

## EWS Reservation Eligibility

On November 7th, 2022, the Supreme Court of India upheld the validity of the 103rd Amendment Act, 2019 which introduced a 10% reservation in education and government jobs in India for a section of the General category candidates. The constitutional bench set up by the Supreme Court upheld the decision by a 3:2 majority.

The Parliament had amended the Constitution of India in January 2019 to provide for a 10% reservation in education and government jobs in for a section of the General category candidates. The amendment was challenged questioning the constitutional validity of economic reservations

Know all about the EWS reservation, EWS certificate, who all are eligible for the EWS quota, how to apply for EWS reservation in the UPSC exam application, etc.

For more details, one can check the UPSC Online in the linked article.

## Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) Reservation

The government has introduced a 10% **EWS reservation** for general category candidates. This is for all those candidates who are not covered under any reservations (such as OBC, SC, ST and except PH and Ex-servicemen criteria) and belong to economically backward sections.

### EWS Certificate - Who is eligible to claim EWS Quota?

The government has laid down certain eligibility conditions for candidates to be able to claim reservations under this new category. **EWS full form is 'Economically Weaker Section'.**

To be eligible for the EWS certificate, you will have to satisfy all the conditions mentioned below:

1. You should be a 'general' candidate (not covered under reservation for SC, ST or OBC).
2. Your family's gross annual income should be below Rs. 8 lakhs. This includes income from all sources such as agriculture, salary, business, etc. for the financial year before you apply for the exam.
3. Your family should not own agricultural land of size 5 acres or more.
4. Your family should not own a residential flat of area 1000 square feet or more.
5. Your family should not own a residential plot (in notified municipalities) of an area 100 square yards or more.
6. Your family should not own a residential plot (other than in notified municipalities) of area 200 square yards or more.

### What is 'Family' according to the EWS Reservation rules?

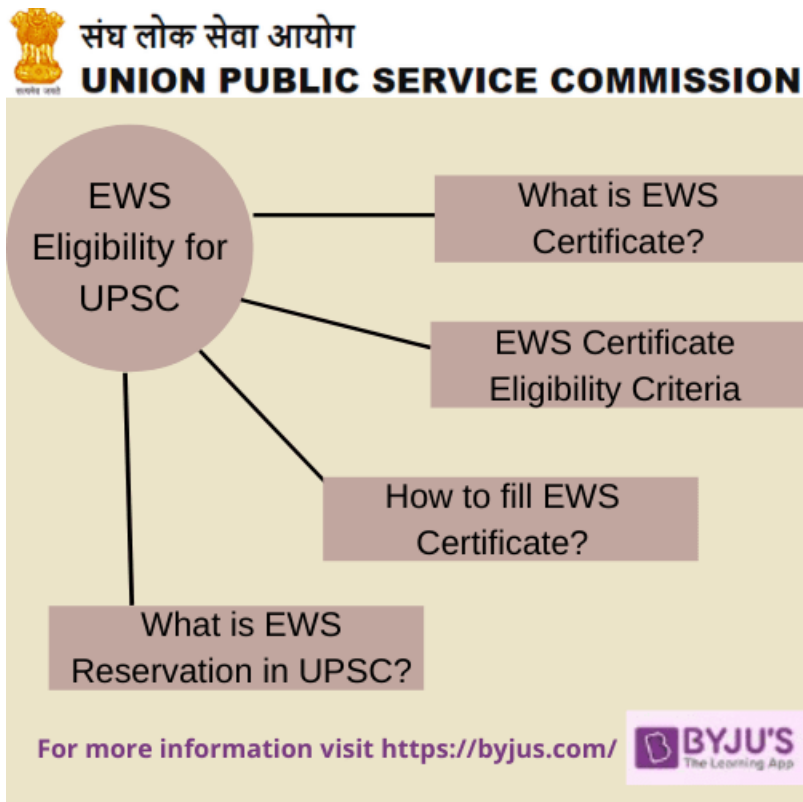
For this reservation, 'family' includes the following:

- The person seeking the reservation.
- His/her parents.

- His/her siblings below the age of 18 years.
- His/her spouse and children below the age of 18 years.

The land or property owned by the family in different locations should be clubbed while checking the eligibility conditions for EWS reservations.

The IAS Notification contains detailed information on the EWS eligibility criteria.



## How do I apply for EWS reservations?

You can get the EWS certificate from your local government authority (Tehsil). The certificate is called an **'Income and Assets Certificate'**, and this is the proof that is required to avail the EWS reservation.

There is no online method prescribed by the government for getting an EWS certificate. You need to go to your local Tehsil or any other local government authority. You will need additional documents such as Aadhar Card, Pan Card, bank statements, passport size photo, etc. along with the Income and Assets Certificate (downloadable from many government websites). The certificate looks like this below:

<u>Annexure-I</u>	
Government of ..... (Name & Address of the authority issuing the certificate)	
<b>INCOME &amp; ASSEST CERTIFICATE TO BE PRODUCED BY ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS</b>	
Certificate No. _____	Date: _____
<b>VALID FOR THE YEAR _____</b>	
This is to certify that Shri/Smt./Kumari _____ son/daughter/wife of _____ permanent resident of _____ Village/Street _____ Post Office _____ District _____ in the State/Union Territory _____ Pin Code _____ whose photograph is attested below belongs to Economically Weaker Sections, since the gross annual income* of his/her 'family'** is below Rs. 8 lakh (Rupees Eight Lakh only) for the financial year _____. His/her family does not own or possess any of the following assets*** :	
I. 5 acres of agricultural land and above; II. Residential flat of 1000 sq. ft. and above; III. Residential plot of 100 sq. yards and above in notified municipalities; IV. Residential plot of 200 sq. yards and above in areas other than the notified municipalities.	
2. Shri/Smt./Kumari _____ belongs to the _____ caste which is not recognized as a Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes (Central List)	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">             Recent Passport size attested photograph of the applicant           </div>	Signature with seal of Office _____ Name _____ Designation _____

The designated government officer will verify your documents and issue your EWS certificate. The certificate issued only by any of the following authorities will be accepted as proof of a candidate belonging to the EWS category:

- District Magistrate/Additional District Magistrate/Collector/Deputy Commissioner/Additional Deputy Commissioner/1st Class Stipendary Magistrate/ Sub-Divisional Magistrate/Taluka Magistrate/Executive Magistrate/Extra Assistant Commissioner
- Chief Presidency Magistrate/Additional Chief Presidency Magistrate/ Presidency Magistrate
- Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar and
- Sub-Divisional Officer of the area where the candidate and his family normally resides.

For best results, aspirants must review the civil services syllabus and accordingly strategise the preparation plan.

Candidates preparing for the upcoming IAS recruitment must refer to the [UPSC topper list](#) and get inspired and motivated with their success stories.

FAQ about EWS Certificate and EWS Reservation

Will candidates under EWS get other relaxations in age and the number of attempts?

No, EWS candidates will only get the 10% quota in seats. Other eligibility conditions of the IAS exam such as age limit and the number of attempts shall remain the same as for any 'general' candidate. EWS Reservation Eligibility – Is the criteria uniform across all states in India? Even though the Central Government brought the EWS criterion, states can have their cut-offs for income.

Who comes under EWS reservation?

Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in India is a subcategory of people belonging to the Economy Based Un-Reserved Category having an annual family income less than ₹8 lakh (US\$10,000) and who do not belong to any category such as SC/ST/OBC across India, nor to MBC in Tamil Nadu.

How many seats are reserved for EWS category?

Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) Reservation. The government has introduced a 10% EWS reservation for general category candidates.

Is EWS reservation only for general category?

Yes, EWS quota is only for general category.

What are the benefits of EWS quota?

The EWS bill supports by increasing employment opportunities and benefits by providing 10 % reservation for an appointment in educational institutions. Further, the reservation also applies to civil posts and civil services, if the individual receives income below the stipulated threshold.

How do I claim EWS quota?

The benefit of reservation under EWS can be availed upon production of an Income and Asset Certificate issued by a Competent Authority. The Income and Asset Certificate issued by the authorities in the prescribed format shall only be accepted as proof of candidate's claim as belonging to EWS.

Can EWS take the general seat in UPSC ?

No, the EWS candidate, other than those recommended on General Merit, shall not be allowed to change their category from EWS to Unreserved/General or claim the vacancies (Service/Cadre) for Unreserved/General category after the declaration of final result by the UPSC.

## **Difference between EWS and OBC reservations**

The OBC reservations are for the non-creamy layer section of the Other Backward Classes section. For

them, a 27% reservation is given. The EWS is for that section of the 'General' classes (not covered under OBC, SC or ST) whose family income is below Rs. 8 lakhs. For them, a 10% reservation in seats is provided.

There will be a separate (lower) cut-off for the EWS candidates, in the same manner for OBC, SC and ST candidates. However, there is no other relaxation concerning the number of attempts and the upper age limit for applying.

Another difference between EWS and OBC reservations is that in determining the family income for reservations, in the case of OBC candidates, the income of the spouse is not included. In contrast, it is included in the case of EWS reservation.