

Code of Ethics in Indian Public Service

India does not have a single, codified "Code of Ethics" in the formal sense; instead, ethical standards for public servants are primarily governed by a set of legally enforceable "Conduct Rules". These rules are supplemented by a framework of values and principles intended to guide decision-making and behaviour. The main regulations for ethical conduct in the Indian public service include:

- **The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964:** Applicable to most central government employees.
- **The All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968:** Applicable to members of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFoS), among others.

Distinction from a "Code of Ethics"

While these rules provide a comprehensive "Code of Conduct" (legally enforceable do's and don'ts), expert bodies like the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) have recommended a formal, statutory "Code of Ethics" to clearly articulate the foundational values and guide public servants' moral judgment in complex ethical dilemmas.

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