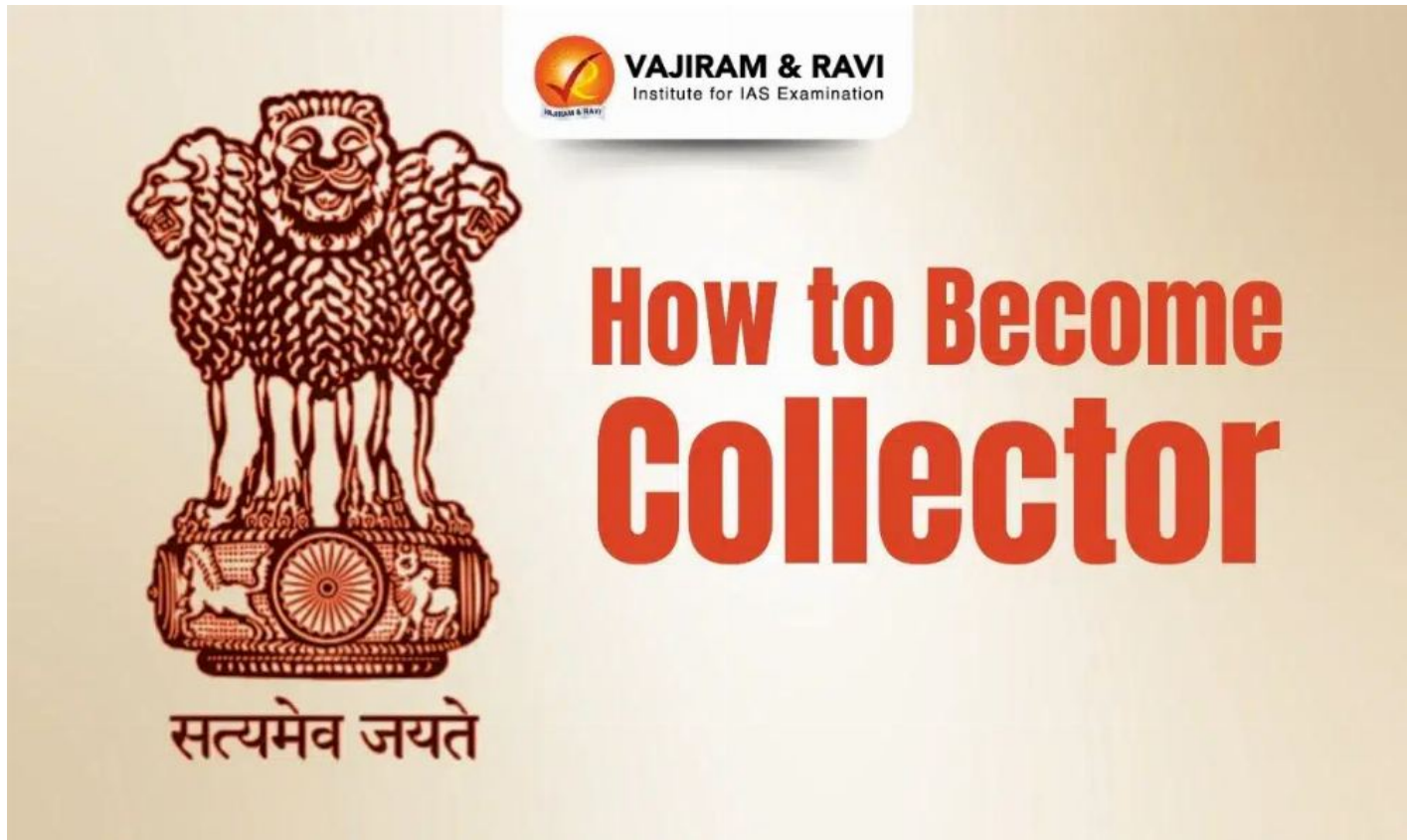


How To Become Collector, Job Role, Eligibility and Salary

July 1, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Being a Collector also known as District Collector is considered as one of the most esteemed positions in Government. A Collector principally is a Government appointed field officer who acts as Administrator of a district and is responsible for maintenance of the law and order. He/She is appointed to act as a bridge between the Government and citizens.

An interesting job with huge impact on grass root level is what essentially sums up the job description of a Collector.

Who is a District Collector and What Does he Do?

A Collector also known as District Collector or District Magistrate is an Administrative Officer with primary responsibility of maintaining Law and Order in the allotted district. They play a significant role in Development Planning of the District which includes

- Incharge of all administration related functions in the district which includes preparing budgets, spearheading and monitoring implementation of Government Schemes and Policies in a democratic manner.

- Highest Judicial Authority in the District
- Highest officer of Revenue Administration which includes collection of land revenue, income tax dues, irrigation dues and excise dues
- They are the ex officio incharge of Disaster Management, Election conduction and Public Grievance in the District.

How To Become Collector?

Collectors are selected directly through an extensive and rigorous exam conducted by UPSC called UPSC Civil Services Exam or indirectly via certain state Public Service Exams like UKPSC, UPPSC, HPSC, BPSC, MPPSC, OPSC etc. An aspiring candidate can appear in these exams after graduating from a recognized university.

These Exams Majorly comprise of 3 Stages

- Stage 1- Preliminary Examination consisting of multiple choice questions from General Studies and Civil Services Aptitude Test to act as a screening test.
- Stage 2- Mains Examination consisting of certain number of general studies and state specific studies along with language papers. It contains descriptive questions.
- Stage 3- Personality Test which comprising of face to face interview to asses the overall personality of the candidate.

Post qualifying these stages a Merit List is prepared and according to relative preference based on merit the candidate is selected for Administrative Services. After completion of the subsequent training they are appointed in a particular district by the Central Government and are supervised and governed by respective State governments.

Eligibility and Path to Become Collector

It Is essential for aspirants to check and meet the eligibility criteria before starting the preparation for the exam. UPSC CSE Notification 2025 mentions in detail about the Eligibility Criteria for UPSC Civil Services Exam and can be checked out on upsc.gov.in. Notifications on similar lines are also released by respective State Public Service Commissions to conduct their PCS Exams. For a generic reference we are mentioning the Eligibility Criteria for UPSC Civil Services Exam below

Nationality

- Candidate must be Citizen of India
- Citizens of Bhutan, Nepal and Tibet are also permitted time to time to appear for the UPSC CSE

Age Limit

- The minimum age requirement to appear in UPSC Civil Services Exam is 21 years and Maximum age should not exceed 32 year.
- Certain category related relaxation are provided as follows ->
 - OBC- 35 Years
 - SC/ST- 37 Years

- PwD- 42 years
- (depending on category)

Academic Eligibility

- Candidate must hold a bachelor degree from a recognised university in any subject.
- Final year students are also eligible provided the degree is complete while writing UPSC Mains Exam

Number of Attempts

Number of attempts an individual gets varies based the category they belong.

- General Category- 6 Attempts
- OBC Candidates- 9 Attempts
- SC/ST- Unlimited Attempts

Once an individual has cleared UPSC Civil Services Exam and is allotted IAS, he/She undergoes rigorous training in Lal Bahadur Shastri National Administration Academy and with 3 subsequent promotions and 6 years of work experience gets promoted to becoming a Collector.

Qualified candidates of State Public Services also go on to become Collector but compared to IAS they are required to have more promotions and work experience.

Salary and Perks of a Collector

As per 7th Pay Commission the basic salary of a collector starts from INR 56,100 and can go upto INR 2,50,000 based on designation and years of service. Apart from this basic salary there are a number of other allowances also which a collector is entitled to.

IAS Officer Salary as Per 7th Pay Commision

In the 7th Central Pay Commission, the previous system of 'Pay Grades for Civil Services' has been replaced by 'Consolidated Pay Levels' in the new pay structure. Under this system, the IAS Officer pay scale is determined solely based on the 'Basic Pay,' along with additional allowances like TA (Travel Allowance), DA (Dearness Allowance), and HRA (Housing and Rent Allowance). The uniformity in the initial salary of all IAS officers, which increases with tenure and promotions also serves as a significant attraction to candidates applying for UPSC Civil Services Exam

Salary Structure of an IAS Officer				
Basic Pay (Rs)	Number of Service year required	Post in District Administration	Post in State Secretariat	Post in Central Secretariat
56100	1-4	SubDivisional Magistrate	Undersecretary	Assistant Secretary

67,000	5-8	Additional District Magistrate	Deputy Secretary	Under Secretary
78,800	9-12	District Magistrate	Joint Secretary	Deputy Secretary
1,18,500	13-16	District Magistrate	Special Secretary cum Director	Director
1,44,200	16-24	Divisional Commissioner	Secretary cum Commissioner	Joint Secretary
1,82,200	25-30	No equivalent Rank	Principal Secretary	Additional Secretary
2,05,400	30-33	No equivalent Rank	Additional Chief Secretary	No equivalent Rank
2,25,000	34-36	No equivalent Rank	Chief Secretary	Secretary
2,50,000	37+ years	No equivalent Rank	No equivalent Rank	Cabinet Secretary of India

Perks of A Collector

Besides Basic Salary, there are a number of additional perks and benefits that a Collector is entitled to. Here we have mentioned a comprehensive list of such benefits

- Dearness Allowance (DA)- Considered as one of the best benefits, this component of salary is changed in accordance to inflation on regular intervals.
- House Rent Allowance (HRA)- It varies according to the city IAS Officer is posted in and is given to those IAS officers who haven't used the official housing due to any reason. It can vary from 8% to 24%
- Travel Allowance (TA)- Given to cover relevant travel cost

Other Perks include

- Medical cover for self and immediate family
- Job Security
- Office Vehicle
- Security- In case of threat even STF commandos are deployed to ensure safety of Collector as well as her family
- Subsidized Electricity and Phone Bills etc.

The individuals contemplating How to Become Collector should consider making a well informed decision based on thorough research about job role. The Salary and Perks of a Collector might be an attractive factor in your decision but one needs to remember that civil services offer immense opportunities to serve the nation and bring positive changes in lives of citizens. Thus you should be committed to a life dedicated to public service. Goodluck

Feel Free to contact Vajiram and Ravi to kickstart your UPSC Preparation

Other Related Posts of UPSC 2026	
UPSC Syllabus	UPSC Exam Pattern
UPSC Age Limit	IAS Salary
UPSC Exam Date 2026	UPSC Calendar
UPSC Prelims 2027	UPSC Mains 2026
UPSC Mains Syllabus	UPSC Interview
UPSC Prelims Result	UPSC Mains Result
UPSC Final Result	UPSC Cut Off
UPSC CSAT Syllabus	UPSC Books
UPSC Admit Card	UPSC Previous Year Papers
UPSC Answer Key	IAS vs IPS

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/how-to-become-collector/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.