

UPSC Secrets

100 Yrs of Nation Building: Centenary Reforms and Legacy Explained



Context:

- The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**, the **Constitutional Authority**, will be marking **100 years of its existence** with a year-long series of events and activities.
- The **Centenary Year celebrations** will begin on **1st October 2025** and continue until **1st October 2026**.



1. What is UPSC?




- **UPSC is a Constitutional Body under Article 315-323 Part XIV Chapter II of the Constitution of India to discharge their duties, functions and obligations assigned under Article 320.**

- The **UPSC conducts various examinations** in accordance with the **Rules of examination** as notified by the **Government of India in a just, fair and impartial manner** for making a **merit based selection** and recommendation of candidates for various **Group A and Group B Services of the Govt. of India.**

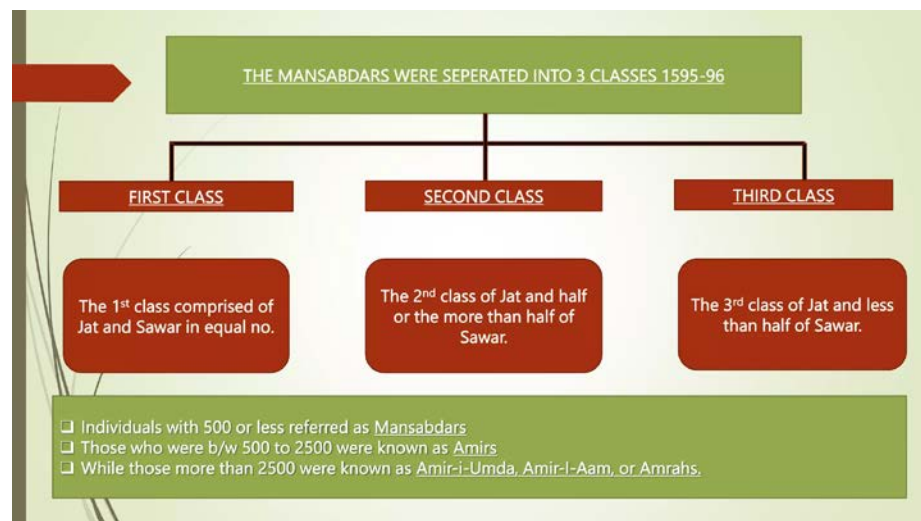
2. What is the history of Civil Services in India?

- **Civil services have been an integral part of India's governance system** for centuries, adapting and evolving through **ancient, medieval, and modern times to its current structure.**

Period	Civil Service
The Aryan and Mauryan Era	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The concept of civil services in India can be traced back to the Aryan administrative system, which emphasized systematic governance.• A significant leap occurred during the Mauryan Empire under Chandragupta Maurya and his advisor, Kautilya (Chanakya). The Mauryan administration was marked by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A centralized bureaucracy that ensured smooth governance across vast territories.▪ A well-defined taxation system to finance public services.▪ Administrative officers (Amatyas) tasked with executing state policies and ensuring efficient governance.▪ Kautilya's Arthashastra laid the foundation for a structured bureaucratic system, providing detailed guidance on the roles and responsibilities of administrators.▪ This framework became a blueprint for successive rulers.

	
Gupta Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gupta period continued the legacy of a centralized bureaucracy but introduced notable changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Payment in kind: Unlike cash salaries, officials were remunerated through land grants, a system that distinguished it from earlier practices. ▪ Cash payments were restricted primarily to military personnel. • The Gupta Empire's administration maintained efficiency while adapting to the socio-economic realities of its time.
Delhi Sultanate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advent of the Delhi Sultanate brought new dimensions to civil administration. • The rulers established a new class of civil servants to consolidate authority over vast territories, emphasizing loyalty and administrative control.
Mughal Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mughals introduced a centralized bureaucratic system inspired by Persian administrative models. • Key features of the Mughal civil services included:

- **Mansabdari System:** Officials were ranked and paid based on the number of troops they commanded.
- The **Mansabdars (officials)** were **primarily dependent on the emperor**, ensuring loyalty and reducing hereditary claims.
- **Emphasis on revenue collection:** Non-hereditary revenues replaced land grants, creating a direct dependency on the central administration.



3. How civil services evolved during colonial period?



Event	Description
Introduction of civil services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Civil Service in India was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793 during British rule. • He reformed the administrative system by establishing a structured and merit-based bureaucracy, later evolving into the Indian Civil Service (ICS).
The Charter Act of 1833	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Charter Act of 1833 attempted to introduce merit-based recruitment to the civil service by declaring that Indians should not be debarred from any office, but the Court of Directors nullified this by continuing their privilege of nomination, limiting it to a "limited competition" among candidates they chose.
Charter Act of 1853	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter Act of 1853 formally established the Indian Civil Service in its distinct form. • The Charter Act of 1853 abolished the patronage system, replacing it with open competitive exams for recruitment. • Subsequently, the Macaulay Committee (1854) was set up to devise the examination framework and eligibility standards.
Macaulay Committee recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following Lord Macaulay's Report of the Select Committee of British Parliament, the concept of a merit based modern Civil Service in India was introduced in 1854.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report recommended that patronage based system of East India Company should be replaced by a permanent Civil Service based on a merit based system with entry through competitive examinations. • For this purpose, a Civil Service Commission was setup in 1854 in London and competitive examinations were started in 1855.
First Civil Services Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1854, Macaulay submitted his report to the select committee of the British parliament. • Thereafter, the Civil Service Commission was established and the first competitive exam was held in 1855. • Initially, the examinations for Indian Civil Service were conducted only in London. Maximum age was 23 years and minimum age was 18 years. • The syllabus was designed such that European Classics had a predominant share of marks. • The Indian Civil Services remained as un-Indian, since the examination was held in England, and despite the repeated pleas of the Indian nationalist leaders, the British simply sat upon the idea of simultaneously holding the examination in England as well as in India.
The Indian Civil Service Act of 1861.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Civil Service Act of 1861 formalized the structure of the civil service in British India after the 1857 rebellion, though it primarily reserved key administrative posts for British nationals through the Covenanted Service.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It allowed Indians and Europeans with seven years of residence to hold certain offices if they passed a local vernacular language exam, but it did not meet the growing demand for full Indianisation of the civil services.
First India civil servant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to pass this examination in 1864 and three more followed suit in 1867 but an Indian in the Indian Civil Services was a rare sight for a long time.• Even if people like Surendranath Banerjee, Chetty and others made it through the exam, the white supremacy of the British ensured more hostility to them which forced them to quit the job in frustration and despair.
Indian Civil Services Act, 1870	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indian Civil Services Act, 1870 introduced Indianization, allowing Indians to join the civil services.
The Aitchison Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Aitchison Commission (1886-1887) recommended a trifurcation into Imperial, Provincial, and Subordinate Civil Services, with separate recruitment processes for each tier.• The Commission rejected the idea of changing the recruitment process for the covenanted civil service.• Additionally, it suggested reducing the number of scheduled positions reserved by the Act of 1861 for members of the covenanted Civil Service and transferring a specific number of positions to the provincial Civil Service.

The Islington Commission of 1912	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1912, a Public Service Commission with Lord Islington as its chairman examined the issue of Indianisation.• The Commission observed that at that time, Indians constituted only 5% of the civil service.• Key recommendations included filling 25% of superior posts with Indians and holding recruitment examinations simultaneously in India and England, though the latter was not fully implemented
The Government of India Act, 1919	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government of India Act, 1919 suggested categorizing services into three groups:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ All India▪ Provincial▪ Subordinate.• The term "All India Services" applied to all Imperial services that were then operating in the provinces, whether in the reserved or transferred departments.• From 1922 onwards the Indian Civil Service Examination began to be held in India also, first in Allahabad and later in Delhi with the setting up of the Federal Public Service Commission.• The Examination in London continued to be conducted by the Civil Service Commission.
First Public Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India, known as the Lee

Commission (1926)	<p>Commission, (1924) strongly recommended the immediate establishment of the Public Service Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting on the Lee Commission's recommendations, the first Public Service Commission was set up on October 1, 1926, with Sir Ross Barker as its first Chairman.
The Government of India Act, 1935	<p>The Act provided for the setting up of a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Commission for the federation. • Public Service Commission for each of the provinces. • Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces. • This act led to the formation of the Federal Public Service Commission
Indian Constitution (1950)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the enactment of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, the Federal Public Service Commission was recognized as the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), (under Article 315) solidifying its role as the central recruitment agency under constitutional provisions.

4. Enlist constitutional provisions related to civil services in India?

- **Article 315:** Establishes the **Public Service Commissions for the Union and the States**.

- **Article 316:** Deals with the **appointment and term of office of members of the UPSC.**
- **Article 317:** Addresses the **removal and suspension of members of the UPSC.**
- **Article 318:** Empowers the **President to make regulations** regarding the **conditions of service of members and staff of the Commission.**
- **Article 319:** **Prohibits members of the UPSC** from holding office after ceasing to be such members.
- **Article 320:** Outlines the functions of the **UPSC, including conducting examinations for appointments to the services of the Union, advising on matters related to recruitment, and handling disciplinary matters.**
- **Article 321:** Gives the President the **power to extend the functions of the UPSC to other matters** related to the services of the Union.
- **Article 322:** Specifies the **expenses of the UPSC.**
- **Article 323:** Requires the **UPSC to present an annual report to the President on its work.**

5. Mention about the composition of UPSC?

- The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** is a **constitutional body** established under **Article 315 of the Indian Constitution** to conduct examinations for appointments to the **Union and All India Services.**
- It ensures that the **recruitment process for civil services is fair, transparent, and based on merit.**
- As per **Article 316 of the Constitution**, the UPSC consists of:
 - **Chairman:** The head of the Commission.
 - **Members:** A maximum of ten members, as determined by the President of India.



- The **Chairman and members** are appointed by the **President of India**.
- Their **term of office** is **six years** or until they attain **the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- They can be removed from **office by the President** on grounds of **misbehavior or incapacity**, following an **inquiry by the Supreme Court**.
- The composition of the **UPSC** is designed to ensure a diverse and experienced body **capable of conducting impartial and rigorous recruitment processes** for the civil services.

6. What are various functions of UPSC?

TIMELINE OF RECRUITMENT		
IAS	Before 1854	Civil servants were nominated by directors of East India Company
	1855	Civil Service Commission conducted first competitive exam
	1864	Satyendranath Tagore, brother of Rabindranath Tagore, became first Indian to clear the exam, held in London
	1922	Indian civil services exams started to be held in India, too
IPS	1893	First competitive exam held in England and top-10 candidates appointed as probationary assistant SPs
	1920	Decision taken to open service for Indians
	1921	Simultaneous exams held in India, England
IFS	1864	Imperial forest dept established
	1867	Imperial forest service constituted. From 1867 to 1885, officers were trained in France and Germany
	1920	Direct recruitment in both India and England started

- Under Article 320 of the Constitution of India, the Commission is, **inter-alia**, required to be **consulted on all matters relating to recruitment to civil services and posts.**
- The functions of the Commission under **Article 320 of the Constitution** are:
 - **Conduct examinations for appointment to the services of the Union.**
 - **Direct recruitment by selection through interviews.**
 - **Appointment of officers on promotion / deputation / absorption.**
 - **Framing and amendment of Recruitment Rules for various services and posts under the Government.**

- **Disciplinary cases** relating to **different Civil Services**.
- **Advising the Government** on any matter referred to the Commission by the **President of India**.

7. Highlight key changes made by UPSC since its formation?

Key Changes	Analysis
1950s–1960s: Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single exam system: The UPSC CSE largely followed the ICS (Indian Civil Services under British) model, with a focus on classical subjects (History, Political Science, Law, etc.). • Language: Exams were conducted only in English until 1961. • Interview (Personality Test): Similar to ICS tradition, with emphasis on assessing personality, confidence, and communication.
1970s: Language & Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional languages introduced (1979 onwards): Candidates could write in any of the 22 Indian languages listed in the Constitution. • Optional Subjects: Candidates had to choose two optionals, often creating an advantage for those from humanities backgrounds. • Age & Attempt relaxations for SC/ST and OBC candidates gradually introduced.
1980s–1990s: Syllabus Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Studies (GS) expanded to cover more current affairs, science, and economy. • Essay Paper introduced (1992): To assess articulation and coherent thought.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional subjects retained (two required), but criticism grew about unequal advantages depending on subject choice.
2000s: Shift Towards General Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prelims: Still had one GS paper + one optional paper. • Mains: Two optionals continued. • Growing demand to make the exam less biased towards humanities and to test analytical ability. • Till 2009, the UPSC prelims mainly focused on current affairs, history and geography. But from 2010 onwards, the focus shifted to science, polity, environment, history, etc. • The rough structure of the GS prelims paper before 2010 was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ History: 20 questions ▪ Geography: 30 to 40 questions ▪ Science: 40 questions
2011–2013: Biggest Structural Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) introduced (2011): Prelims became two papers as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GS Paper I (History, Polity, Geography, Current Affairs, etc.) ▪ GS Paper II (Aptitude, Reasoning, Comprehension, Decision-Making). • 2013 reforms in Mains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two optionals reduced to one. ▪ GS papers expanded from 2 to 4.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude paper (GS Paper IV) introduced. ▪ Essay paper weight increased.
2014 Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of essays increased to two. Unlike earlier, where there was one section with four optional choices, the change resulted in two sections with four optional choices. • The total number of permissible attempts for the exam was increased from four to six. • Also, the maximum permissible age limit for general candidates was increased from 30 years to 32 years
2015 onwards: Normalization & Tweaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSAT made qualifying only (33% minimum) after protests, as it was seen to disadvantage non-English / rural students. • Greater weight to GS Paper I in Prelims. • Before 2015, both CSAT and GS results were accounted for merit. • In 2015, only GS marks were considered for merit and CSAT was considered for qualifying exam. • Interview continues with more focus on situational awareness and governance issues.
Changes made in 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2018 notification of UPSC did not discuss any changes in the exam pattern. • Instead, it discussed the vacancies and introduced a new section in their existing interview scheme.


- UPSC vacancies have been observed to **decrease year on year and this year recorded the lowest vacancies** compared to the previous years.
- It announced **782 vacancies which are 198 less than last year and 511 jobs less than the best year-2014**
- The **latest introduction in the interview scheme allows the UPSC authorities** to share the details and results of the appearing candidates with other **public and private recruiting agencies.**
- The introduction is to aid any **unsuccessful candidate to find a suitable job for themselves.**
- However, the introduction also allows any **candidate to opt out of this if they are not interested.**


8. Highlight role of Civil Services in Governance?




Role of Civil Services	Description
Service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are responsible for administering welfare schemes and ensuring that public services reach the intended beneficiaries, particularly at the last mile. • Implementation of Welfare Schemes: Civil servants ensure that government programmes—such as education, health, rural development, and social security—reach the intended beneficiaries efficiently. • Last-Mile Delivery: They bridge the gap between policy formulation at the top and actual service delivery at the grassroots, ensuring no one is left behind. • Monitoring & Evaluation: Regular supervision, field visits, and audits help in improving effectiveness and minimizing leakages or corruption in schemes. • Public Interface: Civil servants interact directly with citizens to address grievances and facilitate access to services, strengthening accountability. • Equity & Inclusion: Special attention is given to marginalized sections, including women, SC/ST communities, and differently-abled persons, to ensure inclusive growth.

	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation & Technology: Use of digital platforms, e-governance, and AI tools improves transparency and efficiency in service delivery.
<p>Policy Making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They provide advice to governments in policy making and also implement the policies made by the political executive. • Advisory Role: Civil servants provide expert advice to the political executive, drawing on administrative experience, data analysis, and ground realities. • Evidence-Based Recommendations: They help design policies based on research, feasibility studies, and impact assessments to ensure effective governance. • Implementation of Policies: After formulation, civil servants translate policies into action, ensuring proper coordination among departments and agencies.

	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring & Feedback: They track policy outcomes, identify gaps, and suggest modifications for improved results. • Bridging Political-Administrative Interface: Civil servants act as a link between elected leaders and bureaucracy, balancing political priorities with administrative feasibility. • Capacity for Long-Term Planning: While governments may change, civil servants ensure continuity and consistency in policy initiatives for sustainable development.
<p>Crisis & Disaster Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as first responders during floods, droughts, pandemics, and other emergencies. • First Responders: Civil servants coordinate relief and rescue operations during natural disasters like floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and droughts. • Pandemic & Health Emergencies: They play a crucial role in managing public health crises, such as COVID-19, by implementing

	<p>containment, vaccination, and awareness measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination Across Agencies: Work with police, fire services, medical teams, NGOs, and military to ensure efficient disaster response. • Resource Mobilization: Ensure timely allocation of funds, relief materials, and manpower to affected areas.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation & Recovery: Plan long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction, and livelihood restoration for affected communities. • Policy & Preparedness: Develop disaster management plans, early warning systems, and community preparedness programs to reduce future vulnerabilities.
Regulatory & Enforcement Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement laws and regulations in areas like environment, public health, consumer rights, and financial governance.

	
Maintaining law and order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil servants ensure peace, justice, and security by upholding the rule of law and coordinating with law enforcement agencies. • Peace and Security: Civil servants, especially district collectors, magistrates, and police administration, ensure public safety and prevent lawlessness. • Upholding Rule of Law: They enforce laws impartially, ensuring justice and fairness for all citizens. • Coordination with Law Enforcement: Work closely with police, paramilitary forces, and intelligence agencies to prevent crime, riots, or communal tensions. • Disaster and Conflict Management: Manage situations like protests, strikes, natural disasters, or communal clashes to prevent breakdown of order.
Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been instrumental in the conduct of free and fair elections, and ensuring smooth transfer of power both at the Centre and States.
Social Justice & Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote inclusive growth by protecting rights of weaker sections (SCs, STs, minorities, women).

	 
Innovation & Technology Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce e-governance, digital platforms, and AI-based systems for transparent and efficient service delivery.
Uninterrupted Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been numerous instances when States have been placed under President's rule, with the civil services ensuring uninterrupted administration during such times. • Ensuring Continuity: Civil servants maintain day-to-day administration even when political leadership changes, or when States are under President's Rule. • Neutral Functioning: They operate impartially, ensuring that governance is not affected by political instability. • Implementation of Policies: Despite leadership changes, civil servants continue implementing policies, welfare schemes, and development programmes without disruption
International Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support foreign policy through diplomatic services (IFS), international trade negotiations, and global representation.

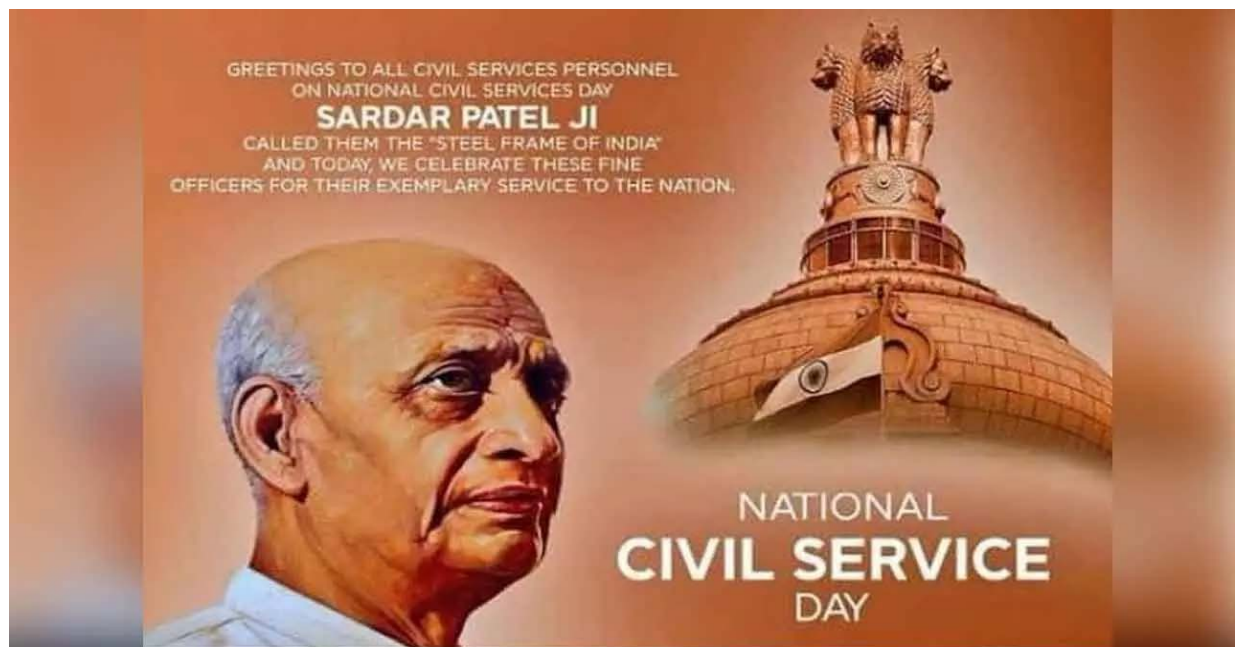
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomatic Representation: Through the Indian Foreign Service, civil servants represent India abroad, maintaining relations with other nations and international organisations (UN, WTO, WHO, etc.). • Trade & Economic Negotiations: Bureaucrats play a vital role in global trade talks, bilateral agreements, climate change negotiations, and investment promotion. • Cultural Diplomacy: They promote India's cultural heritage, soft power, and global image through cultural exchanges and diaspora engagement.
Upholding Constitutional Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard democracy, secularism, equity, and justice in governance. • Safeguarding Democracy: Civil servants ensure that governance functions within the framework of democratic principles – free and fair elections, citizen participation, and impartial administration.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Secularism: They act without bias towards religion, caste, or community, and implement policies that promote harmony and

	<p>inclusiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Equity & Justice: Through welfare schemes, affirmative action, and legal enforcement, civil services reduce inequalities and protect vulnerable groups.
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9. When was the first National Civil Service Day observed?



- The first National Civil Service Day was observed on April 21, 1947. On this day the first Home Minister of Independent India, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, addressed the probationers of **Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi.**
- There he referred to civil servants as the '**steel frame of India**'.
- This meant that civil servants, employed at various levels of the government, act as **supporting pillars of the country's administrative system.**
- During the British rule, **civil services were known as Indian Civil Services** which was later changed to **All India Services** and it was **fully controlled by India.**



10. What measures is UPSC taking, as it enters its centenary year, to ensure fairness, transparency, and inclusivity in eligibility, CSAT, evaluation, and examination reforms for civil services aspirants?

- In the open interaction, **Dr Kumar** addressed long-standing questions related to **eligibility, CSAT, evaluation, reforms, and fairness in the examination system.**
- **Below are the highlights of the conversation.**

Questions Asked	Description
Why does UPSC not share answer keys and OMR sheets immediately after prelims, like some state exams do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After prelims, we invite candidate inputs through an online portal. • Thousands of suggestions are reviewed by top academic experts who are independent and anonymous. • If discrepancies are found, answers are revised.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final keys are released before the next exam cycle. • Regarding OMR sheets, candidates can obtain them, and question papers are already available. • The matter of immediate disclosure is currently sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and UPSC will follow the final judgment.
<p>There are repeated questions about the cut-off date for eligibility. Why is August 1 kept as the cut-off instead of January 1?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system is consistent: exams held in the first half of the year have January 1 as the cut-off, and those in the second half follow August 1. • This has been the practice since the 1960s-70s. • If we shift to January 1, many graduates who finish in May-June will lose nearly a year of eligibility. • August 1 ensures they don't face that gap. • It's uniform, notified in advance, and followed consistently. • State PSCs may follow their own rules, but UPSC's dates are independent and long-established.
<p>Many aspirants feel the CSAT (Paper II in prelims) favors candidates with engineering or quantitative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSAT is only a qualifying paper requiring 33% marks; it does not count towards merit. • The paper has three balanced sections: language, quantitative ability, and logical reasoning.

<p>backgrounds. Is this true?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each candidate has an opportunity to clear it based on their strengths. • The idea is to ensure future civil servants possess basic comprehension, logic, and problem-solving skills essential for governance.
<p>What is the relevance of optional subjects in mains? Will UPSC consider removing them in the future?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In mains, along with four GS papers, an essay, and the interview, candidates appear for two optional subject papers. • The optional accounts for 2/7th of the total written score. • The idea is to test a candidate's depth of knowledge in a subject of their choice, which reflects their ability to grasp and apply complex ideas. • This flexibility helps in assessing merit and prepares candidates to adapt to new subjects during their career. • As of now, optionals remain an integral part of the examination.
<p>Aspirants often complain that prelims results take almost a year, leaving little scope for improvement. Can UPSC release cut-offs earlier?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current system already allows aspirants to submit inputs through the QREP portal. • Before the next exam cycle, candidates receive final answers and cut-offs, which help in preparation. • However, the issue of releasing earlier cut-offs is part of a Supreme Court case.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission will implement the court's decision.
<p>There are ongoing rumours about reducing the upper age limit and number of attempts. Is UPSC planning such changes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the upper age is 32 years for general category (9 attempts for OBC, 37 years with unlimited attempts for SC/ST, and additional 10 years relaxation for PwD candidates). • These relaxations were revised in 2014. • There is no proposal to reduce age limits or attempts. • While individual views differ—some ask for relaxation, some for reduction—the present framework is balanced and stable. • Aspirants should not believe in rumours.
<p>Is there a bias in favour of urban candidates who have better access to coaching, compared to rural aspirants?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPSC ensures complete neutrality—answer sheets do not reveal a candidate's identity or background. • Data shows that 80-90% of successful candidates today come from tier-2, tier-3 cities, and rural areas. • As for coaching, it is not mandatory. • Many aspirants succeed through self-study. • The larger issue of dependence on coaching exists across competitive exams like JEE and NEET, and the National Education Policy aims to address systemic gaps.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • But UPSC has seen many success stories without coaching.
<p>Can aspirants expect reforms in UPSC examinations in the near future?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPSC evolves with time. Since today's aspirants are a digital generation, we are adopting new technologies. • Aadhaar integration and face authentication have been introduced to prevent impersonation. • A new portal has been launched to streamline processes. • Going forward, reforms will continue to ensure inclusivity, fairness, and transparency while keeping pace with digital advancements.
<p>What is the Pratibha Setu portal, and how does it benefit candidates who narrowly miss the UPSC merit list?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pratibha Setu portal was launched to create opportunities for candidates who clear UPSC stages but miss the final list by a small margin. • With candidates' consent, their details are shared with public and private organisations seeking such talented individuals. • Many aspirants have already received job offers through this initiative, making it a new and successful pathway for candidates outside the civil services list.
<p>Recently, there have been concerns about aspirants cheating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPSC follows a strict zero-tolerance policy. Anyone found cheating—whether by using fake documents, manipulating

<p>through false certificates or manipulation. How does UPSC deal with such cases?</p>	<p>age, or engaging in exam malpractice—faces the strictest action under rules and laws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such candidates are barred from appearing in UPSC exams for at least three years. • In cases of criminal fraud, FIRs are filed and legal proceedings follow. • Technology is being increasingly used to detect such misconduct, and aspirants are strongly advised not to attempt such shortcuts.
<p>Many aspirants complain that UPSC's grievance redressal and helpdesk system is ineffective. Are there any improvements planned?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This concern has come to our notice. • Earlier, the helpdesk was active only during the application and exam periods. • We have now decided to keep it open throughout the year, so candidates can seek support at any time. • Additionally, UPSC has launched its official LinkedIn portal for direct communication. • These measures are part of ongoing efforts to make the Commission more accessible and responsive.
<p>Sir, on a personal note, could you share your own UPSC journey and the key reasons for your success?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like many aspirants today, I too once prepared for UPSC while pursuing my BTech from IIT Kanpur. • At that time, going abroad for higher studies was common, but I chose to stay in India and serve here. • I cleared both the IAS and Engineering Services exams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition was less intense then, but what helped me most were certain principles: staying curious, maintaining consistency in daily study, focusing fully on my goal, keeping a positive mindset even in failure, and managing time effectively. • These lessons, I believe, are useful for all aspirants even today.
How does UPSC ensure fairness in mains evaluation and interviews, especially across different subjects and boards?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation is carried out by top subject experts who remain anonymous. • For every subject, model keys are prepared and multiple levels of review ensure uniformity. • Beyond that, a moderation process is applied—a statistically proven and Supreme Court-approved method—to balance marks across subjects and bring all candidates onto a common merit list. • This ensures fairness despite the diversity of disciplines.
Sometimes prelims questions are dropped. Why does this happen and how is fairness ensured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper-setting is a rigorous multi-level process involving experts, but knowledge evolves and sometimes questions may allow multiple valid interpretations. • In rare cases, such questions are dropped to maintain fairness. • For example, if one question out of 100 is removed, the paper is evaluated out of 99, ensuring that no candidate is disadvantaged.

If you were preparing for UPSC again today, what strategies would you adopt?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I firmly believe self-study is the best form of preparation.• Coaching is not necessary.• Preparation involves long hours, self-doubt, and moments of failure, but the key is perseverance, discipline, and self-belief.• Think of it like running: you may feel tired, but you must push yourself one step further each day.• Consistency, curiosity, focus, and time management are crucial.
Does a candidate's background – such as rural or urban, engineering or humanities – affect interview performance or final selection?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Absolutely not.• Answer scripts are anonymous, and interviews are conducted by senior, experienced advisors who evaluate only merit.• Data shows no significant difference in marks based on background.• Interestingly, many engineers actually qualify with humanities optionals.• UPSC treats every candidate equally.
Q: Will such direct town hall interactions with aspirants be held regularly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes, this initiative will continue from time to time.• The purpose is to build trust and communication with aspirants, making the examination process more transparent and accessible.

<p>Q: What is your advice for aspirants who miss selection by a narrow margin?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firstly, the Pratibha Setu portal provides new opportunities, often with excellent starting salaries and roles. • Secondly, civil services is not the only pathway. • The hard work and discipline developed during UPSC preparation equips aspirants to excel in any field. • Candidates should see themselves as winners regardless of the outcome.
<p>Q: Coaching dependence is rising. Will UPSC provide mentoring or guidance directly?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPSC's constitutional role is recruitment, so it cannot directly mentor candidates as that would risk partiality. • However, the government is working to expand support in regions with fewer resources. • Aspirants should take advantage of such initiatives instead of over-relying on coaching.
<p>Q: Finally, what message would you like to give to UPSC aspirants?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPSC is not just an exam—it is a platform to harness your potential for the nation's welfare. • Dream big, work hard, remain disciplined, and believe in yourself. Civil services is one opportunity, but not the only one. • Whatever the outcome, the journey prepares you to succeed in life.

11. Mention Key Highlights from UPSC Annual Report & Related Data wrt Optional Subjects?

Key Highlights	Description
73rd Annual Report (2022-23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report mentions that Forestry was the most preferred optional subject among candidates who made it to the Personality Test / Interview stage. The report contains comprehensive statistics on educational background, age profiles, gender, category-wise statistics, etc.
72nd Annual Report (2021-22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the report, data shows that Political Science & International Relations (PSIR) was a very popular optional – with one table showing only 27 candidates opted for English optional while 1,863 opted for PSIR. This underlines the strong inclination among aspirants toward social sciences subjects in UPSC optional selection.
Trend on Educational Background vs Optional Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the years, while a large share of selected candidates come from engineering/technical backgrounds, very few of them choose engineering subjects as their optionals. Less than 4 % of selected candidates in recent cycles opted for engineering-related optional subjects. Between 2006 and 2013, ~90% of selected candidates opted for Humanities-related optionals; by 2021, this share dipped to ~84.3%, with slight increases in Science / Medical / Engineering optional choices.

Success Rate / Performance of Optional Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In UPSC 2017, Public Administration had ~10.2% success rate among those who appeared, Sociology ~9.6%, Anthropology ~9.7%, etc. • For 2019, subjects like Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science, Management, Commerce & Accountancy, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology displayed relatively high success percentages (for instance, “Animal Husbandry & Vet Science — 18.8% in 2019”) in comparison to more popular subjects.
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12. What are various challenges faced by UPSC?

- In recent days, **both the UPSC and the system of its recruitment have come under public criticism**, thanks to incidents of abuse and misuse of quota by a few candidates.
- This has put into **question the credibility of not only the examination process but also of the UPSC as an institution.**
- The **UPSC examination system, pattern and process have often been called outdated.**
- Going from preliminary exams to the **final result of the interview round takes almost a year.**
- The **curriculum and exam pattern**, which has remained unchanged for decades now, don't align with the **needs of governance and public administration in today's world.**
- Even the **syllabus is criticised for not reflecting contemporary realities.**
- This **mismatch creates a gap between the skills** required in today's world and what the **examination actually tests.**

- Another **significant criticism of the UPSC examination** is its tendency to promote a culture of rote learning.
- The **UPSC's heavy reliance on factual knowledge has led to the rise of "crammers"**, that is, candidates who excel in memorising information but may **lack deeper understanding, critical thinking abilities, creativity and a spirit of innovation.**
- This leads to the **selection of individuals who are less suited to the dynamic and complex nature of public administration.**
- The **unpredictability of the UPSC exams, particularly the prelims test, adds to the stress and uncertainty faced by aspirants.**
- Questions **can vary widely in difficulty and scope**, making it challenging for **candidates to prepare effectively.**
- This often benefits those who are **better at guessing rather than those who possess a deep understanding of subjects.**
- **Lack of transparency** in the evaluation process is also a concern.
- Candidates have **limited access to their answer sheets** and don't know the **rationale behind the scores they are awarded.**
- This opacity fuels suspicion about the **fairness of the evaluation process.**
- Even though the **selection process is rigorous**, the UPSC has been criticised for **failing to produce competent and effective officers consistently.**
- **Ms Pooja Khedkar was found guilty of cheating and wrongly availing Other Backward Classes (OBC) and disability quota benefits.**



- The current system also does not adequately assess candidates' personality traits and soft skills.
- Finally, one of the most neglected duties of the UPSC - giving advice about the nature and quantum of punishment for a deviant civil servant - should be discharged in a timely manner.
- The UPSC is slow, tardy and status quoist in its approach.
- We need a faster, more transparent and clearer procedure so that erring bureaucrats are given appropriate punishments.

13. Has the UPSC exam ever been cancelled?

- The Civil Services (Preliminary) Exam 1991 was scheduled to be held on 9th June. 1991.
- The examination was, however, cancelled due to the leakage of question paper before the exam.
- Investigations carried out by the CBI, identified the source of leakage as the printing press located at Ranchi.
- The reexamination was held on 29th September. 1991.
- IPS officer Safeer Karim was caught cheating in the UPSC mains exam in 2017 with the help of wife via bluetooth headset.

14. Highlight various challenges faced by Civil Services?

Challenges	Description
Political Bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutrality of civil servants is sometimes compromised due to pressure from political leaders. • Frequent interference in postings, transfers, and decision-making can reduce administrative effectiveness.
Resistance to innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional administrative culture discourages experimentation and adoption of new technology or methods. • Rigid Administrative Culture: Many bureaucratic systems follow hierarchical, rule-bound procedures that discourage experimentation. • Fear of Accountability: Officers may avoid innovative approaches due to fear of failure or scrutiny, preferring tried-and-tested methods. • Slow Adoption of Technology: E-governance, AI, and digital tools are underutilized because of reluctance to change established processes.
Lack of Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career bureaucrats who are generalists, may lack the expertise needed to address technical challenges. • Generalist Background: Most civil servants are trained as generalists, which limits their ability to handle highly specialized or technical domains like IT, biotechnology, finance, environment, or urban planning.

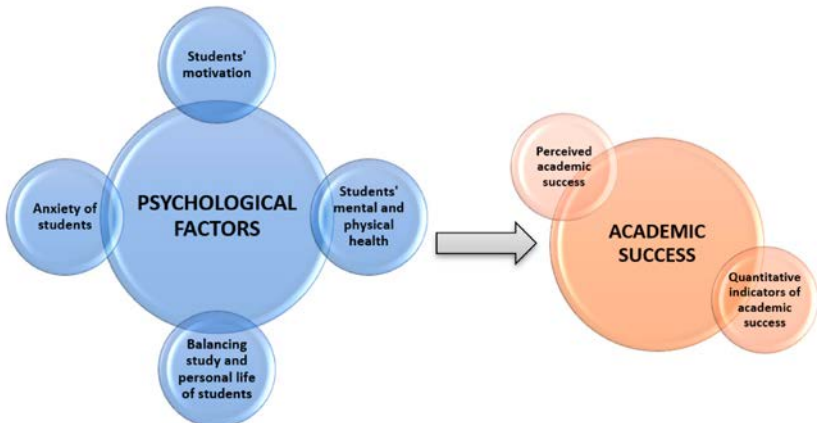
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex Policy Challenges: Modern governance increasingly requires data-driven and technical knowledge, making generalist officers less equipped to provide expert solutions. • Dependence on External Experts: Officers often rely on consultants or external specialists, which can slow down decision-making or reduce ownership of policies. • Training Gaps: Existing training programs may not adequately bridge the gap between generalist skills and sector-specific expertise. • Impact on Policy Implementation: Lack of technical know-how can result in suboptimal policy design, delays, or ineffective implementation.
Outdated rules and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many service regulations are colonial-era legacies that are not compatible with modern governance needs.
Red-tapism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex hierarchies and paperwork discourage efficiency and innovation. • Excessive procedural formalities often delay decision-making and hinder timely service delivery. • Impact on Efficiency: Important policies and welfare schemes may be delayed, reducing their effectiveness and public satisfaction. • Discourages Innovation: Officers may avoid new approaches due to fear of procedural non-compliance or accountability issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Frustration: Lengthy processes and bureaucratic hurdles can lead to public dissatisfaction and reduce trust in governance. • Need for Simplification: Streamlining procedures and adopting e-governance tools can enhance efficiency and accountability.
Lack of Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career bureaucrats who are generalists, may lack the expertise needed to address technical challenges.
Mental Health Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long working hours, high responsibility, and constant public scrutiny contribute to stress, burnout, and work-life imbalance.
Capacity Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of skilled personnel in specialized fields; overburdening officers with multiple roles reduces effectiveness.
Corruption & Nepotism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite reforms, instances of misuse of authority, favoritism, or graft continue to affect public trust.
Rapid Socio-Economic Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing complexity of governance (digitalization, globalization, environmental issues) challenges the adaptability of civil services.

15. What are the challenges faced by UPSC aspirants?

- While the rewards of clearing the **UPSC exam** are immense, it is one of the toughest exams with less than 1% of aspirants making it through.
- Aspirants face significant challenges that test their physical, emotional, and mental limits.

Challenges	About
Information Overload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vast syllabus and abundance of books, notes, and online content can overwhelm even the most diligent aspirants. • Multiple Sources: Aspirants face an overflow of books, notes, coaching materials, and online resources, making it hard to filter what is truly relevant. • Duplication & Contradiction: Many sources overlap or contradict each other, adding to confusion. • Time Drain: Attempting to “read everything” leads to inefficiency, leaving less time for revision and answer-writing practice. • Psychological Impact: The fear of missing out (FOMO) on resources often causes stress and lowers confidence.
Time Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing multiple subjects, optional papers, answer writing practice, and current affairs demands exceptional organisational skills.
Mental Pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fear of failure, multiple attempts, peer competition, and societal expectations often lead to anxiety, stress, and burnout.

	 <p>PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students' motivation Anxiety of students Balancing study and personal life of students Students' mental and physical health <p>→</p> <p>ACADEMIC SUCCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perceived academic success Quantitative indicators of academic success <hr/> <p>PRESSURE OF PERFECTION?</p> <div> <p>One student commits suicide every 55 minutes in India</p> <p>➤ In academic year 2017-18, more than 150 students across AP and Telangana committed suicide</p> <p>➤ In Hyderabad, more than 30 students committed suicide in academic year 2017-18</p> <p>20% of city students in a single class are suffering from anxiety & depression</p> </div> <div> <p>➤ Suicide incidence rate per 1,00,000 population for those below the age of 14 is 0.5</p> <p>➤ Suicide incidence rate per 1,00,000 population for those in 14-17 age bracket is 9.52</p> </div> <div> <p>WARNING SIGNS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Isolation from family and friends ➤ Self-harm ➤ Drastic changes in mood and behaviour (extreme fear, sadness, irritability) ➤ Changes in sleeping and eating habits ➤ Drug and alcohol use ➤ Engaging in risky behaviours ➤ Showing less interest in activities they previously enjoyed </div> <div> <p>According to statistics, over the past three years more than 26,000 students have committed suicide across India. A majority of student suicides are caused by underlying psychiatric factors such as stress, depression and anxiety. It could result from difficulty in coping with academics, unrealistic expectations and pressure from parents and lack of support from peers. It is very important to identify the illness at an early stage and consult a mental health professional</p> <p>—Dr Virinchi Sharma A PSYCHIATRIST</p> </div>
<p>Financial Constraints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for UPSC can be expensive due to coaching fees, relocation (especially to Delhi or other hubs), and high living costs. • Relocation Costs: Aspirants often migrate to hubs like Delhi, Hyderabad, or Bengaluru, incurring rent, food, and transport expenses.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Costs: Accommodation in coaching hubs is expensive; shared PGs or hostels still burden students from modest backgrounds. • Multiple Attempts: Since success often requires 2–3 years, the recurring costs of books, test series, and coaching increase financial pressure.
Uncertainty of Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even well-prepared candidates may not clear prelims or mains due to unpredictable cut-offs, negative marking, or exam-day pressure.
Consistency & Motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long preparation cycles (1–3 years or more) make it difficult to stay consistent without losing focus or drive.
Answer Writing Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many aspirants struggle to present knowledge in a concise, analytical, and structured manner within limited time during mains.
Limited Guidance & Mentorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students from rural/remote areas often lack access to quality mentorship, evaluation, and peer discussion. • Geographical Disadvantage: Aspirants from rural or remote areas often do not have access to reputed coaching centres, libraries, or discussion groups. • Lack of Personalised Feedback: Unlike urban hubs, where answer-writing and interview guidance is available, rural candidates may not get timely evaluation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Isolation: Absence of a competitive peer group limits healthy discussions and exchange of ideas, which is crucial for improving analytical ability. • Dependence on Self-Study: With limited exposure to mentors, aspirants may struggle with strategy, resource selection, and exam temperament. • Digital Divide: Online mentorship is emerging, but poor internet connectivity and lack of digital literacy can restrict its benefits in remote regions. • Outcome: Many well-read candidates fail not due to lack of knowledge, but due to weak strategy, poor answer presentation, and lack of exam-oriented guidance.
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16. How does UPSC use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other measures to safeguard its examination system against paper leaks?

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairman, Ajay Kumar, announced that a **pilot program has been successfully conducted to test an Artificial Intelligence-enabled facial authentication technology for quick and secure candidate verification.**
- This initiative is developed in partnership with the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**, aims to strengthen the integrity of the examination process and enhance the entry experience for candidates at examination centres.
- The commission conducts various recruitment examinations for government jobs, including the civil services exam to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian

Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

- It was noted that logistics, such as **Wi-Fi availability and training for personnel involved in facial recognition**, are key considerations.
- The **pilot was carried out across select centres in Gurugram, where candidates' facial images were digitally matched** with the photographs submitted in their registration forms.
- The **new system reduced verification time to an average of just 8 to 10 seconds per candidate**, significantly **streamlining the entry process while adding an extra layer of security**.
- It was emphasised that the **commission is committed to adopting cutting-edge technology to uphold the highest standards of fairness and transparency**.



17. Enlist key recommendations of Baswan committee?

- The **Baswan Committee** was an **expert panel established by the Central Government in 2015** to review the pattern, syllabus, and eligibility criteria for the **Civil Services Examination (CSE)**.

- The committee was chaired by B.S. Baswan, a former Human Resource Secretary and retired IAS officer.
- It comprised a diverse group of experts, including academicians, technocrats, and senior bureaucrats, bringing a multidisciplinary perspective to the review process.

Under consideration

Recommendations made by Baswan Committee, which is yet to be made public



- The recommendations forwarded to Department of Personnel for final decision
- Suggestion to remove optional paper being considered a major reform

- Aspirants feel it may prove a game-changer given the huge difference in the award of marks in the optionals, while some subjects have innate advantages
- Trainers of Civil Services' aspirants feel the removal of optionals may work to the advantage of urban youngsters
- Languages, popular for scoring high, may lose relevance



ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

- The changes are expected to provide a level-playing field for all aspirants
- Cross domain-movement to reduce drastically



The government is expected to effect the reduction only after extending a sufficient window to the existing aspirants. Changes in the pattern can be effected by the UPSC any time without any advance notice.

GOPALA KRISHNA, DIRECTOR, BRAIN TREE

Proposed Reforms	Description
Preliminary Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aptitude Test: The committee recommended that the CSAT be retained but with a reduced weightage to ensure that it serves as a screening tool without overshadowing the General Studies paper. • Language Paper: Suggestions were made to make the language paper qualifying in nature to prevent it from becoming a barrier for candidates from non-English backgrounds
Mains Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Studies Papers: Recommendations included revising the syllabus to make it more relevant to the contemporary administrative challenges and to reduce overlap with the General Studies papers of the Preliminary Examination. • Optional Subjects: The committee suggested a review of the optional subjects to ensure they are relevant and do not require excessive specialization.
Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Limit: The committee proposed revising the upper age limit and the number of attempts allowed to make the examination more accessible to a broader range of candidates. • Educational Qualifications: Recommendations were made to ensure that the educational qualifications required are aligned with the duties and responsibilities of civil servants.

Examination Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency and Fairness: The committee emphasized the need for greater transparency in the examination process and suggested measures to ensure fairness and inclusivity. • Evaluation System: Recommendations included revising the evaluation system to make it more objective and to reduce subjectivity in the assessment of candidates.
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18. Suggest reforms to make UPSC more relevant to 21st-century governance?


- To remain relevant in the 21st century, UPSC must evolve from being a memory-intensive exam to a future-oriented, skill-based, and inclusive recruitment system that equips civil servants to handle complex governance challenges like technology, globalization, and sustainability.
- Also, The Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice (Chair: Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi) submitted its report on ‘Review of Functioning of Recruitment Organisations of Government of India’, on August 3, 2023.
- The Committee examined the present working procedure followed by various recruitment organisations including the Union Public Services Commission (UPSC) and gave few suggestions.


Reforms	Description
Increase Frequency of Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Mains exams twice a year to provide candidates more opportunities to improve their scores without having to restart the entire process from the first stage

Valid Preliminary Score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the validity of the Preliminary exam score for a couple of years, allowing candidates to focus on the Mains stage without having to clear Prelims every time.
Prelims answer key	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2025, a Parliamentary Standing Committee suggested the release of answer key by the UPSC immediately after the preliminary examination to enhance credibility, fairness, and candidates' confidence.
Timeline of recruitment exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parliamentary Standing Committee observed that each recruitment exam conducted by UPSC takes anywhere between six months to one year to complete. • It noted that the entire process should not be more than six months. • The Committee inquired whether UPSC had considered any changes to curtail the length of the examination cycle.
Computer-Based Examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parliamentary Standing Committee suggested that the UPSC should conduct computer-based tests for its recruitment exams to significantly shorten the overall examination timeline.
Scrap Optional Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the compulsory optional subjects to ensure a more uniform examination for all candidates and reduce the subjective element in the selection process.

Reform Personality Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There Is a need to enhance the Personality Test (interview round) and include methods that can assess leadership qualities, emotional intelligence, and ethical decision-making. • The interview board must include a jury comprising the common public too, as it is they who are the 'end-sufferers' in this system. • There can be reduction in overall weightage of marks in personality test so as to ensure level playing field.
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19. How has Next IAS contributed to making UPSC preparation more structured, accessible, and result-oriented?

Initiatives	Description
Sahyog Initiative 'Your Dream, My Support'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by B. Singh, CMD of NEXT IAS, in his personal capacity, the Sahyog Initiative is committed to empowering 100 deserving students who have lost both parents and belong to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS). • By offering free IAS coaching, this initiative aims to help these students overcome their challenging circumstances and realize their dreams.  <p>The banner for the Sahyog Initiative features a blue background. On the left, there is a graphic of two hands shaking, with a yellow circle containing the text 'Your Dream' and a red circle containing 'My Support'. In the center, the text 'सहयोग INITIATIVE' is written in Hindi and English. To the right, 'FREE COACHING' is prominently displayed in large white letters, followed by '100% Fee Sponsorship to 100 students for Offline Coaching at NEXT IAS/MADE EASY/MENIT.' Below this is a QR code and a quote from B. Singh: 'My personal support to students who have lost their parents and they want to prepare for CSE/ESE/GATE/NEET/JEE'. At the bottom right is a portrait of B. Singh, CMD of NEXT IAS, MADE EASY & MENIT. Logos for NEXT IAS, MADE EASY, and MENIT are at the bottom left.</p>

Beyond Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEXT IAS “BEYOND CLASSROOM” is a first-of-its-kind Faculty Panel Discussion Series for UPSC aspirants. • The series convenes distinguished panels of renowned and experienced faculty members of NEXT IAS for interactive sessions on burning topics crucial for the UPSC Civil Services Exam (CSE). 
NEXT IAS's aid package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the tragic drowning of three students in a flooded basement at Rau's IAS Study Circle on July 27, 2024, NEXT IAS was one of four UPSC coaching institutes that offered financial and academic aid. • The incident occurred in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar after heavy rain. • NEXT IAS's aid package was detailed in a press release issued on August 1, 2024: • Financial assistance: The institute provided ₹10 lakh each to the families of the three students who lost their lives: Shreya Yadav, Tanya Soni, and Nevin Dalvin.

- **Free classes:** NEXT IAS offered to provide classes free of charge for the remaining syllabus for any students from Rau's IAS whose studies were interrupted by the incident.
- **Student care cell:** The institute also established a student care cell and converted a classroom into a temporary reading room to support the affected students.



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 01.08.2024

With a heavy heart, we share our deep empathy for the recent tragic incident at Old Rajendra Nagar on 27th July 2024. The loss of three young and promising lives has profoundly saddened us all. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences go out to their families and friends during this difficult time. Please know that we stand with you, offering our unwavering support.

While no action can ever truly heal this loss and no financial support can compensate for the loss of their lives. Standing by our commitment towards the student community NEXT IAS family (Management and Faculties) has decided to provide ₹10 lakhs each to the next of kin of the bereaved families of the three students (Shreya Yadav, Tanya Soni and Nevin Dalwin) who lost their lives in this tragic incident. We hope that our efforts can provide some relief during these difficult moments.

We understand the disruption faced by students who have enrolled in the current session at Rau's IAS institute, whose classes have been hampered due to this tragic incident. NEXT IAS humbly announces to provide classes for the remaining syllabus for such students enrolled in Rau's IAS current session (GS/Optional Foundation courses). Our motive to teach (without any charges) is just to help and support students affected by this tragic incident. Such students may contact us by visiting our office after 5th August 2024.

We are aware that many CSE Mains 2024 appearing candidates of NEXT IAS (current /previous sessions) are suffering due to the shutdown of many libraries. Considering this, we are converting one of our classrooms into a reading room and this facility can be utilised from 3 PM to 9 PM (timings may be revised depending on circumstances and other factors) starting from 10th August 2024 onwards till 30th September 2024 by all CSE Mains 2024 appearing students of NEXT IAS.

In line with our previous communication sent through email on 28th July 2024 to our students, we are exploring feasibility for our Delhi centre to resume offline & live online classes from 5th August 2024 (subject to the circumstances) in strict adherence to safety measures. We are taking additional safety measures in accordance with government guidelines. The schedule of all classes will be communicated through our official Id to all respective batches.

As part of our continuous support to students, NEXT IAS has decided to establish a dedicated 'Student Care Cell' for our students. This initiative aims to provide continuous support for well-being of our students during their preparation journey.

With heartfelt gratitude

B. Singh
CMD, NEXT IAS

20. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **For Prelims:** Constitutional and Non Constitutional Bodies, Optical Mark Recognition (OMR).
- **For Mains:** Role and Functions of UPSC and SPSC, Civil Services Reforms.

Some previous years mains questions.

- Q1. “Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and adherence of the rule of law.” Examine the significance of constitutional morality for public servants, highlighting the role in promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration. (2025-10 Marks)
- Q2. “For any kind of social re-engineering by successfully implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework.” Justify this statement with suitable examples. (2025-10 Marks)

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

- You are from IIT.
- You could have gone to foreign or private sector where you could have earned high packages.
- Why you want to join civil services after IIT?

Board Suman Sharma mam:

- Why do you want to join civil services?
- Don't you think this is waste of resource?

Board Preeti Sudan mam:

- Why do more number of engineering graduates appear for civil services
- What is your justification?

Some questions for QUIZ.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding UPSC.

1. UPSC advises the President on disciplinary matters of civil servants,
2. UPSC can be directed by the Parliament to recruit members for state legislative services.
3. The Prime Minister of India appoints the Chairman and Members of UPSC.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: (a)

Some questions for POLL.

Q1. Do you think UPSC functions independently without political influence?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q2. Is the current UPSC examination process effective in selecting competent civil servants?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

- Q3. Is the current UPSC syllabus aligned with real-world administrative challenges?
- (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q4. Do you believe UPSC maintains transparency in recruitment and results?
- (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q5. Should UPSC do more to create awareness about its functions and recruitment process among students?
- (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.

