

# 100 YEARS OF UPSC: POLITY

## NEWS: Union Public Service Commission to Begin Centenary Year Celebrations from 1st October 2025

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), India's premier central recruiting agency, is set to mark its centennial anniversary with a series of events celebrating a century of its existence and contribution to nation-building.

### Core Identity and Constitutional Status

**Independent Constitutional Body** - The UPSC is an independent body established directly by the Constitution of India. Its provisions are detailed in Part XIV, under Articles 315 to 323, which ensures its autonomy and impartial functioning.

**Primary Mandate** - Its core responsibility is to conduct merit-based examinations for direct recruitment to the prestigious All India Services (like IAS, IPS, IFS) and Central Civil Services (Group A and B), forming the backbone of the Indian bureaucracy.

### Historical Evolution

The commission's history reflects the evolution of governance in India -

1. **Establishment (1926)** - It was first established as the Public Service Commission on October 1, 1926. This was done under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1919, following the recommendations of the Lee Commission (Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India, 1924).
2. **Reconstitution (1937)** - Under the Government of India Act, 1935, which introduced a federal structure, the body was reconstituted and named the Federal Public Service Commission.
3. **Post-Independence Renaming (1947)** - After India gained independence, it was renamed the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and was given its constitutional status.

### Composition and Term of Office

1. **Appointment** - The Chairman and all other members of the UPSC are appointed directly by the President of India.
2. **Qualification** - The Constitution mandates that at least half of the members of the commission must be individuals who have held a government office (either under the Government of India or a state government) for a minimum period of 10 years.
3. **Tenure** - A member holds office for a fixed term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever comes first.
4. **Resignation** - Any member, including the Chairman, can resign from their position at any time by submitting a written resignation to the President.

### Removal of Members (Article 317)

To ensure their independence, the removal of a UPSC member is a rigorous process based on specific grounds:

1. **Grounds for Removal** - The President can remove a member if they are declared insolvent, engage in paid employment outside their official duties, or are deemed unfit to continue due to physical or mental infirmity.
2. **Removal for Misbehavior** - In cases of alleged misbehavior, the President must refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an inquiry. The President can only remove the member if the Supreme Court upholds the cause of removal and advises so. This provision acts as a significant safeguard for the commission's autonomy.

### Functions and Powers (Article 320)

The UPSC performs a wide range of functions related to recruitment and civil service management:

1. **Conduct of Examinations** – Its most well-known function is conducting competitive examinations for appointments to the services of the Union.
2. **Direct Recruitment** – It handles the selection of candidates through interviews for direct recruitment to various posts.
3. **Promotions and Deputations** – The commission is consulted on the principles to be followed for appointments on promotion, deputation, or absorption.
4. **Recruitment Rules** – It plays a crucial role in framing and amending the recruitment rules for various government services and posts.
5. **Disciplinary Cases** – It is consulted on all disciplinary matters affecting a person serving under the Government of India in a civil capacity.
6. **Advisory Role** – It advises the Government on any matter referred to it by the President of India.

#### Autonomy and Reporting

1. **Financial Independence** – All expenses of the UPSC, including the salaries, allowances, and pensions of its members and staff, are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. This means they are not subject to the vote of Parliament, ensuring financial autonomy.
2. **Annual Report** – The UPSC is required to present an annual report to the President detailing its work during the year. The President then places this report before both Houses of Parliament.

#### Post-Term Employment Restrictions

To ensure impartiality and prevent future inducements, strict restrictions are placed on the post-retirement employment of its members:

1. **Chairman** – After completing their term, the Chairman of UPSC is ineligible for any further employment under the Government of India or the government of any state.
2. **Members** – A member of UPSC is eligible for appointment as the Chairman of the UPSC or as the Chairman of a State Public Service Commission (SPSC), but not for any other employment under the central or a state government.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2155432#:~:text=New%20Delhi%2C%20August%202025%3A%20The,continue%20until%201st%20October%202026.>