

Constitutional Safeguards and Procedural Integrity of Public Service Commissions

Recent recruitment exam controversies have highlighted the need to strengthen procedural integrity and constitutional independence of Public Service Commissions.

Public Service Commissions (UPSC and SPSCs) are constitutional bodies under Article 315 responsible for merit-based recruitment to civil services.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Article 315** provides for the establishment of the **Union Public Service Commission** (UPSC) and State Public Service Commissions (SPSC).
- **Article 320** outlines the functions of **Public Service Commissions**, including conducting examinations for civil service appointments.
- Constitutional safeguards ensure independence through security of tenure and expenses charged on **Consolidated Funds** under **Article 322**.
- **Procedural fairness** in exam schedules, answer key releases, and evaluation is essential to maintain **public trust**.
- Key challenges include administrative delays in **examination cycles** and **legal disputes** over answer key evaluations.
- Proposed reforms urge **transparent member selection** and digital evaluation tools to strengthen **institutional integrity**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Part XIV (Articles 315 to 323) of the Indian Constitution deals with Public Service Commissions for the Union and States.

Under **Article 316**, the Chairman and members of UPSC are appointed by the **President**, whereas SPSC members are appointed by the **Governor**.

SPSC members hold office for a term of **6 years** or until **age 62**, raised from 60 by the **41st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**.

Article 317 states that SPSC and UPSC members can be removed only by the President following a **Supreme Court** inquiry under **Article 145**.

Madras Service Commission, established in **1929**, was the first Provincial Public Service Commission in India, later renamed **TNPSC**.

Under **Article 323**, UPSC submits its **annual performance report** to the President, while SPSC submits its report to the State Governor.

Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) can be created by an **Act of Parliament** on request of concerned State Legislatures.

REVISION FLASHCARD

UPSC and SPSCs are constitutional bodies under Article 315; removal is solely by the President under Article 317.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Group 1, Group 2, Group 2A, and Group 4 under Constitutional Bodies, Article 315-323, and TNPSC origin.

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