Civil services in India

Civil services in India constitute the backbone of the country's administrative machinery, playing a crucial role in governance, policymaking, and implementation. Established under the British colonial rule and continued post-independence, the civil services system in India has evolved to become one of the largest and most influential bureaucracies in the world.

The Indian civil services are primarily categorized into two main branches: All India Services and Central Services. The All India Services include the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFS), while the Central Services comprise a wide range of administrative, technical, and specialized services catering to various sectors such as finance, defense, railways, and revenue.

Entry into the civil services is through a rigorous competitive examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) known as the Civil Services Examination (CSE). This examination consists of three stages - Preliminary, Main, and Interview - and assesses candidates on a wide range of subjects including general knowledge, aptitude, and specific areas of expertise.