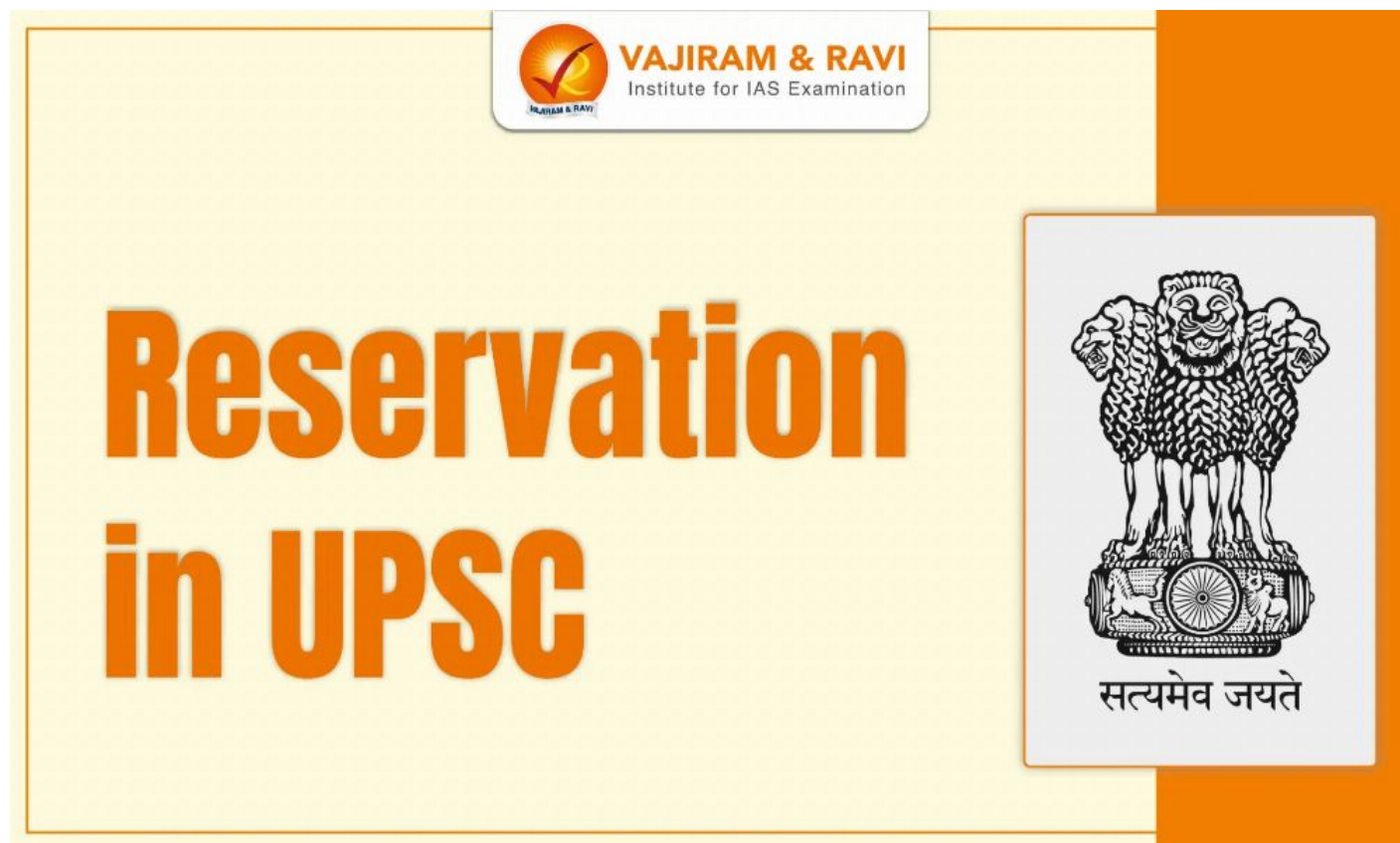


Reservation in UPSC - Criteria, UPSC Reservation for SC/ST/EWS/OBC

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Reservation in UPSC is a vital aspect of India's affirmative action policies, aiming to rectify historical injustices and ensure equal opportunities for all sections of society. While it has made significant strides in promoting social inclusion and diversity within the civil services, ongoing debates and discussions underscore the need for a nuanced and balanced approach to address the complexities of representation and upliftment. Ultimately, reservation in the UPSC remains a powerful instrument in shaping a more equitable and representative administrative landscape in India.

Category	UPSC Reservation Quota
Schedule Caste	15%
Schedule Tribes	7.5%
Other Backward Classes	27%
Economically Weaker Section	10%

UPSC Reservation Based on Age Limit

The UPSC reserves seats for certain categories of applicants, such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, defence personnel, and persons with disabilities. The **UPSC Age Limit** for these reserved seats is relaxed compared to the general category.

The following are the details of the age relaxation for the UPSC Civil Services Examination:

SC/ST Category	5 Years
OBC Category	3 Years
Defence personnel	3 Years
Orthopedically Handicapped, blind, deaf and mute	3 Years

To avail of the age relaxation, the applicant must provide valid proof of age, such as a mark sheet from a secondary school or a mark sheet from any Indian university.

Eligibility Criteria for Reservation Category

To be eligible for reservation in the UPSC, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Their caste must be listed among the reserved communities published by the Central Government.
- If they are from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category, they must present a non-creamy layer certificate.
- If they are from the economically weaker sections (EWS) category, they must meet the income and asset criteria set by the Central Government.
- They must have all the necessary documentation and certificates to support their claim.

How to Apply for UPSC Reservation?

Candidates must fill out the category field on the UPSC application form. The category chosen by the candidate will determine the reservation benefits that they will be eligible for. The original certificates will be verified at the time of the Personality Test.

Guidelines to claim reservation in UPSC:

- Only candidates whose caste is listed on the central government's list of reserved communities are eligible for UPSC reservation benefits.
- If a candidate develops a physical disability while being considered for the **UPSC exam**, they will be required to present a legal document to the Commission, who will then make a decision on whether to grant them reservation benefits.

- A candidate in the General category cannot have their category changed to a reserved category, and requests to do so will never be granted.
- The same guideline applies to students who fall under the category of physically challenged students.

UPSC Reservation for SC/ST/OBC

UPSC Reservations vary category wise. The following table below gives a comparison between reservations for SC/ST and OBC Category:

Category	No. of Attempts	Age Limit	Application Fee
SC/ST	Unlimited	37 years of age	NIL
OBC	9 Attempts	35 years of Age	100/-

Reservation in UPSC for EWS Category

The Indian government announced a **10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** in the UPSC CSE on February 5, 2020. This reservation is available to all general category candidates who are not covered by the existing reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes. There are no exceptions to this reservation, such as age, number of attempts, or fees.

The EWS Reservation is based on the **103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019** which was passed by the Indian Parliament. This amendment defines the EWS as those families whose annual income is less than Rs.8 lakhs and whose total assets are less than Rs.5 lakhs.

The decision of whether or not to offer EWS reservation for employment to state government jobs and for admission to state government educational institutions is up to the respective state governments.

Eligibility Criteria for EWS Category Reservation

To be eligible for the EWS reservation in UPSC, a candidate must meet the following conditions:

- The candidate must belong to the general category and not be eligible for any other reservation SC, ST, or OBC.
- The candidate's family's gross annual income for the previous financial year must be less than Rs. 8 lakhs.
- The candidate's family must not own agricultural land of 5 acres or more, if any of the family members (parents, siblings, or spouse) are younger than 18 years of age.
- The candidate's family must not own a residential apartment of 1000 square feet or more.
- The candidate's family must not own a home plot in notified municipalities with an area of 100 square yards or more or less than 200 square yards

Criteria	EWS Category
Age Limit	No Age Relaxation(same as General Category)

No. of Attempts	6
Application Fees	100/-

PwBD Reservation in UPSC

Persons with Benchmark Disabilities candidates are eligible for special benefits in the UPSC Civil Services Examination. These benefits include reservations, age relaxation, and additional attempts.

The UPSC has classified PH disabilities into three categories:

- **PH 1:** Orthopedically handicapped (OH) individuals
- **PH 2:** Visually handicapped (VH) individuals
- **PH 3:** Hearing handicapped (HH) individuals

To be eligible for the PH reservation, candidates must have a disability of at least 40%. They must also submit a disability certificate issued by a medical board constituted by the Central or State government.

The PH reservation is applicable to all services under the UPSC CSE, including the IAS, IFS, IPS.

In addition to the PH reservation, PH candidates are also eligible for the following benefits:

- Age relaxation of up to 10 years
- Additional attempts: PH candidates can appear for the CSE up to 9 times, irrespective of their category.
- Special provisions at the examination centres: PH candidates are provided with special provisions at the examination centres, such as scribe, extra time, and accessible seating.

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