

## Editorial of the Day – 01.10.2025

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## 1. A Century of Upholding Merit – The UPSC's Journey

**GS Paper 2** – Governance, Constitution, Polity. **Topic** – Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

**Sub-topics** – Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies; Role of civil services in a democracy.

### 1. Introduction – The Guardian of Meritocracy

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is celebrating its centenary, marking 100 years as the bedrock of merit-based recruitment for India's central civil services. It is a key constitutional body that ensures an efficient, independent, and impartial civil service, which is vital for good governance and national integrity. Its journey is a testament to India's commitment to fairness and trust in public institutions.

### 2. Historical Evolution of the Commission

The UPSC's origins predate India's independence, evolving through key legislative milestones –  
**1926** – The Public Service Commission was first established on October 1, 1926, following the recommendations of the Lee Commission and provisions of the Government of India Act, 1919. Sir Ross Barker was its first Chairman.

**1935** – With the enactment of the Government of India Act, 1935, it was reconstituted as the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC).

**1950** – After the adoption of the Constitution of India, the FPSC was renamed the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), and its role and autonomy were enshrined under Article 320 of the Constitution.

### 3. Foundational Principles and Core Functions

The UPSC operates on a set of unwavering principles that have sustained public faith in the institution for a century.

**Core Philosophy** – Its guiding philosophy is to provide a "true 'level playing field'" for all aspirants, irrespective of their background. This is inspired by the Bhagavad Gita's teaching – "Niyatam kuru karma tvam, karma jyaayo hyakarmaah, ... Asakto hyaacharan karma paramapnoti purushah" (Perform your duty with rigor and fairness, without attachment to outcomes).

**Integrity and Impartiality** – The Commission ensures impartiality in evaluation and protects against malpractice, political influence, and external pressures, maintaining confidentiality and fairness.

**Primary Function** – Its mandate is to select the most suitable and meritorious talent for the nation's civil services, including engineering, forest, medical, and various other cadres, through a rigorous and competitive examination process.

**Scale of Operations** – The scale is immense, with lakhs of applicants taking the preliminary examination, choosing from numerous optional subjects and 22 languages, showcasing the complexity and logistical challenge of its task.

### 4. UPSC as a Symbol of the 'Indian Dream'

The Commission is more than just a recruiting agency; it represents a pathway for social mobility and national service.

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**Aspiration Hub** – For decades, the civil services examination has embodied the aspirations of India's youth, attracting the most determined and talented individuals.

**Inclusive Opportunity** – It provides a genuine opportunity for aspirants from the most underprivileged and remote corners of the country to rise to the highest echelons of government, making it a powerful tool for social equity.

## 5. Challenges and Future-Ready Reforms

As it enters its second century, the UPSC faces the challenge of adapting to a rapidly changing world, marked by technological advancements and evolving governance models. To remain relevant, it has initiated several key reforms.

**Adapting to New Demands** – The primary challenge is to keep the recruitment process aligned with the changing needs of modern governance and the impact of the global technological revolution.

**PRATIBHA Initiative** – The UPSC is launching the Public Recruitment Application and Integration Bridge for Hiring Applicants (PRATIBHA). This includes –

1. A new application portal.
2. One-Time Registration for applicants.
3. Greater ease of application and enhanced user experience.

**Embracing Technology** – The Commission is actively working to integrate digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and integrity of its processes without compromising fairness and rigour.

## 6. Conclusion – The Way Forward

For 100 years, the UPSC has been the unwavering guardian of merit, ensuring that the nation's bureaucracy is staffed by individuals selected on the basis of competence and integrity. While its legacy is a source of immense pride, its future depends on its ability to continuously adapt and innovate. By embracing technological reforms like PRATIBHA and AI, the UPSC is preparing itself for the next century, committed to upholding its core values while evolving to meet the demands of a modern, dynamic India.

Source – [https://epaper.thehindu.com/reader?utm\\_source=Hindu&utm\\_medium=Menu&utm\\_campaign=Header&gl=1\\*x0qkj\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*MTI4NzE1MzE3OC4xNzUyOTAyOTMyLjE3Mjg2Mjg3MjkuMTc1OTc0NzY2OS4xNzU5NzQ3NzE3](https://epaper.thehindu.com/reader?utm_source=Hindu&utm_medium=Menu&utm_campaign=Header&gl=1*x0qkj*_gcl_au*MTI4NzE1MzE3OC4xNzUyOTAyOTMyLjE3Mjg2Mjg3MjkuMTc1OTc0NzY2OS4xNzU5NzQ3NzE3)

## 2. Analysis of Trump's Approach to Peacemaking

**GS Paper 2** – International Relations. **Topic** – Effect of policies and politics of developed countries on global affairs.

**Sub-topics** – Conflict Resolution, Role of Major Powers in International Politics, Middle East Conflict (Israel-Palestine), Ukraine Conflict.

### 1. Introduction – Ambition vs. Execution

The article argues that while President Donald Trump's peace initiatives in the Middle East and Europe are bold ventures driven by the might of US power and his personal ambition, they are fundamentally flawed. His approach lacks the patience, diplomatic diligence, and deep understanding of complex conflicts necessary for successful and sustainable peacemaking. Consequently, his grand plans are ambitious declarations resting on "shaky foundations."

### 2. The Nature of Trump's "Peace President" Personal

**Personal Commitment** – Trump has a strong personal commitment to being remembered as a "peace president," willing to expend significant political capital on ending global conflicts.

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**Dominant but Impatient Style** – His approach is characterized by bold, unilateral declarations and a belief that his personal intervention can quickly solve long-standing issues, as seen in his promise to end the Ukraine war "in a day."

**Lack of Diplomatic Nuance** – The core problem identified is that his commitment is not matched by the hard work of diplomacy. He tends to overlook the tragic roots of conflicts and the arduous process required for genuine reconciliation.

### 3. Case Study – The Middle East Peace Plan

Trump unveiled a sweeping 21-point plan aimed at ending the Gaza war and establishing a roadmap for peaceful Israeli-Palestinian coexistence.

#### **Key Provisions of the Plan –**

1. An immediate ceasefire and the exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners.
2. Phased withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.
3. Delivery of large-scale humanitarian relief.
4. Establishment of an interim, technocratic Palestinian committee to govern Gaza, supervised by an international "Board of Peace" chaired by Trump himself.
5. Disarmament of Hamas militias, with amnesty for those who comply.
6. A framework for economic reconstruction and a conditional pathway toward eventual Palestinian statehood.

#### **Reactions from Key Stakeholders –**

1. **Arab & Muslim States (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, etc.)** – Offered nuanced formal praise. They welcomed Trump's personal commitment but stopped short of endorsing every provision, reiterating their core demand for a sovereign Palestinian state with East Jerusalem.
2. **Israel (Netanyahu)** – Did not reject the plan but made it clear that if Hamas refuses to comply, Israel will "finish the job" in Gaza. The plan also faces skepticism from Israel's far-right.
3. **Hamas and other Militant Groups** – Dismissed the plan as a one-sided deal heavily tilted toward Israel, viewing the terms as a call for "unconditional surrender."

### 4. Core Challenges and Implementation Pitfalls

The plan, even if accepted superficially, faces immense practical and political obstacles.

**Intractable Issues** – Key elements like the disarmament and demilitarization of Hamas and the establishment of a neutral, apolitical authority in Gaza are deeply contentious and have derailed past peace efforts.

**Lack of Trust** – The deep-seated enmity ensures that each side will likely find excuses to stall or abandon the process if it disadvantages them.

**Logistical and Resource Burden** – The plan requires a massive multinational stabilization force and international oversight, which faces challenges of legitimacy, coordination, and resources. Rebuilding Gaza's shattered infrastructure would be a monumental, long-term task vulnerable to ongoing violence.

**Parallel to Ukraine** – Trump's difficulties mirror his failed attempt in Ukraine, where his bold claims collided with the reality that neither Russia nor Ukraine would accept Washington's terms.

### 5. Conclusion – A Legacy of Bravado Over Substance

The article concludes that Trump's peacemaking style has distinct characteristics –

**Assets** – He brings immense political bravado, diplomatic energy, and the extraordinary leverage of US power. His high-stakes maneuvers create dramatic headlines and initial momentum.

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**Deficiencies** – He lacks the essential qualities of a successful peacemaker – persistence, a willingness to compromise, and a deep, nuanced understanding of conflict dynamics.

Ultimately, any peace plan's success depends on the combatants' willingness to make painful concessions, supported by internal political consensus. Trump's approach, focused on grand gestures rather than a sustained, patient process, is unlikely to overcome the entrenched enmities in conflicts as complex as those in Gaza or Ukraine.

Source – <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/trump-gaza-peace-plan-netanyahu-hamas-10280155/>

