

CAREERS 360
PREPARATION Series

Top 5 UPSC

Exams in India

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Introduction

UPSC exams in India are conducted annually by the Union Public Service Commission and these exams serve as a gateway to a wide array of civil services, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Foreign Service (IFS), among others. The UPSC exam process is rigorous and consists of three stages: the Preliminary exam, the Main exam, and the Personality Test or Interview.

The Preliminary Exam comprises two objective-type papers, testing candidates on general studies and aptitude. Those who qualify the Prelims move on to the Main exam, which consists of nine descriptive papers covering a vast range of subjects including essay writing, Indian language comprehension, and optional subjects chosen by the candidates. Finally, successful candidates are called for the Personality Test, where their aptitude, personality, and communication skills are evaluated by a panel of experts.

Perks of UPSC Preparation

Preparing for UPSC exams instils in aspirants a proactive approach towards learning resulting in personal growth and social upliftment. The knowledge gained not only elevates the candidates own abilities but also cultivates a keen analytical mindset, enabling them to understand the complexities within life and society.

Rigorous UPSC preparation equips individuals with the aptitude to come up with solutions from various perspectives, enhancing their problem-solving skills. The knowledge gained during UPSC exam preparation helps in establishing a disciplined lifestyle. This disciplined habitual pattern eventually becomes a structured routine, helping individuals to pursue their aspirations.

The process of preparing for UPSC exams offers aspirants alternative paths for career advancement, providing opportunities to excel in other competitive exams if the UPSC is not successfully cracked.

Why UPSC?

Numerous compelling factors attract career aspirants towards central services through UPSC exams:

- UPSC consistently conducts exams for diverse departments and services.
- Positions secured through UPSC exams are prestigious and permanent.
- The impact of cracking UPSC extends beyond candidates to their families and future generations, transforming their lives.
- Central services command respect and societal value.
- Officers in these services have authority to bring necessary social changes.
- They lead dignified lives with attractive salary packages and financial security post-retirement.
- Clear promotion criteria and performance based advancements ensure career growth

UPSC Civil Services Exam (CSE/ IAS)

Exam date: Prelims in June (Tentative)

Number of vacancies: 1056

Exam Notification: February (Tentative)

A. Eligibility Criteria:

The [UPSC IAS Eligibility](#) criteria are as follows:

(a) Nationality:

(i) For IAS, IPS & IFS: Indian citizen

(ii) For other services: Indian citizen, subject of Nepal or Bhutan, Tibetan refugee.

(b) Age Limits:

Category	Age Limits
General	21 – 32 Years
OBC(NCL) & Defence Service Personnel disabled during service	21 – 35 Years
SC/ST & Ex-servicemen who have rendered at least 5 years military service	21 – 37 Years
PwBD (person with benchmark disability)	21 – 42 Years

(c) Minimum Educational Qualification: Graduation degree from any university of Central or State government Act or deemed university under UGC Act 1956.

(d) Number of Attempts:

Category	General (GL)	OBC(NCL)	SC/ST	PwBD
No. of Attempts	6	9	Unlimited	09 for GL/EWS/OBC Unlimited for SC/ST

B. Reservation against vacancies: SC/ST/OBC/EWS/PwBD/Ex-servicemen are entitled as per eligibility prescribed in the Rules/Notice of Central Government.

C. Plan of exam

Exam Phase	Paper	Max. Marks	Duration
Phase-1: Prelims (Objective)	GS Paper-I	200	2 hours
	GS Paper-II (Qualifying-33%)	200	2 hours
Phase-2: Written— Qualifying Papers (25%)	Paper-A (Indian Language)	300	3 hours
	Paper-B (English)	300	3 hours
Phase-2: Written— Papers for Merit	Paper-I (Essay)	250	3 hours
	Paper-II (GS-I)	250	3 hours
	Paper-III (GS-II)	250	3 hours
	Paper-IV (GS-III)	250	3 hours
	Paper-V (GS-IV)	250	3 hours
	Paper-VI (Optional Paper-I)	250	3 hours
	Paper-VII (Optional Paper-II)	250	3 hours
Sub-Total: Written Merit Papers	—	1750	—
Phase-3: Personality Test	—	275	—
Grand Total for Merit	—	2050	—

D. Mode of Selection

The [UPSC IAS Selection process](#) is as follows:

1. Civil Services (Prelim) Exam: Objective type with negative marking (0.33% for wrong or more than one Ans.) to qualify for Main Exam & it consists of 2 papers.

(a) GS Paper-I: It has 200 marks & its score for right answers decides merit for the main exam.

(b) GS Paper-II: candidate minimum qualifying marks is 33%.

2. Civil Services (Main) Exam: Written and Interview for final selection.

D. Exam Centres: (i) Prelim Exam: 73 cities in India, (ii) Main Exam: 24 cities in India.

E. Documents Required: Photo ID Card: Aadhaar /Voter ID/PAN Card/Passport/Driving Licence/ State or Central Government's Photo ID Card.

FEES:

(i) Female/SC/ST/PwBD candidate: exempted from fee.

(ii) For others:Rs.100/-

G. How to Apply: Candidates are apply for th exam using the [IAS application form](#) available online on- upsc.gov.in



UPSC National Defence Academy (NDA) Exam

Exam date: NDA-I: April; NA-II: September (Tentative)

Frequency of exam: twice a year

Number of vacancies: Approximately 404

Exam Notification: NDA I: December NDA II: May (Tentative)

A. Eligibility Criteria:

The [UPSC NDA Eligibility criteria](#) are as follows:

- 1. Nationality:** a citizen of India, or a subject of Nepal or a person of Indian origin who has migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka and East African Countries.
- 2. Age Limits and Marital Status:** Only unmarried candidates of age 16.5 to 19.5 years.
- 3. Educational Qualification:**

Academy	Educational Qualification
Army Wing of National Defence Academy	12th Class pass of the 10+2 pattern
Air Force and Naval Wings of National Defence Academy and Indian Naval Academy	12th Class pass with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics of the 10+2 pattern

B. Application Fee:

(i) SC/ST candidates/Sons of JCOs/NCOs/ORs are exempted from payment of fee (ii) Others = Rs.100/-

C. Scheme of the Exam: The exam comprises:

- 1. Written exam:** objective type questions
- 2. Interview for intelligence and personality test**

Academy	Subject	M. Marks	Time
Written exam	(i) Mathematics, (ii) General Ability Test (English+ GK)	(i) 300 (ii) 600(200+400)	(i) 2.5 hours (ii) 2.5 hours
SSB Test/Interview	Stage-I: OIR tests Stage-II: Interview+ GTOT+Psy. Test	900	--

D. Mode of Selection:

The [UPSC NDA Selection process](#) is as follows:

1. Candidates who qualify in the written exam are called for SSB Interview.
2. The SSB procedure consists of two stage selection processes– stage I and stage II.
3. Only those candidates who clear stage I are permitted to appear for stage II.

E. How to apply: Candidates are apply for th exam using the [NDA application form](#) available online on- upsc.gov.in



UPSC Combined Defence Services (CDS) Exam

Exam date: CDS-I: April ; CDS-II: September (Tentative)

Frequency of exam: twice a year

Number of vacancies: Approximately 459

Exam Notification: CDS 1: December ; CDS II: May (Tentative)

A. Eligibility Criteria:

The [UPSC CDS Eligibility criteria](#) are as follows:

(a) Nationality: a citizen of India, or a subject of Nepal or a person of Indian origin who has migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka and East African Countries.

b) Age and Marital Status: Only unmarried candidates between the ages of 19 to 25 years.

(c) Educational Qualification:

(i) Indian Naval Academy - Degree in Engineering from a recognized University;

(ii) Air Force Academy - Degree of a recognised University (with Physics and Mathematics at 10+2 level) or Bachelor of Engineering;

(iii) Others - Bachelor's degree.

B. Application Fee:

(i) Female/SC/ST candidates are exempted

(ii) Others – Rs. 200/-

C. Scheme of the Exam: The exam comprises:

1. Written exam: objective type questions

2. Interview for intelligence and personality test

3. Negative Marking for wrong answers marked in the Objective Type Question Papers.

Academy	Subject	M. Marks	Time
(i) Indian Military Academy,	(i) English,	(i) 100	(i) 2 hours
	(ii) General Knowledge,	(ii) 100	(ii) 2 hours
(ii) Indian Naval Academy,	(iii) Elementary Mathematics	(iii) 100	(iii) 2 hours
(iii) Air Force Academy			

(iv & v) Officers' Training Academy	(i) English,	(i) 100	(i) 2 hours
	(ii) General Knowledge	(ii) 100	(ii) 2 hours

D. Mode of Selection:

The [UPSC CDS Selection process](#) is as follows:

- (a) The candidates who qualify the written exam will be allowed to appear for the interview.
- (b) Final selection of candidates is done based on their performance in written exam and Interview.

E. How to apply: Candidates are apply for th exam using the [CDS application form](#) available online on- upsc.gov.in



UPSC Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Exam

Exam date: August (Tentative)

Number of vacancies: 506

Exam Notification: April (Tentative)

A. Eligibility Criteria:

The [UPSC CAPF Eligibility criteria](#) are as follows:

1. **Nationality:** a citizen of India.
2. **Age Limits:** 20 – 25 years

Age relaxation beyond upper age limit for category	Age Limits
Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe	5 years
Other Backward Classes (NCL)	3 years
Civilian Central Government Servants / Ex-Servicemen	5 years

Educational Qualification: A candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree from any recognised University.

B. Application Fee:

- (i) Female/SC/ST Candidates are exempted from payment of fee
- (ii) Others = Rs.200/-

C. Scheme of the Exam: The exam comprises:

1. **Written exam:** objective type questions and descriptive questions.
2. **Physical Standards/Physical Efficiency Tests and Medical Standards Tests.**
3. **Interview/Personality Test.**

Exams	Subjects	Max.Marks	Time
Written exam- Paper-I	General Ability and Intelligence	250	2 hours
Written exam- Paper-II	General Studies, Essay and Comprehension	200	3 hours
Physical Efficiency Tests	100 Meters race, 800 Meters race, Long Jump, Shot Put (7.26 Kgs.)	—	—
Interview/Personality Test	—	150	—

D. Mode of Selection:

The UPSC CAPF Selection process is as follows:

- Paper-I** will be evaluated first and evaluation of Paper-II will be done only of those candidates who obtain the minimum qualifying marks in Paper-I.
- The merit list** will be drawn on the basis of marks obtained by the candidates in the Written exam and Interview/Personality Test. E.

How to apply: Candidates are apply for th exam using the [CAPF application form](#) available online on upsc.gov.in



UPSC Combined Medical Services (CMS) Exam

Exam date: July (Tentative)

Number of vacancies: Approx. 827

Exam Notification: April (Tentative)

A. Eligibility Conditions:

The UPSC CMS Eligibility criteria is as follows:

(i) Nationality: A candidate must be either: A citizen of India/subject of Nepal/Bhutan/Tibetan refugee.

(ii) Age Limits: A candidate must not have attained the age of 32 years. However, for Junior Time Scale Posts in Central Health Services, the upper age limit must not exceed 35 years.

Categories	Upper Age Limits Relaxable
SC/ST	5 Years
OBC and Defence Services personnel disabled in operations	3 Years
Ex-servicemen including Commissioned Officers and ECOs/SSCOs, who have rendered at least five years Military Service	5 Years
Person with Benchmark Disability viz. Low vision, deaf and Hard of Hearing, Locomotor Disability including Leprosy cured, Dwarfism, Acid Attack victims and Muscular Dystrophy, autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness, multiple disabilities from amongst person under clauses (a) to (d) of Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 including deaf-blindness	10 Years

Note: Candidates belonging to the SC/ST/OBC and also coming under the category of Ex-servicemen and Persons with Benchmark Disability will be eligible for grant of cumulative age-relaxation under both the categories.

(iii) Minimum Educational Qualification: For admission to the exam a candidate should have passed the written and practical parts of the final M.B.B.S. exam.

Note-I: A candidate who has appeared or has yet to appear at the final M.B.B.S. exam may also apply.

Note-II: A candidate who has yet to complete the compulsory rotating internship is educationally eligible for admission to the exam but on selection will be appointed only after he/she has completed the compulsory rotating internship.

(iv) Physical and Medical Standards: Candidates must be physically and medically fit according to the physical/medical standards for the Combined Medical Services exam.

B. Scheme of exam:

Part	Papers	No. of Questions	Maximum Marks	Duration
Part-I (Written Exam)	Paper-I	120	250	2 hrs
	Paper-II	120	250	2 hrs
Part-II	Personality Test	—	100	—

Note: The written exam in both the papers will be completely of objective (Multiple choice answers) type. The question Papers will be set in English only.

Note II:

(i) There are 4 alternatives for the answers to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, one third of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.

(ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be the same penalty as above for that question.

(iii) If a question is left blank i.e. no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

Note III: Candidates are not permitted to use calculators for answering objective type papers.

Note IV: Both the Papers of the CMSE will be of MBBS standard.

C. Exam Centres: UPSC CMS Exam — 41 cities in India.

D. FEE: Candidates (except Female/SC/ST/PwBD who are exempted from payment of fee) are required to pay a fee of Rs. 200/-

E. How to Apply: Candidates are apply for th exam using the [CMS application form](#) available online on upsc.gov.in

Relevant Articles:

- [UPSC IAS notification](#)
- [UPSC IAS exam pattern](#)
- [UPSC IAS question paper](#)
- [UPSC IAS syllabus](#)
- [UPSC IAS exam centres](#)
- [CDS Exam](#)
- [CDS Notification](#)
- [CDS Exam Dates](#)
- [NDA Exam](#)
- [NDA Exam Pattern](#)
- [NDA Exam Dates](#)
- [CAPF exam](#)
- [CAPF Exam Pattern](#)
- [NDA Exam Centres](#)
- [UPSC CMS exam](#)