Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Refroms Commission.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Second Administrative Reforms Commission; Public Services Code; integrity; impartiality; accountability; political neutrality; public interest; citizen-centric administration

Model Answer

Introduction

The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) emphasised the need for a clear ethical framework to guide civil servants and strengthen public trust.

Key Elements of the Public Services Code

- **Integrity and honesty:** Officials should avoid corruption, conflicts of interest and misuse of public resources.
- **Impartiality and political neutrality:** Decisions must be free from partisan considerations and personal prejudice.
- **Objectivity:** Administrative action should rely on evidence, law and established criteria.
- **Accountability:** Civil servants should accept responsibility for their decisions and performance.
- **Commitment to public service:** Citizens' welfare, responsiveness and fairness should remain central.
- **Transparency and professionalism:** Officials should communicate appropriately, maintain competence and follow due process.

Significance

A clearly defined code can provide common ethical standards, guide difficult decisions and support disciplinary accountability. It can also strengthen citizen confidence and reduce arbitrary administration.

However, a code alone cannot guarantee ethical behaviour. Leadership, training, fair working conditions and credible enforcement are equally necessary.

Conclusion

The Public Services Code provides a framework for professional and ethical administration. Its effectiveness depends on consistent implementation and an organisational culture that rewards integrity and public service.

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