The Big News
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All India Services (Conduct) Rules

Karnataka IAS, IPS Officers Lock Horns over Social Media Post; Home Minister, CM Promise Strict Action

• By: Akshara DM • Edited By: Shilpy Bisht • CNN-News18 • Last Updated: FEBRUARY 20, 2023, 12:06 IST • Bengaluru, India



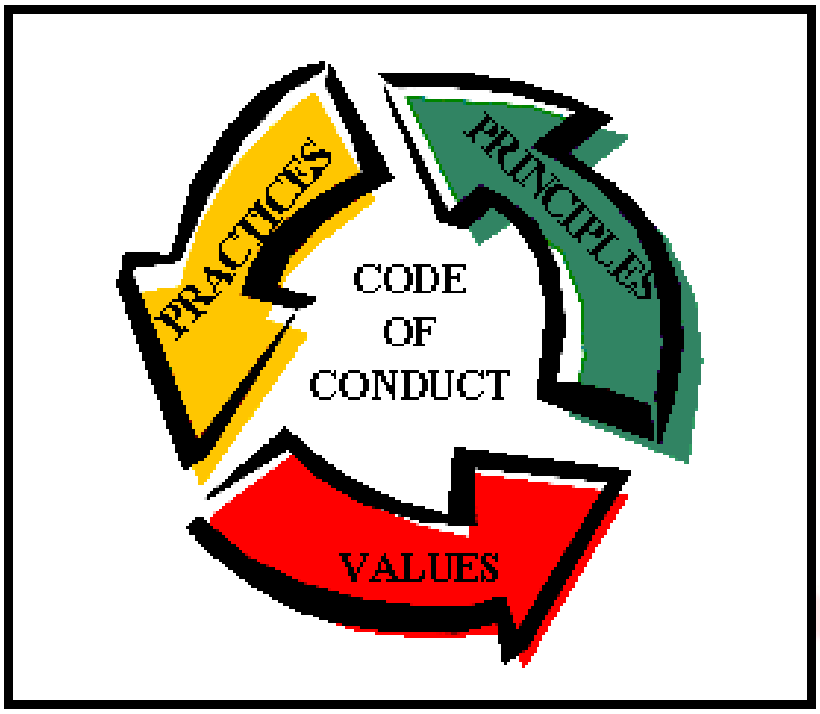
IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri (left) lashed out at IPS officer D Roopa that she has been driving a false campaign against her, and warned her of a legal action. (Photo: News18)

D Roopa, an IPS officer, had put a post on Facebook alleging that IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri had shared pictures of her with several male IAS officers, violating service conduct rules. Sindhuri said Roopa was making such allegations out of 'personal hatred'

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Code of conduct for Civil Servants

- A legally enforceable code of conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected of those working in the public service.
- The Civil Service code outlines the Civil Service's core values, and the standards of behaviour expected of all civil servants in upholding these values.
- In India, the current set of ethical norms are the Conduct Rules, contained in the Central Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and analogous rules applicable to members of the All India Services or employees of various State Governments.
- The code of behaviour as enunciated in the Conduct Rules contain general norms like 'maintaining integrity and absolute devotion to duty'



3. **General**.— 3(1)Every member of the Service shall at all times maintain absolute integrity and devotion to duty and shall do nothing which is unbecoming of a member of the Service.

[5](1A) Every member of the Service shall maintain:-

(i) high ethical standards, integrity and honesty;
(ii) political neutrality;
(iii) promoting of the principles of merit, fairness and impartiality in the discharge of duties;
(iv) accountability and transparency;
(v) responsiveness to the public, particularly to the weaker section;
(vi) courtesy and good behavior with the public.

Code of Ethics v/s Code of conduct rules

- In India, there is no code of ethics for civil servants, though such codes exist in other countries.
- While the Conduct Rules contain some general norms such as “maintaining integrity and absolute devotion to duty” and not engaging in “conduct unbecoming of a government servant,” the code of conduct is generally aimed at cataloguing specific activities deemed undesirable for government servants. There has recently been a concern that more “generic norms” should be added to the list of acceptable conduct.
- A draft “Public Service Bill” proposed by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions in 2007 seeks to establish a set of generic expectations of civil servants known as “values.”



सत्यमेव जयते

Government Of India

Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

Department Of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

The following are the key “values” envisioned in the Bill:

· Allegiance to the various ideals enshrined in the preamble to the Constitution
· Apolitical functioning
· Good governance for the betterment of the people to be the primary goal of civil service
· Duty to act objectively and impartially
· Accountability and transparency in decision-making
· Maintenance of the highest ethical standards
· Merit to be the criteria in the selection of civil servants consistent, however, with the cultural, ethnic and other diversities of the nation
· Ensuring economy and avoidance of wastage in expenditure
· Provision of a healthy and congenial work environment
· Communication, consultation and cooperation in the performance of functions that is the participation of all levels of personnel in management.



Centre allows IAS, IPS officers to retain gifts received from foreign dignitaries

The Personnel Ministry has amended the rules and inserted a new sub-rule under Section 11 of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

September 21, 2021 05:07 pm | Updated 05:07 pm IST - New Delhi:

Civil services rules v/s freedom of expression

- Freedom of speech and expression is a Fundamental Right, however, it is not absolute in nature, as there are reasonable restrictions which can be imposed. This is to ensure that the Indian bureaucracy, which has been perceived as a non-political organization, maintains neutrality.
- The restrictions are placed to ensure that there is space for healthy criticism. However, emotional outbursts, which could turn into criticism is governed, as these could lead to the public losing faith in the Government.
- In its judgment, the Tripura High Court has mentioned that government servants are entitled to hold and express their political beliefs, subject to the restrictions laid under Rule 5 of the Tripura Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1988.
- In its judgment, the Kerala High Court has mentioned, one cannot be prevented from expressing his views merely because he is an employee. In a democratic society, every institution is governed by democratic norms.
- Healthy criticism is a better way to govern a public institution.

