

The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964

The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, are a set of regulations that govern the general behaviour, ethics, integrity, and professional conduct of Central Government servants both in their official and private capacities.

Applicability

These rules apply to all persons appointed to a civil service or post in connection with the affairs of the Union, but generally do not apply to specific exceptions like railway servants, members of the All India Services (IAS, IPS, etc.), and those holding posts exempted by the President.

Key Provisions:

The rules cover a wide range of conduct, with key provisions including:

- **Integrity and Devotion to Duty (Rule 3):** Government servants must maintain absolute integrity and devotion to duty, and do nothing which is unbecoming of a government servant. This includes upholding the Constitution, maintaining political neutrality, honesty, accountability, and promptness and courtesy in public dealings.
- **Political Neutrality and Elections (Rule 5):** Government servants are prohibited from being members of a political party or any organization that takes part in politics. They cannot participate in or assist any political movement or activity, or canvass in elections.
- **Demonstrations and Strikes (Rule 7):** Participation in any form of strike, coercion, or demonstration that is prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, or morality is forbidden.
- **Connection with Media and Criticism of Government (Rules 8 & 9):** Generally, prior sanction of the government is required to own or manage a newspaper or media publication. They cannot criticize any current or recent government policy or action in public without prior sanction.
- **Unauthorized Communication of Information (Rule 11):** Official documents or information cannot be communicated to unauthorized persons except in the performance of duties or in accordance with the RTI Act, 2005.
- **Gifts, Dowry, and Private Employment (Rules 13, 13A, & 15):** Strict rules apply to accepting gifts (limits based on value and relationship), and the giving or taking

of dowry is prohibited. Engaging in private trade or employment generally requires prior government sanction.

- **Property and Financial Transactions (Rules 16 & 18):** Government servants must avoid habitual indebtedness or insolvency and report legal proceedings related to debt. They are required to submit annual returns of their immovable property and report transactions in movable property exceeding a specified value. Speculation in stocks/shares is prohibited, though occasional investments through licensed brokers are allowed.
- **Sexual Harassment (Rule 3C):** No government servant shall indulge in any act of sexual harassment of any woman at the workplace, and supervisory officers must take appropriate steps to prevent it.
- **Restrictions on Marriage (Rule 21):** Bigamous marriages are generally prohibited, and a government servant marrying a foreign national must inform the government.
- **Consumption of Intoxicating Drinks and Drugs (Rule 22):** Consumption during duty is prohibited, as is appearing in public in a state of intoxication or consuming such items in a public place.

Space for Class Discussion

www.mainspractice.com