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ELIGIBILITY AND STEPWISE PROCESS TO BECOME THE DRUG INSPECTOR IN INDIA

Read the full blog for complete information on Eligibility Criteria, Stepwise Processes, Examination Format, and the Experience needed to Become a DI in India.

To become a Drug Inspector in India, you need to meet certain eligibility criteria and go through a stepwise process.

STEPWISE PROCESS

- 1. Education: Obtain a bachelor's degree in Pharmacy or Pharmaceutical Sciences or Medicine with a specialization in Clinical Pharmacology or Microbiology from a recognized university.
- 2. Gain Experience: Some state governments may require a minimum of 2-3 years of experience in manufacturing or testing drugs or in enforcing the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940.
- 3. Stay Updated: Stay updated with the latest amendments, rules, and regulations related to drugs and pharmaceuticals in India.
- 4. Application: Keep an eye on job notifications from various state public service commissions or the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for vacancies related to the post of Drug Inspector. When the notification is released, submit your application along with the required documents within the specified timeframe.
- 5. Written Examination: Prepare for and appear in the written examination conducted by the relevant authority. The examination generally consists of multiple-choice questions related to pharmacy, drug laws, pharmacology, pharmaceutical chemistry, microbiology, etc.
- 6. Interview: If you qualify in the written examination, you will be called for an interview. The interview panel evaluates your knowledge, aptitude, and suitability for the position.
- 7. Final Selection: The final selection is based on your performance in the written examination and interview. Merit lists are prepared, and candidates are selected accordingly.
- 8. Training: After the selection, you may undergo training conducted by the respective state drug control authorities or the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to gain practical knowledge about drug inspection, quality control, and regulatory processes.
- 9. Appointment: Upon successful completion of training, you will be appointed as a Drug Inspector in the respective state's drug control department or in the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Educational Qualification: You should have a degree in Pharmacy or Pharmaceutical Sciences or Medicine with specialization in Clinical Pharmacology or Microbiology from a recognized university.



- 2. Age Limit: The upper age limit for the post of Drug Inspector is generally around 35 years. However, age relaxations may apply for candidates belonging to reserved categories such as SC/ST/OBC and for government employees.
- 3. Language Proficiency: Proficiency in the local language of the state where you are applying for the position may be required.

EXPERIENCE

To become a Drug Inspector in India, the specific experience required can vary depending on the state or the recruiting authority. Generally, candidates are expected to have relevant experience in the field of pharmacy, drug manufacturing, testing, or enforcement of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Here are some common types of experience that can be beneficial:

- 1. Manufacturing Industry Experience: Experience working in a pharmaceutical manufacturing company or a drug formulation unit is valuable. This includes experience in areas such as production, quality control, quality assurance, or packaging of drugs.
- 2. Testing Laboratory Experience: Experience in a drug testing laboratory is also considered relevant. This can involve working in a laboratory that conducts quality control tests on drugs, analyzing drug samples, performing tests related to pharmacopoeial standards, or assessing drug stability.
- 3. Regulatory Experience: Experience in the enforcement of drug laws and regulations is highly beneficial. This can include working as a drug inspector trainee or assistant drug inspector, where you assist in conducting inspections of pharmaceutical manufacturing units, assessing compliance with regulations, and ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of drugs.
- 4. Research Experience: Experience in pharmaceutical research, particularly in the areas of drug development, pharmacology, clinical trials, or pharmacovigilance, can provide a strong foundation for a career as a Drug Inspector.

It's important to note that the exact experience requirements may vary between different states or recruiting authorities. Some may require a minimum number of years of experience (e.g., 2-3 years), while others may consider relevant experience as an added advantage but not mandatory. It is recommended to carefully review the official job notifications and eligibility criteria issued by the respective recruiting authorities for accurate and up-to-date information regarding experience requirements.

OUTLINE OF EXAM

Here is an outline of the subjects and areas that are typically covered:

1) Pharmaceutical Sciences:

- a) Pharmaceutical Chemistry: Organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, drug synthesis, and characterization.
- b) Pharmacology: Pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, adverse drug reactions, and drug interactions.



- c) Pharmaceutics: Dosage forms, pharmaceutical technology, manufacturing processes, and quality control.
- d) Pharmacognosy: Study of medicinal plants, herbal drugs, and natural products.

2) Pharmaceutical Analysis:

- a) Instrumental Analysis: Principles and applications of analytical techniques such as spectroscopy, chromatography, and spectrophotometry.
- b) Quality Control and Quality Assurance: Statistical analysis, validation of analytical methods, and regulatory aspects.

3) Microbiology:

- a) Microbial Pathogens: Identification, classification, and characteristics of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites.
- b) Sterilization and Disinfection: Principles and techniques used in pharmaceutical manufacturing to ensure sterility and prevent contamination.
- c) Microbiological Testing: Methods for testing microbial contamination, microbial limit tests, and endotoxin testing.

4) Drug Laws and Regulations:

- a) Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940: Provisions, definitions, licensing, manufacturing, labeling, packaging, and import/export of drugs and cosmetics.
- b) Drug Schedules: Classification of drugs based on their potential for abuse and therapeutic use.
- c) Regulatory Authorities: Roles and responsibilities of various regulatory bodies such as the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and State Drug Control Departments.

5) Current Affairs and General Knowledge:

a) Current developments and updates related to the pharmaceutical industry, drug regulations, healthcare, and public health initiatives.

The test paper format typically consists of multiple-choice questions (MCQs) where you need to select the correct answer from the given options. Usually, there are two parts of the paper consist a total score of 300 marks. Negative marking is considered in the DI exam.

WHO CONDUCTS DRUG INSPECTOR EXAMINATION

The Drug Inspector exams in India are conducted by various state public service commissions or recruiting authorities at the state level. Each state in India has its own authority responsible for conducting the recruitment process for the position of Drug Inspector within its jurisdiction.

Some of the common recruiting authorities that conduct Drug Inspector exams in different states include:

- State Public Service Commissions: Each state has its own public service commission
 that conducts recruitment exams for various government positions, including Drug
 Inspector. Examples include the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC),
 Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC), Tamil Nadu Public Service
 Commission (TNPSC), etc.
- 2. State Health Departments: In some states, the health department or the state drug control department may directly conduct the recruitment process for Drug Inspector positions.



3. State Pharmacy Councils: State Pharmacy Councils or Pharmacy Boards may also be involved in conducting or assisting with the recruitment process for Drug Inspector positions.

It is important to stay updated with the official notifications and announcements issued by the respective state public service commissions or authorities responsible for conducting the Drug Inspector exams. This will provide you with the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the conducting authority, exam dates, eligibility criteria, and application procedures for the Drug Inspector position in a particular state.

SALARY OF A DRUG INSPECTOR INITIALLY

As per September 2021 cut-off, the salary of a Drug Inspector in India ranges from around INR 44,900 to INR 1,42,400 per month.

Additionally, along with the basic pay, Drug Inspectors may also receive allowances and benefits such as Dearness Allowance (DA), House Rent Allowance (HRA), Travel Allowance (TA), Medical Allowance, and other benefits as per the government norms.

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