



SC Rules Licensed Stamp Vendors as 'Public Servants'

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The **Supreme Court (SC) of India** upheld the Delhi High Court's view that **licensed stamp vendors are public servants** under the [Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988](#) because their role involves ensuring access to stamp papers, a key element in legal transactions.

- SC noted that licensed Stamp vendors receive remuneration from the **government through commission or discounts**, confirming their link to public service and state remuneration.
- **Public Servant:** The SC noted that under **Section 2(c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**, a public servant is defined as any person **who is in the service or pay of the government**.
 - It also includes individuals who are **remunerated by the government** through fees or commission for performing any public duty.
 - The SC clarified that the term '**public servant**' must be interpreted widely and purposefully to uphold the objectives of the anti-corruption law.

Read more: [Prior Sanction to Prosecute Public Servants Under PMLA](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/sc-rules-licensed-stamp-vendors-as-public-servants>