

CAREER IN CIVIL SERVICES - IAS OFFICER

Inspire, Educate, Empower – Shaping Young Minds



The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) is one of India's most prestigious and competitive government careers. IAS officers are responsible for implementing government policies, managing administration, maintaining law and order, supervising public expenditure, and addressing issues faced by citizens.

An IAS career offers the opportunity to work at the Central and State Government levels, with responsibilities ranging from district administration to senior policymaking. Officers may also work with PSUs, autonomous organisations, international institutions, and organisations such as the UN, World Bank, IMF and Asian Development Bank.

Eligibility

- Any graduate can appear for the UPSC Civil Services Examination the bachelor's degree can be in Arts, Commerce, Science, Engineering, Medicine, Law, or any other recognised discipline.
- A specific degree in Public Administration or Political Science is not compulsory.
- Candidates must also satisfy the UPSC's age and other eligibility conditions applicable to their category.

Union Public Service Commission +1

Top IAS Preparation Institutes Across India

- Vision IAS – Delhi / Multiple Cities / Online
- Vajiram & Ravi – New Delhi / Online
- Drishti IAS – Delhi / Multiple Cities / Online
- NEXT IAS – Delhi / Multiple Cities / Online
- Rau's IAS Study Circle – Delhi / Jaipur / Bengaluru / Online
- Forum IAS – Delhi / Multiple Cities / Online
- Shankar IAS Academy – Chennai / Multiple Cities / Online
- Insights IAS – Bengaluru / Online
- Chanakya IAS Academy – Delhi / Multiple Cities / Online
- Khan Study Group (KSG) – New Delhi / Online

These are among the institutes frequently cited in current UPSC-coaching comparisons, with different strengths in areas such as test series, answer writing, current affairs, Hindi-medium preparation and mentorship.

UPSC Examination Format Preliminary Examination – Screening Stage

- Paper I: General Studies – 200 marks – counted for the Prelims cut-off
- Paper II: CSAT – 200 marks – qualifying paper; minimum 33% required
- Both papers are objective/MCQ based and each is 2 hours.
- Negative marking: one-third of the marks assigned to a question for an incorrect answer.
- Both papers are compulsory.

Union Public Service Commission Mains Examination

- Written examination followed by Personality Test/Interview
- Mains has 9 papers, including qualifying language papers, Essay, General Studies papers and Optional Subject papers.
- The written papers and interview determine the final ranking.



What Is the Cut-off?

The Prelims cut-off changes every year depending on difficulty, vacancies and candidate performance. For UPSC CSE 2025, the official GS Paper I cut-off was:

- General: 92.66
- EWS: 89.34
- OBC: 92.00
- SC: 84.00
- ST: 82.66

CSAT remained qualifying at 33%.

Career Prospects

- District Administration** – Manage district-level governance and development.
- State Administration** – Work in state departments and policy implementation.
- Central Government** – Serve in ministries and departments.
- International Organisations** – Opportunities with organisations such as the UN, World Bank and IMF.
- PSUs & Autonomous Bodies** – Administrative and leadership roles.
- Policy & Governance** – Contribute to policymaking and implementation.

Skills & Qualification

- Bachelor's degree in any recognised discipline
- Strong analytical and decision-making skills

- Leadership and administrative ability
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of current affairs and government policies
- Problem-solving and crisis-management skills
- Integrity, discipline and public-service orientation

Job Roles

- Sub-Divisional Officer
- District Magistrate
- District Collector
- Divisional Commissioner
- Secretary to Government
- Principal Secretary
- Chief Secretary
- Cabinet Secretary
- Minister's Personal Secretary

Specialized Certifications:

- IGNOU** – Public Administration, Rural Development & Governance programmes
- TISS, Mumbai** – Public Policy, Governance & Development programmes
- IIPA (Indian Institute of Public Administration), New Delhi** – Public Administration & Governance courses
- NPTEL / SWAYAM** – Free/low-cost courses in Public Policy, Governance, Economics & related areas
- Coursera / edX** – Public Policy, International Relations, Data Analytics & Development courses from global universities

Note: These certifications are not mandatory for IAS. They can strengthen a student's knowledge and profile alongside UPSC preparation.

Examinations:

- 12th → Bachelor's Degree in any discipline → UPSC Civil Services Examination → Prelims → Mains → Personality Test → Training at LBSNAA → IAS
- UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE)** – Primary examination for entry into IAS
- Preliminary Examination** – Objective screening stage
- Main Examination** – Descriptive written examination
- Personality Test/Interview** – Final selection stage



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