

purpose, providing opportunities in various fields like government services, engineering, medicine, and management. Below mentioned are the Top 10 Toughest Exams in India:

- **UPSC CSE**
- JEE Advanced
- GATE: Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering
- IIM CAT
- NDA
- CLAT (Common Law Admission Test)
- Chartered Accountant (CA) Exam
- **UGC NET**
- NEET
- National Institute of Design Entrance Exam

List of Top 10 Toughest Exams in India 2026

India conducts various competitive exams, but some stand out to be challenging in nature. Below discussed is the List of Top 10 Toughest Exams in India 2026 that test candidate's knowledge, skills, and determination.

UPSC CSE (UPSC Civil Services Examination)

UPSC CSE Exam 2026 is considered to be the Toughest Exams in India which is conducted by the UPSC to recruit eligible candidates for the various government positions including Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and Indian Police Service (IPS). The exam has three levels of selection process including Prelims, Mains and Interview.

Each year, around 10-12 lakh candidates apply for the UPSC Exam 2026, but only a few thousand succeed. The competitive nature of UPSC CSE 2026 requires the right strategy and proper guidance. Vajiram and Ravi helps you to meet the need of **Best IAS Coaching in Delhi** by providing the expert mentorship and coaching.

UPSC CSE (UPSC Civil Services Examination)	
Particulars	Basic Details
Level of Exam	National
Frequency of Exam	Annual
Mode of Exam	Offline

Duration of exam	Prelims: 2 hours each for both papers Mains: 3 hours each for 9 papers
Purpose of exam	Recruitment for the posts of IAS, IPS, IFS, and central services according to the guidelines of the Department of Personnel and Training and Union Public Service Commission

JEE Advanced

The JEE exam, conducted annually by the National Testing Agency (NTA), is one of the most competitive exams in India. It consists of two papers: Paper 1 for B.E./B.Tech and Paper 2 for B.Arch/B.Planning. The exam has two levels, JEE Main, which offers admission to NITs, IITs, and other government institutes, and JEE Advanced, required for entry into IITs, IISc, and RGPT. The intense competition for top ranks and IIT admissions makes it a highly demanding exam.

JEE Advanced	
Particulars	Basic Details
Level of Exam	National
Frequency of Exam	Twice in a year
Mode of Exam	Online – Computer-Based
Duration of exam	3 hours
Purpose of exam	To get admission to engineering colleges

GATE: Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering

The GATE exam is a national-level test conducted across eight regions in India by the GATE committee, which includes members from the National Coordinating Board, the Department of Higher Education, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, and IISc. The GATE score is widely used by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like Indian Oil, GAIL, and Hindustan Petroleum for recruitment.

The exam features multiple-choice, multiple-select, and numerical answer-type questions. It consists of two sections, General Aptitude and a subject-specific section chosen by the candidate.

GATE: Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering	
Particulars	Basic Details
Level of Exam	National
Frequency of Exam	Annual
Mode of Exam	Online
Duration of exam	3 hours
Purpose of exam	To test student understanding in engineering and science, and for recruitment in organizations like GAIL.

IIM CAT

The CAT exam is a national-level entrance test conducted annually by IIMs on a rotational basis for admission to MBA programs. Candidates with a Bachelor's degree and a minimum of 50% marks (45% for reserved categories) are eligible to apply.

The exam consists of three sections: Quantitative Aptitude, Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation, and Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension. It includes both multiple-choice and non-multiple-choice questions.

IIM CAT	
Particulars	Basic Details
Level of Exam	National
Frequency of Exam	Annual
Mode of Exam	Online
Duration of exam	2 hours
Purpose of exam	Pursuing MBA courses in business schools

NDA

The NDA exam, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), is one of India's most challenging exams for candidates aspiring to join the Army, Navy, or Air Force. Held twice a year, it includes a written test followed by a Service Selection Board (SSB) interview. The exam consists of two sections, Mathematics, worth 300 marks, and a General Ability Test (GAT), covering English and general awareness with 600 marks.

NDA	
Particulars	Basic Details
Level of Exam	National
Frequency of Exam	Twice a year
Mode of Exam	Offline
Duration of exam	2.5 hours for both papers
Purpose of exam	To serve in the Army, Navy, or Air Force wings of the NDA

CLAT (Common Law Admission Test)

The CLAT Exam is held annually by the Consortium of National Law Universities for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate law programs at 24 national law universities across India.

Conducted offline, it consists of 150 questions divided into five sections, Logical Reasoning, Legal Aptitude, English, General Knowledge, and Maths. Candidates who qualify can explore career opportunities in law, judiciary, academia, and civil services. While a minimum cut-off score is required for selection, there is no upper age limit for applicants.

CLAT (Common Law Admission Test)	
Particulars	Details
Level of Exam	National
Frequency of Exam	Twice in a year

Mode of Exam	Offline – Pen and paper mode
Duration of exam	2 hours
Purpose of exam	Admission to undergraduate & postgraduate law colleges

Chartered Accountant (CA) Exam

The CA Exam, conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), is one of the most challenging professional exams in India. Earning a CA degree is considered equivalent to a postgraduate qualification from Delhi University (DU).

To become a Chartered Accountant, candidates must clear three stages, Foundation, Intermediate, and Final. The exam is held twice a year. While the Foundation stage consists of multiple-choice questions across four papers, the Intermediate and Final levels include both multiple-choice and descriptive questions, divided into two groups of four papers each.

Chartered Accountant (CA) Exam	
Particulars	Basic Details
Exam Level	National
Frequency of Exam	Twice a year
Mode of Exam	Online – Computer Based
Duration of exam	3 hours for the final exam
Purpose of exam	Candidates who qualify will become certified chartered accountants.

UGC NET

The UGC NET Exam, conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) twice a year, is a gateway for candidates aspiring to become assistant professors or pursue junior research fellowships.

To apply, candidates need a Master's degree with at least 55% marks (or 50% for reserved categories). The exam has two online papers. Paper 1 tests teaching and research aptitude, general awareness, reasoning, and reading comprehension, while Paper 2 is subject-specific. Candidates must score a minimum of 40% to qualify, with a

relaxation to 35% for reserved categories.

UGC NET	
Particulars	Basic Details
Level of Exam	National
Frequency of Exam	Twice a year
Mode of Exam	Online - Computer Based
Duration of exam	3 hours
Purpose of exam	Obtaining eligibility for the positions of associate professor and junior research fellowship in Indian universities and colleges

NEET

The NEET Exam, conducted annually by the National Testing Agency (NTA), is one of the most challenging medical entrance exams in India. It offers admission to undergraduate courses like MBBS, BDS, AYUSH, and veterinary programs.

The exam covers subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, and Botany, with a total of 720 marks. As competition grows, the cut-off scores have been increasing. NEET is a single-stage exam with a minimum age requirement of 17 years, but there is no upper age limit, making it accessible to a wider range of candidates.

NEET	
Particulars	Details
Level of Exam	National
Frequency of Exam	Annual

Mode of Exam	Offline
Level of Exam	National
Duration of exam	3 hours
Purpose of exam	Admission to undergraduate programmes such as Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), AYUSH, & veterinary courses

National Institute of Design Entrance Exam

The National Institute of Design (NID) conducts the Design Aptitude Test (DAT) at the national level for admission to its undergraduate and postgraduate design programs. The exam has two stages: NID DAT Prelims and NID DAT Mains.

Applicants must be at least 19 years old to apply. The final merit list is prepared based on the combined scores from both stages. Successful candidates proceed to the counselling process, which takes place in two phases for seat allocation.

National Institute of Design Entrance Exam	
Particulars	Basic Details
Level of Exam	National
Frequency of Exam	Annual
Mode of Exam	Offline
Level of Exam	National
Purpose of exam	Admission to undergraduate and post-graduate design programs

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UPSC Final Result	UPSC Cut Off
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