

## Lateral Entry into Government

### .Why in news?

\n\n

The DoPT has issued a notification inviting lateral entry at joint secretary-level posts.

\n\n

### What is the notification on?

\n\n

\n

- The government has invited “outstanding individuals” to join the government at the joint secretary level at the Centre.

\n

- The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has invited applications for 10 senior level positions.

\n

- It covers the Departments of Economic Affairs, Revenue, Commerce and Highways among others.

\n

- The intake will be made in 10 departments initially.

\n

- It will expand to other categories in the second phase.

\n

\n\n

### What are the specifications?

\n\n

\n

- The eligibility criteria includes individuals working at comparable levels in -

\n

\n\n

\n

- i. Private Sector Companies

\n

ii. Consultancy Organisations

\n

iii. International/Multinational Organisations

\n

\n\n

\n

- They are required to have a minimum of **15 years' experience**.

\n

- Besides, it includes those working in -

\n

\n\n

\n

i. central public sector undertakings

\n

ii. autonomous bodies

\n

iii. statutory organisations

\n

iv. research bodies

\n

v. universities

\n

\n\n

\n

- The recruitment will be on contract basis for **3 to 5 years**.

\n

- The notification specifies a **minimum age of 40 years**.

\n

- The minimum qualification is **graduation** from a recognised university or institute.

\n

- Any higher qualification will be an added advantage.

\n

\n\n

### **What is the significance?**

\n\n

\n

- Joint secretaries are at a crucial level of senior management in the Government.

\n

- They lead policymaking and implementation of various programmes and schemes of the department.
- They report to the secretary/additional secretary in the ministry or department.
- The idea of lateral entry of private individuals into the administrative framework is not new.
- However, the recent notification is the first move towards its implementation.

\n\n

### **What are the benefits?**

\n\n

- A generalist was suited to the times when the state was the nerve centre of the economy.
- But in the course of time, the state started yielding to the market.
- A senior bureaucrat, thus, is expected to regulate the private sector as well.
- Moreover, the increasing complexities of policy-making have started to demand a level of specialisation in the fields.
- The move is thus aimed at bringing in expertise from the private sector individuals.
- It is a measure to infuse talent into the country's bureaucracy.

\n\n

### **What is the current practice?**

\n\n

- Joint secretary level positions are normally filled by career bureaucrats.
- These are those who join the service after passing UPSC exam.
- UPSC prepares merit list and allot the different cadres like IAS, IPS, etc.

\n

- The success of the announced lateral entry will greatly depend on transparency.

\n

- Addressing potential conflicts of interest, and ensuring proper terms of engagement are crucial.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu, Indian Express**

\n

