

100th year of Union Public Service Commission

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Polity

Why in News?

A 2-day national centenary celebration, titled *Shatabdi Samaroh - Manthan*, was organized at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (September 30 – October 1, 2026), to commemorate the 100th year of UPSC.

Key Highlights of the event

- During the event, the Prime Minister released
 - A **UPSC Centenary Commemorative Coin**.
 - A **Commemorative Postage Stamp**.
 - A compilation book titled "**100 Landmark Judgements—Shaping the Policies of UPSC and Public Service Commissions in India**".

Core Principles for the Next Century

- **Three Pillars** - During the *Manthan* sessions, the Commission framed its future operational roadmap around 3 pillars:
 - **Trust**- Upholding non-partisan integrity, constitutional neutrality, and meritocracy in civil recruitment.
 - **Transparency**- Standardized grievance redressal systems, biometric authentication, and digital evaluation workflows.
 - **Technology**- Advanced AI-driven logistics, paperless administrative promotion committees, and digital infrastructure suited for *Viksit Bharat*.

Historical Evolution

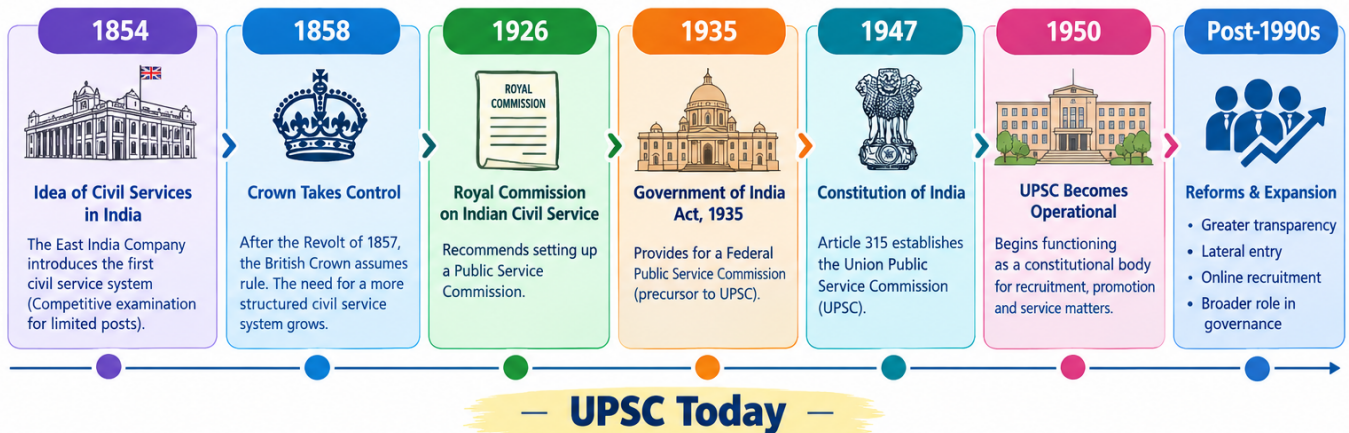
- **Lee Commission (1924)** - Recommended the immediate establishment of a statutory public service commission to eliminate political influence in civil service recruitment.
- Formed following recommendations from the **Lee Commission under the Government of India Act 1919**.
- **Establishment (October 1, 1926)** - Set up under the *Public Service Commission (Functions) Rules, 1926*, with **Sir Ross Barker** as its first Chairman and four members.
- **Federal Public Service Commission (1937)** - Reconstituted under the **Government of India Act, 1935** with expanded responsibilities.
- **Constitutional Transition (January 26, 1950)** - Renamed the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** under **Article 315** of the Indian Constitution as an independent constitutional body.



UPSC History & Evolution

From the Colonial Era to a Modern Institution

Same Vision
New India



From Colonial Roots to a Constitutional Guardian —
UPSC Continues to Shape India's Future

Constitutional Safeguards

Article	Key Constitutional Mandate	Powers Provided
Article 315	Establishment of PSCs	Mandates Public Service Commissions for the Union and individual States.
Article 316	Appointment & Tenure	Appointed by the President; 6-year tenure or until age 65.
Article 317	Security of Tenure	Removal only by Presidential order following a Supreme Court inquiry.
Article 319	Employment Prohibition	Chairmen/Members are ineligible for future government employment to prevent bias.
Article 320	Core Functions	Conducts competitive examinations and is consulted on recruitment, promotions, and disciplinary matters.
Article 322	Financial Independence	Expenses and salaries are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India (non-votable).
Article 323	Annual Reporting	Requires an annual report to the President; non-acceptance of advice requires explanation to Parliament.

Reference

[PM India | PM's address at the Centenary Celebrations of UPSC](#)



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