अधिकतम अंक : 250
Maximum Marks : 250

प्रश्न-पत्र सम्बन्धी विशेष अनुदेश

प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने से पहले निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को कृपया ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़िए।

प्रवेश-पत्र में प्राधिकृत माध्यम में विषय लिखना आवश्यक है तथा इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुखपृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर करना आवश्यक है। प्राधिकृत माध्यम के अलावा अन्य माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तरों के लिए अंक नहीं दिए जाएँगे।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर निर्दिष्ट शब्द-सीमा के अनुसार होने चाहिए।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए किसी पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ के भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिए।

Question Paper Specific Instructions

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions.

*The **ESSAY** must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.*

Word limit, as specified, should be adhered to.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

1

47

1994

Evolution of Accessibility for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) Candidates

In 1994, UPSC introduced the facility of scribes for visually handicapped candidates, including the blind and partially blind, in the Civil Services Examination. Over the following decades, the Commission systematically introduced a series of affirmative measures. A separate Interview Board was constituted for physically challenged candidates, with such candidates specifically asked through their summon letters about the facilities they would require at interview. Today, PwBD candidates are allotted their Centre of Choice for the examination, and the right to a scribe and extra time was established as an entitlement. Accessibility features such as ramps are ensured at the examination venues. PwBD candidates are permitted to be accompanied by an escort, who may wait in the Commission's Office until the completion of the interview and other formalities, and a facilitator is provided to assist with verification of certificates, reimbursement of travelling allowance, and other procedural requirements. The impact of these sustained measures is reflected in the outcomes. The number of PwBD candidates recommended for appointment rose from just 3 in the Civil Services Examination, 2002, to 42 in the Civil Services Examination, 2025, registering a 14-fold increase over roughly two decades.

Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) categories:

(i) **Blindness and low vision**

(ii) **Deaf and hard of hearing**

(iii) **Locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attach victims and muscular dystrophy**

(iv) **Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness**

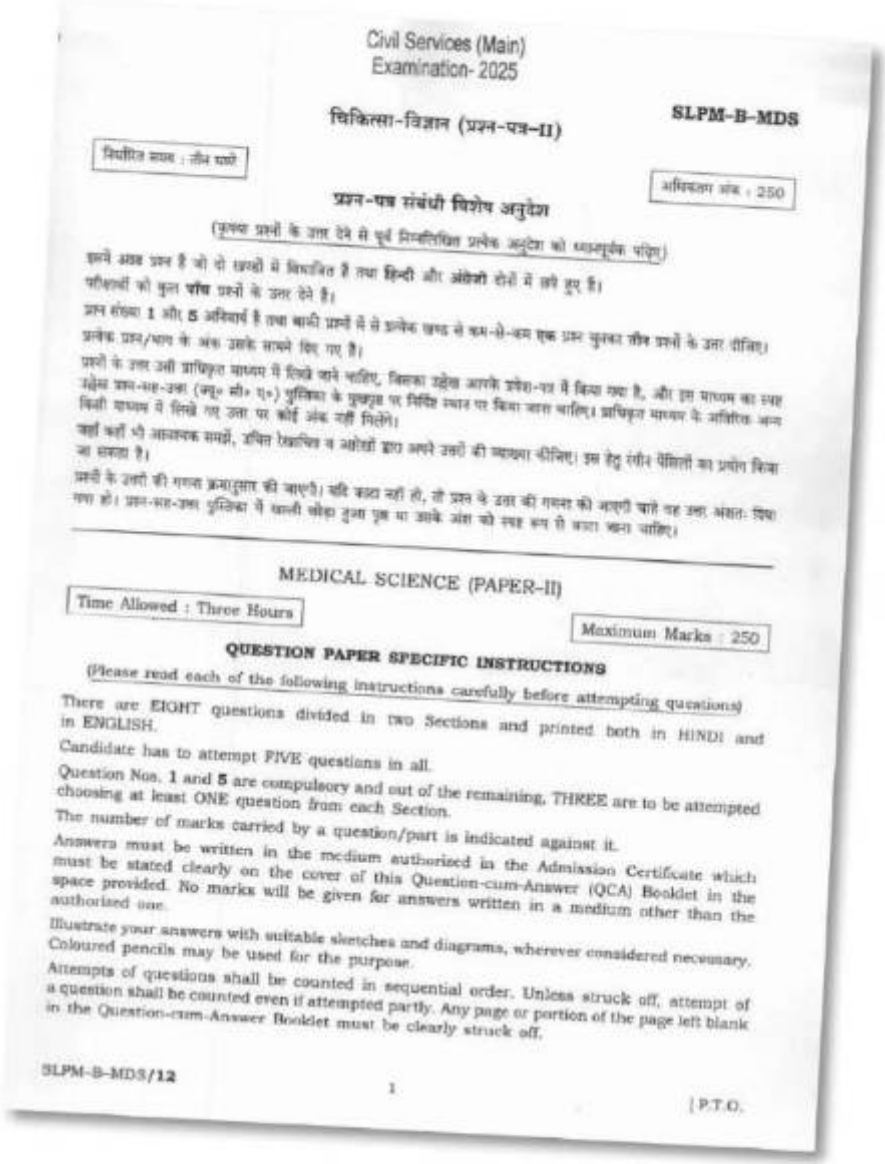
(v) **Multiple disabilities from amongst person under clauses (i) to (iv) including deaf-blindness**

48

1994

Medical Science added as a New Optional Subject

On consideration of the recommendations made by the expert committee headed by Prof. Satish Chandra, it was, inter alia, decided to include a new subject, namely, medical science, in the list of optional subjects prescribed for both the Civil Services Preliminary Examination and Main Examination. The subject was included in the scheme of the Civil Services Examination, 1994.



Civil Services (Main)
Examination- 2025

चिकित्सा-विज्ञान (प्रश्न-पत्र-II) SLPM-B-MDS

नियोजित समय : तीन घण्टे | अधिकतम अंक : 250

प्रश्न-पत्र संबंधी विशेष अनुदेश

(कृपया प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें।)

इसमें आठ प्रश्न हैं जो दो खण्डों में विभाजित हैं तथा हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हुए हैं।

परीक्षार्थी को कुल पाँच प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने हैं।

प्रश्न संख्या 1 और 5 अनिवार्य हैं तथा बाकी प्रश्नों में से प्रत्येक खण्ड से कम-से-कम एक प्रश्न चुनकर तीन प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी प्राधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू० सी० ए०) पुस्तिका के मुखपृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। प्राधिकृत माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

जहाँ कहीं भी आवश्यक समझें, उचित रेखाचित्र व आरेखों द्वारा अपने उत्तरों की व्याख्या कीजिए। इस हेतु रंगीन पेंसिलों का प्रयोग किया जा सकता है।

प्रश्नों के उत्तरों की गणना क्रमानुसार की जाएगी। यदि काटा नहीं हो, तो प्रश्न के उत्तर की गणना की जाएगी चाहे वह उत्तर आंशिक: दिया गया हो। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

MEDICAL SCIENCE (PAPER-II)

Time Allowed : Three Hours | Maximum Marks : 250

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

(Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions)

There are EIGHT questions divided in two Sections and printed both in HINDI and in ENGLISH.

Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.

Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each Section.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorised one.

Illustrate your answers with suitable sketches and diagrams, wherever considered necessary. Coloured pencils may be used for the purpose.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

SLPM-B-MDS/12 1 [P.T.O.

49

1994

UPSC's Participation in International Dialogue

The Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission was invited by the International Development Research Centre, Canada, to attend a workshop on Public Services and Public Service Commissions held in Johannesburg on January 31 and February 1, 1994. The Chairman of UPSC participated as a Panelist, assisted by the Secretary. The Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Canada, and the Consultant for Civil Services System, USA, were among the other panellists. The participation marked an important occasion for the exchange of perspectives and international experience on public services and public service commissions.



2000

Online Recruitment Application System Introduced

UPSC introduced the Online Recruitment Application (ORA) System in 2000, enabling candidates across India to access, apply for, and track various examinations digitally. By 2010, 100% online application submission had been extended to the Engineering Services Examination, the Indian Forest Service Examination, the Combined Defence Services II Examination, and the Central Police Forces (AC) Examination, with offline submission retained only for applicants from specific remote areas.



51

2001

Platinum Jubilee of the Commission

UPSC celebrated its Platinum Jubilee, marking 75 years since its establishment in 1926, with Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as the Chief Guest of the inaugural function held on 14 December 2001. The Department of Posts marked the occasion with a commemorative First Day Cover.





Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated the Platenium Jubilee UPSC, 14th December, 2001: Home Minister Sh. L. K. Advani also in the picture.

2002

52

Surinder Nath Committee – Appraisal and Empanelment Reforms

Headed by former UPSC Chairman Shri Surinder Nath, the Committee on Performance Appraisal, Promotion, Empanelment and Placement for the All India Services and other Group 'A' Services was appointed in December 2002. The committee recommended a performance-oriented appraisal system and objective, transparent placement and promotion policies for higher civil services, shifting the emphasis of the annual confidential report from a closed assessment to a more structured, competency-based evaluation.

RECOMMENDED SEVERAL
REFORMS
TO THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM

01 A performance-oriented appraisal system and objective

02 Transparent placement and promotion policies for higher civil services

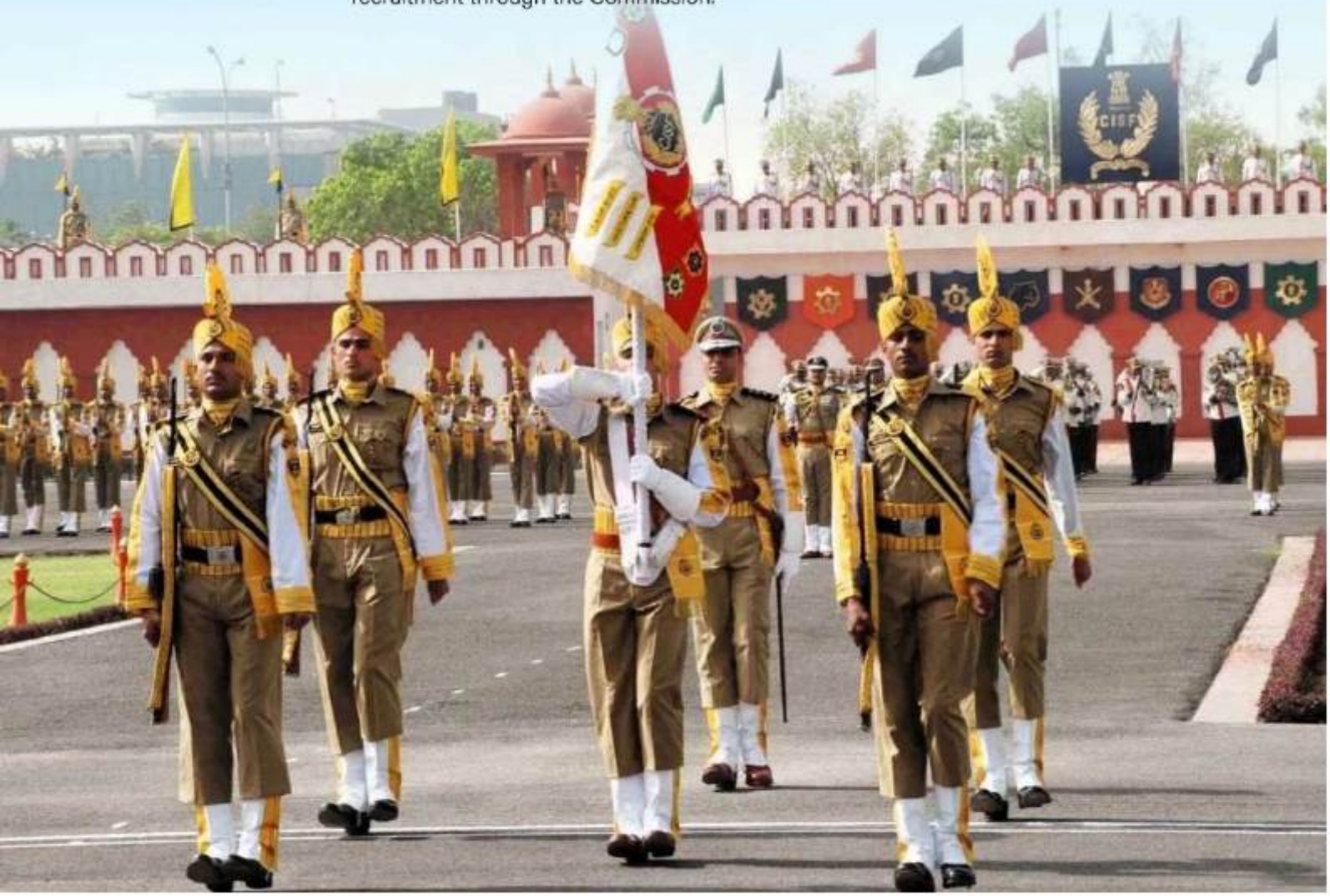
03 Shifting the emphasis of the annual confidential report from a closed assessment to a more structured, competency-based evaluation

53

2003

UPSC Begins Central Police Forces Recruitment

In 2003, the Central Government entrusted the Union Public Service Commission with the recruitment of Assistant Commandants in the Central Police Forces, namely the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Special Service Bureau (SSB) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). This marked the introduction of a dedicated examination for recruitment to the post of Assistant Commandant in these forces. The recruitment of Assistant Commandants in the CISF, which was earlier linked to the Civil Services Examination, was also brought under the Central Police Forces Examination. The first examination for the selection of Assistant Commandants in the Central Police Forces was notified on 10 May 2003 and was held on 12 October 2003, marking an important milestone in the evolution of specialised recruitment through the Commission.



2005...

Expansion of Physical Infrastructure

In view of the significant rise in applications and examinations conducted, 'Ayog Sachivalaya', the New Office Building of the Commission, was inaugurated on December 22, 2005. The foundation of the building was laid on December 21, 2001. The building is aesthetically designed where apart from the office rooms of different Branches, Advisors' Suites, Conference Rooms, Ad-hoc Board Rooms and Multi-Purpose Hall have been provided. In 2017, a 3-foot-6-inch bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi was also unveiled at the Commission's Main Building, symbolising UPSC's commitment to ethical public service, integrity and non-discrimination in line with Gandhian ideals. With a renewed focus on the campus environment, in 2019, the main lawn of the Commission's campus was redeveloped with a walking and jogging track, water bodies, pergolas and an automated sprinkler system. The gradual expansion of Physical Infrastructure is a continuous process. Most recently in 2026, the candidates' waiting hall has been renovated and other improvements are being carried out.









55

2009

UPSC Foundation Day Lecture Series

To mark the Commission's Foundation Day (observed annually on 1 October), UPSC started a distinguished lecture series on 'Governance and Public Service.' The inaugural lecture was delivered by President Pratibha Devisingh Patil on 12 November 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan. It was followed by second lecture by Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari on 3 May 2011, third by former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 1 December 2011, and fourth by then President Pranab Mukherjee on 29 November 2013.









2010

S.K. Khanna Committee and Examination Reform

In 2010, following the recommendations of the committee chaired by Prof. S.K. Khanna, former Chairman of AICTE, the scheme of the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination was revised with effect from Civil Services Examination, 2011. The earlier optional-subject paper was discontinued and replaced by two objective-type papers—General Studies Paper-I and General Studies Paper-II, each carrying 200 marks. The merit of Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination was prepared on the basis of sum total of marks scored by the candidates in Paper-1 and Paper-2. This scheme of Preliminary Examination continued till CSE, 2014. However, the English language comprehension as a part of General Studies Paper-2 in the scheme of Preliminary Examination was deleted in CSE, 2014.

RECOMMENDED SEVERAL
REFORMS
TO THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM

01 Optional-subject paper discontinued and replaced by two objective-type papers:
- General Studies Paper-I: 200 marks
- General Studies Paper-II: 200 marks

02 Preliminary merit was based on the combined marks of both papers.

03 This scheme continued until CSE 2014

04 English language comprehension in GS Paper-II was removed from the scheme in CSE 2014.

57

2010

UPSC Hosts the SAARC Conference of Public Service Commissions

In November 2010, UPSC hosted the Conference of the Chiefs of Public Service Commissions of SAARC Countries from 20–22 November. The conference brought together heads of public service commissions from across the SAARC region, providing a platform to exchange ideas, share experiences and learn from each other's best practices, thereby strengthening regional cooperation in public service.



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar delivering the inaugural address at the Conference of the Chiefs of Public Service Commissions of Member States of SAARC countries, in New Delhi on November 20, 2010.

2011

UPSC Expands International Cooperation

In 2011, UPSC began entering into bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with public service institutions abroad, creating formal frameworks for the exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices in public service recruitment. The first such MoU was signed with the Public Service Commission of Canada on 15 March 2011. This initiative expanded over the following years through MoUs with the Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan (2017), the Public Service Commission of Mauritius (2018 and it was renewed in 2024), Public Service Commission of Gambia(2019) and the Civil Service Council of Mongolia (2019), covering areas such as recruitment and selection, examination systems, human resource management, information technology and institutional best practices.

Visit of delegates from Gambia



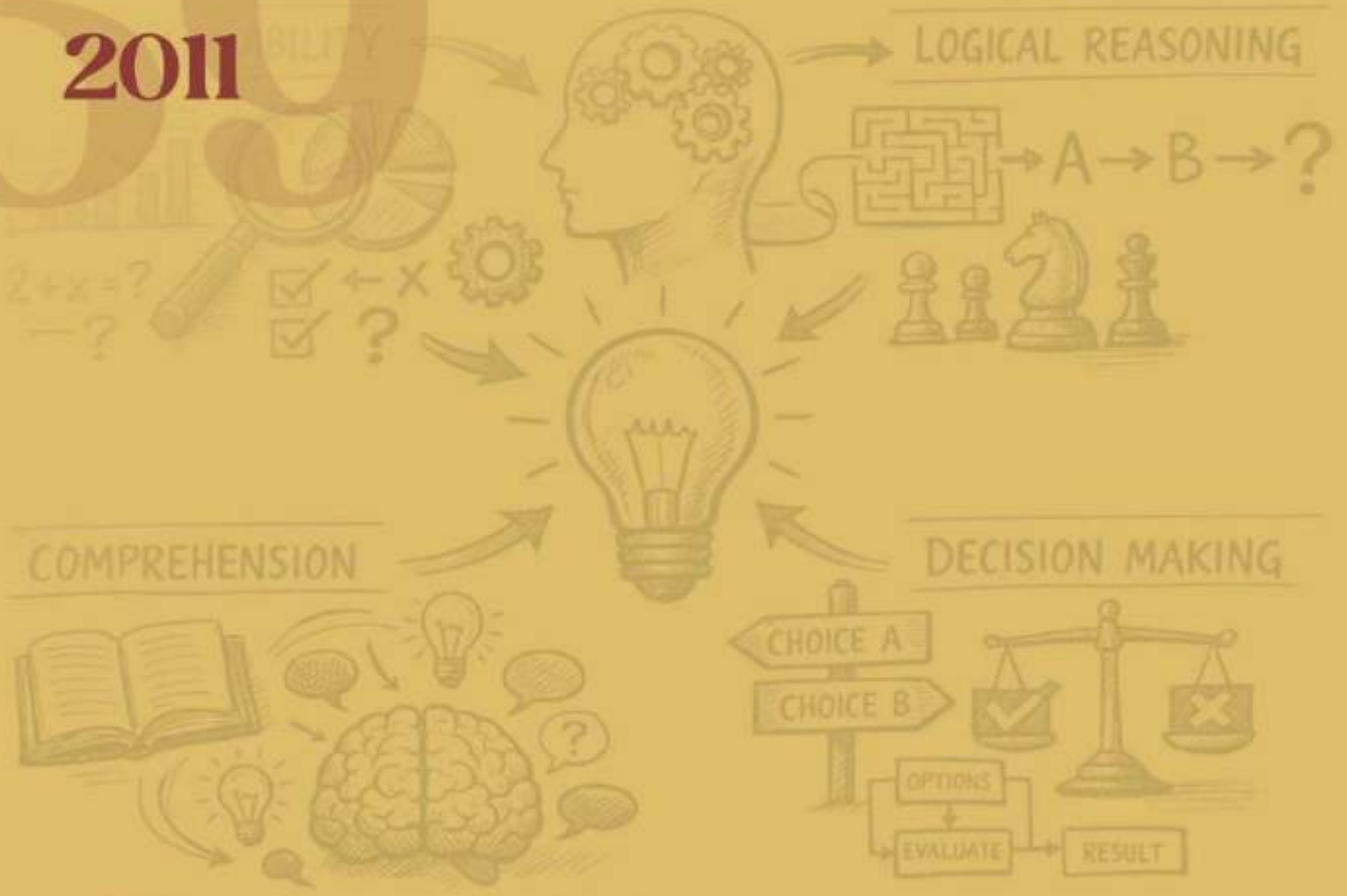
Visit of Delegates from Bhutan





Visit of Delegates from Mongolia

2011



Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) Implemented

Based on the recommendations of the Prof. S.K. Khanna Committee (2009–10), CSAT replaced the optional subject paper at the Preliminary stage as General Studies Paper II, shifting the focus of assessment to analytical ability, logical reasoning, decision-making, and comprehension.

Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

26-August-2010 15:40 IST

Syllabus of CSAT

The Government has approved the proposal for introduction of Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) in place of Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination. In CSAT, one of optional subjects which a candidate could have chosen out of 23 optional has been replaced with common paper on aptitude test. The syllabus of CSAT is being worked out.

Government will shortly notify the new scheme of examination giving details of the syllabus.

2011

60

Single Window System and its E-Appointment Software

A Single Window System was introduced in the Commission from 1 September 2011 for proposals relating to amendment or framing of recruitment rules, and for deciding the method of recruitment as a one-time measure pending finalisation of recruitment rules. Under this system, initial scrutiny of a proposal is done in the presence of the Ministry/Department representative concerned, speeding up processing and making the process more interactive. In 2018, "e-Appointment software under Single Window System" was made operational (with effect from 1 November 2018) for discussing and accepting Recruitment Requisit

T.S. Amd-file/UPSC Matters

No. 39011/05/2012-Estt (B)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
(Department of Personnel and Training)
****

North Block, New Delhi,
Dated the 04th July, 2012

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:-Introduction of Single Window System in Union Public Service Commission for receiving requisitions for direct recruitment posts to be filled by selection through interview- regarding.

....

The undersigned is directed to say that in order to reduce delay in finalizing recruitment proposals due to shortcomings/discrepancies in requisition, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has decided to switch over to Single Window System for accepting requisitions(in UPSC-33 proforma) henceforth for direct recruitment posts to be filled by Selection through interview. In this context, the UPSC had already organized workshop apprising the indenting Ministries/Departments about certain discrepancies/shortcomings found in the requisitions.

2. Under this new system, the requisitioning Ministries/Departments shall now be required to bring their complete proposals (requisitions) along with following documents by hand for on the spot scrutiny by the [illegible] Officer in UPSC in terms of the Checklist annexed: -

(i) Notified Recruitment Rules/Service Rules alongwith th[illegible]

(ii) All up-to-date notified relevant amendements in recr[illegible] Rules alongwith the date.

(iii) Act and regulation referred to in the RRs/Serv[illegible] amendments in RRs/Service Rules.

(iv) All up-to-date relevant amendments in the Act and r[illegible] the RRs/Service Rules or in the amendments in RRs[illegible]

(v) All up-to-date Notification/Instructions reg[illegible] Qualifications' treated as equivalent to th[illegible] Qualifications for the post. This is of signifi[illegible] equivalent" is specified under Essential/Desirable Qualifications.

(vi) All up-to-date Notifications/Instructions regarding "Foreign Educational Qualifications' treated as equivalent to the Essential/Desirable qualifications for the post. This is of significance only when "or equivalent" is specified under Essential/Desirable Qualifications.

(vii) Certified serial numbered index list in chronological order, indicating details (including date) of the above mentioned documents.



61

2011

Arun Nigavekar Committee Report

The UPSC constituted a Committee, Chaired by Prof. Arun S. Nigavekar, Ex-Chairman U.G.C., in December 2011, with the mandate to suggest reforms to the existing Civil Services Examination to enable the selection of candidates with the desired profile and skill sets in accordance with contemporary imperatives. The committee examined the Civil Services Examination structure, emphasizing greater weightage for English, Indian languages, and the essay paper; introducing a domain knowledge assessment; and recommending a reduced role for optional subjects.



Committee on
Civil Services Examination
Reforms
सिविल सेवा परीक्षा सुधारों पर समिति

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
DHOLPUR HOUSE, SHAHJAHAN ROAD,
New Delhi-110 069

August 30, 2012

The Chairman,
Union Public Services Commission,
New Delhi-110069

Dear Chairman,

Please find herewith the Report of the Committee on Civil Services Examination Reforms. We are grateful to you and Union Public Services Commission for the facilities extended to us to undertake our work.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(Arun Nigavekar)

(Prakash Chandra)

(Yogendra Narain)

(Priyankar Upadhyaya)

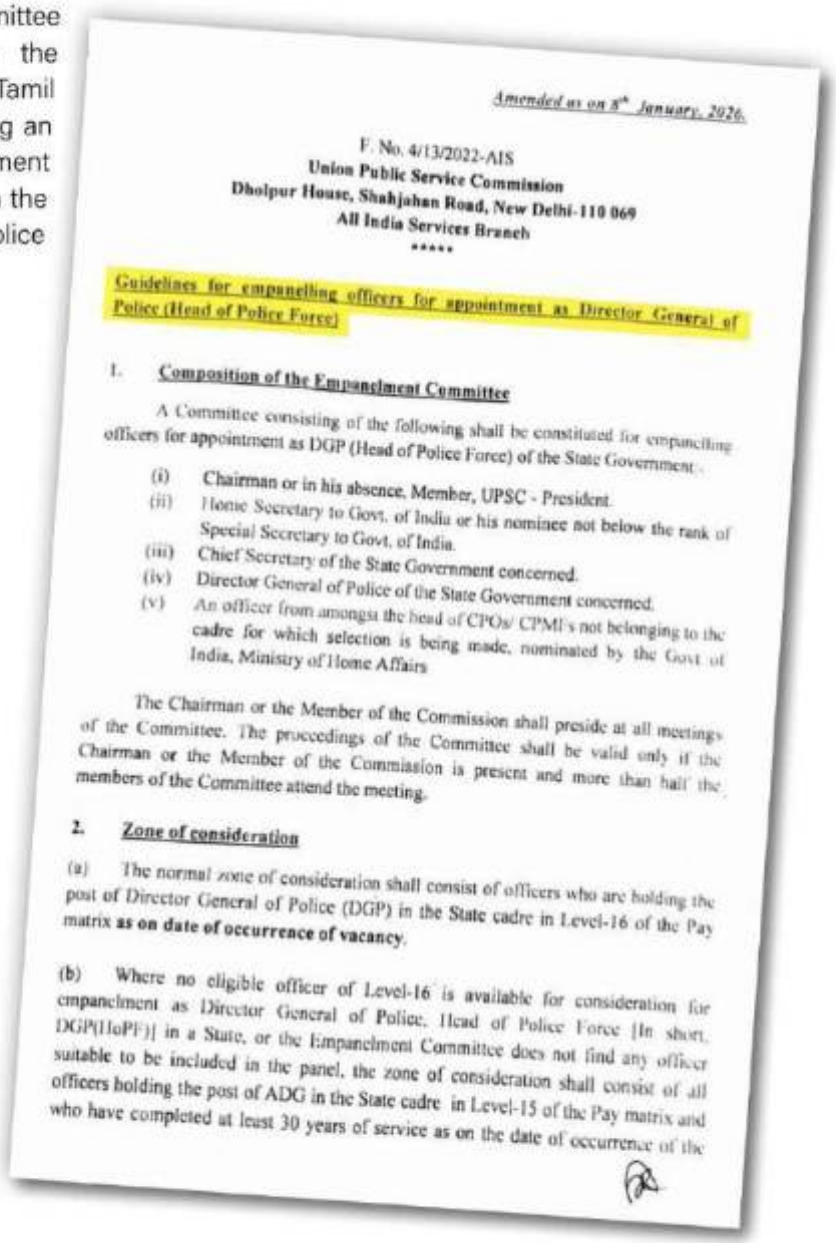
(Rathindra Nath Datta)

(Rakesh Kumar Gupta)

2012

UPSC Enters the DGP/HoPF Empanelment Process

Pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 22 September 2006 in *Prakash Singh & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors.*, the UPSC was entrusted with the empanelment of senior IPS officers for selection as Director General of Police (DGP)/ Head of Police Force (HoPF) in the States. The Commission subsequently filed Interim Applications before the Hon'ble Court seeking directions on the modalities of the empanelment process and assistance from the concerned authorities. In 2012–13, the Commission undertook the empanelment process, with Empanelment Committee meetings held for the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu States, marking an important development in the UPSC's role in the selection of senior police leadership.



Amended as on 8th January, 2026.

F. No. 4/13/2022-AIS
Union Public Service Commission
Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110 069
All India Services Branch
*****

Guidelines for empanelling officers for appointment as Director General of Police (Head of Police Force)

1. **Composition of the Empanelment Committee**

A Committee consisting of the following shall be constituted for empanelling officers for appointment as DGP (Head of Police Force) of the State Government:-

(i) Chairman or in his absence, Member, UPSC - President.
(ii) Home Secretary to Govt. of India or his nominee not below the rank of Special Secretary to Govt. of India.
(iii) Chief Secretary of the State Government concerned.
(iv) Director General of Police of the State Government concerned.
(v) An officer from amongst the head of CPOs/ CPMI's not belonging to the cadre for which selection is being made, nominated by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs

The Chairman or the Member of the Commission shall preside at all meetings of the Committee. The proceedings of the Committee shall be valid only if the Chairman or the Member of the Commission is present and more than half the members of the Committee attend the meeting.

2. **Zone of consideration**

(a) The normal zone of consideration shall consist of officers who are holding the post of Director General of Police (DGP) in the State cadre in Level-16 of the Pay matrix **as on date of occurrence of vacancy**.

(b) Where no eligible officer of Level-16 is available for consideration for empanelment as Director General of Police, Head of Police Force [In short, DGP(HoPF)] in a State, or the Empanelment Committee does not find any officer suitable to be included in the panel, the zone of consideration shall consist of all officers holding the post of ADG in the State cadre in Level-15 of the Pay matrix and who have completed at least 30 years of service as on the date of occurrence of the

2013-16

UPSC Hosts SAARC Workshop on ICT and Recruitment Rules

UPSC strengthened regional cooperation among public service institutions of SAARC Member States through a series of knowledge-sharing workshops. On 22 March 2013, the Commission organised a workshop on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for delegates of the Public Service Commissions of SAARC Member States, where participants exchanged views on procedural difficulties and challenges in implementing information technology in their respective Commissions. Subsequently, on 28–29 November 2016, UPSC organised a workshop on "Framing and Amendment of Recruitment Rules for Posts in the Government" for delegates of the Public Service Commissions of SAARC Member States. These initiatives reflected UPSC's role in facilitating regional dialogue and the exchange of practices in public service administration and recruitment.





2013

IFoS Screening Integrated with the CS (P) Examination

The Scheme of Indian Forest Service Examination was changed by the Government during the year 2013 by introducing screening through the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination. Accordingly, the candidates opting for Indian Forest Service (IFoS) are required to first appear and qualify in the screening for appearing in Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination. The screening is done through Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination.

Source: ToI

Printed from
THE TIMES OF INDIA

UPSC in change mode, introduces preliminary test component in IFoS exam

TNN | Mar 7, 2013, 03.00 AM IST

NEW DELHI: After making significant changes in the basic format of the Civil Services (Main) Examination, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has brought changes in its other prestigious, Indian Forest Service (IFoS) , examination by introducing a component of 'preliminary' test.

The Commission will, however, not conduct a separate preliminary examination for the IFoS. It has, rather, made a provision of common preliminary test for both the CSE and Forest Service examinations.

The preliminary test, which is to be held on May 26, will be a common screening mechanism for both these examinations for shortlisting candidates for their respective 'Main' examination. The main examination of both CSE and IFoS will be held separately and on different dates/months (keeping in mind common candidates for both the examinations).

While CSE is meant for selecting candidates for IAS, IPS, Indian Foreign Service (IFS), IDS, IRS and other elite central services, the IFoS examination is being conducted to select officers for Indian Forest Service.

Earlier, Indian Forest Service examination did not have concept of preliminary test like the CSE. Since the preliminary examination is a subject-neutral test which screens aspirants on the basis of their aptitude, analytical skill and general awareness, it will not change the basic character of the Indian Forest Service examination which is open for only science and engineering graduates.

As per the changes notified by the UPSC this week, the IFoS competitive examination will comprise two successive stages:

UPSC
Indian Forest Service (IFoS)
Exam Pattern

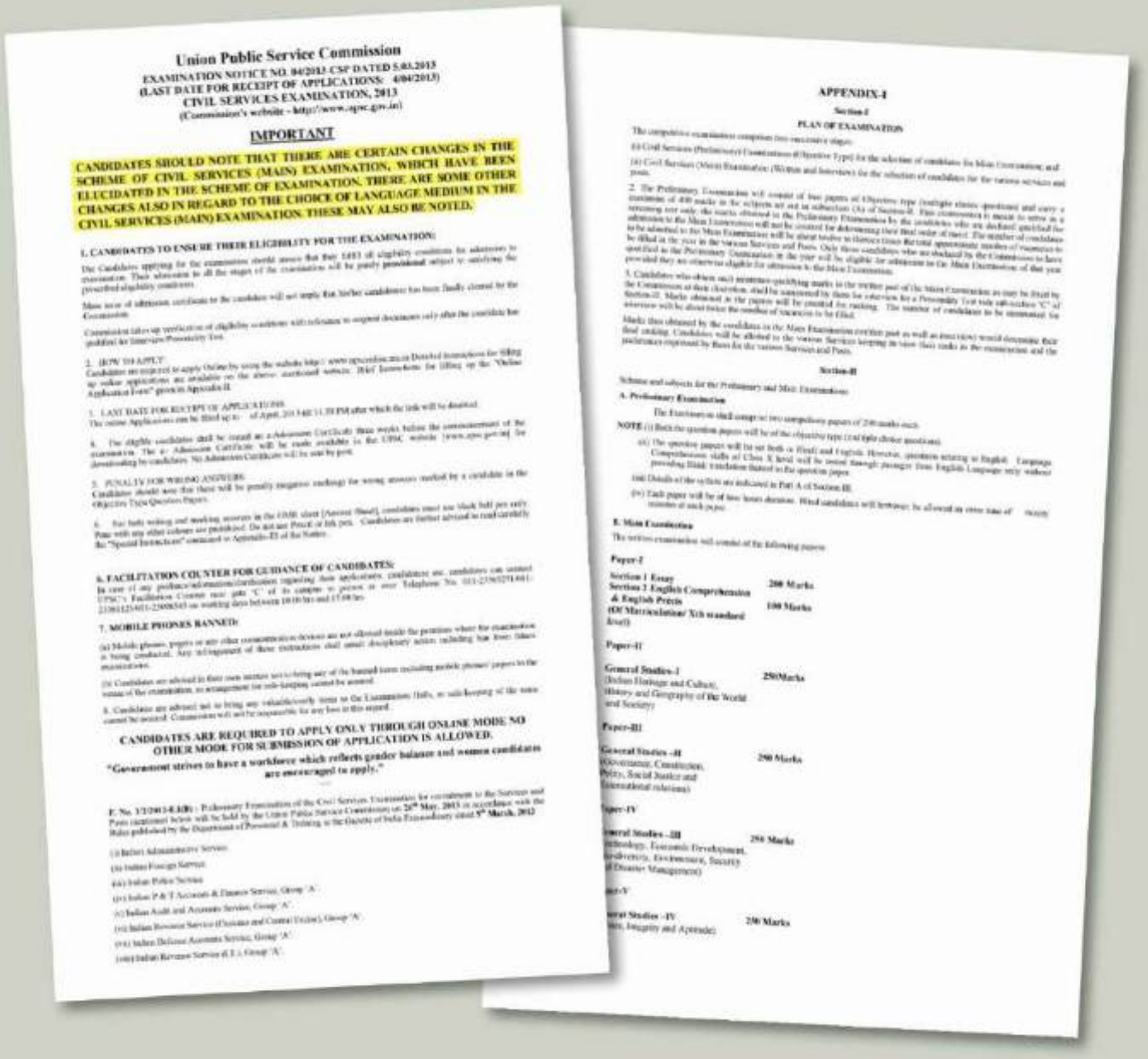


65

2013

Reforms in Civil Services (Main) Examination

Based on the recommendations of the Committee of Experts headed by Prof. Arun S. Nigavekar to review the existing Scheme of the Civil Services (Main) Examination, General Studies was expanded to four papers; Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude was introduced as General Studies Paper IV; and the number of optional subjects was reduced from two to one. The introduction of a dedicated ethics paper was a notable introduction, bringing the assessment of values and integrity formally into the written examination for the first time.



Union Public Service Commission

EXAMINATION NOTICE NO. 04/2013-CSP DATED 5.03.2013
(LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: 4/04/2013)
CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION, 2013
(Commission's website - http://www.upsc.gov.in)

IMPORTANT

CANDIDATES SHOULD NOTE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE SCHEME OF CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAMINATION, WHICH HAVE BEEN ELUCIDATED IN THE SCHEME OF EXAMINATION. THERE ARE SOME OTHER CHANGES ALSO IN REGARD TO THE CHOICE OF LANGUAGE MEDIUM IN THE CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAMINATION. THESE MAY ALSO BE NOTED.

1. CANDIDATES TO ENSURE THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE EXAMINATION:

The Candidates applying for the examination should ensure that they fulfil all eligibility conditions for admission to examination. Their admission in all the stages of the examination will be purely provisional subject to satisfying the prescribed eligibility conditions.

Mere issue of admission certificate to the candidates will not imply that his/her candidature has been finally cleared by the Commission.

Commission follows up verification of eligibility conditions with reference to original documents only after the candidate has qualified for Interview/Personality Test.

2. HOW TO APPLY:

Candidates are required to apply Online by using the website http:// www.upsconline.nic.in Detailed instructions for filling up online applications are available on the above mentioned website. Brief Instructions for filling up the "Online Application Form" given in Appendix-II.

3. LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:

The online Applications can be filled up to ... of April, 2013 till 11.59 PM after which the link will be disabled.

4. The eligible candidates shall be issued an e-Admission Certificate three weeks before the commencement of the examination. The e- Admission Certificate will be made available on the UPSC website (www.upsc.gov.in) for downloading by candidates. No Admission Certificate will be sent by post.

5. PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS:

Candidates should note that there will be penalty (negative marking) for wrong answers marked by a candidate in the Objective Type Question Papers.

6. For both writing and marking answers in the OMR sheet [Answer Sheet], candidates must use black ball pen only. Pens with any other colours are prohibited. Do not use Pencil or Ink pen. Candidates are further advised to read carefully the "Special Instructions" contained in Appendix-III of the Notice.

6. FACILITATION COUNTER FOR GUIDANCE OF CANDIDATES:

In case of any problem/information/clarification regarding their applications, candidates may contact Facilitation Counter (see gate 'C' of its campus in person or over Telephone Nos. 011-23385271/011-23073 Facilitation Counter may also be contacted on Fax No. 011-23385314/011-23381125/011-23008565 on working days between 10.00 hrs and 17.00 hrs.

7. MOBILE PHONES BANNED:

(a) Mobile phones, pagers or any other communication devices are not allowed inside the premises where the examination is being conducted. Any infringement of these instructions shall entail disciplinary action including ban from future examinations.

(b) Candidates are advised in their own interest not to bring any of the banned items including mobile phones/ pagers to the venue of the examination, no arrangement for safe-keeping cannot be assured.

8. Candidates are advised not to bring any valuables/costly items to the Examination Halls, as safe-keeping of the same cannot be assured. Commission will not be responsible for any loss in this regard.

CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO APPLY ONLY THROUGH ONLINE MODE. NO OTHER MODE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS ALLOWED.

"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply."

F. No. 1/2/2013-E.II(B) : Preliminary Examination of the Civil Services Examination for recruitment to the Services and Posts mentioned below will be held by the Union Public Service Commission on 26th May, 2013 in accordance with the Rules published by the Department of Personnel & Training in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 5th March, 2012

(i) Indian Administrative Service
(ii) Indian Foreign Service
(iii) Indian Police Service
(iv) Indian P & T Accounts & Finance Service, Group 'A'
(v) Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Group 'A'
(vi) Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise), Group 'A'
(vii) Indian Defence Accounts Service, Group 'A'
(viii) Indian Revenue Service (I.T.), Group 'A'

APPENDIX-I

Section-I

PLAN OF EXAMINATION

The competitive examination comprises two successive stages:

(i) Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination (Objective Type) for the selection of candidates for Main Examination; and

(ii) Civil Services (Main) Examination (Written and Interview) for the selection of candidates for the various services and posts.

2. The Preliminary Examination will consist of two papers of Objective type (multiple choice questions) and carry a maximum of 400 marks in the subjects set out in subsection (A) of Section-II. This examination is meant to serve as a screening test only, the marks obtained in the Preliminary Examination by the candidates who are declared qualified for admission to the Main Examination will not be counted for determining their final order of merit. The number of candidates to be admitted to the Main Examination will be about twelve to thirteen times the total approximate number of vacancies to be filled in the year in the various Services and Posts. Only those candidates who are declared by the Commission to have qualified in the Preliminary Examination in the year will be eligible for admission to the Main Examination of that year provided they are otherwise eligible for admission to the Main Examination.

3. Candidates who obtain such minimum qualifying marks in the written part of the Main Examination as may be fixed by the Commission at their discretion, shall be summoned by them for selection for a Personality Test vide sub-section 'C' of Section-II. Marks obtained in the papers will be counted for ranking. The number of candidates to be summoned for interview will be about twice the number of vacancies to be filled.

Marks thus obtained by the candidates in the Main Examination and their part as well as interview) would determine their final ranking. Candidates will be allotted to the various Services keeping in view their ranks in the examination and the preferences expressed by them for the various Services and Posts.

Section-II

Scheme and subjects for the Preliminary and Main Examinations:

A. Preliminary Examination

The Examination shall consist of two compulsory papers of 200 marks each.

NOTE (i) Both the question papers will be of the objective type (multiple choice questions).

(ii) The question papers will be set both in Hindi and English. However, questions relating to English Comprehension skills of Class X level will be tested through passages from English Language only without providing Hindi translation thereof in the question paper.

(iii) Details of the syllabi are indicated in Part A of Section-III.

(iv) Each paper will be of two hours duration. Blind candidates will however be allowed an extra time of ... minutes at each paper.

B. Main Examination

The written examination will consist of the following papers:

Paper-I

Section-1 Essay — 200 Marks
Section-2 English Comprehension & English Precis — 100 Marks
(Of Matriculation/ Xth standard level)

Paper-II

General Studies-I (Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society) — 250Marks

Paper-III

General Studies -II (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations) — 250 Marks

Paper-IV

General Studies -III (Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security & Disaster Management) — 250 Marks

Paper-V

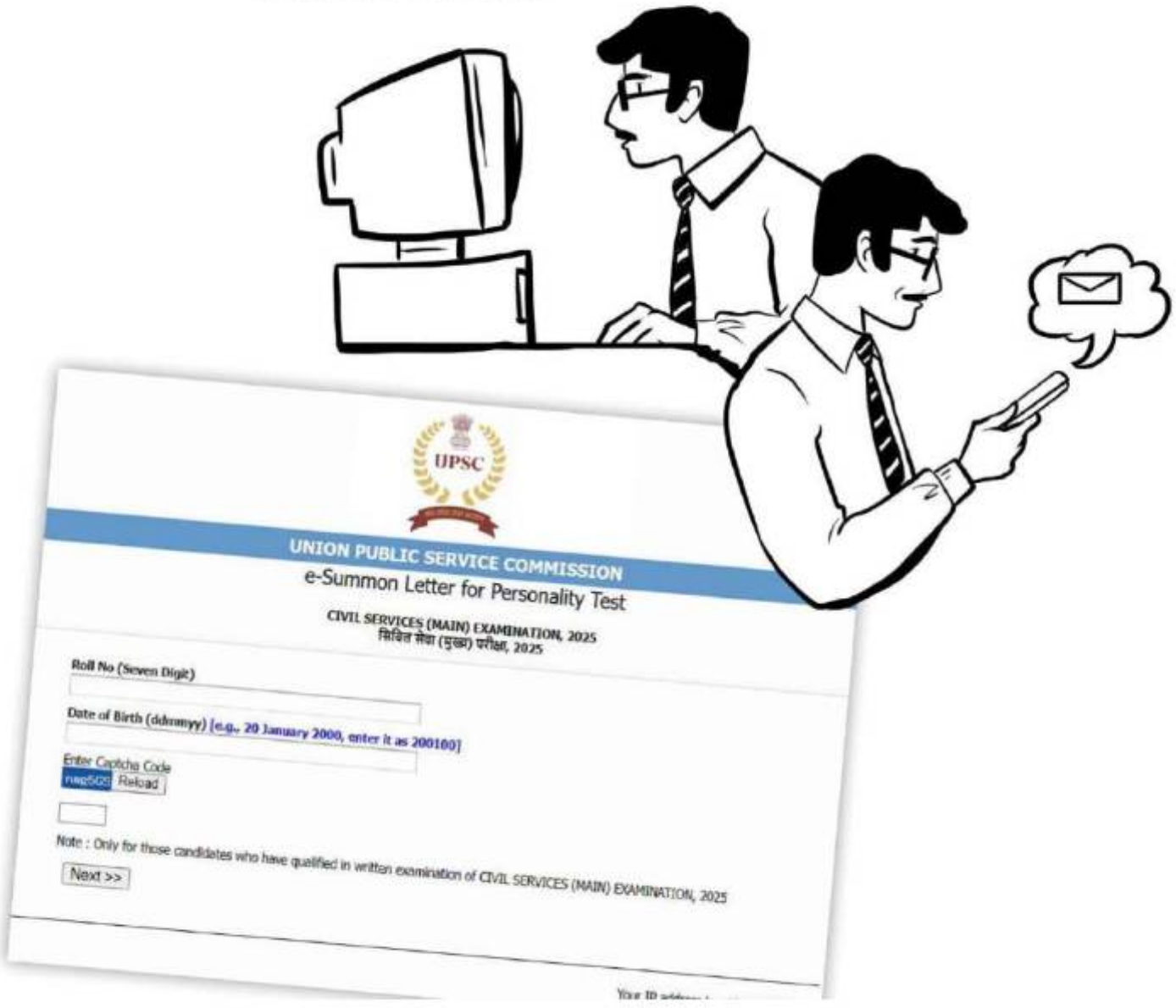
General Studies -IV (Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude) — 250 Marks

2013

66

Computer-Based Recruitment Tests

To manage rising applicant numbers for select posts, UPSC conducts Computer-Based Recruitment Tests. In 2013, CBRTs were used for the first time. Following this, UPSC conducted the Combined Medical Services (CMS) Examination in computer-based mode on 22 June 2014 in a single slot across 41 centres nationwide. The Commission gradually expanded the use of CBRTs and, alongside this, began issuing interview summons letters via email and introduced e-Admit Cards, significantly reducing processing time, paper usage, and administrative costs. Subsequently, it was reviewed by the Commission, and CBRT was discontinued after 2020-21.

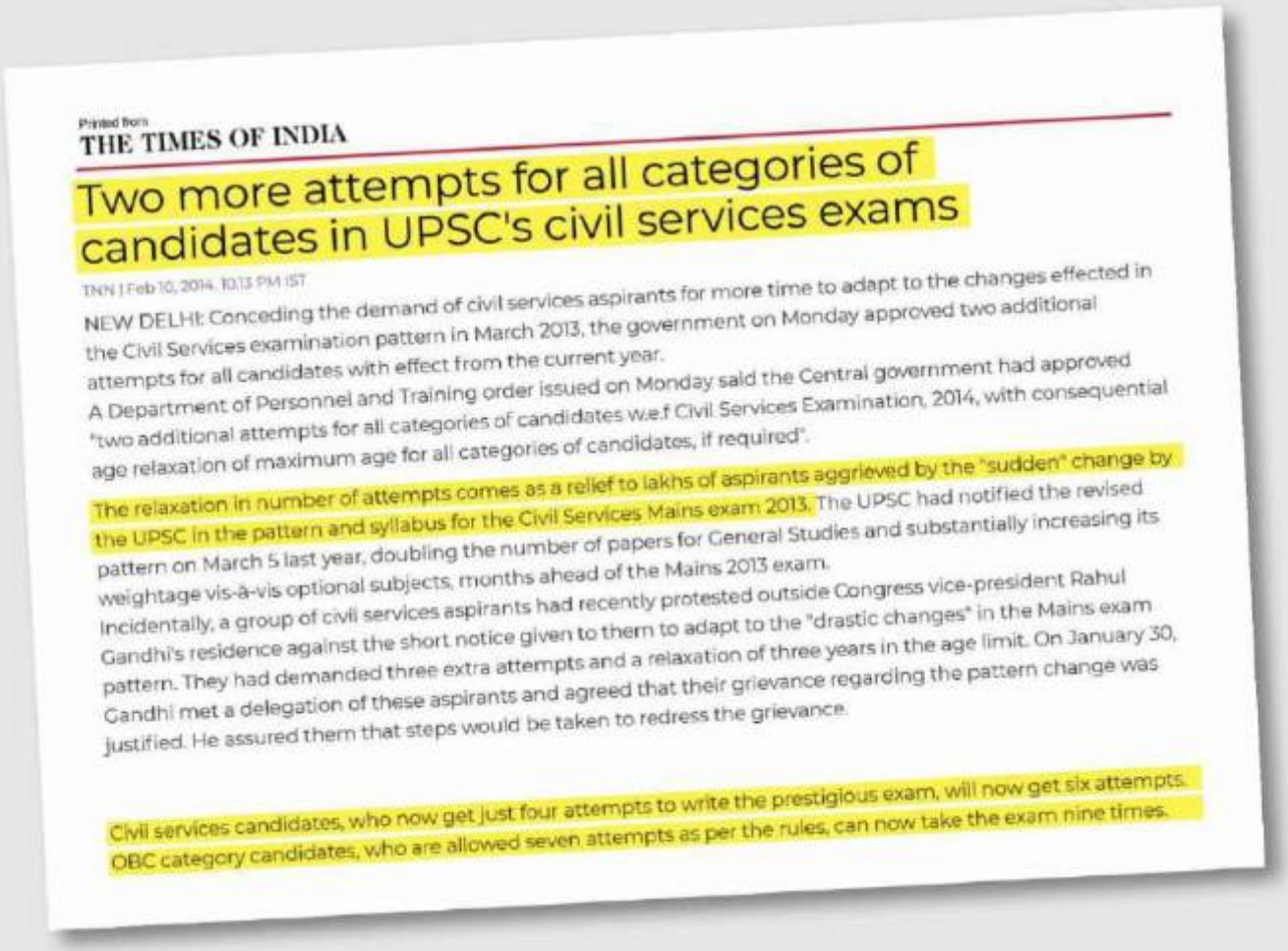


67

2014

Age Relaxation in Civil Services Examination

In response to representations concerning the introduction of the CSAT format, the Government introduced relief measures for Civil Services Examination candidates in 2014–2015. From 2014, candidates were granted two additional attempts, along with corresponding age relaxation, with the upper age limit fixed at 32 years for General candidates, 35 years for OBC candidates and 37 years for SC/ST candidates, with an additional relaxation of up to 10 years for Persons with Disabilities.



Printed from
THE TIMES OF INDIA

Two more attempts for all categories of candidates in UPSC's civil services exams

TNN | Feb 10, 2014, 10.13 PM IST

NEW DELHI: Conceding the demand of civil services aspirants for more time to adapt to the changes effected in the Civil Services examination pattern in March 2013, the government on Monday approved two additional attempts for all candidates with effect from the current year.

A Department of Personnel and Training order issued on Monday said the Central government had approved "two additional attempts for all categories of candidates w.e.f Civil Services Examination, 2014, with consequential age relaxation of maximum age for all categories of candidates, if required".

The relaxation in number of attempts comes as a relief to lakhs of aspirants aggrieved by the "sudden" change by the UPSC in the pattern and syllabus for the Civil Services Mains exam 2013. The UPSC had notified the revised pattern on March 5 last year, doubling the number of papers for General Studies and substantially increasing its weightage vis-à-vis optional subjects, months ahead of the Mains 2013 exam.

Incidentally, a group of civil services aspirants had recently protested outside Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi's residence against the short notice given to them to adapt to the "drastic changes" in the Mains exam pattern. They had demanded three extra attempts and a relaxation of three years in the age limit. On January 30, Gandhi met a delegation of these aspirants and agreed that their grievance regarding the pattern change was justified. He assured them that steps would be taken to redress the grievance.

Civil services candidates, who now get just four attempts to write the prestigious exam, will now get six attempts. OBC category candidates, who are allowed seven attempts as per the rules, can now take the exam nine times.

2015

Additional Attempt for CSE 2011 Candidates

In 2015, the Central Government gave one additional attempt in Civil Services Exam 2015 to candidates who had appeared in CSE 2011, irrespective of their age or the attempts already availed, but were otherwise eligible. Rule 4(b) under CSE 2015 Rules put this into effect.

Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

25-February-2016 15:36 IST

Additional chance to civil service aspirants

Central Government provided an additional attempt in Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2015 to those candidates who appeared in Civil Services Examination 2011.

Further two additional attempts were also provided to all category of candidates with consequential relaxation of maximum age, if required, with effect from Civil Services Examination (CSE)-2014.

The Tribunal vide order dated 27.10.2015 inter alia directed the Central Government to examine whether even such candidates who were eligible to take CSE 2011 or had taken 2012 or 2013 or 2014 examination should also be given another chance to take Civil Services Examination in 2015 with new pattern.

In compliance with the directions of Tribunal, the issue was examined by the Central Government. However, the request for additional attempt in Civil Service Examination 2015 to the candidates who did not appear in Civil Service Examination 2011, was not acceded to.

This was stated by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply to a question by Dr. K. P. Ramalingam in the Rajya Sabha today.

****

69

2015

Expert Committee to Review the Civil Services Examination

In 2015, under the chairmanship of Shri B.S. Baswan, Former Secretary, Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Government of India, the UPSC constituted an Expert Committee to comprehensively examine various issues concerning the Civil Services Examination. The Committee was tasked with reviewing matters relating to eligibility, syllabus, scheme and pattern of the Examination, in light of issues raised from time to time.

Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

09-December-2015 17:58 IST

Expert Committee for Civil Services

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has constituted an Expert Committee under chairmanship of Shri B S Baswan to comprehensively examine the various issues raised from time to time regarding Civil Services Examination, with respect to the eligibility, syllabus, scheme and pattern of the Examination vide notice dated 12.08.2015.

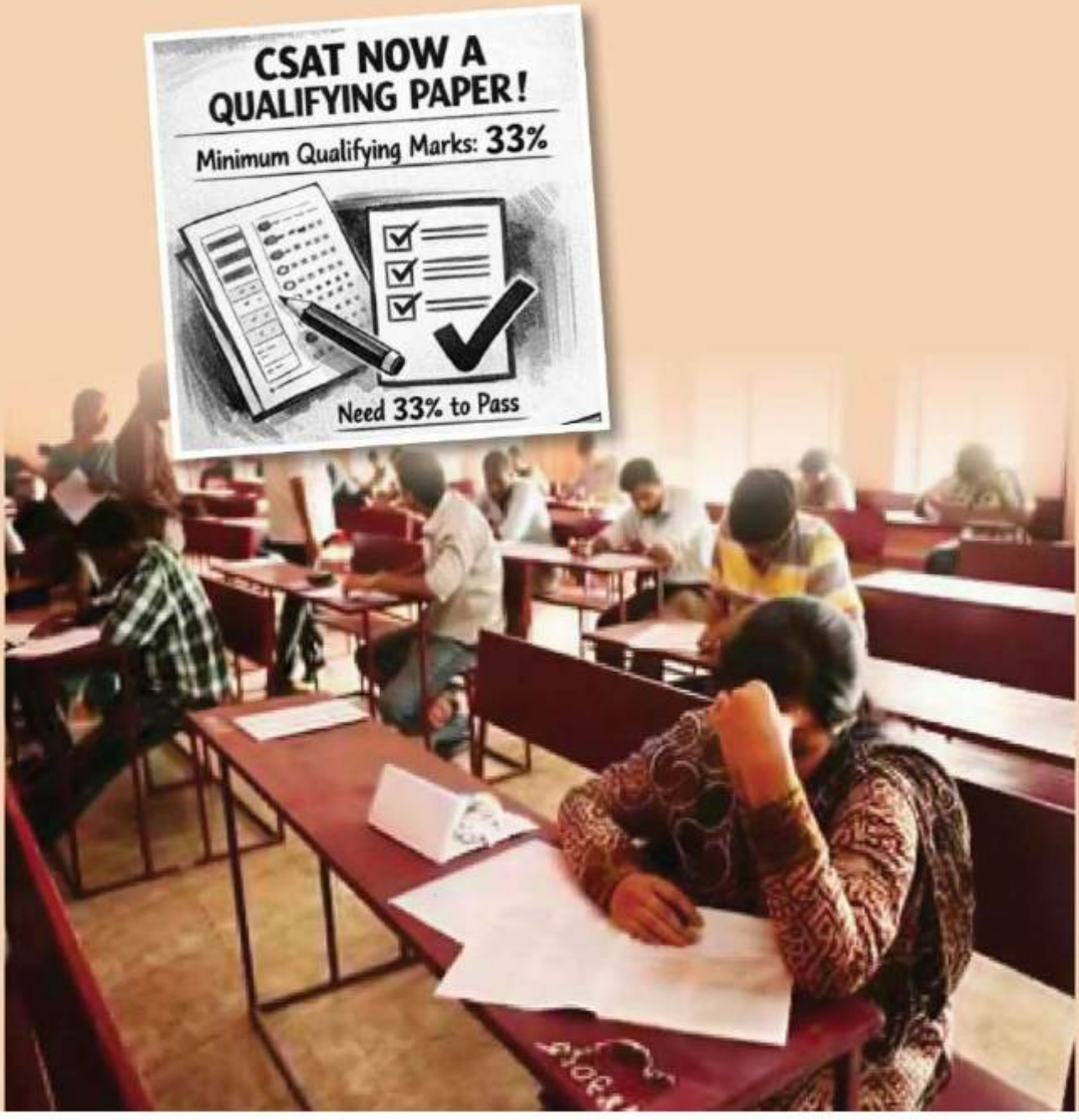
This was stated by Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Dr. Jitendra Singh in Lok Sabha today in a written reply to a question by Shrimati Kavitha Kalvakuntla and Shri Sisir Kumar Adhikari.

*****

2015

CSAT Made a Qualifying Paper

In 2015, the General Studies Paper-II (Civil Services Aptitude Test—CSAT) of the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination was made a qualifying paper, with minimum qualifying marks fixed at 33%. The English Language Comprehension Skills portion was also removed from the syllabus of General Studies Paper-II for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2015.



71

2016

UPSC Museum Inaugurated

On 11 November 2016, UPSC inaugurated an institutional museum, showcasing rare documents, reports, official publications and other archival material relating to the history and evolution of public service recruitment in India. The entry to the Museum is free and it is open to public from 09:30 AM to 06:30 PM (Monday to Friday). In 2018-19, a 360-degree virtual tour of the Museum was made available on the Commission's website, with archival materials digitised and linked to the tour — extending access to scholars, students and the public worldwide.





2017

Three-Stage Scheme Introduced for the Engineering Services Examination

From 2017, the scheme of the Engineering Services Examination was revised, replacing the earlier two-stage structure with a three-stage examination comprising the Preliminary/ Stage-I Examination, Mains/Stage-II Examination and Stage-III (Personality Test). A merit list will be prepared based on the performance of the candidates in all the three stages of the Examination for recommendations. Alongside the new examination structure, the syllabi of all the four disciplines of Engineering namely Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering were also revised and implemented with the new scheme introduced from the year 2017.

THREE STAGES OF UPSC - ENGINEERING SERVICES EXAM



73

2017

Seven-Day Window for Representations on Examination Questions

In 2017, the Commission has put in place a structured mechanism for making representations to the Commission. A time frame of 7 days (a week) i.e. from the next day of the Examination Date to the 7th day (till 6:00 p.m.) is fixed for the candidates to make representations to the Commission on the Questions asked in the Papers of that Examination. Such representations are to be submitted on-line only and no representation by post/hand is to be entertained. No representation is to be entertained under any circumstances after this window of 7 days is over.

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Time frame for the candidates of an Examination conducted by the Commission for making representations on the questions asked in the Papers of that Examination.

Online Representation Portal for Question Paper & Provisional Answer Keys.

(i) For each Examination, a time frame of 5 days i.e. from the third (3rd day) of the Examination to 6.00 p.m. of the Seventh (7th day) is fixed for the appeared candidates to make representations to the Commission on the questions asked in the Papers of that Examination.

(ii) In case of Single Day Examinations, for example, if the Examination is held on 1st March, then the representations can be submitted from 4th March to 8th March (till 6:00 p.m.)

(iii) For Multi-Days Examinations, the date on which the last Paper of that Examination is held, will be the crucial reckoning date for making representations on the questions asked in all the Papers of that Examination. For example: if last Paper of a Multi-Days Examination is conducted on 1st July whereas the first Paper of that Examination is held on 29th June, then the candidates can submit representations from 4th July to 8th July (till 6:00 p.m.) for all the Papers of that Examination.

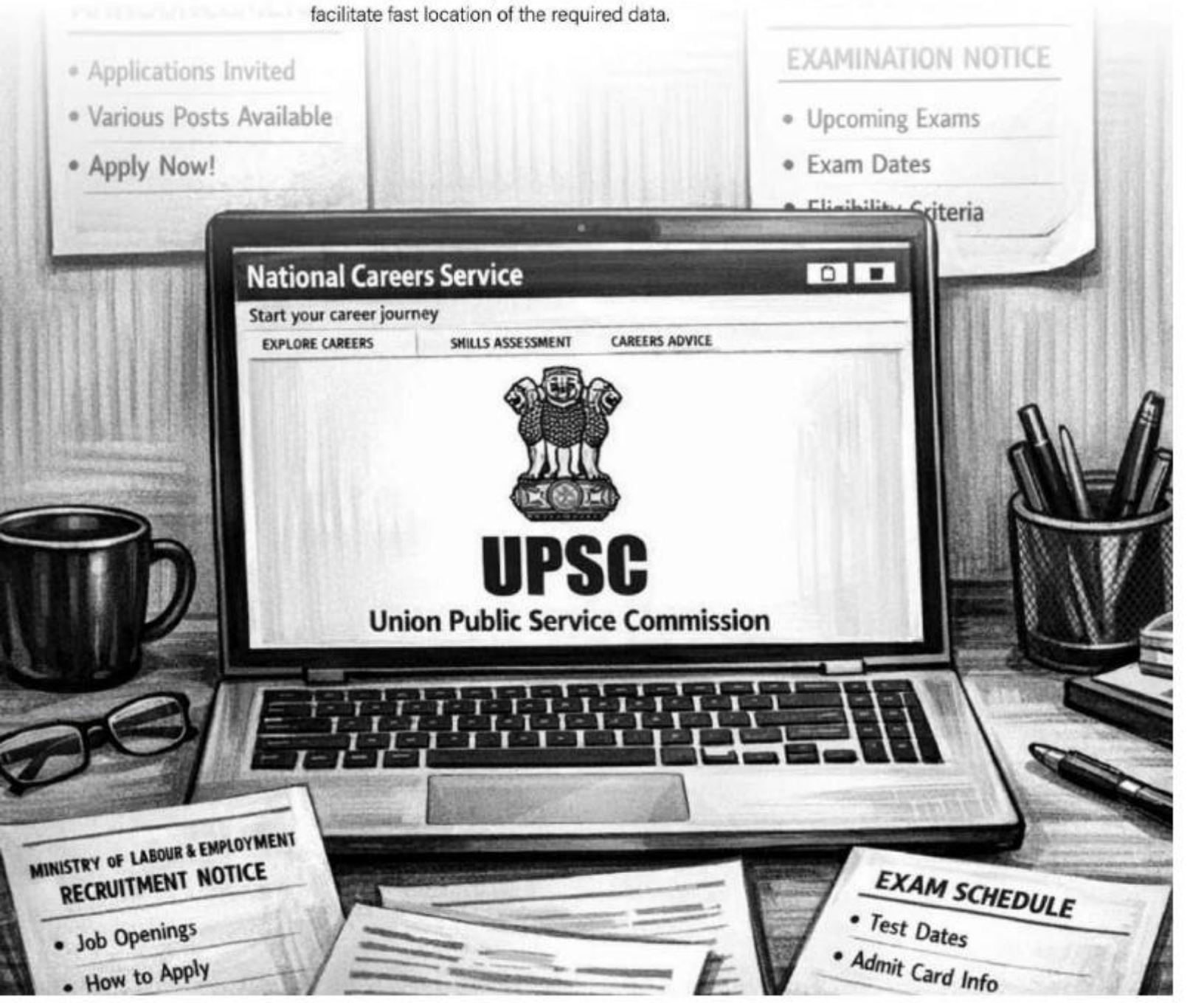
(iv) Such representation must be submitted through the "**Online Representation Portal for Question Paper & Provisional Answer Keys.**" only by accessing the following URL:

https://upsconline.nic.in/login

2017

User-Friendly Website Redesign

The Commission redesigned its website, making content more accessible, and also posted vacancy advertisements and examination notices on the National Career Service (NCS) portal of Ministry of Labour and Employment for wider publicity. The content of the information related to Recruitment Branch was modified. The formats in which information pertaining to recruitment cases is published on the website were modified to facilitate fast location of the required data.



75

2017-18

Introduction of Low-Powered Jammers for Examination Security

In 2017, the Commission began introducing low-powered jammers at examination venues as a security measure, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Government through the Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat, in order to stop scope of use of mobiles, IT gadgets or any communication devices, etc. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) successfully deployed low-powered jammers on a pilot basis at two venues in Delhi during the Computer Based Recruitment Test (CBRT) held on 17 December 2017. Following the successful pilot, deployment of low-powered jammers became a regular practice for the Commission's examinations and recruitment tests, beginning with the Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination held on 7 January 2018.



2018

Query-Based Marks Information System Launched

To ensure the transparency of the recruitment process without compromising its confidentiality, an interactive system to provide marks details to all candidates has been introduced in recruitment cases for sharing marks details/status of candidates called for interview. This Query-Based Marks Information System (QBMIS) was made operational in the portal of the Commission w.e.f. June 1, 2018.



77

2018

Recruitment through Lateral Entry in Government Services

Following the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2005) and NITI Aayog (2017), the Department of Personnel and Training advertised Joint Secretary-level contractual posts across ten Ministries and Departments in June 2018, drawing 6,077 applications. On 29 October 2018, the Government entrusted the selection to the UPSC, which processed the exercise as a special case, developing dedicated online Detailed Application Form software for the purpose; 3,688 candidates applied online, and 65 were shortlisted for interview.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

LATERAL RECRUITMENT TO SENIOR POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Government of India invites talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation building to join the Government at the level of Joint Secretary, which is a crucial level of Senior management in Government of India.

Government is looking for ten (10) outstanding individuals with expertise in the areas of (i) Revenue (ii) Financial Services (iii) Economic Affairs (iv) Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmer's Welfare (v) Road Transport & Highways (vi) Shipping (vii) Environment, Forests and Climate Change (viii) New & Renewable Energy (ix) Civil Aviation and (x) Commerce.

The details of eligibility criteria and conditions of service may be seen on **http://lateral.nic.in** under the link "Detailed Advertisement."

Interested applicants may submit their e-applications in the online portal i.e. **http://lateral.nic.in** from 15th June, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 30th July, 2018 till 05:00 p.m. (All timings to be reckoned as per IST).

davp 32201/11/0003/1819

2018

RRFAMS extended to UPSC

The Recruitment Rules Formulation, Amendment and Monitoring System (RRFAMS) was extended to UPSC w.e.f. 03.12.2018. For consultation with Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), an electronic system was introduced for formulation and amendment of recruitment rules, RRFAMS was introduced in 2009. Recruitment Rule proposals approved by DoPT on RRFAMS portal since then are being forwarded to the Commission online. Advice of the Commission on proposals received on RRFAMS is also conveyed to the concerned Ministry/Department online. This system, besides increasing the speed of processing, also helps in creation of an electronic library of Recruitment Rules.


About RRFAMS

The recruitment process for employees on deputation and absorption has fully transitioned to a paperless system. Ministries can now seamlessly submit proposals for Recruitment Rules to the DoPT and UPSC in a streamlined electronic format. These proposals are reviewed thoroughly by both the DoPT and UPSC, ensuring compliance with all necessary guidelines. Once finalized, the rules are returned to the Ministry for further action. This efficient approach not only speeds up the process but also promotes sustainability by significantly reducing paper use.

Stakeholders

Ministry

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING

DoPT

UPSC

UPSC

AB-14017/19/2018-Estt.(RR)(3141620)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions
Department of Personnel and Training
Estt(RR) Section
***

North Block, New Delhi
Dated: 3rd December, 2018

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Launching /Introduction of UPSC module in RRFAMS portal – reg.

The undersigned is directed to say that the RRFAMS portal has been in operation since 25.12.2016 for framing/amendment of Recruitment Rules by DOP&T. The proposals received on this portal are scrutinized in DOP&T through online consultation with the user ministries/departments. Once the RRs become error free, approval of DOPT is conveyed through the system. Simultaneously, the Recruitment Rules are also frozen. Under the existing system after the RRs are frozen, the Ministries/Departments send the proposals along with necessary Annexure, Hierarchy chart etc. in physical file to UPSC and DoLA.

As a next step towards achieving automation i.e. end-to-end processing and approval of RRs by the nodal Ministries, DOP&T in consultation with UPSC has now developed a module under RRFAMS for holding consultation with UPSC. In the new system after the RRs are approved and frozen by DOPT, the same shall be transmitted to UPSC and will be visible to Administrative Ministry/Department. The new system will be in operation w.e.f 03.12.2018 in test mode and will be formally launched into service on 25.12.2018. The comments/approval of UPSC will be conveyed through the system itself.

3. With the introduction of UPSC module, the requirement of sending proposal on physical files to UPSC after DOPT approval will be dispensed with.

4. In this regard it is also to say that some additional tabs have also been added at user end (Ministries/departments end) of the portal such as Information on Court cases, RRs of the promotional post etc for facilitating UPSC consultation. Therefore it is requested that the Administrative Ministry/Department, while initiating the proposal, may submit complete proposals by filling all the information's sought to DOPT. Administrative Ministries/Departments are also requested to keep close watch on the RRFAMS portal regarding their proposals as the information regarding MR meeting, comments of UPSC etc will be conveyed through the RRFAMS portal w.e.f 25.12.2018.

G Jayanthi.

(G. Jayunthi)
Joint Secretary (E-I)

To,
Joint Secretary (Administration/Establishment) of all Ministries/Departments.

79

2019

Dedicated Control Room Established

In 2019, the Commission established a dedicated Control Room in the Exam Hall Building to facilitate year-round monitoring of examinations, fulfilling a long-standing administrative requirement.

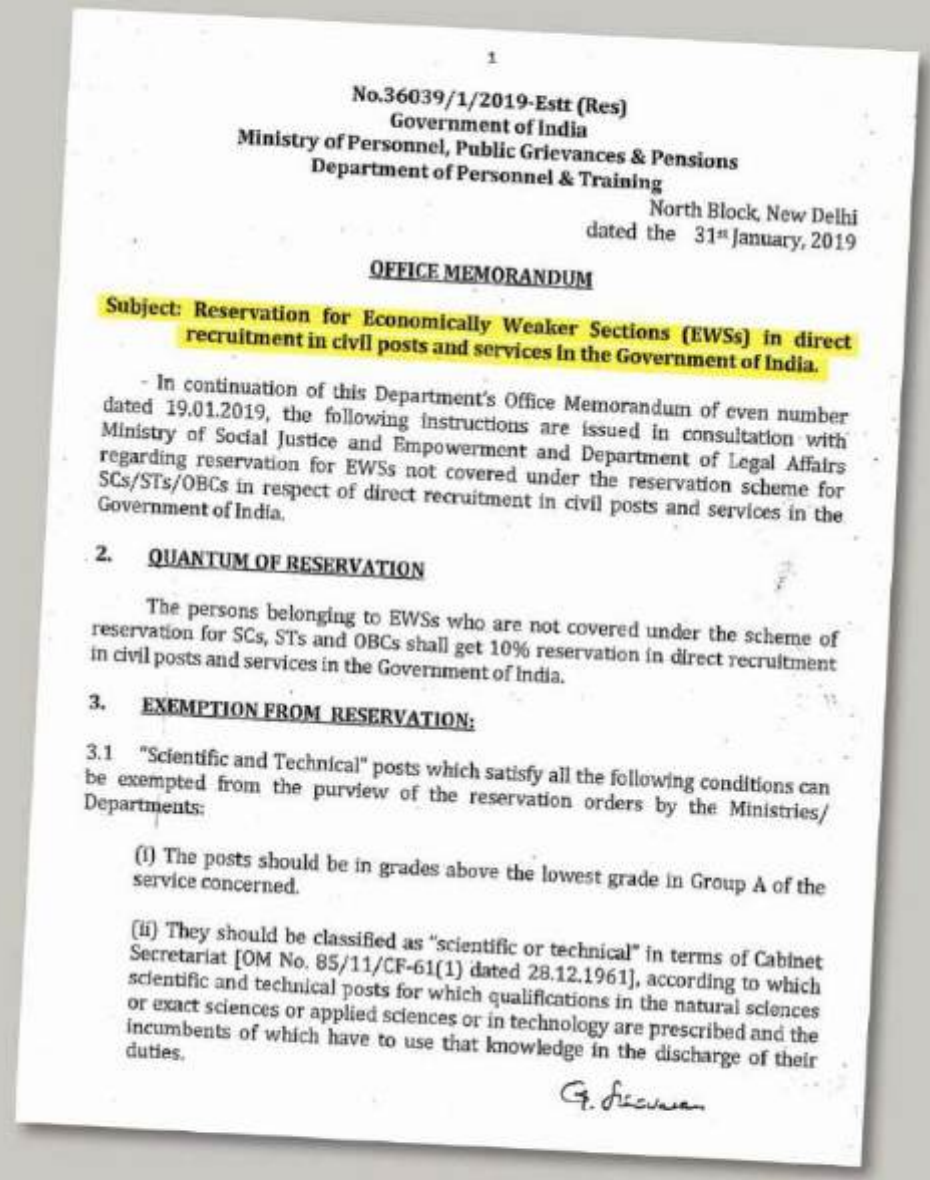


2019

80

Reservation for EWS in UPSC Examinations

Following the enactment of the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019, which inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) to provide up to ten per cent reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) among citizens not already covered by existing reservations, the Commission incorporated the EWS category into its examination notifications from the Civil Services Examination, 2019 onwards. The change, being implemented with effect from 1 February 2019, added a new dimension to affirmative action in recruitment and selection, based on economic criteria.



1

No.36039/1/2019-Estt (Res)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training

North Block, New Delhi
dated the 31st January, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in direct recruitment in civil posts and services in the Government of India.

In continuation of this Department's Office Memorandum of even number dated 19.01.2019, the following instructions are issued in consultation with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Department of Legal Affairs regarding reservation for EWSs not covered under the reservation scheme for SCs/STs/OBCs in respect of direct recruitment in civil posts and services in the Government of India.

2. QUANTUM OF RESERVATION

The persons belonging to EWSs who are not covered under the scheme of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs shall get 10% reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services in the Government of India.

3. EXEMPTION FROM RESERVATION:

3.1 "Scientific and Technical" posts which satisfy all the following conditions can be exempted from the purview of the reservation orders by the Ministries/ Departments:

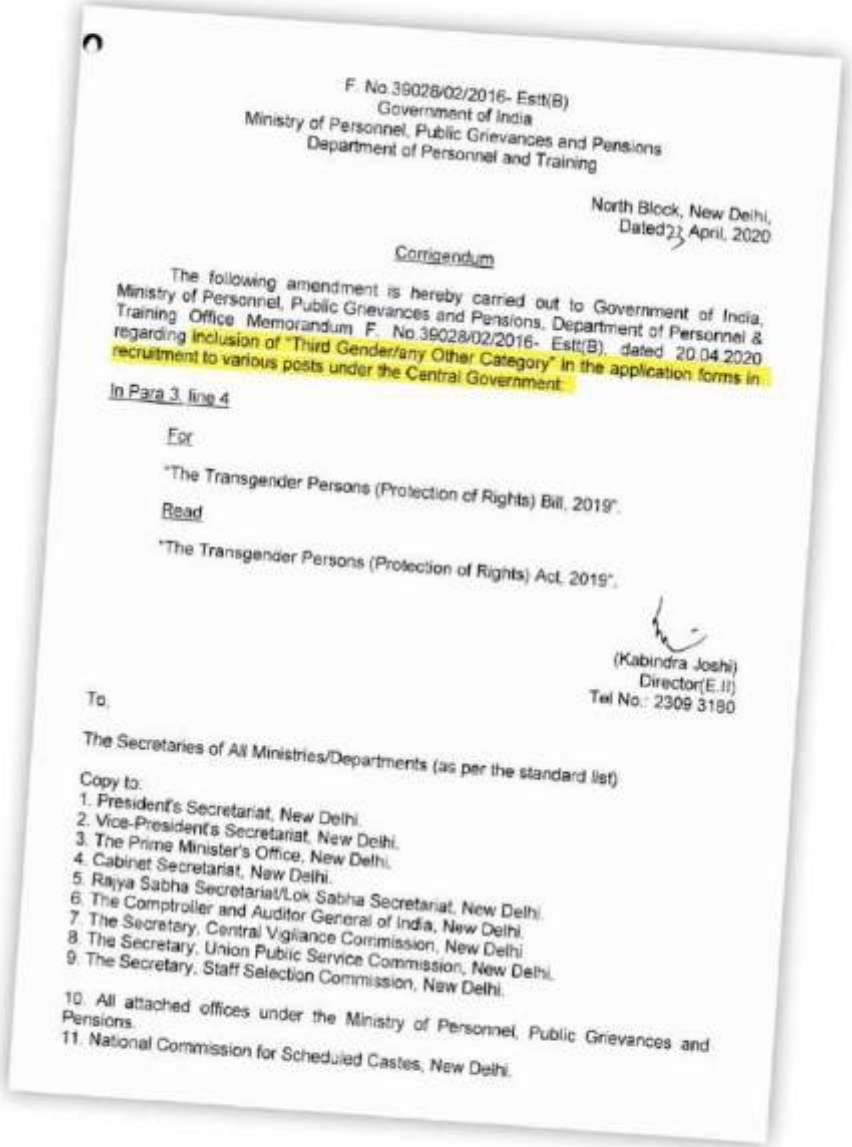
(i) The posts should be in grades above the lowest grade in Group A of the service concerned.

(ii) They should be classified as "scientific or technical" in terms of Cabinet Secretariat [OM No. 85/11/CF-61(1) dated 28.12.1961], according to which scientific and technical posts for which qualifications in the natural sciences or exact sciences or applied sciences or in technology are prescribed and the incumbents of which have to use that knowledge in the discharge of their duties.

2020

ORA Upgraded and Separate category for Transgender included therein

An upgraded version of ORA (Online Recruitment Application) Post Processing Software was introduced for facilitating online scrutiny of recruitment applications. Keeping in pace with the technological developments, constant efforts were made for improvements in the system. Proforma for submission of recruitment requisitions was modified in accordance with the modified instructions on reservation for person with benchmark disabilities issued by the Government. Transgender as a separate category of gender was incorporated in ORA form.



F. No.39028/02/2016- Estt(B)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel and Training

North Block, New Delhi,
Dated 23 April, 2020

Corrigendum

The following amendment is hereby carried out to Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training Office Memorandum F. No.39028/02/2016- Estt(B), dated 20.04.2020 regarding inclusion of "Third Gender/any Other Category" in the application forms in recruitment to various posts under the Central Government.

In Para 3, line 4

For

"The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019".

Read

"The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019".

(Kabindra Joshi)
Director(E.II)
Tel No.: 2309 3180

To,

The Secretaries of All Ministries/Departments (as per the standard list)

Copy to:
1. President's Secretariat, New Delhi.
2. Vice-President's Secretariat, New Delhi.
3. The Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi.
4. Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi.
5. Rajya Sabha Secretariat/Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi.
6. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, New Delhi.
7. The Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi.
8. The Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi.
9. The Secretary, Staff Selection Commission, New Delhi.
10. All attached offices under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
11. National Commission for Scheduled Castes, New Delhi.

2020

82

UPSC's Special Measures During the COVID-19 Pandemic

As train services were not fully functional during Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission, as a one-time measure, decided to reimburse the airfare to the candidates coming for the Personality Tests. State Governments were requested to allow the candidates holding e-Summon Letters for PTs to move in/out of the restricted zones for the purpose of attending the same. In order to address the safety and health concerns of the candidates, expert advisers and staff of the Commission, suitable arrangements were put in place. The Commission also helped the candidates with their lodging and transport requirements. On reaching the Commission, all candidates were provided a 'Sealed Kit' consisting of a face mask, face shield, a bottle of sanitizer and hand gloves.



UPSC Gears up to Conduct Personaltiy Tests (Interviews) for the Civil Services Examination 2019 in the Backdrop of COVID-19 Pandemic

Posted On: 20 JUL 2020 3:11PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Public Service Commission was in the midst of conducting the Personality Tests (PTs)/Interviews for 2,304 candidates for the Civil Services Examination, 2019 (CSE-2019) when the Government of India decided to impose a lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19. The Commission also reviewed the position and decided to defer the remaining PT Boards for 623 candidates of the CSE-2019 from 23.03.2020 onwards.

With gradual lifting of the lockdown, the Commission has decided to hold the PIs for the remaining candidates from 20th to 30th of July, 2020 and all the candidates have been suitably informed in advance. In order to address the safety and health concerns of the candidates, expert advisers and staff of the Commission, suitable arrangements have been put in place.

As train services are not fully functional, the Commission, as a one-time measure, has decided to reimburse the lowest 'to and fro airfare' to the candidates coming for the PTs. State Governments have been requested to allow the candidates holding e-Summon Letters for PTs to move in/out of the restricted zones for the purpose of attending the same. The Commission is also helping the candidates with their lodging and transport requirements.

On reaching the Commission, all candidates will be provided a 'Sealed Kit' consisting of a face mask, face shield, a bottle of sanitizer and hand gloves. Since the Interview Boards generally comprise of senior advisers, the Commission has taken all precautionary and safety measures for contactless PTs in order to shield the interviewers and the interviewees appropriately. The Commission's staff involved in conduct of

2021

Entry of Women into the NDA and NA Examinations

In August 2021, the Supreme Court of India, in the case of *Kush Kalra v. Union of India*, passed an interim order permitting women candidates to appear for the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Naval Academy examinations. Following the Court's direction, the entry of women into the NDA commenced with the NDA & NA Examination (II), 2021, conducted by the Commission on 5 September 2021.



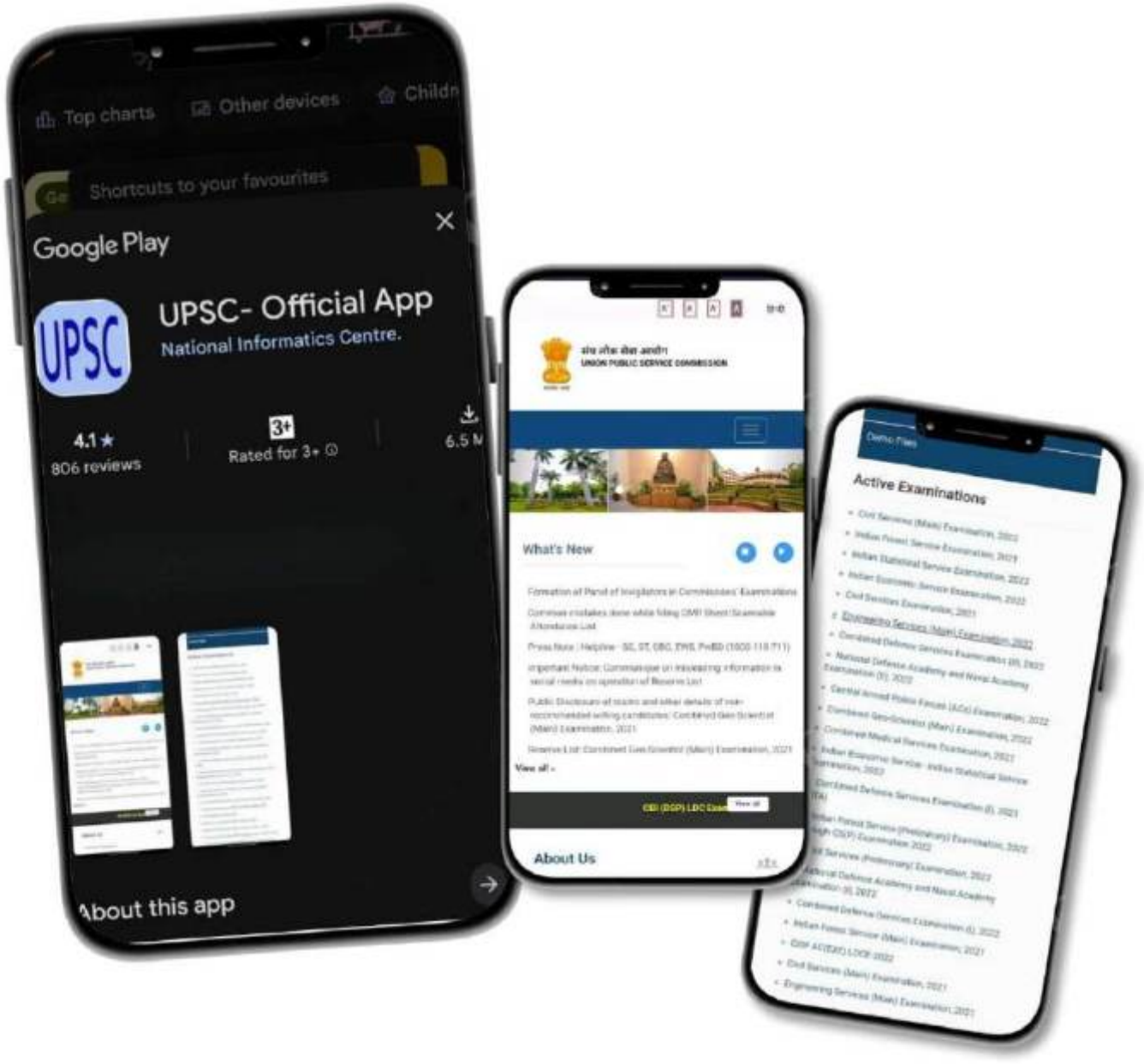
Hon'ble President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu with women cadets of the 158th Regular Course and the 141st Technical Graduate Course

2022

84

Launch of the UPSC Mobile Application

In September 2022, UPSC launched a dedicated mobile application integrating OTR, e-Admit Cards and real-time recruitment alerts, deepening last-mile digital inclusion for candidates in remote areas.



2022-23

Over 45 Lakh Candidates Apply for UPSC Examinations

During 2022-23, the Commission conducted 15 examinations under Recruitment by Examination, receiving and processing 33,51,916 applications. It also received 233 requisitions for 4,411 posts and 11,58,128 applications under Direct Recruitment by Selection — an indication of the scale at which the Commission now operates, a little over seven decades after its first examination drew fewer than four thousand candidates.

Year	No. of applications received		
	Exam.	Rectt.	Total
1950-51#	24680	18047	42727
1960-61	34349	36833	71182
1970-71	81539	65197	146736
1980-81	243374	58748	302122
1990-91	615850	72079	687929
2000-01	762501	48019	810520
2010-11	1893030	106083	1999113
2020-21	2503345	91381	2594726
2021-22	2991842	158025	3149867
2022-23	3351916	1158128	4510044

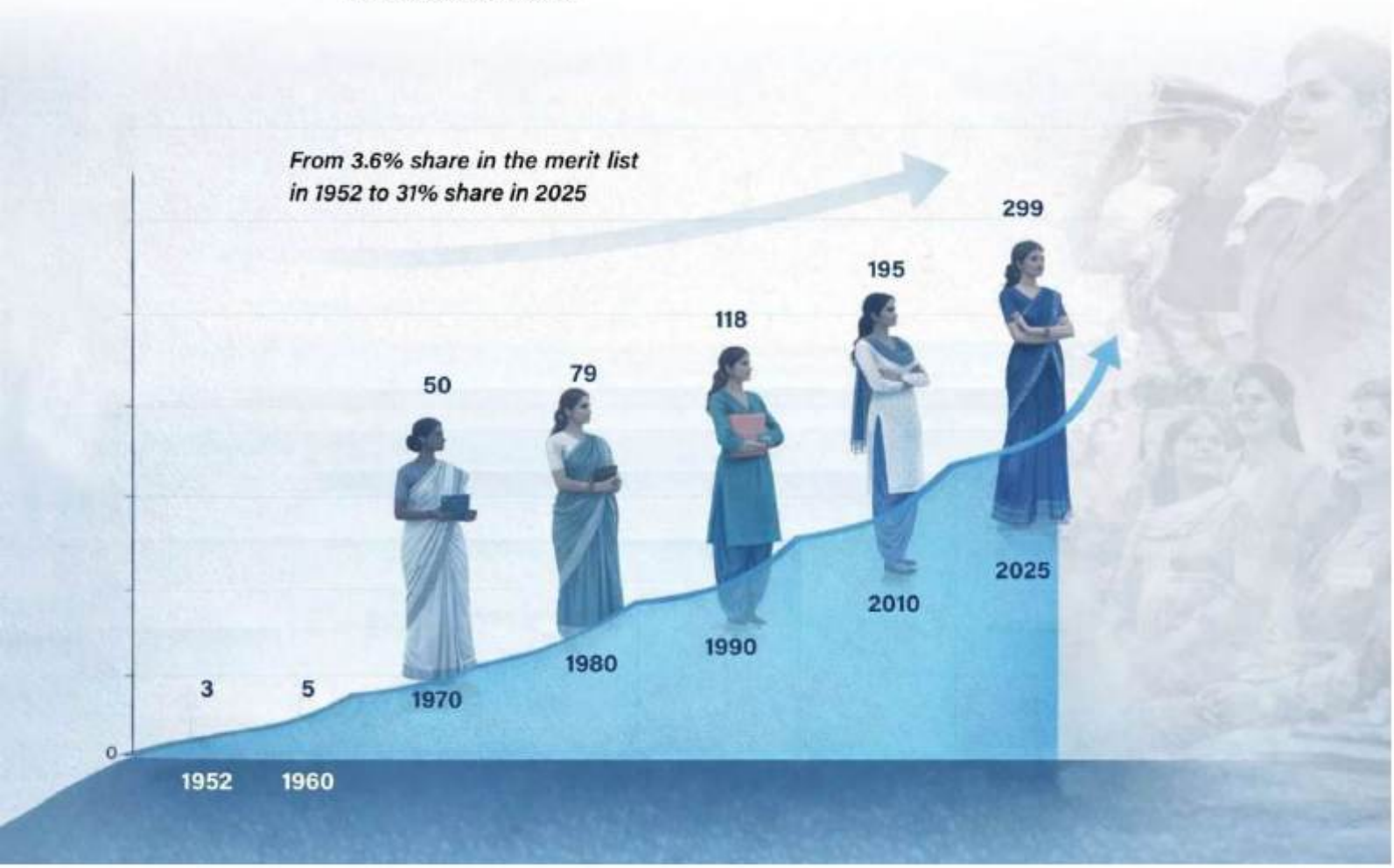


2025

86

Growing Presence of Women in Civil Services

2025 marked a significant milestone in women's representation in the civil services. Of the 958 candidates recommended by the UPSC, 299 are women, constituting nearly 31 per cent of the final merit list. Women also secured 11 of the top 25 positions, reflecting their growing presence among the highest ranks. This marks a remarkable transformation from the early years of the civil services. Between 1949 and 1951, only one woman was selected for the Indian Foreign Service and two for the Indian Administrative Service. By 1952, just three women figured among 83 recommendations, a mere 3.6 per cent share. The journey was pioneered by women such as Chonira Belliappa Muthamma, first woman selected to the Indian Foreign Service in 1948; Anna Rajam Malhotra, the first woman to enter the IAS through the Civil Services Examination in 1951; and Kiran Bedi, the first woman selected for the IPS in 1972. Beyond merit list outcomes, UPSC has institutionalised support for women aspirants, including fee exemptions on its examinations, reflecting a sustained effort to widen access.



87

2025

URN Replaces OTR Module

The Commission launched a revamped Online Application Portal designed to simplify the registration and application process for all its competitive examinations in May 2025. The new system, live at upsconline.nic.in, replaces the older One-Time Registration (OTR) module. The Universal Registration Number (URN) gives each candidate a single persistent identity across all of the Commission's examinations and recruitment processes, simplifying registration, reducing duplication, and providing a stable anchor for the Commission's identity-verification and analytics systems. The advance-fill model is expected to minimize last-minute traffic surges on the website by allowing candidates to prepare their profiles early. Once the first three parts are completed, aspirants only need to fill in exam-specific information when a notification is released, saving time and avoiding submission errors close to deadlines.

Union Public Service Commission Introduces New Online Application Portal

Posted On: 26 MAY 2025 8:02PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Public Service Commission is introducing a new Online Application Portal for registration and filling up of application form online. The UPSC Online Application Portal has four parts, arranged in 4 separate cards at the home page, three of which namely, Account Creation, Universal Registration and Common Application Form contains information which are common to all examinations and can be filled anytime by the candidates. The fourth part i.e. Examination contains examination notices, Examination Application and applications status. Only examination specific information is to be filled up in this part by candidates during the time period allowed in the notification of an examination.

This arrangement will facilitate candidates to fill up first three parts anytime and keep ready for applying to any UPSC examination whenever notified with updates as may be required, thereby saving time and avoiding last minute rush.

All applicants are required to fill up the application and upload their documents in the newly introduced portal afresh by using the website https://upsconline.nic.in. The old One Time Registration (OTR) module will not be applicable henceforth.

Detailed instructions are available on the home page as well as with all profiles/modules to guide the candidates for filling up the application and upload the documents.

...to use their Aadhar Card as ID document in the Universal Application for easy, effortless and seamless verification and authentication of ID



Please ensure that all documents to be uploaded are prepared in accordance with Instructions for uploading documents.

1 Create Account and Login
1. Create Account
2. Login

2 Universal Registration
1. Instructions
2. Proceed for Universal Registration

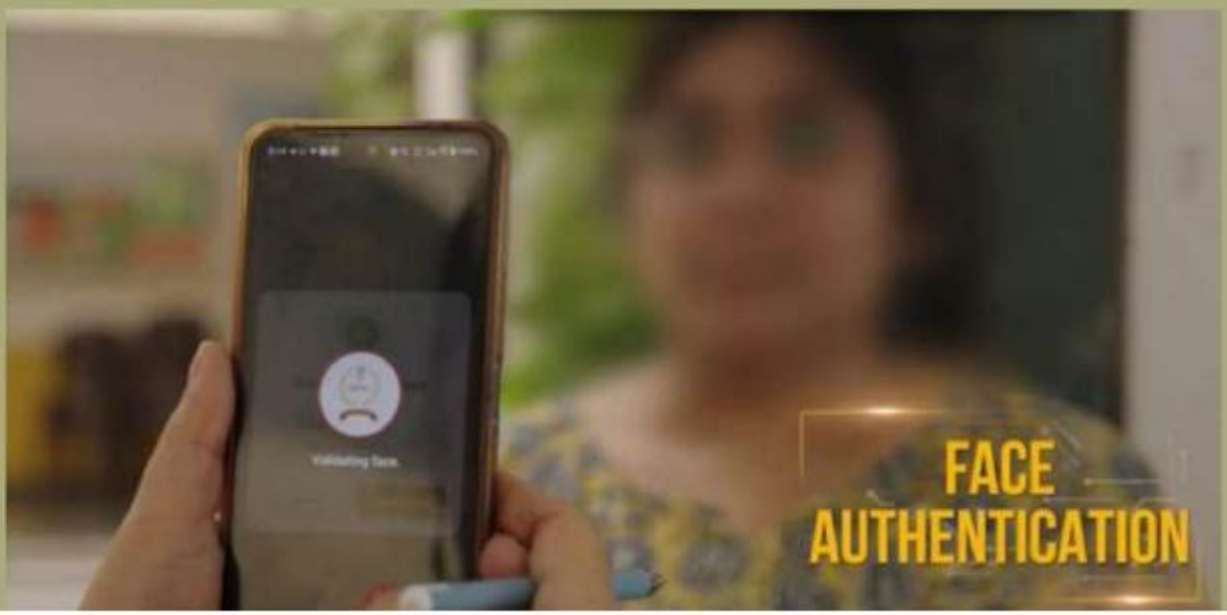
3 Common Application Form
1. Instructions
2. Proceed for Common Application Form

4 Recruitment
1. View Recruitment Notices
2. Apply for Recruitment Post
3. My Applications

AI-Enabled Facial Authentication Piloted for Candidate Verification

In its endeavour to enhance the integrity of the examination process and prevent impersonation, UPSC, in collaboration with the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) piloted AI-enabled facial authentication — matching a candidate's live facial image against their application photograph — during the NDA & NA (II) and CDS (II) Examinations, 2025 (select centres in Gurugram) held on 14 September 2025, to strengthen examination integrity and ease candidate entry. Following the pilot, it was implemented at scale in the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026, held on 24 May 2026, in which about 5.50 lakh candidates appeared, with face authentication successfully carried out for all candidates. The system enabled live, real-time authentication of candidates at examination venues through mobile-phone-based verification by invigilators, ensuring seamless identification and eliminating the possibility of impersonation and malpractice. The time required for a typical face authentication of a candidate is only about 6–8 seconds, which ensured smooth entry and prevented queuing at examination centres. The successful implementation of real-time face authentication reflects the Commission's continued commitment to transparency, fairness, and technological innovation in public examinations.





2025

Launch of Pratibha Setu Portal

The Commission has launched an initiative that allows verified employers, including central government and private organisations, to connect with top talent from India's most competitive examinations. UPSC's 'Pratibha Setu', launched on 9 June 2025, which was earlier known as Public Disclosure Scheme (PDS), provides access to the details of non-recommended willing candidates who cleared all stages of exams conducted by it but didn't make it to the final merit list. The public disclosure scheme has been in force since August 20, 2018. The commission first used this scheme to disclose the list of candidates for the Combined Medical Services Examination, 2017. However, the PDS has now been revamped and renamed as 'Pratibha Setu'.





"यूपीएससी यह संस्था देश की सबसे कठिन परीक्षाओं में से एक सिविल सर्विसेज का एग्जाम भी लेती है। हम सब ने सिविल सर्विसेज के टॉपर्स की प्रेरणादाई बातें अनेक बार सुनी है...लेकिन साथियों यूपीएससी की परीक्षा की एक सच्चाई और भी है, हजारों ऐसे उम्मीदवार भी होते हैं, जो बेहद काबिल होते हैं, उनकी मेहनत भी किसी से कम नहीं होती, पर मामूली अंतर से वो अंतिम सूची तक नहीं पहुंच पाते...

प्रतिभा सेतु में उन उम्मीदवारों का डाटा रखा गया है जिन्होंने यूपीएससी की अलग-अलग परीक्षाओं के सभी चरण पास किये, लेकिन अंतिम मेरिट लिस्ट में उनका नाम नहीं आ पाया ...

इस पोर्टल से प्राइवेट कंपनियां इन होनहार स्टूडेंट की जानकारी लेकर उन्हें अपने यहां नियुक्ति दे सकती है। साथियों इस प्रयास के नतीजे भी आने लगे हैं...और वो युवा जो मामूली अंतर से रुक गए थे, अब नए आत्मविश्वास के साथ आगे बढ़ रहे हैं।"

-प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी - मन की बात, एपिसोड 125



2025

Commencement of the Centenary Year Celebrations

The Commission began its Centenary Year celebrations on 1 October 2025, marking the completion of ninety-nine years since the first Public Service Commission was constituted on 1 October 1926 and the beginning of its 100th year. The centenary commemoration was conceived to reaffirm the Commission's founding values of merit, fairness and institutional integrity and to place its century of work before a wider public. As part of the celebrations, UPSC released its logo symbolizing the Commission's service to the nation. Various new initiatives and reforms are also being planned and launched during the Centenary Year.



Logo Design

The UPSC logo embodies the Commission's role as a symbol of trust, excellence, and nation-building. Its circular form reflects continuity, unity, and the unbroken cycle of service that has shaped the nation for a century.

At its heart lies the national emblem, representing authority, integrity, and service to the nation. Encircling it is a wreath of banyan leaves, inspired by the banyan tree revered in Indian culture as a symbol of wisdom, stability, and resilience. Just as the banyan tree offers shelter and strength through its vast roots and branches, the wreath signifies UPSC's enduring role in nurturing leadership and supporting governance with honor and dignity.

Anchoring the design is a ribbon inscribed with "संघ लोक सेवा आयोग" (Sangh Lok Seva), directly signifying the Commission's identity and purpose public service for the nation. It grounds the logo in its institutional ethos while reinforcing the values of duty, accountability, and service to people.

Centenary Unit Design

A hundred years ago, the journey of UPSC began with a promise to select leaders of integrity and wisdom for service to the nation. Year after year, like a wave, it moved forward, carrying with it the hopes of aspirants, the trust of citizens, and the responsibility of nation-building.

The wave in the centenary unit is more than movement it is a symbol of continuity, progress, and transformation. Just as waves shape the shore, UPSC has shaped lives, institutions, and the very course of the nation. It reflects the Commission's ability to adapt with time, yet remain steady in purpose strong, enduring, and forward-looking.

91

2025

Shatabdi Sammelan

The UPSC's Shatabdi Sammelan, marking the 100th year of the Commission's journey, was inaugurated by Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with a ministerial address by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions). The two-day 'Shatabdi Sammelan' organized on 26th–27th November 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, brought together present and former Chairpersons and Members of UPSC and State Public Service Commissions (PSCs), along with senior officials from across the Government of India, scholars, and distinguished personalities associated with governance and public administration.





2025

Email Alert System Introduced

UPSC has enabled a new facility for educational and professional institutions to receive direct email alerts about UPSC recruitment advertisements relevant to their domains. Under the new outreach policy, institutions wishing to subscribe to the email alert service can send a request to ra-upsc@gov.in with the subject line "Subscription Request – UPSC Recruitment Alerts". This new initiative will address the issues of disparity and reach out to the needy, eligible and qualified candidates.



Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

UPSC

UPSC Recruitment alerts are now available to institutions via email

"New initiative aims at wider outreach and improved candidate participation", said Dr. Ajay Kumar, Chairman UPSC

Posted On: 05 AUG 2025 3:33PM by PIB Delhi

In a major outreach initiative, the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** has enabled a new facility for **educational and professional institutions** to receive **direct email alerts about UPSC recruitment advertisements**, relevant to their domains. UPSC undertakes recruitment to fill up various Group A/ Group B gazetted posts in various Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India and UTs from time to time, in addition to conduct of regular examinations. Depending on the nature of duties, these recruitments require essential qualifications of educational and experience criteria. Additionally desirable qualifications too are provided in many cases.

Speaking about the initiative, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Chairman UPSC said, *"Apart from our regular examinations, UPSC receive recruitment requests from various Ministries and Departments, for various Government positions. In order to streamline and expedite the process, we are ensuring that the requests are received well in advance within 3 months window, from January to March period, so that the process is planned in a better manner by clubbing similar recruitment cases and holding their common tests to complete the recruitment drive in a time-bound manner".*

The Commission receives over **200 recruitment proposals annually** from various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India. These are subsequently advertised online after a detailed processing cycle. In **2025 alone, over 240 recruitment cases** have already been received, ranging across **medical, scientific/ engineering/ technical, legal, teaching, and specialised posts (management, finance, accounts, forensic audit etc. related)**, mostly at **Group A and Group B Gazetted levels**.

93

2025

Randomization Process to Enhance Transparency and Fairness

As part of its continued efforts to strengthen transparency and integrity in the examination process, the Commission has introduced randomization in the allotment of candidates to interview boards, as well as in the allotment of board members. A specialised software has been developed for this purpose to determine the sequence of candidates, and this system has been adopted starting with the Combined Medical Services Examination, 2025.

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 04 DEC 2025 6:01PM by PIB Delhi

The interview / personality test system followed by UPSC is free from any discrimination or bias.

UPSC has informed that candidates are randomized while being assigned to Interview Boards just before the commencement of interviews / personality tests for the day. Further, category of the candidates and marks obtained by them in the written examination are not disclosed to the Interview Board. Also, the identity of members of the Interview Board is not disclosed to the candidates. Thus, the question of discrimination or bias in interview against any category of candidates does not arise.

Moreover, in the interest of full transparency, the marks (written marks, interview / personality test marks, total marks) of all recommended candidates are published on the official website of UPSC.

A Dedicated Helpdesk for Candidates

UPSC has set up a Candidate Helpdesk to assist candidates applying for various online examinations. This helpdesk will guide candidates in filling out applications and provide provisions for two levels of escalation. A dedicated 30-channel SIP-PRI (Session Initiation Protocol – Primary Rate Interface) line with a full IP-based call centre solution in place. More than 50,000 calls have been handled from 01.02.2026 till date.



95

2026

Introduction of new centres



Over the years, UPSC has been creating new examination centres to improve accessibility for candidates. Three new examination centres at Bhubaneswar, Kanpur, and Meerut for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2026 were introduced in order to ease pressure on nearby cities that previously handled large volumes applicants. Furthermore, 3 more centres at Alwar, Hisar and Kinnur were added during the NDA/ NA examination (II), 2026, taking the total centres across India to 86. Notably, the first All-India Services examination, 1950 was conducted by the Commission 8 centres in the Part A States except Assam.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Over 23,000 Candidates Opt for Three Newly Added Centres in UPSC Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination-2026; Eases Pressure on existing Centres

Posted On: 21 MAY 2026 11:56AM by PIB Delhi

In an effort to decongest examination centres for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2026, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has introduced three new examination centres at Bhubaneswar, Kanpur, and Meerut. With the addition of these centres, the total number of centres for the Preliminary Examination has increased from 80 to 83. Nearly 23,000 candidates have applied to these new centres, easing the rush at the adjoining centres for Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination-2026.

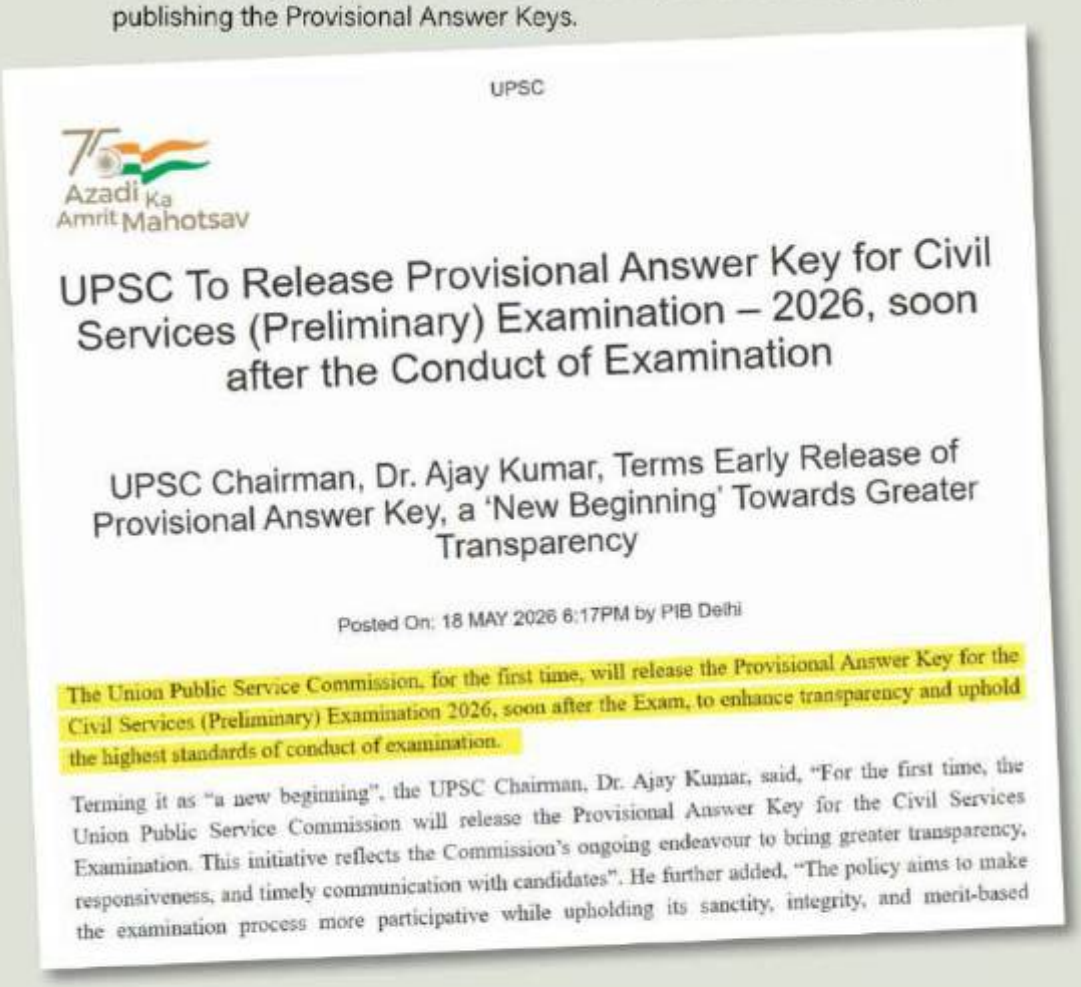
Reflecting on the initiative, UPSC Chairman Dr. Ajay Kumar said, "Our objective is to make the examination process more candidate-friendly, accessible, and efficient. The addition of three new centres is aimed at easing congestion and providing greater convenience to aspirants. Further, by ensuring that PwBD candidates are allotted their preferred examination centres, the Commission is actively breaking down geographical and physical barriers to make the UPSC journey truly accessible and inclusive for all."

The newly introduced Bhubaneswar centre substantially reduced the burden on Cuttack. The Bhubaneswar centre has received 10,656 applications for Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination - 2026. Similarly, the addition of the Kanpur centre helped ease pressure on Lucknow. The newly established Kanpur centre attracted 6,958 applications. In western Uttar Pradesh, the introduction of the Meerut centre benefited candidates from nearby regions and reduced dependence on Ghaziabad. The newly added Meerut centre received 5,902 applications.

2026

Release of CS (P) Examination Provisional Answer Key

In a landmark transparency reform, the UPSC began publishing the Provisional Answer Key for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination soon after the conduct of the examination, enabling candidates to compare their responses, assess their likely performance, and submit representations before the key is finalised — reversing a long-standing practice under which answer keys were released only after the entire examination cycle was complete. After the release of provisional answer key, candidates of the civil services examination can submit their representations, if any, through a dedicated online portal, i.e., "Online Question Paper Representation Portal (QPRep)" available at https://upsconline.nic.in/login. The answer key will thereafter be finalized only after due consideration of all representations received. This was also, in furtherance of the Commission's commitment towards transparency, accountability, and strengthening the confidence of candidates in the examination system, the Commission has implemented the policy of publishing the Provisional Answer Keys.



UPSC

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

UPSC To Release Provisional Answer Key for Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination – 2026, soon after the Conduct of Examination

UPSC Chairman, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Terms Early Release of Provisional Answer Key, a 'New Beginning' Towards Greater Transparency

Posted On: 18 MAY 2026 6:17PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Public Service Commission, for the first time, will release the Provisional Answer Key for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2026, soon after the Exam, to enhance transparency and uphold the highest standards of conduct of examination.

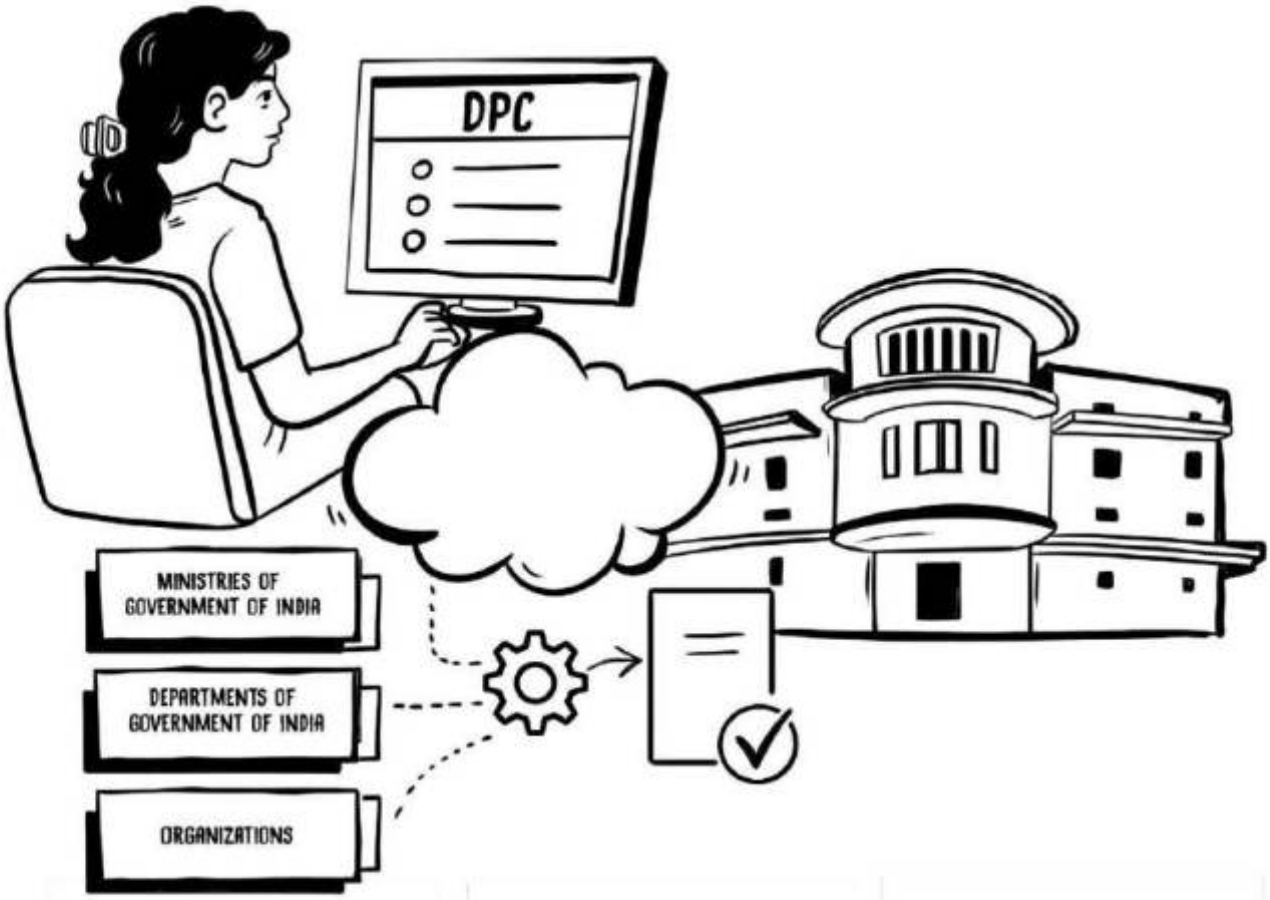
Terming it as "a new beginning", the UPSC Chairman, Dr. Ajay Kumar, said, "For the first time, the Union Public Service Commission will release the Provisional Answer Key for the Civil Services Examination. This initiative reflects the Commission's ongoing endeavour to bring greater transparency, responsiveness, and timely communication with candidates". He further added, "The policy aims to make the examination process more participative while upholding its sanctity, integrity, and merit-based

97

2026

Digitalizing the DPC Proposal Process

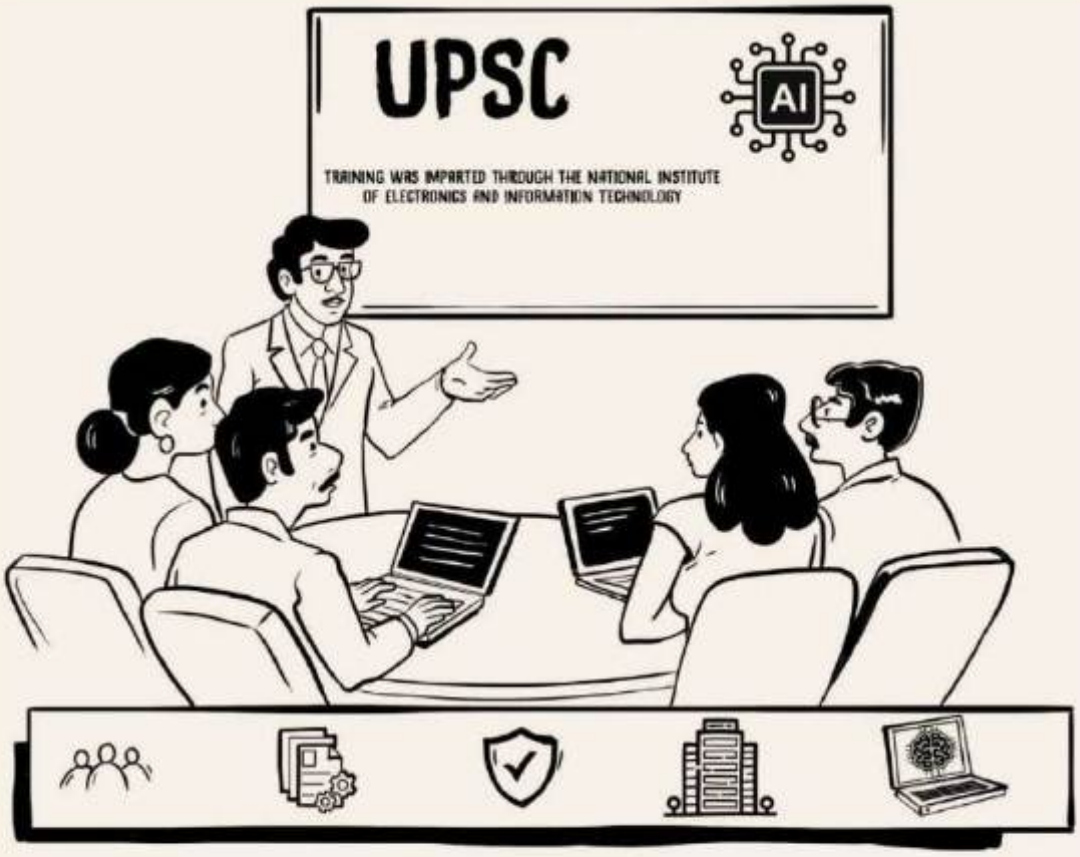
The Commission has initiated the development of a state-of-the-art portal for the online submission of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proposals, marking a significant step towards replacing the existing physical mode of submission with a fully digital process. The Online Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) System is a comprehensive, paperless workflow platform designed to streamline the receipt, processing and disposal of DPC proposals. The system will facilitate the complete digital movement of proposals from approximately 101 Ministries, Departments, and Organizations to the Commission, ensuring greater transparency, efficiency, and accountability throughout the entire process.



2026

Strengthening IT Skills and Constitution of High Level Network Committee

With the growing emphasis on the adoption of emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence, in the functioning of UPSC, structured training programme on use of technology was organised for officers of the Commission, with the objective of enhancing digital competencies and promoting the effective and responsible adoption of technology in official functioning. The training was imparted through the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology. Alongside this capacity building initiative, a High-Level Network Committee was constituted as the apex technical decision-making group for matters relating to the Commission's IT network architecture. The Committee is mandated to deliberate on critical proposals and facilitate decision-making towards infrastructure revamping, enhanced cybersecurity, improved operational efficiency and prompt response mechanisms, while ensuring the availability of information and strengthening the Commission's overall digital resilience.



99

2026

UPSC Extension Premises at Talkatora Annexe Building

In a significant step to strengthen institutional infrastructure, UPSC established its Extension Premises at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi, formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chairman in the presence of Members of the Commission and senior officers on 19 June 2026. The new facility is arranged to address the Commission's growing space requirements and further strengthen its administrative infrastructure in view of its expanding institutional responsibilities. The expanded infrastructure is expected to support UPSC's evolving functions and enable it to continue delivering recruitment and examination-related services with greater efficiency and effectiveness.







2026

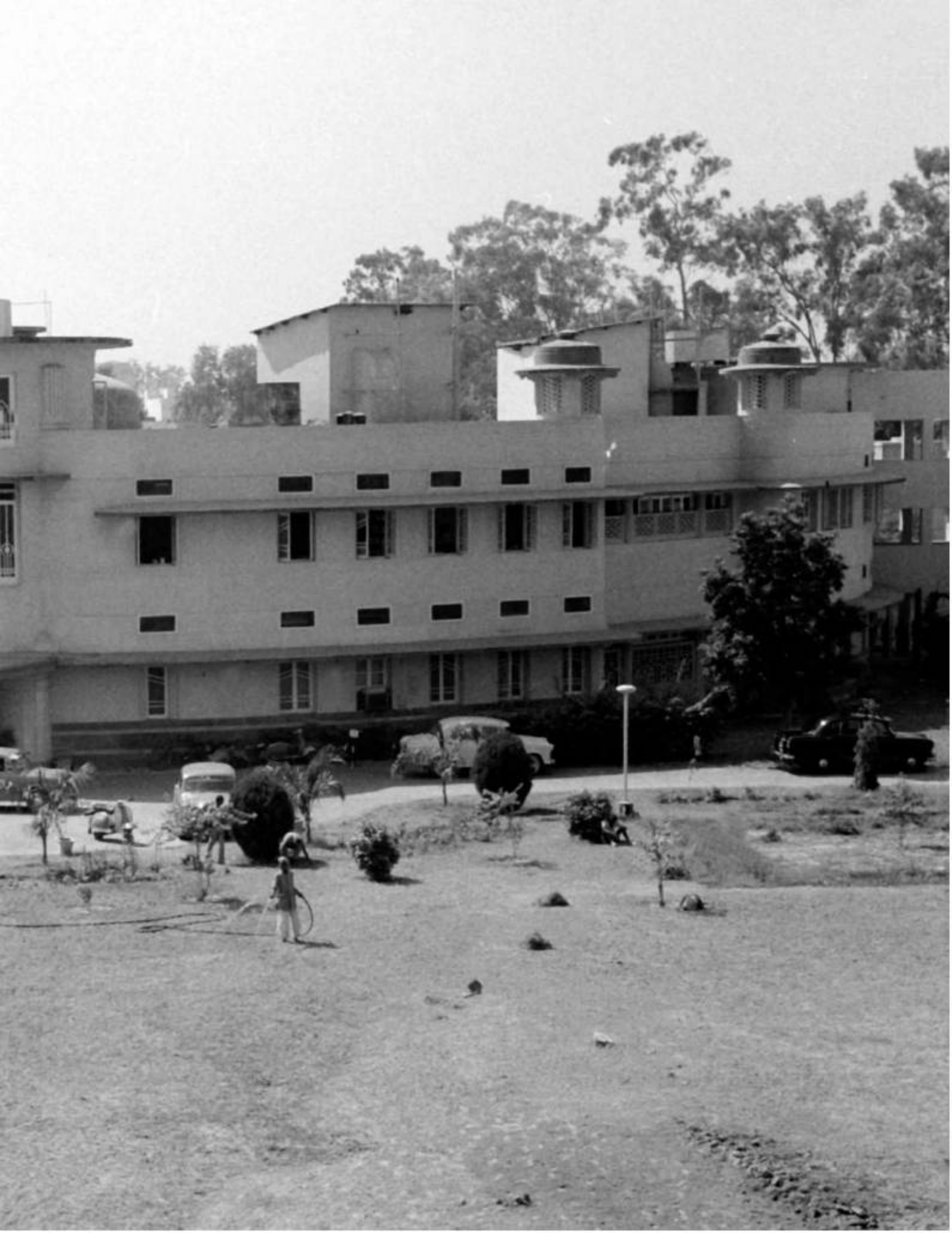
The Present Commission

As the Commission marks its centenary year, its present composition reflects the same commitment to representation traced throughout its history. The Commission is currently headed by the Chairman Dr. Ajay Kumar, and supported by eight Members: Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla (Retd.), Ms. Suman Sharma, Sh. Bidyut Behari Swain, Dr. Dinesh Dasa, Sh. Sheel Vardhan Singh, Sh. Sanjay Verma, Smt. Sujata Chaturvedi, and Smt. Anuradha Prasad. Notably, three of eight Members are women, a composition that stands as a fitting marker of a hundred years of the institution's evolution, highlighting that the shift isn't just in the merit list, but in leadership as well.

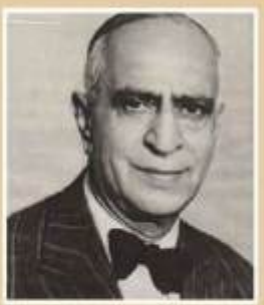


Archival photograph of UPSC Building





Former Chairpersons of the Union Public Service Commission



Sh. H. K. Kripalani
1 April 1947 - 13 January 1949



Sh. R. N. Banerjee
14 January 1949 - 9 May 1955



Sh. N. Govindarajan
10 May 1955 - 9 December 1955



Sh. V. S. Hejmadi
10 December 1955 - 9 December 1961



Sh. B. N. Jha
11 December 1961 - 22 February 1967



Sh. K. R. Damle
18 April 1967 - 2 March 1971



Sh. R. C. S. Sarkar
11 May 1971 - 1 February 1973



Prof. A. R. Kidwai
5 February 1973 - 4 February 1979



Sh. M. L. Shahare
16 February 1979 - 16 February 1985



Sh. H. K. L. Kapoor
18 February 1985 - 5 March 1990



Sh. J. P. Gupta
5 March 1990 - 2 June 1992



Smt. R. M. Bathew (Kharbuli)
23 September 1992 - 23 August 1996



Sh. S. J. S. Chhatwal
23 August 1996 - 30 September 1996



Sh. J. M. Qureshi
30 September 1996 - 11 December 1998



Lt. Gen Surinder Nath
11 December 1998 - 25 June 2002



Sh. P. C. Hota
25 June 2002 - 8 September 2003



Sh. Mata Prasad
9 September 2003 - 4 January 2005



Prof. S. R. Hashim
4 January 2005 - 1 April 2006



Sh. Gurbachan Jagat
1 April 2006 - 30 June 2007



Sh. Subir Dutta
30 June 2007 - 16 August 2008



Prof. D. P. Agrawal
16 August 2008 - 16 August 2014



Smt. Rajni Razdan
16 August 2014 - 21 November 2014



Sh. Deepak Gupta
22 November 2014 - 20 September 2016



Smt. Alka Sirohi
21 September 2016 - 3 January 2017



Prof. David R. Syiemlieh
4 January 2017 - 21 January 2018



Sh. Vinay Mittal
22 January 2018 - 19 June 2018



Sh. Arvind Saxena
20 June 2018 - 6 August 2020



Prof. P. K. Joshi
7 August 2020 - 4 April 2022



Prof. Manoj Soni
5 April 2022 (acting) - 31 July 2024



Smt. Preeti Sudan
1 August 2024 - 29 April 2025



Dr. Ajay Kumar
15 May 2025 - Incumbent



Union Public Service Commission

Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi – 110069

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