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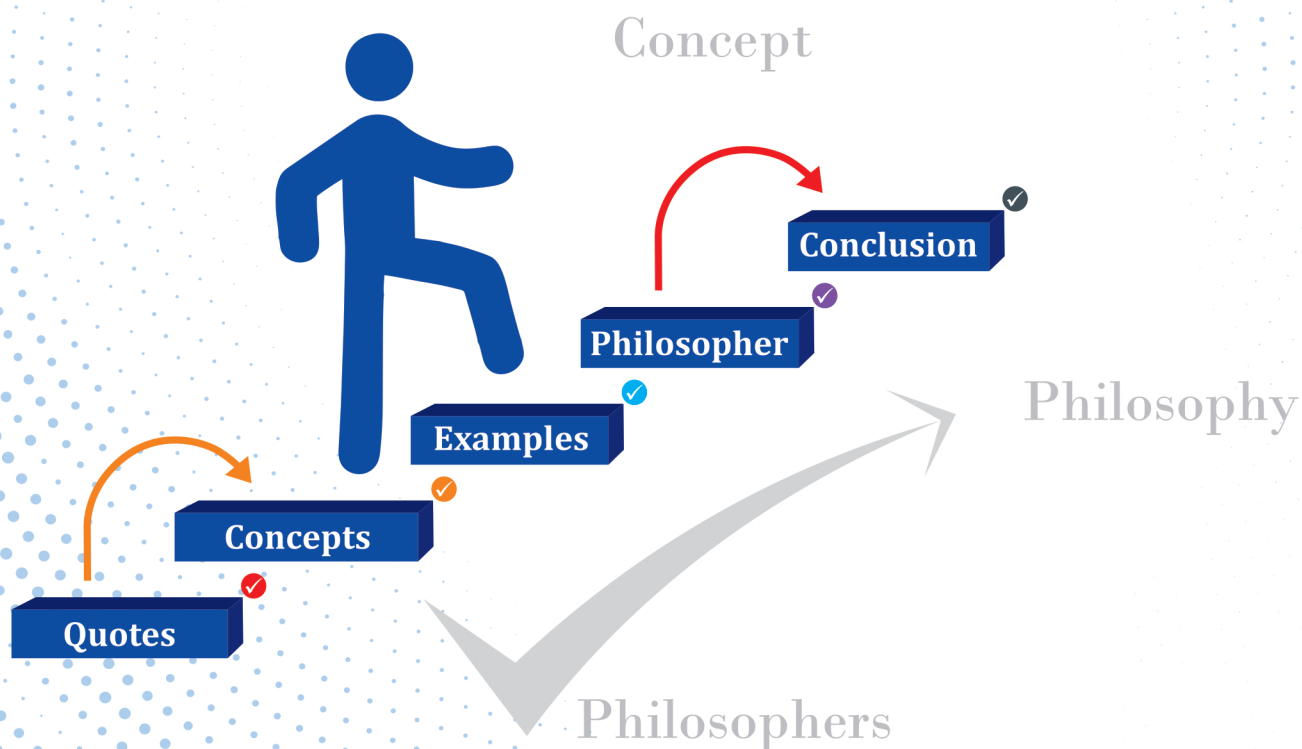
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Ethics Extended Through Facts and Examples

For UPSC Civil Services Exam, State PCS & other Competitive Exams

Printed & Published by Lukmaan IAS Edtech Pvt Ltd

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ETHICS EXTENDED: NEW FACTS & EXAMPLES

NORMATIVE THEORY OF ETHICS

Since ethics deals with human character and conduct, it is concerned about ‘**what ought to be**’ of human conduct, that is, how a human is supposed to behave in ethical fashion. Since human conduct is guided by norms and standards, a branch of philosophy has emerged known as normative theory of ethics which deals with ‘**what ought to be**’ of human conduct.

ORIGIN OF NORMATIVE THEORY OF ETHICS

Although ethics in India finds its roots in ancient Vedic texts which deals with Dharma, meaning duty, obligation, and righteousness, but it was Socrates who is said to have laid down the foundation of ethics through his philosophy of ‘**Art of Questioning**’. He is the founder of the Greek Philosophy. His disciples Plato and Aristotle

further advanced his philosophy which ultimately resulted into emergence of the normative theory of ethics.

ETHICS: DEFINITION

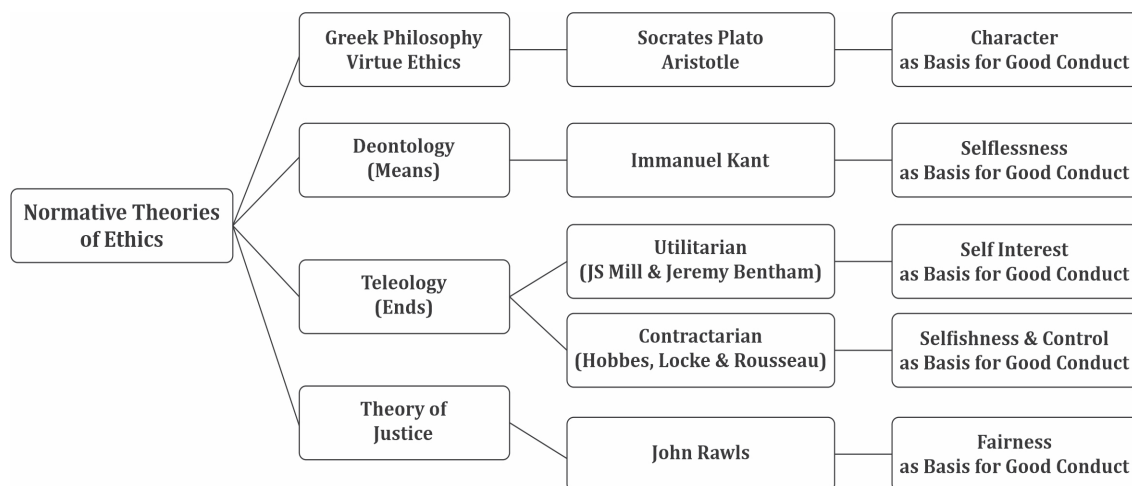
The term ethics is derived from **Greek word ethicós/ethos**, which means character and conduct. It means ethics deals with moral aspects of human conduct. It has been defined by leaders and philosophers as follows:

Aristotle: “Ethics is study of character, is built around the premise that people should achieve an excellent character by practicing virtue in order to ultimately attain happiness or well-being.”

Mahabharata: “Don’t do unto others as you won’t be done by”.

Cambridge Dictionary: A system of accepted beliefs that control behaviour, especially such a system based on morals.

Michael Sandel: Ethics is not solely about doing things right but also about doing the right things.



SOCRATES

Philosophical Quotes

- “An unexamined life is not worth living.”
- “Wealth does not bring goodness, but goodness brings wealth.”
- “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing”

He is often called as the ‘**first philosopher**’, not in the sense that he came first, but in the sense that he is top of the pile. **He taught to his disciples “the art of questioning” and it was in this context, he said that an unexamined life was not worth living.**

EXAMPLE

Dr. Narendra Dabholkar was an Indian rationalist and anti-superstition activist who was murdered in Pune in August 2013 for his work promoting rationality and challenging harmful superstitions. His death is widely considered a “**fascist attack on rationalism**”.

Dabholkar dedicated his life to combating superstition and promoting scientific thinking, particularly in Maharashtra. He founded the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS), an organization focused on eradicating superstition and advocating for an anti-superstition law. His work often involved challenging self-proclaimed godmen, debunking miracles, and promoting social reform.

Dabholkar's efforts to enact an “anti-superstition/anti-black magic bill” in Maharashtra made him a target of those who opposed his rationalist ideology and the potential erosion of their power based on superstition. His murder, carried out by two assailants on August 20, 2013, while he was on a morning walk, sparked widespread condemnation and calls for justice.

PLATO

Philosophical Quotes

- “Justice is doing one’s own work and not meddling with what isn’t one’s own.”
- “Ignorance, the root and stem of all evil.”

- “The measure of a man is what he does with power.”
- “**Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.**”

Plato was disciple of Socrates who advanced his idea of critical thinking and art of questioning. He is seen as an innovator of philosophical idealism as he argued that there is a universal idea in the world of eternal reality which is beyond the world of senses (**Theory of Forms**).

Plato was the first thinker to formulate and define political ideas within a larger framework of a philosophical idea of Good. Plato’s most influential book, the *Republic*, seeks to answer the question – what is justice and whether it is a desirable virtue for people and states.

Philosopher King: The idea according to which the best form of government is that in which philosophers rule. The ideal of a philosopher king was born in Plato’s dialogue *Republic* as part of the vision of a just city.

Relevance of Plato: **Karl Popper** recognised relevance of Plato through his statement, “Western thought one might say has been either Platonic or anti-Platonic but hardly ever non-platonic.”

ARISTOTLE

Philosophical Quotes

- “Human is a social, political and ethical animal”
- “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”
- “Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others.”
- “The end of the state is the good life.”
- “The law is reason free from passion.”
- “Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.”
- “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

Aristotle was disciple of Plato who advanced both Socrates and Plato ideas and finally, a reasoned based method was given with elaboration of

principles of Virtue Ethics. He can be considered as the main philosopher of Virtue Ethics. His main works were **Eudaimonia** and the *Politics*.

Doctrine of Mean (How to achieve happiness): It is the Golden Rule given by Aristotle that humans should avoid the two extremes of their behaviour.

FOUR CARDINAL PRINCIPLE OF VIRTUE ETHICS

1. **Fairness:** One should not practice discrimination with other fellow humans and treat all as equals.
2. **Courage:** It means that the person should speak his mind, speak truth and act against evil.
3. **Temperance:** It is emotional balance. Anyone can become angry at any person at any time but to become angry at the right person at the right time in the right proportion demands temperance (emotional intelligence).
4. **Wisdom:** It represents the highest level of development in human, similar to achievement of enlightenment or Nirvana under Indian philosophy. It is manifested through making complex things simple, self-insight, self-restraint and foresight.

Examples:

- a) **Character:** Public servants should have a good character (*Sheelam Param Bhushanam*). Also, the PM remarked that “**Character is the most important virtue of a Civil Servant**”.
- b) **Rationality:** Bureaucracy is based on legal rational authority or Objectivity / rationality are principles of Civil Services.
- c) **Courage:** Courage is important trait to withstand the challenges of corruption and speak up against corruption-an act of whistleblowing (**Satyendra Dubey**).
- d) **Wisdom:** It is essential characteristics for taking decisions in complex and technical situation as decision should not only be right but also professional. CAG in India examines wisdom of expenditure to highlight any mal-practices.

Good Character	Bad Character
AVB refused to bow down to bad politics to form government	Narsimha Rao government bribed Shibu Soren ‘cash for vote’ scam to win confidence
Yudhishtira know to stand by truth at personal cost	Duryodhana known for deceit and manipulations
A cricketer returns when he is out even if umpire is yet to take decision	Sushil Kumar and Lance Armstrong charged for doping
“When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost”-Gandhi.	

SCIENTIFIC TEMPER

“Facts are facts and will not disappear on account of your likes” - Jawaharlal Nehru

Scientific temper is defined as the **sense of inquisitiveness in humans to keep enquiring about things on the basis of logic, objectivity, and rationality.**

India has the distinction of being the first in the world to officially adopt scientific temper as a fundamental duty. The 42nd Amendment added Article 51 A(h) to the Constitution in 1976.

SUPREME COURT AND SCIENTIFIC TEMPER

In a 2024 ruling concerning the approval of genetically modified (GM) mustard, the Supreme Court of India applied principles rooted in scientific temper. In the case of **‘Gene Campaign vs Union of India’**, the court engaged in a detailed scientific inquiry regarding the long-term environmental and health impacts of GM crops. Justice Nagarathna, invoking the precautionary principle, stressed the need for more concrete scientific evidence before GM mustard could be commercially released, reflecting the court’s cautious approach towards science-driven policies.

COURAGE IN CIVIL SERVICES

1. **Ashok Khemka (IAS)** – Canceled illegal land deals involving powerful interests despite repeated transfers; symbolic of moral courage and administrative integrity.
2. **Durga Shakti Nagpal (IAS)** – Took strong action against illegal sand mining mafia in Uttar Pradesh, facing political backlash but upheld the law.
3. **Manjunath Shanmugam (IOC Officer)** – Exposed adulterated fuel rackets; paid with his life, but his case led to legal reform and inspired others.
4. **Sanjiv Chaturvedi (IFS)** – Whistleblower who exposed corruption in AIIMS and Haryana Forest Department; faced victimisation, but stuck to ethics.
5. **Raju Narayanaswamy (IAS)** – Known for taking on corrupt practices in local bodies and industries in Kerala despite political interference.

COURAGE IN GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

1. **T.N. Seshan (Former CEC)** – Boldly enforced electoral reforms, curbed malpractice, and resisted political pressure, transforming the Election Commission's role.
2. **Kiran Bedi** – Introduced reforms in Tihar Jail despite resistance from staff and politicians; promoted humane and ethical policing.
3. **E. Sreedharan** – Resisted cost-cutting compromises in Delhi Metro construction to maintain safety and public interest — moral and professional courage.
4. **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** – Integrated princely states into India through a mix of diplomacy and firm leadership; courage in national interest.
5. **Lal Bahadur Shastri** – Took moral responsibility for a train accident as Railway Minister and resigned — showed ethical courage in public office.

COURAGE IN SOCIAL ACTIVISM

1. **Irom Sharmila** – Protested against AFSPA in Manipur through a 16-year-long hunger strike; showed ethical courage against injustice.
2. **Kailash Satyarthi** – Rescued thousands of bonded child labourers from hazardous workspaces, often risking life in dangerous raids.
3. **Medha Patkar** – Fearlessly challenged large dam projects for displacing tribal communities in Narmada valley; endured threats and hostility.
4. **Dr. Binayak Sen** – Advocated for tribal rights and healthcare in Chhattisgarh; faced imprisonment under sedition charges but stayed firm.
5. **Shantha Sinha** – Took on child labour networks through grassroots efforts; led MV Foundation and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF COURAGE

1. **Bhagat Singh** – Sacrificed life for India's independence; courage of conviction in standing for beliefs.
2. **Rani Lakshmibai** – Fought British forces during the 1857 revolt, showing both physical and moral courage.
3. **Abraham Lincoln** – Faced civil war to preserve the Union and abolish slavery; moral courage against political odds.
4. **Nelson Mandela** – Endured 27 years of imprisonment; emerged to reconcile, not retaliate — moral courage for peace and justice.
5. **Mahatma Gandhi** – Practiced non-violence even against brutal oppression; courage rooted in moral conviction, not weapons.

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.” — Nelson Mandela

IMMANUEL KANT

Philosophical Quotes

- "Act only according to that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law."
- "Act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never simply as a means but always also as an end"
- "In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so."

THE SELFLESSNESS AS GOLDEN RULE

Selflessness as Golden Rule or moral duty is the ethical premise of deontology. It considers that it is the moral duty of each and every human to act in selfless manner. It is similar to Bhagavad Gita which teaches *Nishkam Karma*. The understanding of selfless as duty comes due to moral development in human which is referred by Kant as *Categorical Imperative*.

Examples:

1. Activists like Malala Yousafzai, advocating for girls' education exemplify the pursuit of wisdom and moral duty to promote knowledge and Justice.
2. Nolan Committee considers selflessness as the first principle out of seven principles formulated for public servants. **Mission Karmayogi** is also based on moral duty.
3. **At philosophical level:** Kant philosophy of selflessness as duty has very strong support from Indian philosophy.
 - Bhagavad Gita: *Nishkam Karma* as moral duty
 - Vivekananda: Selflessness as basis of life
 - Gandhi: emphasis on right means-only right means results into right ends.

4. **At environment governance level:** The polluter's pay principle is based on absolute responsibility (The MC Mehta Case in India). Kant teaches 'moral absolutism' through his universal principles.
5. **Satyendra Dubey:** Dubey, an IIT engineer and project director in NHAI, exposed corruption in the Golden Quadrilateral Project. He was later murdered.
6. **IRS Officer Shreelekha Mukherjee:** She refused to favour influential individuals in tax proceedings despite pressure.
7. **Armstrong Pame:** He resisted pressure to displace villagers without proper compensation for a road project.
8. **Amul Dairy Example:** Amul enforces strict policies against child labour in its supply chain.
9. **Refusing AI-Based Lethal Weapon Development – Google's Project Maven Exit (2018):** Hundreds of Google employees protested the company's involvement in AI tools for US military drones, leading to withdrawal from the project.

UTILITARIAN

SELF-INTEREST AS THE GOLDEN RULE

Teleology considers human nature a positive and self-interested. Human has inherent tendency to act in his/her self-interest. Whatever brings benefits to human and maximizes self-interest, human goes by that action. It is this consideration which becomes basis for the two cardinal principles of utilitarian philosophy.

The two cardinal principles

1. Pleasure-pain principle
2. The greatest good to greatest number principle

Example	Utilitarian Goal	Ethical Trade-off
COVID-19 lockdown	Save maximum lives	Infringed livelihoods & movement
Hiroshima bombing	End war, save future lives	High civilian casualties
Free vaccine drive	Mass immunity, public health	Resource strain
Aadhaar-linked DBT	Efficient delivery to millions	Some exclusion errors
One-child policy	Resource balance for future generations	Individual rights violated
Road camera fines	Safer roads for all	Personal freedom limited
Organ donation	Maximize lives saved	Grief vs saving lives
Animal culling in epidemics	Prevent human outbreaks	Animal rights sacrificed

Jeremy Bentham

- “Always recognize that human individuals are ends, and do not use them as means to your end.”
- “The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation.”
- “Pain and pleasure govern us in all we do, in all we say, in all we think.”

John Stuart Mill

- “A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but by his inaction.”
- “The worth of a state in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it.
- “The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way.”

Means - Kant	Ends - Bentham and Mill
• For Kant, the inherent quality of human action should itself be right. Human action should not be right on the basis of its outcome. • Kantian deontology describes certain actions as bad, independent of the person performing the action.	• For Bentham, human action rightness/wrongness is judged on the basis of the consequence/outcome of the action. If the end is well, all is well. • Utilitarianism considers human nature as self-interested and it's inclined towards maximizing utility of human action on the basis of pleasure pain principle and greatest good to greatest number.
• Example: It is wrong for a person to kill another person. Therefore, someone who kills another person has done a bad thing whether they have good or bad character traits doesn't matter, because the action itself is not moral.	• Example: Self-defense. If a woman is attacked by a man with a gun and is about to be killed, but she somehow gets the gun away from the man and shoots him to save herself, it will not be said that she is a bad person or that what she did was wrong. It will most likely be said that she is brave and that she did what was right (given the situation).

JOHN RAWLS

- “Justice is the first virtue of social institutions.”
- “The principles of justice are chosen behind a veil of ignorance.”
- “Inequalities are acceptable only if they benefit the least advantaged.”

ABOUT THE THEORY OF JUSTICE

Theory of Justice was published in 1971 was a landmark development in promotion of philosophy of justice for all. ‘Justice as fairness’ remains the main essence of the theory.

The two principles:

Equality principle: All individuals are entitled for **equality, liberty and freedom**, which is the most important principle for establishing a just society.

Differential principle: The second principle is **differential principle**. It means social and economic resources, activities and affairs should be conducted in such a fashion that it is to everyone's advantage that no one is at a disadvantage, especially vulnerable sections of the society.

Social justice refers to a political and philosophical theory that focuses on the concept of fairness in relations between individuals in society and equal access to wealth, opportunities, and social privileges.

In the Indian context, social justice can be linked to

1. **The preamble:** Justice-social, economic and political
2. **The FRs:** Article 15/16/17
3. **The DPSP:** Envisages for a welfare state.

John Rawls's concept of social justice which was propounded in 1971 had a great level of influence on governments during 1970s and after. In India, *Garibi Hatao*/ 20-point program and then **ICDS, PDS, MDM, MGNREGA, FRA, RTE**, etc. can be linked to social justice initiatives. India also has a ministry of social justice.

Social justice now has become among the most important objective of measurement of justice and fairness in society. It is linked to dignified life of people. Even in the **All-India Services Conduct (Amendment) Rules 2014**, social justice has been mentioned as one civil service value.

Social justice is linked to justice or a dignified life for the most vulnerable which John Rawls was concerned. It is decided by adhering to ‘**veil of ignorance**’, ‘**reflective equilibrium**’ and **original point**. Like, under article 14, **intelligible differentia** and under article 21-right to life means right to live with dignity (**Olga Tellis case**).

□□□

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GS-II & IV By S Ansari

ATTITUDE, SOCIAL INFLUENCE, PERSUASION AND MORAL ATTITUDE

ATTITUDE

Attitude is a learned predisposition to think, feel, and act in a particular way toward a specific object, person, idea, or situation. *“Attitude is a psychological tendency expressed by evaluating a particular entity with some degree of favour or disfavour.”*— Eagly & Chaiken.

Components of Attitude (ABC Model):

- **Affective (Emotion):** Feelings (e.g., anger, love, fear)
- **Behavioral (Action):** Intention to act (e.g., protesting, voting)
- **Cognitive (Belief):** Thought-based evaluation (e.g., “Smoking causes cancer”)

Example:

- A civil servant who **believes** in transparency (cognitive), **feels proud** to work honestly (affective), and **files reports accurately** (behavioral) shows an ethical attitude.

Quote: “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” – *Winston Churchill*

SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Social influence means when an individual is influenced by real or imaginary presence of others.

Examples: Idealizing Vivekananda or getting influenced by the leadership of PM.

Social influence refers to how **individual attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors change** due to the **presence, actions, or expectations of others**.

Types of Social Influence:

- **Conformity:** Adjusting behavior to align with group norms (e.g., peer pressure)

- **Compliance:** Changing behavior due to requests (e.g., boss instructs a junior)
- **Obedience:** Following authority orders (e.g., civil servant obeying illegal order)
- **Social Learning:** Observing and imitating others (Bandura’s theory)

Examples:

- A **corrupt senior officer** may influence honest juniors to accept bribes.
- Conversely, a **morally upright leader like E. Sreedharan (Metro Man)** shaped a culture of punctuality and efficiency.

“We are not only responsible for what we do, but also for what we tolerate.” – *Friedrich Nietzsche*

PERSUASION

Persuasion is a deliberate act of social influence which can be done through negotiation, dialogue and motivation. Like peace talk, negotiation on border disputes or IEC **strategy** to generate awareness in people for schemes like PMJAY, SBM and BBBP. **Nudge theory has been very useful in successful implementation of these programs which has given a theoretical base to social influence and persuasion.**

MORAL ATTITUDE

An attitude which reflects moral elements while reacting to different situations like **sensitivity, compassion, empathy, honesty and integrity**. **Examples:** In elections, people casting votes on the basis of merit of the candidates. ECI **promoting free and fair election. Having a polling booth for only one voter in Kutch and not coercing the voter to come and vote.**

Moral attitude is the **predisposition to respond to moral issues based on one's values and ethical principles**. It reflects how individuals align their actions with justice, honesty, and empathy.

Key Traits of Moral Attitude:

- **Integrity**
- **Empathy**
- **Respect for rights**
- **Courage to act ethically even under pressure**

Examples:

- **Ashok Khemka**, an IAS officer, known for standing against illegal land deals despite transfers and political pressure.
- **Whistleblowers like Manjunath Shanmugam**, who acted on their moral convictions even at personal cost.

“Your attitude may hurt me, but mine can kill you.”
– *Chanakya* (on moral strength)

“The highest possible stage in moral culture is when we recognize that we ought to control our thoughts.” – *Charles Darwin*

Interrelationship: Attitude – Social Influence – Moral Attitude

Concept	Influence Pathway	Example
Attitude	Personal belief/feeling influencing behavior	A tax officer believes in simplicity, avoids luxury
Social Influence	Peer behavior shapes attitude and action	Honest officer changes behavior due to corrupt culture
Moral Attitude	When attitude is aligned to ethical principles, despite pressure	Manjunath, Satyendra Dubey, E. Sreedharan

“The test of character is not in attitude during comfort, but in action under pressure.” – *Adapted from Martin Luther King Jr.*

Application in Administration

- **Recruitment & Training:** Include psychometric testing to assess attitudes.
- **Performance Review:** Recognize ethical attitudes, not just efficiency.
- **Code of Conduct:** Reinforce moral attitudes with institutional support.
- **Role Models:** Encourage social influence from ethical leaders.

Conclusion

Attitudes shape behavior, but **moral attitudes** give behavior its **ethical spine**. In public administration, while **social influence** can lead to conformity or corruption, **strong moral attitudes** are key to resisting unethical pressure.

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.”
– *Abraham Lincoln*



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LAW, RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONSCIENCE AS SOURCES OF ETHICAL GUIDANCE

Ethical guidance for individuals—especially public servants—emerges from multiple sources. Among them, **law, rules, and regulations** provide an external framework of conduct, while **conscience** serves as an internal compass. Together, they shape ethical behaviour by balancing what is *legal, institutional, and moral*.

LAW AS A SOURCE OF ETHICAL GUIDANCE

Definition: Law is a codified system of rules enacted by the legislature to regulate behaviour and maintain social order. It establishes minimum standards for acceptable conduct.

“Law is reason free from passion.” – Aristotle

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

Ethical Relevance:

- Provides **uniform standards** of behaviour.
- Establishes **accountability mechanisms**.
- Helps define *rights, duties, and liabilities*.
- Prevents arbitrary and discriminatory actions.

Example (Positive): RTI Act (2005) empowers citizens to demand transparency, upholding the ethical value of **accountability**.

Example (Negative): The Emergency (1975-77) in India was legal but ethically questionable due to suppression of dissent and abuse of civil liberties.

Rules and Regulations: Rules and regulations are detailed instructions issued by competent authorities (departments, organizations, institutions) to implement laws and guide professional conduct.

Ethical Relevance:

- Ensure **procedural fairness**.
- Promote **impartiality** and **objectivity**.
- Reduce **discretionary misuse** of power.

“Rules are not necessarily sacred, principles are.”
– Franklin D. Roosevelt

Example (Positive): Conduct Rules for Civil Servants discourage accepting gifts, maintaining neutrality and integrity.

Example (Negative): Strict adherence to **rules** during humanitarian crises (e.g., denying rations for lack of documentation) may violate **compassion and justice**.

CONSCIENCE AS A SOURCE OF ETHICAL GUIDANCE

Conscience is the inner sense of right and wrong that guides moral judgment independent of external enforcement. It is shaped by one's upbringing, values, and societal norms.

“There is a higher court than courts of justice, and that is the court of conscience.” – Mahatma Gandhi

“Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity.”
– Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Ethical Relevance:

- Guides in **grey areas** where laws are silent or ambiguous.
- Encourages **moral courage** and **whistleblowing**.
- Helps balance **legalism** with **humanity**.

Example (Positive):

- **E. Sreedharan**, known as the 'Metro Man', resigned from the Konkan Railway project due to ethical concerns about delays—his **conscience** overrode positional power.
- **Whistleblower Edward Snowden** acted on conscience to expose unethical surveillance practices, despite violating national security laws.

Example (Negative):

- **Blind obedience to conscience** (e.g., moral absolutism) can lead to **self-righteousness** or **vigilantism**.

CONFLICT BETWEEN LAW AND CONSCIENCE

Sometimes, laws may be **legally valid but ethically unjust**, forcing individuals to choose between **external compliance** and **inner morality**.

Case Example: Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus (against the law), driven by her **conscience** against racial injustice.

Reconciliation Between Law and Conscience

"The law may not change the heart, but it can restrain the heartless." – **Martin Luther King Jr.**

A harmonious ethical framework requires:

- **Laws informed by morality**
- **Rules applied with empathy**
- **Conscience guided by rational deliberation**

Conclusion

While **laws and rules** are essential for maintaining order and ensuring accountability, they must be tempered with **conscience** to promote justice, compassion, and moral integrity. For a public servant, the challenge lies in striking a balance—**"to obey the law, apply the rule, but never silence the conscience."**

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." – **Martin Luther King Jr.**

CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE

A **crisis of conscience** refers to a moral conflict in which an individual experiences inner turmoil while deciding between **what is right according to their inner moral compass (conscience)** and **what is expected or imposed by external authority, rules, or societal pressures**.

It is a situation where **ethical principles clash** with **personal interests, professional obligations, or legal norms**, causing emotional and psychological distress.

Key Characteristics

- **Moral Dilemma:** Tug-of-war between duty and values.
- **Emotional Distress:** Guilt, anxiety, or remorse.
- **Ethical Conflict:** Inability to align action with inner sense of rightness.
- **Potential Consequences:** Whistleblowing, resignation, silent compliance, or protest.

Philosophical Insights & Quotes

- **Mahatma Gandhi:**

"There is a higher court than courts of justice and that is the court of conscience. It supersedes all other courts."

- **Immanuel Kant:**

"Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration—the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me."

- **Alexander Solzhenitsyn:**

"Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity."

- **Martin Luther King Jr.:**

"Never forget that everything Hitler did in Germany was legal."

(Illustrating that legality does not always align with morality.)

Examples of Crisis of Conscience

1. HC Gupta Case (Coal Allocation Scam)

- **Issue:** Honest IAS officer HC Gupta faced jail despite claiming he acted in good faith under political pressure.
- **Crisis:** Should he have exposed the process or resigned earlier, or was his silence loyalty to system?

2. Edward Snowden (NSA Leak)

- **Issue:** Disclosed mass surveillance by US government.
- **Crisis:** Loyalty to nation vs. conscience demanding public awareness of privacy violations.

3. Manjunath Shanmugam (IOCL Officer)

- **Issue:** Exposed petrol adulteration racket.
- **Crisis:** His conscience led him to act ethically, resulting in his murder.

4. Ashok Khemka (IAS Officer)

- **Issue:** Repeatedly transferred for exposing corruption.
- **Crisis:** Continue service silently or uphold conscience and face consequences?

5. Recent Example – Pune Porsche Case (2024)

- **Issue:** Attempted cover-up of minor's identity and intoxication by police and doctors.
- **Crisis:** Ethical professionals within police or medical fraternity may face dilemma—expose or remain silent?

DEFINITION OF CONSCIENCE

Conscience is the inner sense or moral faculty that helps an individual differentiate between right and wrong. It is the **voice of one's own ethical awareness**, often acting as a guide in moral decision-making.

- “Conscience is the inner voice that warns us somebody may be looking.” – H.L. Mencken
- “There is a higher court than courts of justice and that is the court of conscience.” – Mahatma Gandhi

Nature and Characteristics

- **Internal source:** Unlike law or societal norms, conscience originates from within the individual.
- **Intuitive and emotional:** It often operates as a feeling of guilt, discomfort, or righteousness.
- **Subjective:** Conscience can vary from person to person based on upbringing, culture, and education.
- **Dynamic:** It evolves with experience, knowledge, and moral maturity.

Conscience as Ethical Compass

Role of Conscience	Description
Moral Filter	It evaluates actions before or after they occur (anticipates guilt or regret).
Corrective Mechanism	Acts as an internal check when external norms fail.
Personal Integrity Guide	Upholds consistency in ethical behavior even in private.
Ethical Resistance	Helps individuals oppose immoral orders or unjust laws (e.g., whistleblowing).

Examples in Public Life

Positive:

- **Ashok Khemka:** Transferred numerous times for exposing corruption in land deals; guided by personal conscience over political pressure.
- **Edward Snowden:** Leaked classified information on mass surveillance programs in the US, claiming a duty to his conscience.

Negative:

- **Compromised conscience in scams:** Officers involved in the Vyapam scam or mining scandals in India acted against conscience for personal gain.
- **Riot instigations:** Some police and administrative officers ignored their conscience during riots, leading to human rights violations.

Philosophical Perspectives

- **Immanuel Kant:** Conscience is a manifestation of the *categorical imperative*—a moral law within.
- **St. Thomas Aquinas:** Conscience is the application of moral knowledge to particular cases.
- **Gita:** Lord Krishna urges Arjuna to act in accordance with his *dharma* (righteous duty), which resonates with the voice of conscience.

Limitations of Conscience

Limitation	Explanation
Subjectivity	Can justify harmful acts if shaped by flawed moral upbringing.
Silencing due to fear or conformity	Peer pressure, power dynamics may suppress it.
Cultural Relativism	What feels "right" may differ vastly across societies.
Moral Blindness	Habitual wrongdoing can numb the voice of conscience.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE

Definition of Emotional Intelligence:

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is the ability to recognize, understand, manage, and channel one's own emotions and the emotions of others in order to make sound and compassionate decisions.

Daniel Goleman's Five Components of EI:

- Self-awareness
- Self-regulation
- Motivation
- Empathy
- Social skills

"Emotions can lead to virtuous or vicious outcomes depending on how we manage them." – Daniel Goleman

Link Between Emotional Intelligence and Crisis of Conscience:

Emotional Intelligence acts as an **internal compass** that helps individuals **navigate moral dilemmas** during a crisis of conscience by:

EI Component	How It Helps During Crisis of Conscience
Self-awareness	Helps identify the moral conflict and emotional triggers.
Self-regulation	Resists impulsive, emotionally-driven unethical actions.
Empathy	Understands the impact of decisions on others, including victims.
Motivation	Keeps focus on larger goals like public interest and ethical duty.
Social skills	Communicates dissent effectively and manages stakeholder pressures.

Example 1 (Positive):

Whistleblower IAS officer Ashok Khemka

- Faced pressure to approve illegal land deals.
- Used emotional intelligence to balance **personal risk**, **public duty**, and **family impact**.
- Chose to follow his **conscience** and exposed corruption despite threats and transfers

Example 2 (Negative):

Volkswagen Emission Scandal Engineers

- Many engineers were aware of cheating but lacked **emotional courage** or empathy for environmental consequences.
- Their **crisis of conscience** was overridden by **organizational conformity** and job security.

Ethical Analysis:

Ethical Lens	Interpretation
Deontological ethics	EI helps uphold duty even under pressure.
Virtue ethics	Emotional maturity builds character traits like courage and compassion.
Kantian ethics	Respect for self and others through conscience-led action.
Gandhian thought	Conscience is the highest authority; EI helps stay true to it despite fear.

- “In matters of conscience, the law of the majority has no place.” – Mahatma Gandhi
- “The highest stage of moral culture is when we recognize we ought to control our thoughts.” – Charles Darwin

Conclusion: While emotional intelligence does not **automatically guarantee moral action**, it provides the **emotional clarity, resilience, and empathy** required to act in accordance with one's **conscience** during ethical crises. In times when personal values clash with external pressures, **emotionally intelligent individuals are better equipped to stay morally upright**.

“It takes something more than intelligence to act intelligently.” – Fyodor Dostoevsky

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (EI)

Emotional Intelligence is the ability to recognize, understand, manage, and utilize emotions effectively in oneself and others to guide thinking and behavior.

Daniel Goleman's Definition

“Emotional intelligence refers to the capacity for recognizing our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in ourselves and our relationships.”

Components of EI (By Daniel Goleman)

1. **Self-Awareness** – Knowing your emotions.
2. **Self-Regulation** – Managing emotions.
3. **Motivation** – Channeling emotions toward goals.
4. **Empathy** – Recognizing emotions in others.
5. **Social Skills** – Managing relationships effectively.

EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS FACED BY CIVIL SERVANTS IN INDIA

I. Major Emotional Problems

1. Stress and Anxiety

➤ Causes:

- Heavy workload, long working hours
- Political pressure and interference
- Fear of transfers or punitive actions
- Pressure to meet unrealistic targets

➤ Impact:

- Sleep disturbances, irritability, reduced productivity.

2. Emotional Burnout

➤ Causes:

- Prolonged exposure to high-pressure environments.
- Lack of appreciation or recognition for hard work.
- Public criticism and media scrutiny.

➤ Impact:

- Loss of motivation, emotional detachment, apathy towards public issues.

3. Role Conflict & Identity Crisis

➤ Causes:

- Conflict between personal values and official orders.

- Balancing duty vs. family commitments.
- **Impact:**
- Moral dilemmas, dissatisfaction, decision paralysis.
- 4. Moral Injury and Guilt**
- **Causes:**
- Being compelled to implement policies that harm vulnerable sections.
 - Witnessing injustice but lacking institutional support to oppose it.
- **Impact:**
- Long-term guilt, emotional numbness, erosion of ethical sensitivity.
- 5. Social Isolation and Loneliness**
- **Causes:**
- Frequent transfers leading to disconnection from family and friends.
 - Lack of trustworthy confidants in professional circles due to fear of leaks.
- **Impact:**
- Depression, withdrawal from social life, loss of social intelligence.
- 6. Fear of Corruption Allegations or Vigilance Cases**
- **Causes:**
- Ambiguous rules, complex procedures.
 - Risk-averse bureaucratic culture.
- **Impact:**
- Constant anxiety, avoidance of decision-making, over-cautiousness.
- 7. Post-Traumatic Stress (Especially in Field Jobs)**
- **Causes:**
- Exposure to violent protests, communal riots, disasters, insurgency zones.
- **Impact:**
- Trauma symptoms, flashbacks, avoidance behavior.

II. Causes Unique to India's Administrative Context

Factor	Explanation
Political Interference	Undue pressures for transfers, postings, decisions.
Bureaucratic Hierarchy	Rigid top-down control limits autonomy.
Frequent Transfers	Instability in personal and professional life.
Slow Judicial Processes	Long-winded inquiries create prolonged mental stress.
Corruption Nexus	Ethical officers face isolation and risks.

III. Ethical Dimensions of Emotional Problems

Ethical Concern	Emotional Challenge
Integrity vs. Pressure	Emotional stress from resisting unethical orders.
Objectivity vs. Bias	Emotional exhaustion affects fairness and rationality.
Compassion Fatigue	Repeated exposure to distress reduces empathy.
Courage vs. Fear	Emotional dilemmas in whistleblowing or resisting corruption.

Daniel Goleman:

"Stress makes people stupid." (Highlights impact of stress on decision-making)

Kautilya in Arthashastra:

"The king's servant must be above reproach in his conduct, else he shall cause ruin to the kingdom." (Emphasizes integrity under pressure)

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Suggested Measures to Address Emotional Problems

Strategy	Explanation
Emotional Intelligence Training	Improve self-awareness, self-regulation, and resilience.
Peer Support Systems	Confidential sharing forums among officers.
Counselling & Mental Health Services	Mandatory psychological counselling access.
Transparent Transfer Policies	Reduce political victimization and family stress.
Mindfulness & Stress Reduction Programs	Yoga, meditation, relaxation techniques.

Emotional challenges of civil servants in India are deeply rooted in systemic, cultural, and institutional factors. Addressing these requires not only personal coping mechanisms but also systemic reforms to create a more secure, fair, and emotionally sustainable administrative ecosystem.

STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE-RELATED PROBLEMS OF CIVIL SERVANTS

Civil servants in India often face stress, anxiety, emotional burnout, and ethical dilemmas due to challenging work environments. Recognizing this, the government has initiated several measures to improve emotional well-being and Emotional Intelligence (EI) skills among civil servants.

1. Training & Capacity Building Programs

Initiative	Focused Areas
LBSNAA Training Modules (Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration)	Emotional Intelligence, stress management, decision-making, and ethics during Foundation Course and Mid-Career Training Programs (MCTP).
Mission Karmayogi (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building – NPCSCB)	Institutionalizes behavioural, emotional, and ethical learning through the iGOT Karmayogi platform, including Emotional Intelligence modules.
MCTP (Mid-Career Training Program)	Dedicated sessions on leadership, emotional resilience, and conflict resolution.

2. Mental Health & Counselling Initiatives

Scheme / Practice	Features
Employee Assistance Programmes (EAPs)	Counseling, psychological support for government staff (adopted by some ministries and public sector units).
Counsellor Access at Training Institutes	Institutes like LBSNAA provide in-house counselors for trainees.
Workshops on Mindfulness & Meditation	Training in yoga, meditation, and breathing exercises to manage stress and enhance emotional stability.

3. Institutional & Policy-Level Reforms

Reform	Emotional Impact
Rational Transfer Policies (in some States)	Reduces stress from frequent relocations.
Performance Management Reforms (SPARROW System for IAS/IPS/IRS)	Focus on continuous learning, reducing undue pressure from Annual Performance Reviews.
POSH Act (Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace)	Creates emotionally safe workplace environments, addressing workplace harassment.

4. Stress Management Through Work-Life Balance Initiatives

Initiative	Emotional Impact
Flexi-working in Certain Departments	Enables better work-life balance and reduces burnout.
Promotion of Leave Utilization	Encourages officers to use leave for personal rejuvenation.

5. Online Learning & EI Resources

Platform	Features
iGOT Karmayogi Digital Learning Platform	EI-focused modules on managing emotions, workplace ethics, resilience, and mindfulness practices.
Swayam & ARPIT Platforms	Online Emotional Intelligence and stress management courses for public officials.

Mission Karmayogi Vision Statement: *“To build future-ready civil servants with the right attitude, skills and Emotional Intelligence for effective service delivery.”*

Conclusion:

Government of India has increasingly acknowledged the need for Emotional Intelligence among civil servants and is integrating it into training, capacity building, and workplace practices. However, sustained efforts, destigmatization of mental health, and institutional reforms are needed for long-term impact.

ROLE OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN CIVIL SERVICES:

Emotional intelligence empowers civil servants to benefit from the positive facets of peer influence

while providing inner strength, empathy, and clarity to resist and redirect negative pressures, ensuring personal integrity and public trust prevail. **Success at work 80% depends on EEI and 20% on IQ-Daniel Goleman.**

Positive Example

In the **2013 Kedarnath disaster**, teams of IAS, IPS, and local officials worked selflessly, often influenced by each other's dedication and compassion. Peer encouragement played a vital role in the **rescue and rehabilitation success**.

- *“Surround yourself with only people who are going to lift you higher.”* – Oprah Winfrey.
- *“It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.”* – Charles Darwin.

PUBLIC SERVICE SPIRIT

“There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.”- Woodrow Wilson

Definition: Second ARC defines Public Service Spirit as the “readiness of public servants to go beyond the call of duty in pursuit of public welfare.”

It refers to the dedication, selflessness, and commitment of an individual to serve the public interest and contribute to societal welfare over personal gains.

“Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.”

John F. Kennedy

Strategy	Explanation	Example
1. Value-Based Education and Training	Impart ethical and moral reasoning during training (e.g., LBSNAA for IAS trainees).	<i>Ethics module in Civil Services training promoting Gandhian values.</i>
2. Leadership by Example	Senior officers exhibiting integrity inspire subordinates.	<i>E. Sreedharan (Delhi Metro) upheld probity and dedication.</i>
3. Exposure to Ground Realities	Field postings in rural and underserved areas build empathy.	<i>IAS officer Armstrong Pame built a 100 km road in Manipur without government funds.</i>
4. Recognition & Incentives	Awarding ethical public servants fosters a culture of service.	<i>Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration.</i>
5. Mentorship & Peer Learning	Experienced officers guiding juniors strengthens service ethics.	<i>T.N. Seshan’s electoral reforms inspired administrative integrity.</i>

“Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation.”— Margaret Chase Smith.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” — Mahatma Gandhi.

PUBLIC FUNDS UTILISATION

“Public money ought to be touched with the most scrupulous conscientiousness.” — Thomas Jefferson

Cases of funds underutilisation and misutilisation:

Underutilisation	Misutilisation
1. Nirbhaya Fund: As of 2023, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) noted that a large portion of the Nirbhaya Fund remains unspent in many states. 2. Smart Cities Mission: As per the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (2024), several cities have utilised less than 50% of allocated funds despite looming deadlines. 3. POSHAN Abhiyaan: As of 2023, a Parliamentary Standing Committee reported that over 40% of the allocated funds remained unutilised in many states.	1. MGNREGA Frauds: In Jharkhand (2023), the Anti-Corruption Bureau uncovered a scam where funds were siphoned off through fake beneficiaries, with over ₹18 crore misappropriated. 2. PM-Kisan Scheme Leakages: In 2023, audits revealed that thousands of ineligible beneficiaries in states like Punjab and Assam received funds, while genuine farmers were excluded. 3. Public Distribution System (PDS) Scam: In Assam and Uttar Pradesh, investigations found that fake ration cards were used to siphon off subsidised food grains, which were then sold in the open market.

Kautilya in Arthashastra: “*The happiness of the king lies in the happiness of his subjects.*” This implies that **public resources must be used responsibly for the common good.**

Key Values for Efficient Utilisation of Public Funds:

Values	Examples
Integrity	E. Sreedharan ensured integrity in the Delhi Metro project with minimal cost overruns.
Accountability	RTI Act, 2005 has exposed several corruption 2G scam, Adarsh Society Scam and 5 IAS officer Paris visit at taxpayers’ money.
Transparency	Public Financial Management System (PFMS) tracks real-time fund disbursement.
Prudence/ wisdom /propriety	CAG audit has to ensure thee prudence, wisdom and propriety off expenditure.

Equity & Inclusiveness	MGNREGA ensures livelihood for rural poor via direct fund transfers.
Probity	Strict monitoring in PM Awas Yojana to avoid ghost beneficiaries.

Mahatma Gandhi: “*A public servant is a trustee of the resources of the people.*”

PROBITY IN GOVERNANCE

“**Probity in governance is the antithesis of corruption in public life.**” — **Second ARC (Administrative Reforms Commission).**

“*Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.*” — **Samuel Johnson**

“*Public office is a public trust.*” — **Charles Sumner**

Definition: Probity in governance refers to the adherence to sound moral principles such as honesty, integrity, uprightness, and ethical conduct, in all aspects of public administration and decision-making.



Examples of Probity in Governance

Example	Nature of Probity Displayed
T.N. Seshan (CEC of India)	Upholding integrity and electoral reforms to ensure free and fair elections.
E. Sreedharan (Metro Man of India)	Ensured corruption-free and transparent implementation of the Delhi Metro project.
U. Sagayam (IAS)	Known for refusing bribes and exposing the granite scam in Tamil Nadu.
Lokpal Act, 2013	Institutional mechanism to check corruption among public servants.

Example	Nature of Probity Displayed
RTI Act, 2005	Institutionalizes transparency by empowering citizens to seek information.

Importance of Probity in Governance

- Ensures **public trust** and legitimacy of institutions.
- Minimizes **corruption** and misuse of public resources.
- Enhances **efficiency and fairness** in service delivery.
- Strengthens **democratic governance** and rule of law.

As **Kautilya (Arthashastra)** warned: *“Just as fish moving under water cannot be known when drinking water, so is the case with public servants who abuse public office.”*

Honest Civil Servants

Civil Servant	Service	Known For
T.N. Seshan	IAS	Revolutionary Chief Election Commissioner; enforced electoral reforms.
Kiran Bedi	IPS	First female IPS officer; prison reforms in Tihar Jail.
E. Sreedharan	IRSE (Indian Railways)	The "Metro Man of India"; built Konkan Railway & Delhi Metro with transparency.
Ashok Khemka	IAS	Known for exposing land scams in Haryana; transferred frequently for his integrity.
D. K. Ravi	IAS	Fought against illegal sand mining in Karnataka; died under suspicious circumstances.
Julio Ribeiro	IPS	Legendary Mumbai Police officer; known for honesty and courage.
S.R. Sankaran	IAS	Known for work on tribal welfare and abolition of bonded labour.
V.V. Lakshminarayana	IPS	Investigated high-profile corruption cases like YSR Congress leader Jagan Mohan Reddy's assets case.
U. Sagayam	IAS	Fought against illegal mining in Tamil Nadu; maintained austere lifestyle.
Narendra Kumar	IPS	Martyred while cracking down on mining mafia in Madhya Pradesh.

Dishonest / Corrupt Civil Servants

Civil Servant	Service	Controversy/Scandal
Neera Yadav	IAS	Convicted for corruption in land allotments in NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh.
Sanjiv Kumar	IAS	Key accused in the Jharkhand Fodder Scam .
Babulal Agrawal	IAS	Raided for disproportionate assets worth ₹200 crore+ in Chhattisgarh.
Pradeep Sharma	IAS	Accused of corruption and disproportionate assets in Gujarat.
R.K. Chandolia	IAS	Involved in the 2G Spectrum Scam as aide to A. Raja.
Y. Srilakshmi	IAS	Accused in the Obulapuram Mining Scam .
Anurag Tiwari	IAS	Suspicious death linked to involvement in food and civil supply scam in Karnataka.
K. Moses Chalai	IAS	Accused of financial irregularities in Manipur development funds.
Maninder Kaur	IAS	Accused in a land scam in Punjab.
T. Udayachandran	IAS	Accused of involvement in granite scam in Tamil Nadu (alleged by media reports, still under investigation).

PROBLEMS OF PROBITY IN GOVERNANCE

While **probity in governance** is essential for integrity and good governance, several **challenges hinder its realization**, especially in the public sector.

1. Prevalence of Corruption

- **Systemic corruption** at various levels of administration undermines integrity.
- **Example:** Scams like the **2G Spectrum Scam** and **Coal Allocation Scam** eroded public trust.

2. Political Interference

- Excessive political pressure leads to **compromise on administrative neutrality and ethical decision-making**.
- **Example:** **Frequent transfers of upright officers** like **Ashok Khemka (IAS)** discourage probity.

3. Weak Institutional Mechanisms

- Institutions like **CVC, Lokpal, CBI** often suffer from **lack of autonomy, delays, and political influence**, reducing their effectiveness in upholding probity.

4. Lack of Transparency

- Despite mechanisms like the **RTI Act**, bureaucratic opacity and **information hoarding** persist.
- **Example:** Delay in public disclosure of **public sector procurement contracts**.

5. Inadequate Accountability

- **Ambiguous accountability structures** in governance reduce the scope for holding officials responsible.
- **Example:** **Administrative discretion** without proper checks often leads to favoritism.

6. Erosion of Ethical Values

- Civil servants may adopt **expedient over ethical choices** under peer pressure, career concerns, or political patronage.
- **Fred Riggs' Prismatic Society Model:** Societies with fused administrative systems tend to compromise ethics.

7. Delays in Legal Proceedings

- **Slow judicial processes** and **weak enforcement of anti-corruption laws** embolden unethical behavior.

- Example: Prolonged trials in high-profile corruption cases.

8. Conflict of Interest

- Public officials often face situations where **personal interests conflict with public duties**, leading to unethical choices.
- Lack of **codified standards** for conflict of interest worsens this problem.

9. Ineffective Performance Appraisal

- When **performance evaluation does not include ethical behavior**, officials are not incentivized to maintain probity.

“Corrupt civil servants are rewarded while honest are punished in India”. ARC-II Report.

“The price of lack of probity is the collapse of institutions and trust.”

Mechanism to ensure probity:

External	Internal
• CVC • CAG • Ethics audit • BNS • RTI	• Imbibing moral principles in civil servants. • Mission Karmayogi • Guideline by LBSNAA • Public Service Code by ARC-II.

Significance of probity in governance:

“Nature of state as soft state in developing countries is due to lack of probity.” – Gunnar Myrdal.

Its significance lies in the context of **increasing levels of corruption (Dhiman Chakma, a 36-YO IAS officer receiving Rs 10 lakh bribe), malpractices (NEET paper leak), irregularities in public services (Vyapam scam).**

- **For example, Ashok Khemka (IAS), M. Vishvesharia, Vinod Rai, T.N. Seshan.**
- **For example, Kiran Bedi (former IPS officer) had issued a challan to minister’s vehicle**

parked in ‘No parking’ zone. **Durga Shakti Nagpal** stood up against illegal sand mafia in Uttar Pradesh.

“Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.” — Samuel Johnson

SPECIFIC STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE PROBITY IN GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

1. Legislative Measures

- **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013:** Establishes independent bodies to investigate corruption allegations against public functionaries, including Ministers and senior officials.
- **Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018:** Introduced **criminal penalties for both bribe-givers and bribe-takers.**
- **Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014:** Provides safeguards to individuals exposing corruption in public offices.

2. Institutional Mechanisms

- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)
- Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)

3. Administrative Reforms

- **Mission Karmayogi (2020):** Aims to enhance the **capacity building of civil servants**, focusing on ethical governance, integrity, and transparency.
- **Code of Conduct for Civil Servants:** Civil Services Conduct Rules mandate behavior aligned with integrity, impartiality, and accountability.
- **Sevottam Model:** Framework for **improving service delivery and citizen satisfaction**, emphasizing ethical and transparent practices.

- **e-Governance Initiatives:** Projects like **Digital India**, **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**, and **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** improve transparency in procurement and expenditure.

4. Judicial Interventions

- **Supreme Court's TSR Subramanian Case (2013):** Mandated **fixed tenure for civil servants** to reduce political interference and safeguard integrity.
- **Vineet Narain Judgment (1997):** Strengthened the autonomy of **CBI and CVC** to reduce external influence.

5. Ethical Guidelines & Frameworks

- **Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) Reports:** Provided comprehensive recommendations on **ethics, integrity, and probity in governance**.
- **Nolan Principles of Public Life (adapted):** India increasingly draws on these 7 principles: **Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, Leadership**.

Conclusion

“Probity in governance is not only about punishing the corrupt but creating a culture of ethical compliance.”

A CASE OF H.C. GUPTA

H.C. Gupta, a former **Coal Secretary of India** and a **highly regarded IAS officer**, was implicated in the **Coal Block Allocation Scam**. Despite his reputation for integrity and honesty, he was **convicted in 2017** by a CBI court for alleged **corruption, criminal conspiracy, and breach of trust** in allocating coal blocks without a transparent bidding process.

In **2023**, the **Delhi High Court acquitted him**, observing that there was **no criminal intent**, and that procedural lapses cannot be equated with corruption.

Measures to Protect Honest Officers

1. **Fixed Tenure and Administrative Autonomy:** Implement **Supreme Court's fixed tenure guidelines** to reduce political pressure.
2. **Legal Protection:** Strengthen **Section 197 CrPC**, requiring prior sanction before prosecuting officers for decisions made in their official capacity.
3. **Transparent Procedures:** Mandatory **recording of reasons for decisions**, ensuring a trail of accountability.
4. **Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms:** Committees like **Lokpal, CVC, and internal vigilance** should objectively assess alleged misconduct.
5. **Ethical Training & Support:** Programmes like **Mission Karmayogi** to train officers on **ethics, integrity, and navigating dilemmas**.
6. **Codifying Decision-Making Standards:** Develop a **code of ethics and decision-making guidelines** for bureaucrats in complex governance scenarios.
7. **Fast-track Judicial Mechanisms:** Specialized courts to differentiate **criminality from administrative errors** quickly.

Conclusion: The H.C. Gupta case highlights the vulnerability of even **honest officers in a flawed system**. Upholding **probity, integrity, and accountability** requires: “**Public office is a public trust, but trust thrives only when honesty is both protected and rewarded.**”

CODE OF CONDUCT AND CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Conduct refers to the set of legally binding norms for civil servants while Code of Ethics deals with morally desirable conduct. For Civil servants in India, there is no one document called Code of Conduct, rather it is a set of laws and rules which combined together are considered Code of Conduct. E.g. All India Service (Conduct)

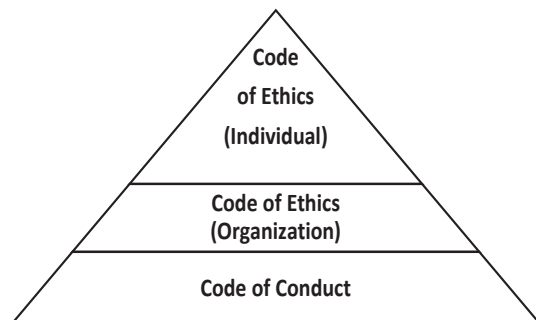
Rules 1968. In Pooja Khedkar case, she violated these Conduct Rules and hence terminated from service by the government.

Code of Conduct	Code of Ethics
• Legally enforceable	• Morally desirable
• Deals with largely Don'ts of conduct (what public servants should not do)	• Deals with Do's of conduct (what public servants should do)
• More legal and procedural	• More moral and substantial
• Represents letter side	• Represents spirit side
• It is about accountability	• It is about responsibility
• Driven by law	• Driven by conscience

Code of Ethics means to adopt a codified principles of ethics like the way U.K. has adopted the seven principles of Nola Committee. Its need is felt due to increasing emphasis on quality of conduct. Civil servants are found to adhere to laws/rules only in letter but not in spirit. There is a need to bring behavioural reforms along with institutional reforms.

Suitable model for code of ethics:

ARC-II in its report 'Ethics in governance' has proposed 'Public Service Code' which should consist of Code of Conduct as binding code and Code of Ethics for organization and individuals.



Code of Ethics for Organization	Code of Ethics for Individuals
• Commitment to constitutional values • Adherence to probity and integrity • Impartiality and non-partisanship • Objectivity • Commitment to citizen's concerns and public good • Empathy for vulnerable sections	• Integrity and impartiality • Commitment to public service • Open accountability • Devotion to duty • Exemplary behaviour

“Codes of ethics convert moral aspirations into practical guidelines.”

— *Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), India.*

“In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so.”

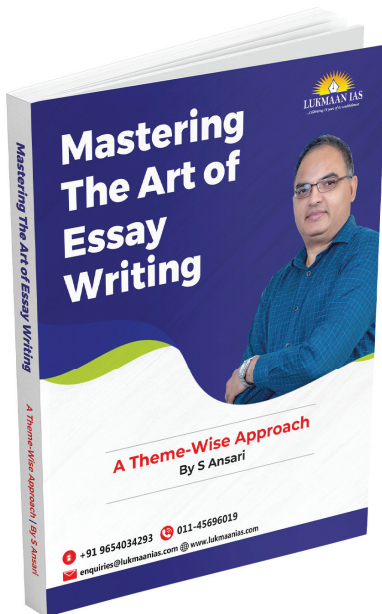
— **Immanuel Kant.**

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APPLIED ETHICS TOPICS FOR CSE 2026

MISSION KARMAYOGI

Mission Karmayogi, formally known as the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), launched in September 2020, is a **comprehensive reform initiative** aimed at transforming the **ethos, culture, and capability** of India's bureaucracy.

Objectives

Ethical Dimension	Reform Objective
Integrity	Shift from rule-based to role-based functioning
Accountability	Performance-linked evaluations and outcomes
Empathy & Service Ethic	Build citizen-centric mindset through behavioural training
Transparency	Open digital learning platforms with measurable goals
Moral Duty	Foster sense of Seva Bhav (Service to nation) among officers

Core Features:

1. iGOT Karmayogi Platform

- Online digital learning ecosystem for continuous professional development
- Includes **ethics, emotional intelligence, soft skills**, and public values modules
- Example: A probationary officer can learn negotiation and conflict resolution skills before joining field service.

2. Role-Based Capacity Building

- Emphasizes **what officers need to do**, not just what their rank allows.

- Supports the ethical ideal of **competence with responsibility**.

3. Annual Capacity Building Plans (CBPs)

- Focused on **measurable learning outcomes** aligned with organizational needs.

4. Performance Management Framework

- Encourages **accountability and results**, not mere presence or seniority.

5. 360-Degree Feedback

- Evaluations from peers, subordinates, and citizens promote **ethical feedback loops** and humility.

Legal and Institutional Framework

- Anchored through a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- Coordinated by the **Capacity Building Commission**.
- Covers approximately **46 lakh central employees**, with future inclusion of states.

Who is a Karmayogi?

The term **Karmayogi** comes from **Bhagavad Gita**, where **Lord Krishna** advises **Arjuna** to perform his duty selflessly, without attachment to the outcome.

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Karmayogi – Philosophical Meaning

- "Karma" = action or duty
- "Yogi" = one who is spiritually disciplined
- A Karmayogi is one who:
 - Performs **right action** as a **duty**, not for reward or recognition
 - Acts with **detachment**, integrity, and selflessness
 - Serves **society, not self**, upholding **Dharma (righteousness)**
 - Is **disciplined, ethical, and committed to the larger good**

"Do your duty without attachment to the result; that is the path of the Karmayogi." — *Bhagavad Gita*, 2.47

Qualities of a Karmayogi Civil Servant

Trait	Explanation
Duty-bound	Acts according to rules and conscience
Selfless	Works for people, not personal gain
Emotionally Intelligent	Handles stress and conflict ethically
Competent	Strives for excellence in governance
Morally upright	Does the right thing, even under pressure

"Man becomes a true Karmayogi when he works not for fame, power, or reward, but out of a sense of duty." – Inspired by Swami Vivekananda

A Corrective to Ethical Challenges

Prevailing Issue	Karmayogi Response
Red-tapism and complacency	Role-based learning and behavioural training
Corruption and lack of integrity	Emphasis on ethical reasoning, integrity modules in training

Prevailing Issue	Karmayogi Response
Disconnection from citizens	Citizen-centric service design and accountability framework
Rigid hierarchy	Collaborative, cross-functional skill building

Examples

Example: A newly posted district officer trained under Karmayogi uses behavioural insights to improve MGNREGS outcomes, engages Gram Sabhas directly, and audits fund usage via social audit.

Ethical Learning Applied: Empathy, transparency, proactive governance, data-driven decision-making — all rooted in Karmayogi modules.

"A civil servant is not a ruler, but a trustee." – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Example: A district collector resolving a land dispute peacefully through negotiation after iGOT training on conflict resolution and empathy, ensuring inclusive governance.

Quote: "Training is not a cost, but an investment in ethical capacity." – iGOT Mission

Conclusion

Mission Karmayogi represents a **paradigm shift** from rule-based routine administration to **purpose-driven, ethical, and accountable public service**. It reimagines the Indian civil servant as not just an implementer of policy, but a **moral agent and change leader** in the service of the Constitution and the common good.

"Karmayogi is not just a programme—it is an ethical transformation of Indian governance."

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988 (AMENDED IN 2018)

The Act criminalizes corruption by public servants, makes bribe-giving a punishable offense, and provides safeguards for honest officers through prior sanction clauses.

➤ **Positive Outcomes (post-2018 amendment):**

- **Criminalizes Bribe Giver** (not just the public servant)—encourages responsible citizenship.
- **Prior Sanction:** Prosecution of public servants now requires prior approval—ethical safeguard against political vendetta.
- **Corporate Bribery:** Organizations held liable—ethics in corporate-public interactions.
- **Time-bound Trials:** Ensures timely justice—ethical delivery of justice.

➤ **Criticisms:**

- **Prior Sanction Clause:** May be misused to delay or deny justice—**conflict between protection and accountability.**
- **Fear of Harassment vs. Ethical Vigilance:** Too much protection can reduce whistleblowing and honest exposure.
- **Overcriminalization:** Penalising bribe givers in some desperate contexts (e.g., coercion or survival) may be ethically questionable.
- **Integrity vs Loyalty:** Officers often face pressure to serve political masters.
- **Public Trust:** Widespread corruption erodes citizens' faith in governance.

Examples:

➤ **Positive:**

- **Ashok Khemka**, IAS, cancelled illegal land deals; faced frequent transfers but upheld probity.
- **2018 amendments** have brought corporate accountability under anti-corruption law.

➤ **Negative:**

- **Vyapam Scam, Coal Block Allocation, CWG Scam** – betrayals of public trust, absence of ethical accountability.

- **Example:** Coal Allocation Scam: Allegations that rules were bent to favor select private players led to huge revenue loss and public distrust.

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." – Lord Acton

Kautilya in Arthashastra: "Just as it is impossible not to taste honey or poison that one may find at the tip of one's tongue, so it is impossible for a government servant not to eat up at least a bit of the king's revenue."

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: "A civil servant must be fearless and honest in his work. Fear and dishonesty destroy both self-respect and service."

Immanuel Kant: One must act according to the maxim you wish to become universal law (duty ethics).

The All India Services (Conduct) Amendment Rules, 2014	
• Integrity and Honesty • Political Neutrality • Accountability and Transparency • Responsiveness • Social justice • Courtesy and Good Behaviour • Commitment to the Constitution and Democratic Values	• Public Interest and Efficient Use of Resources • Merit-Based Decision Making • Fairness and impartiality • Discipline • Confidentiality • Professionalism and Dedication • Work life balance • Public service spirit

**LBSNAA ADVISORY NOTE
FOR SELECTED CANDIDATES
OF UPSC CSE - 2024**

THE KEY VALUES STRESSED	
• Character/virtue • Honesty/integrity • Probity/rectitude • Courteous/respectful/dignified	• Credibility/humility • Prudence • Social ethos • Mindfulness

As a future civil servant you are expected to be a role model throughout. **Your past actions also will be a reflection of your character and personality throughout your career.** You should start displaying **exemplary conduct** that befits an officer right from this day and not wait for your training to start. You will go on to occupy important positions in institutions of governance and public service delivery.

Civil servants are the public face of the State and their conduct is under constant public scrutiny. You must ensure that your personal conduct and official and social interface with the general public, people's representatives, corporate entities, civil society organisations, Government personnel, all other dignitaries and vulnerable sections of the society is **courteous, respectful, dignified and appropriate.**

The motto of the Academy, '**Sheelam param bhushanam**'- '**Character is the supreme embellishment**', guides the officers and alumni to conduct themselves with **integrity, dignity, humility and rectitude at all times.** While your inner conscience is the best way to go forward, the following guidelines can be a good start:

- The **credibility of an officer** is decided by his/her integrity, a timeless virtue. It is important to keep a diligent account of financial issues and reject all forms of inducement such as gifts and hospitality and free publicity. In this context care has to be taken that your success is not leveraged inappropriately at any stage hereon.
- The Academy stresses heavily on cultivating and building strong habits of **rectitude and prudence** as it builds a public reputation of propriety.
- You are expected to display the highest attitude of compassion, respectful engagement and fraternal behavior while expressing your viewpoint without hurting sentiments of others. Courteous and dignified behavior is expected not just within the academy but also outside the academy while dealing with the public at large.
- Respect to women is central in Indian ethos. You must be gender sensitive.

- Maintain punctuality. Respecting the time of others is very crucial. Do not cause any inconvenience to others in whatsoever manner.
- It is also good to familiarise the immediate family members with the cultural norms of the service.
- Care should be taken to maintain high levels of morality in your personal lives also
- Sober, modest, culturally appropriate clothes befitting the occasion (formal, informal, traditional etc) should always be preferred
- You are expected to abstain from consuming any intoxicant substances in public. It is essential to know clearly the conduct rules and instructions in this regard.
- Civic manners like following traffic rules, not littering, not spitting in public spaces and personal hygiene like turning out well-groomed and dressed appropriately for occasions are expected to be followed.

Social Media Etiquettes

- The Academy in its curriculum promotes the use of technology and AI for improving the speed and quality of services delivered to the citizens. In this context the Academy also encourages the ethical and productive use of technology and gadgets by the probationers for accessing and processing the information for effective learning outcomes. While social media may pervade several aspects of life, and the Academy too recognizes the value of social media and digital platforms in effective administration at an institutional level, any kind of social media that promotes self is strongly discouraged
- Comments and any posts made or facilitated by you on social media will also reflect on the service. Therefore, you should remain mindful, even at this stage, of avoiding posts that would or could defame the service or its members. Be diligent and judicious about posting content that could be considered unprofessional or inappropriate for an officer/member of service.

- One should, in particular, refrain from impulsively posting statements on social media. Pause and reflect on the possible impact of what you are going to post. Rather, it is advisable to avoid posting any content lest it may lead to misinterpretation at an individual / institutional level.

A healthy lifestyle is an added asset to public service. The Academy follows a rigorous training schedule that comprises physical activity along with academic inputs. Therefore it is useful to imbibe these aspects from now onwards.



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TRANSPARENCY AND RTI

There can be no faith in government if our highest offices are excused from scrutiny - they should be setting the example of transparency. Edward Snowden

A lack of transparency results in distrust and a deep sense of insecurity. Dalai Lama

State of Uttar Pradesh v. Raj Narain (1975)

*“In a government of responsibility like ours, where all the agents of the public must be responsible for their conduct, there can be but few secrets. **The people of this country have a right to know every public act, everything that is done in a public way by their public functionaries.** They are entitled to know the particulars of every public transaction in all its bearing. Their right to know, which is derived from the concept of freedom of speech, though not absolute, is a factor which should make one wary when secrecy is claimed for transactions which can at any rate have no repercussion on public security”*

Listed below are some of the major scams and anomalies exposed by the Right To Information Act:

1. **Vijay Kumbhar 2024:** exposure of puja khedkar case UPSC
2. **Adarsh Society Scam:** What was meant to be a six-storey building for the widows of Kargil war heroes, turned into a 31-storey high-rise called Adarsh Housing Society.

3. **2G Scam:** The 2G scam or the telecom sector scandal, which took place in the UPA regime, revolved around the government auctioning the 2G spectrum. This reportedly cost the exchequer a whopping Rs 1.76 lakh crore. The massive abuse of power came to light when an RTI was filed by activist Subhash Chandra Agrawal.
4. **Commonwealth Games Scam:** An RTI filed by a non-profit organization revealed that the Delhi government had diverted Rs 744 crore from funds earmarked for the welfare of the Dalit community to the Commonwealth Games.
5. **Demonetisation announced without RBI nod:** An RTI filed by activist Venkatesh Nayak revealed that the RBI did not agree with the Centre on its justification that the move would curb the circulation of black money and counterfeit money.
6. **23,000 loan fraud cases in past 5 years:** Replying to an RTI, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had informed that 23,000 cases of fraud have been reported by various banks in the past five years, which involved Rs 1 lakh crore.
7. **Electoral bond:** RTI revealed that it was introduced against the consent of ECI and RBI
8. **Vyapam scam**

Positive Examples

Example	What Happened	Ethical Value Upheld
MGNREGA Social Audits – Andhra Pradesh	Social audits through RTI revealed ghost workers and misappropriation of wages. State initiated recovery and disciplinary action.	Accountability, Transparency, Justice

Example	What Happened	Ethical Value Upheld
RTI Exposing PDS Scam – Bihar (2010–2015)	Citizens filed RTIs regarding ration distribution; this led to action against dealers and reforms in PDS transparency.	<i>Public Interest, Integrity, Empowerment</i>
Rajasthan's Jan Soochna Portal (2019)	A proactive disclosure portal where citizens can access scheme-wise data without filing RTI.	<i>Proactive Transparency, Citizen Empowerment</i>
Election Funding – ADR RTI Activism	Association for Democratic Reforms used RTI to reveal MPs' criminal records and donations to political parties.	<i>Truthfulness, Democratic Accountability</i>
Pune RTI Activist – Illegal Constructions Exposed (2018)	RTI filed by citizen led to action against unauthorized constructions in Pune city.	<i>Civic Responsibility, Courage, Public Duty</i>
COVID-19 Fund Disclosures – Kerala	State proactively released fund utilization data related to COVID-19 expenses.	<i>Trust Building, Public Ethics</i>
Karnataka Sakala Services Act	Time-bound delivery of services with RTI-style transparency; citizens can track service status.	<i>Service Ethics, Efficiency, Transparency</i>

Negative Examples

Example	What Happened	Ethical Violation
PM CARES Fund – Excluded from RTI (2020)	Govt declared PM CARES as outside RTI ambit; citizens can't access info on donors or usage.	<i>Opacity, Avoidance of Accountability</i>
RTI Activists Killed (90+ since 2005)	Activists like Satish Shetty (Maharashtra), Amit Jethwa (Gujarat) were murdered for exposing land and mining scams.	<i>Violation of Right to Truth and Life, State Inaction</i>
RTI Amendment Act 2019	Govt amended law to remove fixed tenure & pay parity of Information Commissioners. Seen as weakening independence.	<i>Dilution of Institutional Integrity</i>
Delay in Disposal – CIC & SICs	Over 2.9 lakh RTI cases pending. In Maharashtra & UP, delays range from 6 months to 2 years.	<i>Justice Delayed, Denial of Right to Information</i>
Opacity in Electoral Bonds	Despite RTI queries, Govt refused to reveal names of donors and beneficiaries. Supreme Court later struck it down.	<i>Conflict of Interest, Electoral Opacity</i>
Denial of RTI on Pegasus Surveillance (2021)	Govt declined to provide details on spyware procurement under national security, undermining public accountability.	<i>Suppression of Truth in Name of Security</i>
Private Entities Using Public Funds Not Under RTI	NGOs and PPPs receiving govt grants are not fully brought under RTI, despite court orders.	<i>Non-disclosure, Evasion of Oversight</i>

RTI ACTIVISTS UNDER THREAT

1. RTI Activists Killed (2005–2024):

- More than 100 RTI activists have been killed since 2005.
- Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar lead in such incidents (CHRI & SNS, 2024).

2. High-Profile Cases:

- **Satish Shetty (Pune, 2010):** Murdered after exposing land scams.
- **Amit Jethwa (Gujarat, 2010):** Exposed illegal mining; killed outside Gujarat HC.
- **Nutan Thakur & IPS Amitabh Thakur:** Faced severe harassment after filing RTIs and exposing misconduct in UP.

3. Threats & Harassment:

- A survey by *Satark Nagrik Sangathan* (2023) found that **1 in 4 RTI users** reported threats or harassment.

FINE IMPOSED

1. The Orissa high court has imposed a penalty of Rs 50,000 on a social activist for filing a "frivolous petition" over in 2023.
2. Pardarshita public welfare foundation, NGO was fined 75k by Delhi HC like sexual history of two engineers.

STEPS TO PROTECT RTI ACTIVISTS

A. Legal and Policy Reforms

1. Operationalise Whistle Blowers Protection Act (WBPA), 2014:

- Notify the rules.
- Ensure that RTI users are *explicitly included* as whistleblowers.

2. Amend the RTI Act:

- Introduce a provision for **anonymity of applicants** in sensitive cases (via Information Commissioners or Lokayuktas).

3. Fast-Track Protection Mechanism:

- Create *Whistleblower Protection Cells* under State/Central Vigilance Commissions and Lokayuktas.
- Ensure **police protection within 48 hours** of threat reporting.

4. Strengthen Penalties for Retaliation:

- Amend IPC to add **specific punishment** for attacks on RTI applicants.

Challenges

Challenge	Ethical Impact
No legal linkage between RTI and whistleblower protection	Leaves RTI users vulnerable to retaliation.
Slow implementation of the 2014 Whistleblower Act	Creates legal vacuum despite acknowledgment of risk.
Lack of institutional support	No dedicated protection mechanism like in Lokpal or Vigilance bodies.
State apathy or complicity	Police often delay investigation in attacks on RTI activists.
No anonymity option	Every RTI applicant must disclose personal identity, increasing exposure to threats.

B. Administrative and Institutional Measures

1. **Proactive Disclosures under Section 4 of RTI Act:**
 - Reduce need for risky RTI filings by mandating full public disclosures of all key schemes, tenders, decisions, and expenditures.
2. **Integration with Digital Portals:**
 - Platforms like *Jan Soochna Portal (Rajasthan)*, *AP's e-Repository*, and *Karnataka's Sakala* reduce the need for individual RTIs.
3. **Whistleblower Helplines:**
 - Dedicated **toll-free number** or *secure web portal* to report threats, accessible even anonymously.

C. Ethical and Societal Approach

1. **Public Recognition:**
 - Annual **RTI Bravery Awards** (by NGOs like National Campaign for People's Right to Information) should be institutionalised by government.
2. **Community Support Models:**
 - RTI collectives or *group filings* to reduce targeting of individuals (used effectively in Rajasthan and Maharashtra).
3. **Ethics in Governance Training:**
 - Training for public officials to treat RTI applicants as **partners in good governance**, not as adversaries.

List of best practices for pro-active disclosure

1. Rajasthan: jan suchana portal/ Jan Sunwai & Social Audit
2. Maharashtra: Project SARATHI
3. Bihar: "JAANKARI"-A Facilitation Centre
4. Gujarat: RTI on Wheels
5. E-Jan Sampark Project, Chandigarh

Ethical Theories & Justification

- **Gandhian Ethics:** "It is not enough to be honest, one must be seen as honest." RTI activists carry forward Gandhi's idea of satyagraha in modern governance.
- **Kantian Ethics:** Speaking truth and exposing wrong is a **categorical duty**, irrespective of consequences.
- **Rawls' Theory of Justice:** Protection of vulnerable truth-tellers upholds **fairness and systemic justice**.
- **Utilitarianism:** Protecting whistleblowers benefits the **larger public** by deterring corruption.

FRIVOLOUS CASES

- **CIC Report (2023):** Nearly 7–10% of all RTI applications are potentially **frivolous or vexatious**.
- **Satark Nagrik Sangathan Survey (2022):**
 - 42% of officials said they faced **abusive or harassing queries** under RTI.
 - 29% reported that RTI was used to **settle personal scores**.
- **Case: Tamil Nadu (2019):** An RTI applicant filed **180+ applications in 6 months** against a single official demanding personal files, with no public interest angle.

Consequences of RTI Harassment

Issue	Impact on Governance
Demoralisation of Officials	Especially those acting against entrenched corruption or inefficiency.
Pendency and Delays	Genuine RTI queries get delayed due to volume of non-serious applications.
Retaliation	Some officers start avoiding tough decisions to avoid being targeted.
Institutional Distrust	Weakens official morale and reduces willingness to disclose.

Steps to Prevent Harassment of Public Officials

A. Legal and Procedural Reforms

1. **Screening Mechanism by Information Commissions**
 - Empower ICs to dismiss **repetitive or frivolous queries** under a defined standard (with safeguards for public interest).
 - Supreme Court in *CBSE v. Aditya Bandopadhyay* (2011) observed that “**RTI is not a tool for blackmail or harassment.**”
2. **Amend RTI Rules to Define 'Vexatious Queries'**
 - Provide clear **criteria** for identifying misuse (e.g., number, volume, intent).
 - Allow officials to seek exemption or redaction for sensitive personal information unrelated to public duty.
3. **Grievance Redress for Officials**
 - Create institutional mechanisms where officers can report RTI-based harassment, reviewed by independent panels.

B. Administrative Reforms

1. **Mandatory Section 4 Compliance (Proactive Disclosure)**
 - If information is already public, no RTI is needed.
 - E.g., Rajasthan's **Jan Soochna Portal**, Delhi's **RTI Dashboard**.
2. **Centralised RTI Filing Tracker**
 - Track abusive filers and cross-department filings to detect patterns.
3. **Training of RTI Officers & Citizens**
 - Public education on ethical use of RTI.
 - Civil servants trained on **balancing transparency with confidentiality**.

Philosophical Linkages

- **Aristotle – Virtue Ethics:** Justice lies in the middle path — neither suppressing RTI nor tolerating its misuse.
- **Kant – Duty Ethics:** Public servants have a duty to respond, but not to tolerate unethical targeting.
- **John Stuart Mill – Harm Principle:** Freedom to seek information must not cause **undue harm to others**.
- **Mahatma Gandhi:** “A right exercised without responsibility is a threat to liberty.”

Conclusion

“Information is the oxygen of democracy—but even oxygen can become toxic if misused.”

The **ethical legitimacy** of RTI lies in its **just use**. Protecting honest officials from harassment is not **opposed to transparency**, but an **essential element of good governance**. RTI must evolve from being a mere legal right to a **morally guided civic tool**.

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT AND RTI

Context

- **Official Secrets Act, 1923 (OSA)** – Colonial-era legislation to protect official information, especially related to national security, espionage, and public order.
- **Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI)** – Empowers citizens to seek information from public authorities to promote transparency and accountability.
- **Conflict** – RTI promotes disclosure; OSA enforces secrecy. Tension arises when public interest demands transparency, but government invokes OSA.

Key Legal Provisions in Conflict

OSA, 1923	RTI, 2005
Sections 3, 5, 8 – Punish possession, communication, or publication of “secret” official information.	Section 22 – RTI overrides OSA in case of inconsistency, except where Section 8 exemptions apply.

OSA, 1923	RTI, 2005
“Secrecy” undefined → wide scope for interpretation.	Section 8(1)(a) – Allows denial of info if it prejudices sovereignty, security, or relations with foreign states.
No public interest override.	Section 8(2) – Allows disclosure if public interest outweighs harm to protected interest.

Why Conflicts Arise

1. **Colonial Legacy of Secrecy** – OSA designed to suppress dissent and control information flow.
2. **Vague Definitions** – “Official secret” undefined; wide bureaucratic discretion.
3. **Culture of Confidentiality** – Many officials prefer to err on the side of secrecy to avoid legal risk.
4. **Overlapping Domains** – Both laws touch on defence, foreign affairs, and internal security.
5. **Lack of Harmonisation** – No statutory list of information that must remain classified vs what must be disclosed.

Cases Where Secrecy Prevailed

Case	Year	Core Issue	Reason Secrecy Won
Henderson Brooks–Bhagat Report	1963–present	Inquiry into 1962 Sino-India war failures.	Still withheld citing OSA & national security (RTI Sec 8(1)(a)).
Army Court of Inquiry Reports	Ongoing	RTI requests for internal military mishap inquiries.	Withheld under OSA + RTI Sec 8(1)(a) to protect operational details.
ISRO Espionage Case Files	1994	Access to internal investigation papers.	Denied on grounds of sensitive security & diplomatic implications.
Surgical Strikes Videos	2016	Proof of military operation.	Withheld citing risk to security and revealing operational tactics.
Nuclear Submarine Arihant Docs	2018	Safety/environmental clearance files.	Denied under RTI Sec 8(1)(a) – strategic defence project.

Cases Where Transparency Prevailed

Aspect	OSA, 1923	RTI Act, 2005	Conflict in Practice	Case Law & Outcome
Purpose	Protect national security, defence secrets, foreign relations.	Promote transparency & accountability.	Secrecy vs disclosure.	<i>SP Gupta v Union of India</i> (1981) – SC recognised people’s right to know as fundamental, limiting blanket secrecy.
Key Provision	Sec 3, 5 – Penalise possession/communication of “secret” documents.	Sec 22 – RTI overrides OSA unless exempt under Sec 8.	Officials often deny RTI citing OSA even when public interest is high.	<i>CBSE v Aditya Bandopadhyay</i> (2011) – SC favoured disclosure unless exempt under Sec 8(1).

Aspect	OSA, 1923	RTI Act, 2005	Conflict in Practice	Case Law & Outcome
Definition Issues	“Official secret” not defined; broad discretion.	Specific exemptions in Sec 8(1) (a)–(j).	OSA gives wide scope; RTI limits exemptions.	<i>Rafale Deal Case</i> (Yashwant Sinha v CBI, 2019) – Govt claimed OSA breach; SC allowed use of leaked docs in public interest.
Public Interest Override	None.	Sec 8(2) – Allows disclosure if public interest outweighs harm.	OSA lacks override; RTI prioritises public interest.	<i>Subhash Chandra Agarwal v Office of AGI</i> (2019) – SC said transparency prevails over secrecy if larger public interest served.
Corruption Cases	OSA often invoked to block info on defence/procurement.	RTI promotes disclosure in corruption cases.	Clash when corruption is alleged in security-linked deals.	<i>Bofors Case</i> – Govt cited OSA; media & courts pushed for disclosure in public interest.
Security & Defence	Any unauthorised disclosure punishable, even if no harm caused.	Exemption only if harm to security/sovereignty proven.	Defence files withheld under OSA even for historic events.	<i>Army Court of Inquiry RTI Cases</i> – Denials upheld citing Sec 8(1)(a) + OSA.
Judicial Approach	Historically upheld secrecy claims.	Progressive recognition of RTI as constitutional right.	Courts balance secrecy with need to prevent misuse.	<i>Manohar Parrikar v State of Goa</i> (2014) – RTI disclosure ordered despite OSA claim; no harm to security found.

Key Observations from Case Laws

1. **SC Consistently Backs Public Interest in Corruption Cases** – Rafale, Bofors, 2G Spectrum.
2. **RTI Overrides OSA in Law (Sec 22)** – But in practice, bureaucratic culture still favours secrecy.

3. **Public Interest Override is Critical** – Courts use Sec 8(2) RTI to pierce secrecy.

4. **Lack of Clear Definition in OSA** – Main reason for conflict; enables over-classification.

“The test must be: Does secrecy serve the nation, or merely shield the government? In a democracy, the latter is unacceptable.” – Adapted from 2nd ARC

Mixed Outcomes (Partial Transparency)

Case / Incident	Year	Notes
Lokpal Selection Committee Records	2019	Some minutes disclosed, sensitive deliberations withheld citing RTI Sec 8(1)(i).
Defence Procurement Policy Files	Various	Technical specs withheld, financial and procedural parts released.
PM CARES Fund RTI Requests	2020–21	Govt denied info claiming fund not a public authority; later some voluntary disclosures on website.

Ethical Angles from These Cases

- **Kantian View** – Truth and transparency are moral duties, except when harm to nation or lives is foreseeable.
- **Utilitarian View** – Disclosure justified when benefits (e.g., exposing corruption) outweigh risks to security.
- **Gandhian View** – “Truth is God”; secrecy must never be used to shield wrongdoing.
- **2nd ARC View** – “Maximum disclosure, minimum exemptions” should be guiding principle.

Proposed Solutions & Reforms

Legislative Reform

- **Amend OSA** to clearly define “secret” information in line with national security needs.
- Replace OSA with a **National Security Information Protection Act** (as suggested by Second ARC, 2006) with precise classification guidelines.

Harmonisation with RTI

- Explicitly align OSA exemptions with **RTI Section 8(1)**, so secrecy is not broader than RTI’s exemption framework.
- Mandatory **public interest override** in secrecy law, as in RTI Section 8(2).

Institutional Measures

- **Periodic Declassification** – Adopt a time-bound declassification policy (e.g., 25-year rule like UK).
- **Independent Oversight** – National Information Commission or Parliamentary Committee to review secrecy claims.

Capacity Building

- **Training for Officials** on balancing transparency with security.
- Awareness campaigns for citizens about permissible exemptions.

Ethical Framework

- **Transparency vs Security: Rawls’ *Publicity Principle*** – governance must be open unless secrecy is essential for justice/security.
- **Utilitarianism**: If disclosure prevents larger harm (e.g., corruption, loss of public trust), it should prevail.
- **Kantian Ethics**: Withholding information to conceal wrongdoing violates categorical imperative of truthfulness.

Suitable Quotes

- **Justice P.N. Bhagwati** – “Open government is the new democratic culture of an open society towards which every nation is moving.”
- **Thomas Jefferson** – “Information is the currency of democracy.”
- **ARC (2nd)** – “Secrecy should be the exception, transparency the norm.”

CONFIDENTIALITY VS. SECRECY

Definitions

- **Confidentiality** – Ethical/legal duty to protect sensitive information **shared in trust**, and disclose only to authorised persons, usually for legitimate purposes.
- **Secrecy** – Act of intentionally withholding information from others, often **without their knowledge**; may be for protection, but can also be to hide wrongdoing.

Key Differences

Aspect	Confidentiality	Secrecy
Nature	Protective obligation, often mutual and consensual.	Withholding information unilaterally.
Purpose	Protect privacy, security, or legitimate interest.	Hide information for strategic, personal, or organisational reasons.

Aspect	Confidentiality	Secrecy
Ethical Basis	Rooted in trust, professional ethics, legal agreements.	Can be ethical (national security) or unethical (concealing corruption).
Scope	Limited to specific information shared in trust.	Broad, can include entire processes or facts.
Time Frame	Often time-bound; may expire when risk ends.	May be indefinite.
Public Interest	Balances privacy with larger public interest.	May ignore public interest if secrecy is absolute.
Transparency Link	Compatible with transparency when exceptions are justified.	Often in tension with transparency.

Examples

➤ Confidentiality

- Doctor–patient medical records.
- Personal data under **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**.
- Cabinet deliberations before a policy is finalised.

➤ Secrecy

- Withholding Henderson Brooks–Bhagat report on 1962 war for decades.
- Concealing corruption in defence deals under the guise of “national security.”
- Suppressing accident investigation findings to avoid political backlash.

Ethical Perspectives

- **Kantian Ethics:** Confidentiality is a duty; secrecy is acceptable only if consistent with moral law.

- **Utilitarianism:** Confidentiality is justified if it maximises welfare; secrecy is justified if harm from disclosure outweighs public good.
- **Gandhian Ethics:** Truthfulness should prevail; secrecy must not protect injustice.

➤ Ethical Justification:

- **Kantian duty** to honour trust.
- **Rule of law** compliance (e.g., DPDP Act, 2023; Official Secrets Act for certain classified info).
- Enhances integrity and professionalism in service.

CITIZEN'S CHARTER

“A customer is the most important visitor on our premises, he is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption in our work. He is the purpose of it. We are not doing him a favor by serving him. He is doing us a favor by giving us an opportunity to do so.” Mahatma Gandhi.

The Citizen's Charter is a formal, voluntary declaration by government organizations, outlining their commitment to deliver specific services with clear standards, timelines, and mechanisms for grievance redressal. It was introduced in 1991(UK) and in India in 1997.

The **6 Principles of the Citizen's Charter**, as outlined in the **UK Model and adopted widely including in India**, are:

1. Quality

- **Meaning:** Delivering services of the highest possible **standard and efficiency** to meet citizen expectations.
- **Example:** ISO certification in public services like **Passport Seva Kendra** to ensure quality benchmarks.

2. Choice

- **Meaning:** Providing **options and alternatives** to citizens wherever possible in the services offered.

- **Example:** Options in payment methods (digital, cash, etc.) for public utility bills.

3. Standards

- **Meaning:** Defining **clear, published standards of service** that citizens can expect, including timelines and outcomes.
- **Example:** RTPS (Right to Public Services) Act in states like Madhya Pradesh, specifying service delivery timeframes.

4. Value for Money

- **Meaning:** Ensuring that services are provided **efficiently, cost-effectively**, and with proper utilization of public funds.
- **Example:** Jan Aushadhi Scheme offers affordable medicines, ensuring value for money to citizens.

5. Accountability

- **Meaning:** Public agencies are held **responsible for their service performance**, with mechanisms for redressal in case of failure.
- **Example:** Compensation provisions under the **Public Service Guarantee Acts** for delayed services.

6. Transparency

- **Meaning:** Service procedures, criteria, and performance should be **open and accessible** to citizens to build trust and prevent corruption.
- **Example:** RTI Act, 2005 institutionalizes transparency across public offices.

These values have shifted the paradigm of governance in India from a supply-driven, opaque system to a more citizen-centric, demand-driven, and ethical model:

- **Citizen empowerment:** By clearly stating

service entitlements and standards, citizens are empowered to demand their rights and hold authorities accountable.

- **For example, Right to Public Service Acts (various states)** inspired by the Charter's principles, legally mandate timely delivery of public services and penalize delays, further institutionalizing accountability.

- **Moral commitment:** The Charter acts as a public promise, raising the ethical bar for government conduct and fostering a culture of service rather than authority. **It ensures dignity of people and ease of living (Social Contract).**

- **For example, Indian Railways Citizen Charter** provides details about timelines for ticket bookings, refunds, and complaint redressal, ensuring punctuality, cleanliness, and safety for passengers.

- **Restoration of trust:** By making service commitments explicit and enforceable through grievance mechanisms, the Charter helps restore public faith in government institutions. **For instance, present government talk about "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishvas".**

Ethical Analysis

Ethical Principle	Citizen's Charter Contribution
Transparency	Clearly defined services and timelines inform citizens.
Accountability	Provides standards to hold officials accountable.
Responsiveness	Enables grievance redress and feedback mechanisms.
Inclusivity	If made available in regional languages & accessible formats.
Integrity & Duty	Builds a culture of service, responsiveness, and trust.

Best Practices:

1. Passport Seva Project – Ministry of External Affairs

- **Impact:** Average time for passport delivery reduced from **30 days to under 7 days**.
- **Features:** Online application, public tracking, timelines specified in charter.
- **Grievance redress:** Online portal, call centre, and public feedback integration.
- **Result:** MEA was rated highly in *DARPG's 2019 Good Governance Index*.

Ethics Link: promotes *accountability, transparency, and service delivery efficiency*.

2. Delhi Jal Board (DJB)

- DJB's Citizen's Charter (2021) explicitly specifies:
 - ✓ Connection timelines (7–15 days),
 - ✓ Complaint redress (within 24–48 hrs),
 - ✓ Water quality parameters.
- Public dashboards available.
- **Result:** Grievances dropped by over **38%** between 2020–22 (Delhi Govt. annual reports).

Ethics Link: Empowers citizens with *right to information and recourse*.

3. Himachal Pradesh Revenue Department

- Citizen's Charter displayed in **local languages** at Panchayat and Patwari levels.
- Common Services Centres (CSCs) linked with revenue services.
- Monitoring via District e-Governance Society (DeGS).

Ethics Link: Promotes *accessibility, inclusivity, and proactive disclosure*.

4. Indian Railways – Southern Railway Zone

- Charter lays out ticket refund timelines, cleanliness schedules, catering standards.

- Grievance redress via **Rail Madad App** with average response time of **< 2 days**.
- Positive feedback from IRCTC's *2023 Annual Passenger Survey*.

Ethics Link: Ensures *quality of service, citizen-centricity*.

Worst Practices

1. Lack of Legal Backing and Enforceability

- As of 2024, there is **no law mandating Citizen's Charter** compliance in India.
- No penalties for delay or non-fulfilment of services.

Ethical Concern: Undermines *accountability*; mere symbolic governance.

2. Generic, Non-Measurable Charters

- CAG Audit (2017-18) on CPWD found that 57% of Citizen's Charters:
 - ✓ Did not specify timelines clearly.
 - ✓ Were full of jargon or unachievable targets.
- **Example:** Municipalities in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar displayed vague charters like “We aim to serve better,” without timelines.

Ethical Concern: Violates *transparency*, encourages *moral tokenism*.

3. Lack of Awareness Among Citizens

- DARPG Report (2021): Over 68% of citizens surveyed in rural districts of Odisha and MP had never seen or heard of Citizen's Charters in their local offices.
- No display boards in local languages.

Ethical Concern: Breach of *right to information, non-inclusive* administration.

4. Poor Grievance Redress Linkage

- **State Health Departments** in Rajasthan, UP, and Chhattisgarh had charters in hospitals but **no working complaint system** (NHSRC Evaluation, 2020).
- No follow-up mechanism or user feedback loop.

Ethical Concern: Breach of *responsiveness* and *duty of care*.

5. Lack of Ownership by Employees

- **DoPT study (2022):** Found that in over **50% of departments**, employees were **not trained** on what's in their own charter.
- Some even viewed it as “extra paperwork.”

Ethical Concern: Lack of *moral commitment* to public service.

Despite its promise, the Citizen's Charter in India faces challenges:

- **Lack of legal enforceability:** Most charters are not legally binding, limiting their effectiveness in compelling compliance.
- **Weak implementation:** In many cases, charters are not widely publicized, and frontline staff may be unaware of their provisions, reducing their practical impact.
- **Limited citizen awareness:** Many citizens remain unaware of their rights under the Charter, hindering its ability to drive accountability.
- **Inadequate monitoring:** Absence of robust monitoring and feedback mechanisms undermines the Charter's potential to improve service delivery.

Suggestions to Improve Ethical Effectiveness

1. **Legal Backing** – Enact a “Right to Public Services” law (like MP, Karnataka, Bihar already have).
2. **SMART Charter Design** – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound.
3. **Display & Digital Access** – Ensure physical display + online accessibility + regional languages.
4. **Link to Performance Appraisal** – Tie charter compliance to officer evaluation (ethical incentivisation).
5. **Social Audits** – Citizen verification of charter implementation.

CONCLUSION

By embedding transparency, accountability, and citizen-centricity into public administration, Citizen's Charter has made governments more answerable and moral in their conduct. “**A customer is the most important visitor on our premises, he is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption in our work. He is the purpose of it. We are not doing him a favor by serving him. He is doing us a favor by giving us an opportunity to do so.**” Mahatma Gandhi.

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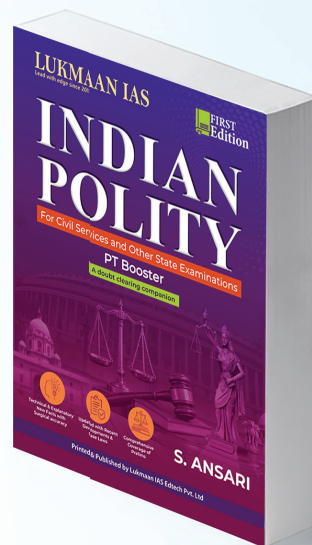


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RTSA BY STATES

RTSA BY STATES

Best Practices

➤ Facts & Observations

- As of 2024, **22 states and 2 UTs** have enacted RTS Acts.
- Many RTS platforms have merged with **Digital India and e-Governance portals**, but uniformity in service quality is **missing**.
- **NITI Aayog's Evaluation (2020):**
 - ✓ "RTS has improved efficiency in progressive states like Karnataka and MP"
 - ✓ "But enforcement mechanisms and citizen awareness remain weak in most backward states."

1. Karnataka Sakala Services Act

- **Overview:** Enacted 2011; offers time-bound delivery of services across departments via an IT system. Citizens receive a **Guarantee of Services to Citizen (GSC)** number to track applications.
- **Performance:**
 - ✓ By April 2014, over **46 million applications** received across all 6.12 crore citizens.
 - ✓ In July 2025, **Vijayanagara district achieved a 98.7% on-time disposal rate**, processing 84,904 out of 85,978 applications within stipulated timeframe—despite being a new district with limited infrastructure.
- **Why It Works:**
 - ✓ Strong **IT-enabled monitoring, accountability, and incentivized officer performance**.
 - ✓ Demonstrates service ethics : **transparency, responsiveness, and public accountability**.

2. Punjab Right to Service Act, 2011

- **Adoption:** Based on recommendations by Punjab Governance Reforms Commission (PGRC), the state notified **351 services** and created **Unified Citizen Service Delivery Centres (UCSDCs)** across districts.
- **Outcomes:**
 - ✓ Established Suvidha and Saanjh Kendras for service delivery.
 - ✓ Awarded **Best Governance Practice** by the Government of India for abolishing non-statutory affidavits.
- **Ethical Impact:** Promotes **dignity, ease of access, and citizen-first governance**.

3. Madhya Pradesh – Public Services Guarantee Act, 2010

- **First state** to enact an RTS Act in India.
- Over **52 public services** covered by 2023 (e.g., birth certificates, caste certificates, ration cards).
- By 2022, over **1.8 crore applications** processed under the Act.
- **Digital Dashboard** used for real-time tracking of service delivery performance.
- **Penalties imposed:** Over ₹1.9 crore recovered from officials for delay in services (2021–22).

Ethical Merit: Enforced *accountability* through penalties and strengthened *citizen trust* in governance.

4. Maharashtra – RTS Act, 2015

- Over **400 services** notified under 50+ departments.
- **Digital RTI/RTS platform** (Aaple Sarkar Portal) operational; integrates with grievance redressal.
- Between 2016–2023, **more than 6 crore applications** processed.

- **Appellate mechanism:** Second appellate authority can penalize officers ₹500–5000 for unjustified delays.

Ethical Link: Promotes *transparency, fair treatment, and citizen empowerment.*

5. Odisha – Mo Sarkar & RTS Integration (2019–Present)

- **Mo Sarkar** initiative links feedback directly from citizens via random calls/ SMS after availing services.
- Government officials evaluated on citizen feedback.
- **Impact (2023):** Drop in average complaint resolution time by 48% in police and health departments.

Ethical Edge: Encourages *empathy, responsiveness, and a citizen-first mindset.*

WORST PRACTICES & CHALLENGES

1. Bihar & Madhya Pradesh (Empirical Analysis)

- **Key Findings:**
 - ✓ Implementation relies on ad-hoc contract workers, not regular civil servants—raising sustainability concerns.
 - ✓ Monetary penalties for delays are rarely triggered; enforcement remains weak.
- **Ethical Concern:** Over-reliance on punitive measures without systemic support erodes morale and limits effectiveness.

2. Kerala's RTS Act (2012)

- **Assessment:** While the Act introduced timelines and penalties, **administrative inertia** and resistance hindered full realisation.
- **Ethical Concern:** Without cultural and bureaucratic buy-in, even well-intended reforms fail—highlighting the prime importance of **institutional integrity** and **ethical culture**.

3. Uttar Pradesh

- **RTS notified in 2011**, but has **very low public awareness and coverage**.
- As of 2022, only **20+ services** actively covered; no real-time grievance tracking.
- No penalties reported since 2015; backlog of pending applications in rural blocks.

Ethical Issue: Absence of *transparency, ineffectiveness in citizen redress, and failure of moral responsiveness.*

4. Jharkhand

- **Jharkhand Right to Guarantee of Services Act, 2011** enacted but poorly implemented.
- No **dedicated portal** or dashboard available publicly.
- 2019 CAG Report: *"Implementation in most districts is symbolic and lacks functional grievance redressal systems."*

Ethical Gap: Fails in *moral accountability and just delivery of services.*

Summary Table

State	Best Practice	Empirical Highlight	Ethical Principle
Karnataka (Sakala)	IT-enabled, high compliance rates	Vijayanagara – 98.7% on-time in July 2025	Transparency, accountability
Punjab	Unified delivery centres; reforms eliminated affidavits	Notified 351 services; Award for governance	Access, dignity, citizen empowerment

State	Best Practice	Empirical Highlight	Ethical Principle
Bihar/MP	Weak enforcement; contractor reliance	Penalties unused; unsustainable staffing	Institutional weakness
Kerala	Reform but cultural resistance	Administrative inertia persists	Ethical culture lacking

Conclusion

Right to Services Acts are powerful tools for **moral public administration**—they embed **legally enforceable accountability**, **citizen focus**, and **transparency**. However, their ethical success hinges on **technological systems** (like in Karnataka), **institutional reform** (Punjab), and a supportive **bureaucratic culture**—not merely on legislation. Failures often stem from enforcement gaps, temporary staffing, or lack of administrative will.

Questions

- “Right to Services is a moral innovation in public administration, but not yet a governance revolution. Examine.”
- “Discuss the ethical and administrative implications of poor implementation of Right to Services Acts in backward states.”
- “How do Right to Services Acts promote probity, transparency, and citizen-centricity in administration? Substantiate with empirical examples.”

SOCIAL AUDIT

Definition: Social audit aims to measure, understand, and improve an organization's social and ethical standing- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Social audits enhance local governance by making public bodies more accountable and transparent, thereby building public trust.

It has become a method to promote collective accountability at grassroots for ethical governance. According to **Indian Institute of Rural Development and PRIs**, in 2018-19, **63% panchayats did social audit**.

A **social audit** is a **citizen-led process of scrutiny, verification, and evaluation** of government

schemes, especially in rural development and welfare delivery. It promotes **transparency**, **accountability**, and **ethical governance**.

Ethical Values Promoted

Ethical Principle	How Social Audit Advances It
Transparency	Uncovers irregularities & fake claims.
Accountability	Fixes responsibility for wrongdoing.
Justice	Ensures benefits reach the deserving.
Integrity	Prevents moral decay in public officials.
Empowerment	Gives voice to marginalised communities.

Legal & Policy Framework

- **Statutory Backing:** Section 17(1) of **MGNREGA Act, 2005** mandates social audits.
- **CAG Guidelines (2016):** Institutional framework through **Social Audit Units (SAUs)** in states.
- **Audited Schemes:** MGNREGA, PMAY-G, NSAP, PM-POSHAN, and PDS in many states.

Good Practices

1. Andhra Pradesh – The Gold Standard

- **Institutional Setup:** Separate **independent SAU**, 1,000+ trained resource persons.
- **Coverage:** By 2022, **100% of gram panchayats covered** under MGNREGA social audit.
- **Impact:**

✓ ₹300+ crore in wage frauds detected (2010–2020).

✓ 40,000+ officials fined or warned.

- **Outcome:** Transparency improved; **World Bank** and **CAG** praised the model.

Ethical Value: Promotes *public accountability, integrity* and *truthful governance*.

2. Meghalaya – Community Engagement Model

- **Unique Practice:** Village elders and SHGs trained as social auditors.
- **Focus:** Natural Resource Management works under MGNREGA.
- **Result:** Greater local acceptance and fewer conflicts.

Ethical Merit: Enhances *trust, inclusivity*, and *moral autonomy* of communities.

Empirical Data (as of June 2025)

1. National Social Audit Performance

- In FY 2024–25, social audits across India flagged over **₹193 crore** in potential misappropriation under MGNREGA, but only **₹10.29 crore** (about 5%) was recovered. Over **149,000 cases** remained unresolved.

2. Andhra Pradesh—Continued Leadership

- Since 2020, Andhra Pradesh's social audits have identified **₹19 crore** in embezzlement and resulted in action against **38,000 officials**.
- A World Bank study noted that social audit significantly improved beneficiary awareness—from about 30% to nearly 99%, and increased delivery efficiency from ~60% to ~97%.

3. Rajasthan—State-Level Planning in Motion

- Rajasthan's **Social Audit Calendar for 2025–26** shows phased audits scheduled district-wide as of June 2025, reflecting a structured and proactive implementation approach.

4. Innovative Formats Beyond MGNREGA

- **Uttar Pradesh** launched a **social audit of primary schools**, targeting 1.33 lakh institutions over 5 years, with the first 20% audited by March 2025.
- **Haryana** is reconstituting School Management Committees (SMCs) and implementing a **social audit for FY 2026**, involving joint community forums (“Sanji Sabha”) in schools with at least 50% parent participation.

5. Social Audits Beyond Traditional Spheres

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the “**V Mitra**” **mobile app** allows citizens to report power theft or connectivity discrepancies in the electricity sector—with verified users receiving rewards. Over ₹21,300 has been disbursed to 49 informants so far.

6. Critical Audit Gaps Persist

- A **CAG report (2022)** highlighted the **absence of social audit mechanisms in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Maharashtra**, grounding a governance blind spot.

Key Facts:

Parameter	Status (2023)
States with functional SAUs	27 (but only ~12 with fully independent SAUs)
Gram Panchayats with social audits (MGNREGA)	~60% nationally (MoRD, 2023)
Amount recovered through audit objections	₹500+ crore between 2010–2022 (GoI data)
Common violations found	Ghost workers, fake muster rolls, inflated bills

Bad Practices

1. Uttar Pradesh & Bihar – Incomplete Audits & Political Pressure

- **Findings (CAG, 2019):**
 - ✓ In **Bihar**, audits conducted in <20% of Gram Panchayats.
 - ✓ In **Uttar Pradesh**, SAU reports often delayed, manipulated, or not acted upon.
- **Reason:** Lack of staff, fear of political backlash, weak grievance mechanisms.

Ethical Concern: *Moral compromise, lack of institutional courage.*

2. Jharkhand – Delay & Lack of Action

- SAU not independent; controlled by Rural Development Department.
- Audit findings not uploaded on websites (RTI-based investigations, 2022).
- Delays in **social audit forums**, often cancelled due to political events.

Ethical Problem: *Opacity, bureaucratic resistance, denial of participatory justice.*

3. Maharashtra – Tokenistic Implementation

- Only ~12% of eligible GPs underwent audits (MoRD data, 2021).
- No penalties or recovery orders issued despite detection of irregularities.

Ethical Gap: *Accountability deficit, non-enforcement of moral consequences.*

The observation

- **National Misappropriation (MGNREGA):** In 2024–25, social audits across India flagged ₹193.67 crore in misappropriated funds; only ₹10.29 crore (~5.3%) was recovered. Only 10.6% of the 149,000 flagged cases were closed
- **Recoveries vs Potential:** In FY 2022–23, the identified potential recoverable amount via social audits was ₹86.2 crore—but actual recovery was only ₹18 crore

- **Awareness & Implementation Gap:** A recent study underscores that while states like Andhra Pradesh have institutionalised independent Social Audit Units (SAUs), others—like Rajasthan and Jharkhand—continue to struggle with effective follow-up and weaker civic engagement

Continuing Challenges

Low Recovery Rates: Even in top-performing states, only 5–8% of flagged misappropriated amounts are actually recuperated; Andhra Pradesh recovered just 1.74% of flagged funds, Karnataka about 8%

State-Wise Disparities: A 2023 review shows only a handful of states—Andhra Pradesh (49.7%), Telangana (40.5%) and Himachal Pradesh (45.3%)—have reached or surpassed 40% coverage of social audits across villages. Many other states lag significantly

Ethical Analysis:

Aspect	Positive Impact	Ethical Concern
Citizen Empowerment	Andhra Pradesh models show strong awareness and participation	Other states still lag, excluding voices from governance
Accountability	Practice reveals misuse and enables corrective action	Poor recovery rates undermine moral and material justice
Transparency	Public hearings and calendars (Rajasthan) promote visibility	Inconsistent follow-through diminishes trust

Suggestions for Improvement

1. **Strengthen independence of SAUs** — statutory autonomy.
2. **Actionable accountability:** Link audit findings to action and make recoveries mandatory within timeframes.

3. **Expand audits to other schemes** — e.g., PMAY, NSAP, PM-POSHAN, PDS.
4. **Use technology for transparency** — geo-tagging, mobile audit tools.
5. **Train local youth/women** — as ethical auditors for community ownership.

Conclusion: Social audits are not just financial audits—they are **moral evaluations of governance**. When empowered, they become instruments of **ethical compliance, participatory vigilance, and social justice**. India's future of governance depends not only on digital dashboards, but also on the moral courage of its citizens to demand integrity.

SOCIAL CAPITAL

Definition: It refers to the networks, relationships, norms of trust, reciprocity, and civic engagement that enable individuals and groups to work together effectively to achieve common goals—**Robert Putnam**.

"Social capital is the glue that holds societies together." – Robert Putnam

"Where trust is high, laws are fewer." – Kevin Avruch

Examples: Initiatives like **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, especially among rural women, and cooperatives such as **Amul in Gujarat** or **Kudumbashree** in Kerala, demonstrate how social capital empowers communities economically and socially.

Social capital organizations—such as NGOs, charitable trusts, and civil society groups—work to include marginalized and vulnerable groups in development processes.

Institutional Definitions

1. **World Bank (1998):** "Social capital refers to the institutions, relationships, and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interactions."
2. **OECD (2001):** "Social capital is networks together with shared norms, values, and

understandings that facilitate cooperation within or among groups."

3. **UNDP (2003):** "Social capital is the stock of trust, mutual understanding, shared values and behaviours that bind the members of human networks and communities and make cooperative action possible."

Scholarly Definitions

1. **Pierre Bourdieu:** "Social capital is the aggregate of the actual or potential resources linked to possession of a **durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships** of mutual acquaintance and recognition."
2. **Francis Fukuyama:** "Social capital is the existence of a certain set of **informal values or norms shared among members** of a group that permit cooperation."
3. **James Coleman:** "Social capital is defined by its function. It is not a single entity but a variety of different entities, with two elements in common: they all consist of some aspect of a **social structure**, and they facilitate certain actions."

Types of Social Capital:

Types	Description
Bonding	Strong ties within close groups (e.g., families, caste, kinship)
Bridging	Connections across diverse social groups (e.g., NGOs, civil society)
Linking	Vertical ties with institutions (e.g., citizen-state trust)

1. **Bonding Social Capital:** Bonding capital refers to **strong ties within close-knit, homogeneous groups**, such as family members, close friends, caste/community groups, or religious groups. It provides **emotional support, loyalty, and immediate help**, but may lead to exclusivity.

Examples:

Positive	Negative
Joint family support system in rural India	Honour killings due to rigid caste loyalty
Community-level savings in SHGs (e.g., Kudumbashree)	Khap Panchayats enforcing regressive norms
Religious charity networks (e.g., Langars in Gurudwaras)	Ghettoisation due to religious polarisation
Extended tribal kinship solidarity	Vote-bank politics based on caste-clan loyalty

“Bonding social capital is good for getting by, but not necessarily for getting ahead.” – Putnam

2. **Bridging Social Capital:** Bridging capital involves **connections across diverse social groups** — different castes, religions, regions, or income groups. It is **inclusive**, fosters **inter-community trust**, and helps in **building collective action for public good**.

Examples:

Positive	Negative (when absent)
Civil society coalitions like MKSS in Rajasthan	Communal riots due to lack of inter-group trust
Disaster relief collaboration (e.g., Kerala 2018 floods — fishermen + NGOs + Army)	Polarisation on social media reducing bridging capital
Inter-caste marriages supported by NGOs (e.g., Love Commandos)	Social boycotts in absence of cross-community bonds
Citizen forums engaging police and minorities	Urban housing societies with gated exclusion

“Bridging capital builds bridges between islands of identity.” – World Bank

3. **Linking Social Capital:** Linking capital refers to **vertical relationships** between individuals or communities and institutions (like government, NGOs, banks, police, etc.). It **connects people with power, authority, and resources**, and is crucial for **accessing services and influencing policy**.

Examples:

Positive	Negative
Tribal Gram Sabhas under PESA engaging with forest departments	Poor implementation of welfare schemes due to lack of trust (e.g., Aadhaar-based exclusion)
Digital grievance redressal portals (CPGRAMS, RTI)	Police brutality due to lack of trust in institutions (e.g., custodial deaths)
PRIs accessing centrally sponsored schemes via State linkages	Elites capturing benefits due to lack of upward linkage from poor
Aspirational District Programme – real-time data dashboards	Bureaucratic insensitivity towards vulnerable populations

“Linking capital is key for development – it allows the poor to ‘link up’ rather than just ‘bond in’ or ‘bridge across.’” – Michael Woolcock

An ethical and inclusive governance model must **promote bridging and linking capital** while **regulating excessive bonding** that breeds exclusion. *“A just society is one where all three forms of social capital reinforce democracy, not divide it.”*

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Good Practices:

Practice	Description	Impact on Governance
Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under NRLM	Over 80 lakh SHGs formed by 2025	Promoted women's empowerment, transparency in micro-credit, and participatory governance
Kudumbashree (Kerala)	Community-based women's network	Reduced poverty, improved delivery of PDS and housing schemes
Jan Sunwai (Social Audits in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh)	Community-based audit of MGNREGA	Strengthened accountability and trust in state schemes
Mawlynnong Village (Meghalaya)	Community-driven sanitation system	Village declared "cleanest in Asia" by Discover India
Pani Panchayats in Maharashtra	Collective water management	Equitable water use and reduction in conflict over resources
Gram Sabhas in tribal areas under PESA	Empowerment of Adivasi communities	Decentralized forest management and better implementation of FRA

Poor Practices:

Example	Description	Impact on Governance
Communal Riots (Delhi 2020)	Breakdown of inter-group trust and bridging capital	Governance paralysis and mistrust in police & judiciary
Manipur Conflict (2023-24)	Ethnic polarization between Meitei and Kuki communities	Loss of legitimacy of state apparatus, poor disaster relief
Mob lynching incidents	Spread of misinformation due to WhatsApp groups	Breakdown of rule of law, weakening of formal institutions
Fake News and Rumour-Mongering	Viral hate content on social media	Undermined election integrity, policy trust deficit
Caste-based exclusion in Panchayats (TN, UP)	Dominant caste control over village institutions	Exclusion of SCs/STs from local governance & welfare schemes
Corruption in SHGs (Jharkhand, parts of Bihar)	Political capture and elite dominance	Loss of trust in development schemes; decline in collective efficacy

Social Capital and Good Governance – Linkages:

Element of Good Governance	Role of Social Capital
Accountability	Community monitoring increases demand for transparency (e.g., Social Audits)
Transparency	Bridging social capital promotes open flow of information
Participation	Strong networks empower citizens to engage in policy and local governance

Element of Good Governance	Role of Social Capital
Rule of Law	Norms of reciprocity and trust reduce reliance on coercive laws
Effectiveness & Efficiency	Community involvement reduces leakages and enhances service delivery (e.g., sanitation, ration)
Inclusiveness	Bridging and linking capital helps marginalized groups to connect with the state (e.g., tribal Gram Sabhas)
Consensus-Oriented	Strong associational life facilitates collective decision-making and conflict resolution

Examples:

1. **Kerala Floods (2018)** – Civil society, fishermen groups, and religious organizations came together in rescue efforts — showcasing strong bridging and linking capital.
2. **Aspirational District Programme** – Areas with high social capital (e.g., YSR Kadapa, Gumla) showed better outcomes in education and health.
3. **COVID-19 Migrant Crisis (2020)** – Breakdown of state-community trust; social capital networks (Gurudwaras, NGOs) filled the gap.

Challenges in Harnessing Social Capital:

➤ Quotes:

- “The social fabric of a nation is as important as its economic infrastructure.” – Amartya Sen
- “Social capital is not a substitute for government, but it makes government better.” – Francis Fukuyama
- “Good governance cannot be outsourced; it is embedded in local trust and shared values.” – Elinor Ostrom

Challenge	Consequence
Parochialism	Excessive bonding can breed exclusion (e.g., caste-based bias)
Fragmentation	Political polarization reduces bridging capital

Challenge	Consequence
Digital Echo Chambers	Weakening of real-world community links
NGO Capture / Elite Domination	False representation of grassroots voices

Conclusion: Social capital is the *invisible infrastructure* of governance. It nurtures *collective trust, voluntary compliance, and community participation*, which no amount of regulation can substitute. For India’s democratic governance to be *effective, inclusive, and sustainable*, building and protecting *social capital* is as important as building roads or digital networks. **“Real strength of a nation lies not in weapons or wealth, but in the minds and hearts of its people working together”**– A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

E-GOVERNANCE AS MORAL GOVERNANCE

“Digital governance is not about convenience—it’s about conscience.” – Nirmala Sitharaman

E-governance is defined as the application of ICT to government processes, is not merely a technological reform—it is an **ethical necessity** in a democracy. It promotes good governance values like **transparency, accountability, efficiency, and inclusivity**.

The Ethical Dimensions of E-Governance

- **Transparency & Probity:** Real-time digital disclosure reduces corruption and discretion.

➤ **Examples:**

- a) **Jan Soochna Portal (Rajasthan)** provides village-level data on welfare schemes, ensuring public monitoring.
- b) **Karnataka's Mahiti Kanaja** allows citizens to track government expenditure at the panchayat level.

“Transparency is the currency of trust in public life.” – Narendra Modi

- **Accountability & Auditability:** Digital systems leave audit trails, enabling performance tracking and grievance redressal.

Example: PM Gati Shakti Portal integrates 16 ministries to monitor infrastructure delivery, holding departments accountable for delays.

- **Inclusiveness and Equity:** E-governance can bridge gaps of caste, gender, geography and language, promoting **social justice**.

➤ **Examples:**

- a) **Meri Pehchaan (2023)** unified login system enables rural users to access over 200 government services without intermediaries.
- b) **Digital India Bhashini Mission** promotes **AI-based multilingual translation**, ensuring linguistic equity in digital services.

“When we design for the last person, we design with empathy.” – Nandan Nilekani

- **Responsiveness & Citizen-Centricity:** Instant access and grievance mechanisms make governance more humane.

➤ **Examples:**

- a) **CPGRAMS 2.0 (2023)** introduced language-based auto-categorisation and AI-assisted routing to improve grievance redress timelines.
- b) **Mitr Portal (Meghalaya)** offers AI-based chatbots for citizens in tribal languages.

Challenges of e-governance:

Issue	Ethical Risk
Digital divide	Excludes poor, elderly, tribals, women
Surveillance overreach	Violates privacy and autonomy
Data misuse or leaks	Breaches trust and confidentiality
Techno-bureaucratic bias	Ignores citizen feedback and emotional sensitivity

Example: Aadhaar exclusion errors in PDS and pensions—highlighted in Jharkhand and Rajasthan—caused distress to vulnerable groups.

“Technology without compassion can be tyranny in disguise.”

Way Forward: Making E-Governance More Ethical

Actionable Reforms	Ethical Benefit
AI ethics frameworks in governance	Prevents bias and misuse of automation
Citizen charters with e-tracking	Strengthens service accountability
Digital literacy and mobile outreach	Reduces inequality and expands access
Data Protection Act enforcement	Upholds privacy and informational dignity
Human-in-loop AI models	Ensures empathy and discretion in service

Example: IndiaAI Mission (2024) includes an AI Ethics Centre to ensure responsible use of AI in government decision-making.

Conclusion: E-governance is not just a **technological solution**—it is a **moral commitment** to make governance more **accessible, fair, and responsive**. When designed ethically, it upholds the spirit of *seva* (service), not just *sankhya* (numbers). **“The soul of governance lies not in the server room, but in the service it delivers.”**

DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT, 2023

This Act provides a legal framework to protect personal digital data of individuals and regulate its use by governments and private entities.

1. It upholds the Principle of Autonomy & Informed Consent

- **Ethical Principle:** *Respect for persons* and their right to self-determination
- The Act mandates that personal data be processed **only with the individual's explicit, informed consent** (Section 6).

2. Accountability of Data Fiduciaries

- **Ethical Principle:** *Responsibility and answerability* for actions
- The Act introduces **duties for data fiduciaries**, including:
 - ✓ Limiting purpose of data use
 - ✓ Ensuring data security
 - ✓ Addressing grievances
- **Significant Data Fiduciaries** have extra obligations like appointing Data Protection Officers.

Ethically ensures that those who collect data are custodians, not owners.

3. Right to Fairness, Grievance Redressal, and Correction

- **Ethical Principle:** *Justice and fairness*
- Data Principals (individuals) have rights to:
 - ✓ Access information about data processing
 - ✓ Correct or erase their data
 - ✓ Seek grievance redressal

Aligns with ethical principle of fairness in relationships between individuals and institutions.

4. Data Minimization and Purpose Limitation

- **Ethical Principle:** *Proportionality*

- Data should be collected only as much as necessary and used only for the stated purpose.

5. Penalties for Breach = Ethical Deterrence

- The Act provides penalties up to **₹250 crore** for failure to protect data, lack of consent compliance, or data breaches.

6. Recognition of 'Right to Privacy' as Ethical Bedrock

- Rooted in **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** judgment: Privacy is a **fundamental right** under Article 21.
- The Act gives this ethical right a **legal implementation mechanism**.

"Privacy is the cornerstone of individual dignity in a digital age." – Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

UN Guidelines on Data Ethics (2021): Calls for transparency, fairness, and respect for rights in digital systems.

Ethical Issues Involved:

Ethical Value	Description
Privacy	Recognized as a fundamental right (Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India, 2017). The ethical concern lies in upholding individual dignity.
Informed Consent	Collecting data without adequate consent violates autonomy and choice.
Transparency	Citizens must know who collects data, for what purpose, and for how long it is retained.
Accountability	Government and private entities should be answerable for misuse or breach.

Ethical Value	Description
Proportionality	State surveillance should be proportionate to the objective; mass surveillance raises ethical red flags.
Justice & Non-discrimination	Algorithms and profiling based on personal data may lead to biases and discrimination.

Ethical Principles:

- **Autonomy and Dignity (Kantian Ethics):** Individuals must retain control over their personal information.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Lack of an independent Data Protection Board may lead to unethical misuse.

Example1: Aadhaar data leak cases (2017–18), where personal biometric data was accessed and sold, revealed the fragility of state-held data.

Example2: Pegasus spyware scandal—covert surveillance of journalists and activists without consent.

John Stuart Mill: “The worth of a state in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it.”

Conclusion: The DPDP Act 2023 is more than a technical legislation—it is a **manifestation of ethical governance** in the digital age. It creates a framework where data is treated not as a commodity, but as an extension of **human dignity and autonomy**.

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AI ETHICS

DEFINITION

“AI Ethics is a system of moral principles and values that guide the design, development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence, with the aim of ensuring the respect for human dignity, human rights, and fundamental freedoms, as well as the protection of the environment and ecosystems”— *UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021)*

In November 2021, UNESCO’s General Conference unanimously adopted the “**Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence**”, the first-ever global normative instrument covering 193 member states. It provides a universal ethical framework rooted in human rights, dignity, and ecological concern.

Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO’s Director-General, said: “The world needs rules so that artificial intelligence benefits humanity.”

UNESCO’s Core Values and Principles:

Foundational Values (Four Pillars)	Ten Guiding Principles
- Human Rights & Dignity - Peaceful, Just & Interconnected Societies - Diversity & Inclusion - Environmental & Ecosystem Flourishing	- Proportionality & Do No Harm - Safety & Security - Right to Privacy & Data Protection - Fairness & Non-Discrimination - Transparency & Explainability - Human Oversight & Determination - Responsibility & Accountability

	- Sustainability (Environmental & Social) - Awareness & AI Literacy - Adaptive, Multi-Stakeholder Governance
--	--

The Core Ethical Principles(General):

- Beneficence**- do good and benefit society
- Non-maleficence**- avoid harm or misuse
- Justice**- be fair, unbiased, and inclusive
- Autonomy**-Human agency must be preserved
- Accountability** -Creators and users must be responsible
- Sustainability**-maintain intergenerational equity

The promotion of humanity, justice, and environmental sustainability:

- UNESCO’s framework goes beyond theory, outlining **policy action areas** to operationalize values:
 - **Ethical Impact Assessment (EIA)**: Identify potential harms before deployment.
 - **Multi-stakeholder governance**: Inclusive oversight participation.
 - **Data governance and privacy regulation**.
 - **Gender equality, cultural heritage, environmental protection, health, education** domains integrated into AI policy
- Tools like **RAM (Readiness Assessment Methodology)** and EIA help countries assess their capacities and enforce accountability

Examples:

- a) The **Women4Ethical AI** platform by UNESCO promotes gender-balanced design teams and aims to eliminate algorithmic bias based on international principles
- b) India's **IndiaAI Mission** is launching an **AI Safety Institute** to ensure inclusive, ethics-based AI development tailored to Indian cultural and linguistic diversity.
- c) Educational programs under NITI Aayog now incorporate **ethical impact assessment** and **AI literacy**, reflecting UNESCO's actions.

Humanity

- **Human Oversight** prevents dehumanisation — ensuring ethical agency remains with people, not machines. Ethical AI respects **consent**, **privacy**, and **individual choice**.
- **Example:** In healthcare, AI-assisted diagnostics should be overseen by doctors—patients retain the right to informed consent.

Justice & Inclusion

- **Multi-stakeholder governance** ensures diverse voices—including marginalized, indigenous, and vulnerable populations—are involved in AI policy-making
- **Example:** Countries implementing UNESCO's readiness assessments (RAM) engage civil society and local communities in AI policy formation.
- **Algorithmic Fairness:** AI must avoid **racial, caste, gender, or economic bias** in decision-making (e.g., in policing, hiring, or lending).
- **Example:** Amazon had to scrap its AI recruitment tool after it showed gender bias against women.
- **Equitable Access:** Ethical AI should bridge—not deepen—the **digital divide**. **"Technology must not be a privilege for the few but a justice instrument for all."** – Amartya Sen

Environmental Sustainability

- The **Sustainability** principle compels that AI development assess its **ecological footprint**, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **Example:** Google researchers found trimming dataset size could reduce the energy consumption of large models by 90%. Ethical frameworks demand **Green AI** with lower carbon intensity.
- **Green AI:** Promote **energy-efficient** and **carbon-conscious AI models** (e.g., avoiding overtraining of large LLMs).
- **Example:** GPT-3 consumed vast energy in training; ethical design demands energy-conscious AI architectures.
- **AI for Climate Action:** AI used for **climate forecasting**, **disaster response**, and **agriculture optimization** contributes to ecological balance.
- **Example:** Microsoft's AI for Earth, Google's flood forecasting in India, and AI-based crop monitoring by ISRO.
- **"Sustainable tech must be guided not just by what is possible, but by what is responsible."** – UNESCO AI Ethics Framework

"Technology is not value-neutral; it inherits the morality of its makers and the consequences of its users." – Hannah Arendt

Indian Perspective on AI Ethics

- India's NITI Aayog's **Responsible AI for All** policy highlights **Inclusiveness, Accountability, and Privacy**.
- Rooted in Indian values like **Lokasangraha** (public good), **Ahimsa** (non-harm), and **Sarvodaya** (welfare of all).

Challenges to AI Ethics:

- **Black-box algorithms:** Lack of explainability
- **Deepfakes & misinformation**

- **Military use of AI** (lethal autonomous weapons)
- **Absence of global regulatory consensus**

Nevertheless, since 60+ countries are integrating UNESCO's RAM and policy prescriptions into legislative frameworks, global alignment is gaining strength

The Ethical Way Forward:

Action	Ethical Benefit
Global regulatory frameworks (e.g., UNESCO, G20 AI principles)	Justice and universality
Ethics-by-design in AI systems	Integrity and foresight
Inclusive AI development	Representation and fairness
Public deliberation on AI use	Consent and democratic legitimacy

"In the digital age, ethics is not optional. It is the operating system of progress." – Klaus Schwab

Conclusion: AI Ethics, as framed by UNESCO's Recommendation, offers a universal yet adaptable moral compass: one that respects human dignity, promotes social justice, and secures environmental well-being. It shifts AI from being merely powerful to being principled, ensuring that progress remains purposeful.

"Ethics must be the operating system of AI's future, not an optional add-on"-UNESCO.

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 2019

This Act is the primary legislation addressing misleading advertisements. It defines misleading advertisements and outlines penalties for manufacturers, advertisers, and endorsers.

Principles under consumer protection act 2019

1. **Right to Safety**
2. **Right to be Informed**
3. **Right to Choose**
4. **Right to be Heard**
5. **Right to Seek Redressal**
6. **Right to Consumer Awareness**

Section 89 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019: This section prohibits false or misleading advertisements that are prejudicial to the interest of the consumer and penalizes offenders with fine and imprisonment.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA): The CCPA is empowered to take action against misleading advertisements, including imposing fines, banning advertisements, and requiring corrective advertisements.

Penalties: The CCPA can impose penalties of up to ₹10 lakh (first offense) and ₹50 lakh (repeat offenses) on manufacturers and advertisers for misleading advertisements. Endorsers/celebrities can face endorsement bans for up to 1 year (first offense) and 3 years (repeat offenses).

Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisement in Coaching Sector, 2024: These guidelines, issued by the CCPA, specifically address misleading advertisements in the coaching sector, imposing further obligations on those involved in coaching, such as requiring disclosure of important information and obtaining consent for testimonials.

Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI): This self-regulatory body also plays a role in regulating advertisements and has its own enforcement mechanism. The ASCI principles for ethical advertising

1. **Truthful & Honesty**
2. **Decency & Public Sensitivity:**
3. **Non-Exploitation**
4. **Fair Competition**

Other Laws: The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, specifically addresses misleading advertisements related to drugs and magical remedies.

CASE STUDY

In the case of Francis Vadakkan vs The Proprietor, A-One Medical & Ors., the Kerala District Commission ('Commission') addressed a complaint against a company producing hair growth cream. The company had advertised that its product would triple the length in just six weeks. The petitioner persuaded by this advertisement, purchased two bottles of the lotion from A-One Medical and used it for seven weeks but saw no hair growth.

He then filed a claim with the district commission seeking Rs. 5,00,000 in damages for losses, pain and emotional distress. The commission directed the company to compensate the complainant for deficiency in services.

DIGITAL ERA

In today's digital age, advertising has undergone revolutionary changes on account of unprecedented use of internet and social media. Brands use digital platforms like smartphones and the internet to connect with people. This helps them reach a larger audience.

To tackle this ever-growing problem, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution issued **Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsement for Misleading Advertisements, 2022** ("Guidelines").

"The consumer is the most important visitor on our premises." – Mahatma Gandhi

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Definition: Environmental ethics is a branch of philosophy that explores the moral relationship between humans and the natural environment, including its non-human components. It examines the values, principles, and obligations that guide our interactions with the environment,

considering the impact of human actions on both the environment and future generations.

Ethical Theories:

- **Deep Ecology:** Nature has intrinsic value beyond economic utility.
- **Gandhian Trusteeship:** Humans are stewards, not owners of nature.

Core Principles:

- **Moral Standing:** Environmental ethics questions whether non-human entities like animals, plants, or even ecosystems have inherent moral worth, or if their value is solely based on their usefulness to humans.

Anthropocentrism vs. Non-Anthropocentrism:

Anthropocentric views place humans at the center, believing that the environment's value is derived from its usefulness to humans. Non-anthropocentric views, on the other hand, argue that the environment has intrinsic value, independent of human interests.

Sustainability: A central theme in environmental ethics is the concept of sustainability, which involves meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Intergenerational Equity: This concept emphasizes the moral obligation to consider the well-being of future generations when making decisions that affect the environment.

Duty of Care: Environmental ethics also explores the idea that humans have a duty of care towards the environment, requiring us to act responsibly and minimize harm.

Example: EIA 2020 draft weakened environmental clearance norms; Chipko Movement and anti-mining protests highlight ethical grassroots action.

Conclusion: Environmental ethics encourages critical reflection on our values and behaviours, promoting more sustainable and responsible practices. "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, not every man's greed." – Mahatma Gandhi

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

"We won't have a society if we destroy the environment." — Margaret Mead

Definition: Environmental justice is the principle that all people and communities have the right to live and thrive in safe, healthy environments with equal protection from environmental hazards and meaningful participation in environmental decision-making.

It addresses the unfair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, ensuring that no group - regardless of race, income, or background - bears a disproportionate share of pollution, toxic waste, or environmental degradation.

This concept emerged from the recognition that marginalized and low-income communities often face greater exposure to environmental harms, such as industrial pollution or contaminated water, without having adequate voice or protection. Environmental justice thus combines social justice with environmental sustainability, aiming to protect human health, dignity, and the environment equitably.

- **Example: Tribal communities in states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha** are facing impact of deforestation, pollution due to mining and industries and their livelihood is lost. Their age-old relationship with nature is broken.
- **Example: Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984)**, A toxic gas leak from a Union Carbide plant killed over 15,000 people and left 500,000 with chronic illnesses, primarily affecting impoverished communities.

Importance of environmental justice in the context of the relationship between nature and human beings:

- **Ethical stewardship:** Environmental justice rejects exploitative "development" that sacrifices communities for economic growth.
- ✓ **For example, recently Supreme Court has cancelled the EIA for certain projects applying retrospectively.**

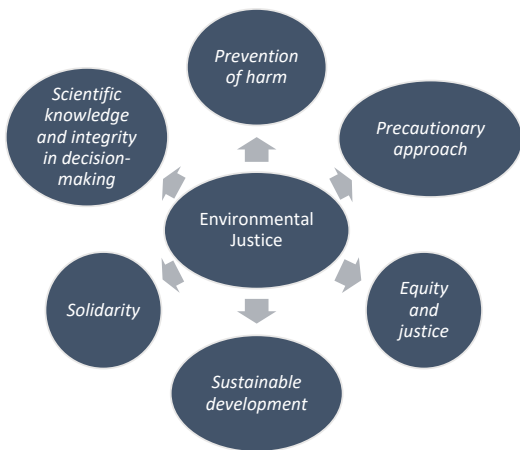
- **Livelihood and health:** Degraded environments directly threaten human well-being. Industrial pollution in "sacrifice zones" (e.g., coal-mining regions) reduces life expectancy and entrenches poverty.
- ✓ **Example: Tanneries in Tamil Nadu** contaminated water sources, causing health crises in low-income villages.
- **Cultural capital:** Indigenous knowledge systems (e.g., Adivasi forest management) demonstrate sustainable human-nature coexistence, now recognized in laws like the Forest Rights Act.
- ✓ **Example: Community reserves like Sacred groves** is prime example of sustainable human-nature coexistence in India.

Challenges:

- **Implementation gaps:** Despite strong laws (e.g., NGT's authority), enforcement remains weak. Only 3% of community forest rights claims were granted under the Forest Rights Act due to bureaucratic resistance.
- **Climate vulnerability:** Marginalized groups face heightened risks from climate disasters (e.g., floods, droughts), necessitating justice-centered adaptation policies.
- **Insufficient funds with developing and underdeveloped countries** which restrict their ability to support the affected communities as well as simultaneously promoting economic growth.

Way forward: UNSECO has given six ethical principles of environmental justice-Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change (2017)

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Conclusion: Environmental justice underscores that human well-being is inseparable from ecological health. By centering equity in environmental governance, we can reconcile development with sustainability, ensuring that nature's benefits and burdens are shared justly.

THE FOUR LABOR CODES

"Labour is not a commodity." – International Labour Organization (ILO)

The four labour codes in India are

- **The Code on Wages, 2019:** Ensures minimum wages for all. Earlier, domestic workers in many states were not covered. Now they have legal backing for fair wages. **"Social justice means the absence of socially created inequalities."** — John Rawls
- **The Industrial Relations Code, 2020:** Balances rights of workers & employers. Worker Re-skilling Fund and simplified **conciliation mechanisms** under the **Industrial Relations Code** promote faster dispute resolution.
- **The Code on Social Security, 2020:** The **Social Security Code** mandates benefits for gig and platform workers via aggregation platforms (e.g., Zomato, Swiggy). **"The true measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members."** – Mahatma Gandhi

- **The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020:** Protects workplace health. Ensures crèche, clean toilets, and canteens in establishments with 50+ workers. **"The safety of the people shall be the highest law."** – Cicero.

The Constitution of India, under Article 42, directs the State to ensure "just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief." These codes aim to simplify and consolidate 29 existing central labour laws into a more streamlined framework. These four codes represent a significant shift in India's labour law framework, aiming to simplify compliance for businesses and enhance **worker protections**.

Ethical Principles Promoted:

- **Justice:** Fair wages and social protection
- **Human Dignity:** Safe work conditions and grievance redress
- **Equity:** Bringing unorganized and platform workers under legal protection

CRITICISMS:

1. Promotes hire and fire-ease of doing business: The Industrial Relations Code allows firms with up to 300 workers to **lay off workers without government approval**, diluting job security.
 - **Example:** In 2022, garment workers in Karnataka protested mass layoffs post-COVID, fearing weak safeguards.
2. **Ambiguity in Gig Workers' Welfare:** While gig workers are mentioned under social security, **actual implementation is lacking**, and contribution mechanisms are unclear.

Example: A Swiggy delivery partner still lacks maternity or health insurance, despite being categorized as a "worker."
3. **Exclusion of Certain Workers:** The exclusion of informal workers, such as domestic workers and sanitation workers, from the scope of the codes.

4. **Restrictions on Strikes:** The stricter conditions on strikes, including longer notice periods and limitations on collective action, which could hinder the ability of unions to effectively bargain and protect workers' rights.
5. **Overlapping Provisions:** The Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code may overlap with existing state-level laws, creating confusion and potential conflicts.

Conclusion: The four labour codes represent a progressive step toward creating a just, inclusive, and humane workplace that respects the dignity of

every worker. However, their true potential lies not just in legal consolidation, but in implementation, worker empowerment, and institutional accountability. **“A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.” – Nelson Mandela.**

WHISTLEBLOWING

Definition: Whistleblowing is the act of disclosing information by an insider (employee, contractor, stakeholder) about **illegal, unethical, or harmful practices** within an organization to authorities, regulators, or the public.

Legal Framework in India

Law / Provision	Key Features	Limitations / Issues
Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014	Protects those who expose corruption or misuse of power in public offices; allows disclosure to CVC/competent authority.	Rules notified only in 2015; amendments to exclude information under OSA and certain RTI exemptions dilute scope.
Companies Act, 2013 – Sec 177 & SEBI (LODR) Regulations	Mandates listed companies to establish a vigil mechanism for directors & employees to report concerns.	Often internal, risk of retaliation if confidentiality is breached.
RTI Act, 2005	Enables exposure of government wrongdoing through information disclosure.	RTI activists face threats; over 100 killed since 2005 (CHRI data, 2024).

Ethical Framework

Ethical Theory / Value	Application in Whistleblowing
Deontological Ethics (Kant)	Duty to report wrongdoing regardless of consequences.
Utilitarianism (Mill)	Whistleblowing justified if it maximises public welfare.
Virtue Ethics (Aristotle)	Demonstrates moral courage, honesty, integrity.
Gandhian Satya & Ahimsa	Truth-telling as moral duty; exposing injustice without malice.

- “All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.” – Edmund Burke
- “A nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth is a nation afraid of its people.” – John F. Kennedy

Whistleblowing Cases – Government & Public Sector

Case / Person	Year	Sector	What was Exposed	Outcome / Impact
Satyendra Dubey	2003	Infrastructure	Corruption in Golden Quadrilateral road contracts	Murder led to push for Whistle Blowers Protection Act
Manjunath Shanmugam	2005	Petroleum	Petrol adulteration by oil mafia	Murder triggered anti-fuel adulteration measures
Ashok Khemka	2012–present	Land administration	Irregularities in land licensing (Vadra-DLF)	Faced >50 transfers, highlighted need for officer protection
E A S Sarma	2011–2024	Environment & mining	Illegal mining leases, EC violations	Several leases cancelled
Railway PSU Engineer (Anonymous)	2024	Public procurement	Over-invoicing in railway equipment	CBI investigation, scam worth ₹45 crore exposed
RTI-based Panchayat Scam Exposure	2023	Local governance	Misuse of rural development funds	FIRs against sarpanches in multiple states

Corporate Sector Whistleblowing Cases – India

Case / Person	Year	Company / Sector	What was Exposed	Outcome / Impact
Infosys CFO Complaint	2019	IT services	Alleged accounting irregularities, unethical sales practices	Audit committee inquiry found no wrongdoing; raised corporate governance awareness
ICICI Bank – Chanda Kochhar case	2018	Banking	Conflict of interest in loan to Videocon Group	Led to CEO resignation, SEBI penalties
Ranbaxy whistleblowers (Dinesh Thakur & Rajinder Kumar)	2005–2013	Pharma	Fabrication of drug test results	US FDA ban, \$500 million fine to US authorities
Cognizant whistleblower	2016–2019	IT	Bribery to secure permits in India	\$25 million US SEC settlement under FCPA
Maruti Suzuki vendor fraud disclosure	2022	Auto manufacturing	Kickbacks in parts procurement	Vendors blacklisted, procurement audit tightened

International Corporate Whistleblowing Cases

Case / Person	Year	Company / Sector	What was Exposed	Outcome / Impact
Sherron Watkins	2001	Enron (USA)	Accounting fraud & off-the-books entities	Collapse of Enron, Sarbanes-Oxley Act 2002
Cynthia Cooper	2002	WorldCom (USA)	\$3.8 billion accounting fraud	Led to largest US bankruptcy at the time
Christopher Wylie	2018	Cambridge Analytica	Misuse of Facebook user data for political campaigns	Strengthened global data protection laws

Ethical Themes Seen Across These Cases

Ethical Value	Illustrated By
Courage	Satyendra Dubey, Sherron Watkins
Integrity	Ranbaxy whistleblowers, Infosys CFO complaint
Public Interest over Loyalty	Theranos insiders, E A S Sarma
Conflict of Interest & Transparency	ICICI Bank case, Tata Finance case

Key Observations

1. **Corporate whistleblowing** often links to **fraud, bribery, or financial misreporting**, while **government whistleblowing** is more about **corruption and misuse of authority**.
2. **Retaliation is common** — from transfers and harassment (Ashok Khemka) to termination and lawsuits (Theranos insiders).
3. **Positive systemic reforms** can result — e.g., Sarbanes-Oxley Act in US, stricter SEBI & RBI governance codes in India.

Ethical Dilemmas:

- **Loyalty vs Public Interest** – Should an employee stay loyal to employer or society?
- **Transparency vs Confidentiality** – When public disclosure harms legitimate organisational secrecy.
- **Risk to Life vs Duty to Truth** – Balancing personal safety with ethical responsibility.

Key Empirical Facts:

- **CHRI Data (2024)**: Since 2005, over **1,000 attacks** on RTI activists; more than **100 killed**.
- **Transparency International India Survey (2023)**: Only **27%** of respondents felt safe using whistleblower mechanisms at work.

- **OECD Studies (2024)**: Countries with strong whistleblower protection laws recover **up to 50% more fraud-related losses**.

Way Forward:

1. **Strengthen Whistle Blowers Protection Act** – remove RTI/OSA exclusions, include private sector.
2. **Independent Protection Authority** – like US Office of Special Counsel.
3. **Anonymous & Secure Channels** – tech-enabled confidential reporting.
4. **Public Awareness** – campaigns to destigmatise whistleblowing.
5. **Witness Protection Schemes** – implemented uniformly across states.

Conclusion: Whistleblowing is not an act of betrayal but an act of higher loyalty — to truth, justice, and the collective good. In a democracy, the courage to speak is as vital as the right to speak. *“Silence becomes cowardice when occasion demands speaking out the whole truth.”* – Mahatma Gandhi.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Ethical leadership is defined as “leadership demonstrating and promoting 'normatively appropriate conduct through personal actions and interpersonal relations'.”

Ethical leadership principles

- Fairness
- Accountability
- Trust
- Honesty
- Equality
- Respect

Examples: JRD Tata, narayn murthy, ratan tata, Lal Bahadur Shastri, ABV

“It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently.” Warren Buffett

EXAMPLES: Kenneth Lay, Enron. Enron's downfall and the imprisonment of several members of its leadership group were among the most shocking and widely reported ethics violations at the time. They not only bankrupted the company but also destroyed Arthur Andersen, one of the largest audit firms in the world.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced in 2001 that it was investigating the accounting practices of Enron after several years of questions raised by analysts and shareholders. The charges related to knowingly manipulating accounting rules and masking the enormous losses and liabilities of the company including money laundering, bank fraud, insider trading, and conspiracy.

“Corporate governance should be done more through principles than rules.”

Adi Godrej

“A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business.” Henry Ford.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Corporate Governance are two pillars of ethical business conduct. While CSR reflects a company's moral obligation to society, corporate governance ensures ethical and transparent functioning of the organization itself.

“Good ethics is good business.” – Kofi Annan

Legal and Policy Framework:

Companies Act, 2013: Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 mandates:

- Companies with net worth $\geq$ ₹500 crore, or turnover $\geq$ ₹1000 crore, or net profit $\geq$ ₹5 crore must spend **2% of their average net profit** of the last 3 years on CSR.

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Ethical Dimensions

Ethical Principle	CSR/Corporate Governance Reflection
Accountability	Transparent reporting, stakeholder engagement
Responsibility	Taking ownership of social and environmental impact
Integrity	Honesty in disclosures, fair practices in boardroom decisions
Justice	Equitable treatment of all stakeholders (employees, investors, society)
Stewardship	Protecting interests of future generations and the environment

Growth in CSR Spending

- Total CSR spend increased from **₹10,066 crore (2014–15)** to **₹25,932 crore (2022–23)**.
- Over ₹1.25 lakh crore cumulatively spent since inception.
- **Key Sectors Benefited:**
 - Education (30%)
 - Healthcare (25%)
 - Environment (12%)
 - Rural development (11%)

(Source: Ministry of Corporate Affairs CSR Dashboard)

Positive Impacts

- Millions benefited from free medical camps, girl education programs, and skilling initiatives.
- Strong CSR presence in **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi**.
- **CSR Spending in India (FY 2022-23):**
 - Total CSR spend: **₹25,932 crore**
 - **Top sectors:** Education (29%), Healthcare (26%), Environment (12%)
 - **Top states:** Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh

(Source: MCA CSR Portal)

Positive Examples:

1. Tata Group – Ethical Legacy in CSR and Governance

- Runs **Tata Trusts** (holding 66% of Tata Sons equity) that funds healthcare, education, and rural development.
- Built **cancer care centers, schools, skilling programs**.
- Tata Steel's ethical governance includes **zero tolerance for corruption**, transparent employee policies, and stakeholder disclosures.

“A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business.” – *Henry Ford*

2. Infosys – Benchmark for Governance

- One of the first Indian companies to adopt **voluntary corporate governance codes**.
- Practices **transparent disclosures, ethical leadership, and investor inclusivity**.
- CSR includes **STEM education for girls, environmental restoration**, and employee volunteerism.

3. ITC Limited

- CSR projects include **e-Choupal (agri empowerment), health programs in rural India, water harvesting**, etc.
- Strong **sustainability reporting and third-party audits**.

Negative Examples

1. Satyam Scam (2009)

- Inflated revenue and profits by **₹7,000 crore** under Ramalinga Raju.
- Massive governance failure: **no whistleblower protection, inactive board, and manipulated audits**.
- Led to reforms like **mandatory auditor rotation** and tighter SEBI norms.

“When ethics are sacrificed for profits, collapse is inevitable.”

2. IL&FS Crisis (2018)

- Infrastructure giant defaulted on loans worth ₹91,000 crore.
- **Poor risk governance**, conflict of interest, and **misreporting of financial health**.
- Ratings agencies and auditors failed to flag issues — highlighting **collusion and weak accountability**.

3. Vedanta's Sterlite Plant (Thoothukudi, 2018)

- Allegations of **environmental violations, community harm, and lack of CSR transparency**.
- 13 protestors killed in police firing after prolonged public unrest.
- Reflects **CSR disconnect from ground realities and governance failures**.

Major Criticisms:

a) Tokenism & Box-Ticking Compliance

- A NITI Aayog study (2019) found that **over 60% of companies treat CSR as a compliance burden**, with little strategic thinking.
- Many reports suggest CSR is **seen as philanthropy**, not part of core business values.

b) Lack of Impact Assessment

- Parliamentary Standing Committee on CSR (2020) noted that **less than 10% of companies conduct third-party impact evaluations**.
- Most CSR spending reports focus on **inputs, not outcomes** (e.g., money spent vs lives impacted).

c) Geographic Imbalance

- More than **70% of CSR funds go to just 10 states**, particularly industrial ones like Maharashtra and Gujarat.

- **Northeast and BIMARU states** receive less than 5% combined.

(Source: *India CSR Outlook Report, NGOBOX 2022*)

d) Lack of Transparency and Misreporting

- **CAG Report on CSR (2022)** flagged:
 - ✓ Absence of standardized metrics for reporting CSR outcomes.
 - ✓ Some companies **exaggerate CSR spending**, understate administrative costs, or double-count CSR with existing philanthropic initiatives.

e) CSR Funds Misused for Political Patronage

- Several media investigations (e.g., *Scroll.in*, *The Hindu*) have exposed:
 - ✓ CSR funds being routed through **politically affiliated NGOs**.
 - ✓ Shell NGOs receiving funds with **no field-level verification**.

f) Weak Board Oversight

- A **KPMG CSR Survey (2021)** revealed:
 - ✓ **40% of companies do not have dedicated CSR professionals**.
 - ✓ CSR boards often function **symbolically**, without strategic review of projects.

Observations from Official Institutions

Institution	Key Observations
CAG	Lack of audit trails; weak disclosure norms
MCA High-Level Committee (2019)	Need for independent CSR regulators, project monitoring, and penal provisions
Parliamentary Committee (2020)	Called for a national CSR database , uniform project evaluation standards

Corporate Governance Violations (2022):

- Over **300 companies penalized** by SEBI for corporate governance lapses.
- **Adani-Hindenburg report (2023)** raised global concerns on **related-party transactions and opaque ownership**.

Policy Recommendations

- **Strategic Alignment with SDGs:** CSR should be aligned with **India's Sustainable Development Goals** (health, gender, clean water).
- **Decentralized CSR Planning:** Encourage **district-level CSR cells** in backward regions to guide companies.
- **Mandatory Impact Audits:** Introduce **third-party social audits and public disclosures** as compulsory for large CSR projects.
- **Integrate CSR with ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance):** Move from **2% charity** to **sustainable and responsible business frameworks**.
- **Civil Society Involvement:** Involve **local stakeholders and NGOs** in project design and feedback loops.

QUOTES

- “Ethics must begin at the top of the organisation.” – John C. Maxwell
- “Corporate governance is not about rules. It's about values.” – N. R. Narayana Murthy
- “The business of business is not just business.” – Ratan Tata

Conclusion: CSR and corporate governance are **two sides of the same ethical coin**. While CSR reflects **external social conscience**, corporate governance reflects **internal ethical discipline**. India has made bold strides—from **legal mandates to public awareness**—but challenges remain in turning compliance into **conscious commitment**. “CSR is not charity. It is responsibility.” – Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

ESG (ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE)

ESG stands for **Environmental, Social, and Governance** — a framework for evaluating how a company's operations and strategies impact the environment, society, and internal governance standards. It goes **beyond financial**

performance to assess a business's **ethical, sustainability, and accountability practices**.

ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) has become increasingly important in recent years due to a **convergence of ethical, economic, regulatory, and societal factors**.

Components of ESG

Pillar	Focus Area	Examples
E – Environmental	Impact of business on the natural environment	Carbon emissions, renewable energy use, water management, waste reduction, biodiversity conservation
S – Social	How the company treats people (employees, customers, community)	Workplace diversity, labour standards, health & safety, community engagement, human rights
G – Governance	Quality of corporate leadership, ethics, and internal controls	Board independence, anti-corruption policies, shareholder rights, transparency in disclosures

Why ESG Matters

- **Risk Management:** Poor ESG practices can lead to reputational damage, fines, or operational shutdowns.
- **Long-Term Value:** Studies show ESG-compliant firms often outperform peers in resilience and innovation.
- **Ethical Imperative:** Aligns corporate actions with societal good, environmental responsibility, and transparent governance.

Legal mandates:

- **India:** SEBI has mandated **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)** for the top 1,000 listed companies since FY 2022-23.
- **Global:** The EU's **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)** requires detailed ESG disclosures by 2024–25.

Framework / Initiative	Focus Area	Legal Nature	Key ESG Relevance
UN Global Compact (2000)	All 3 pillars (E, S, G)	Voluntary	10 principles on human rights, labour, environment, anti-corruption
UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI, 2006)	ESG in investing	Voluntary	Integrates ESG into financial decision-making
Paris Climate Agreement (2015)	Environmental (E)	Binding (with NDCs)	Encourages corporate climate disclosures & mitigation strategies
ILO Core Labour Standards	Social (S)	Binding for ratifying nations	Sets norms on labour rights, workplace safety, child labour
EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)	ESG disclosures	Binding (EU)	Mandatory ESG reporting from 2024–25

A. E – Environmental Responsibility

Focus: How companies manage environmental impact, sustainability, and climate goals.

Good Practice	Empirical Example	Ethical Link
Transition to renewable energy	Tata Power generated ~38% of its energy from renewable sources in FY 2024–25, aiming for 100% by 2045.	Stewardship, intergenerational equity
Circular economy initiatives	ITC Limited achieved solid waste recycling rate of 99% in 2024.	Sustainable consumption, responsibility
Green financing	State Bank of India issued \$650 million green bonds in 2023 to fund solar, wind projects.	Environmental justice

Poor Practice Example: In 2024, **Vedanta** faced fines in Tamil Nadu for mining violations causing ecological damage — breach of *duty to prevent harm*.

S – Social Responsibility

Focus: How companies treat employees, customers, and communities.

Good Practice	Empirical Example	Ethical Link
Inclusive hiring	Infosys hired over 1,200 persons with disabilities between 2023–25, integrating accessibility in workplaces.	Equality, dignity
Health & safety	Maruti Suzuki reduced accident rates in plants by 47% (FY 2024 report).	Duty of care
Community welfare	Hindustan Unilever's Project Shakti empowered 1.8 lakh rural women entrepreneurs by 2025.	Empowerment, distributive justice

Poor Practice Example: 2023 garment factory fire in Delhi — linked to supply chain of multiple apparel brands — highlighted negligence in worker safety, violating *human dignity*.

G – Governance

Focus: Corporate ethics, transparency, board independence, anti-corruption.

Good Practice	Empirical Example	Ethical Link
Independent board oversight	HDFC Bank maintains >50% independent directors on its board (2025).	Integrity, checks & balances
Anti-corruption compliance	Wipro publishes annual anti-bribery compliance report, audited by third party.	Honesty, legal compliance
Transparent ESG reporting	Reliance Industries issues assured (third-party verified) Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report.	Accountability

Poor Practice Example: In 2024, NSE co-location scam convictions revived debate on regulatory capture — breach of *trust and fairness*.

Conclusion: ESG is not governed by one treaty, but a **convergence of global frameworks, standards, and agreements** has made ESG norms increasingly institutionalized across the globe.

“Good governance is the art of putting wise thought into prudent action, in ways that advance the public good.” – Aristotle

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Prince Dhawan
Year 2011



AIR 05

Abhilash Mishra
Year 2016



AIR 11

Nupur Goel
Year 2019



AIR 12

Ashi Sharma
Year 2024



AIR 14

Ankita Choudhary
Year 2018



AIR 14

Karishma Nair
Year 2020

Name	Marks	Year
Pragya Saini	284	2024
Ravi Meena	286	2023
Khushboo Oberoi	294	2022
Vidyamari Sridhar	288	2021
Anant Dwivedi	286	2020
Nupur Goel	302	2019
Ankita Choudhary	314	2018
Purna Borah	311	2017
Abhilash Mishra	334	2016
Ashwini Panday	267	2015
Tushar Singla	287	2014
Udita Singh	231	2013
Prince Dhawan	394	2011

ETHICS IN IR

PRINCIPLES: pluralism, responsibility, and fairness are taken seriously, then the study of ethics and international affairs may indeed be a useful and practical art

“There are only two forces in the world, the sword and the spirit. In the long run, the sword will always be conquered by the spirit.” - **Napoleon Bonaparte**

”Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first.” - **Charles de Gaulle**

“There is some self-interest behind every friendship. There is no friendship without self-interests. This is a bitter Truth” - **Chanakya**

“Patriotism corrupts history.” - **Goethe**

Major Philosophies in International Relations

Philosophy	Core Ethical Idea	Key Thinkers	Principles / Features	Examples	Criticisms
1. Realism (Ethical Egoism)	Morality is subordinate to national interest; power and survival come first	Kautilya/ Niccolò Machiavelli, Hobbes, Hans Morgenthau	- State is supreme moral actor - No universal morality - Ethics ≠ policy	- India's nuclear test (1998) - U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan - Russia's invasion of Ukraine (2022)	Amoral; legitimizes wars and deceit
2. Ethical Idealism	States must behave morally toward other states	Kant, Gandhi, Plato, Woodrow Wilson, John Rawls	Moral universalism - ethics should guide state behaviour	India's Panchsheel policy (1950s) — promoting peaceful coexistence with neighbours even at diplomatic cost	Too idealistic in some situation or may undermine national interest
3. Cosmopolitanism	All human beings belong to a single moral community beyond borders	Diogenes (origin), Kwame Anthony Appiah, Amartya Sen, Peter Singer	Global justice - equal moral worth of all individuals. <i>"We owe moral obligations to every individual, regardless of nationality."</i>	- India's Vaccine Maitri - UN Peacekeeping Missions - UDHR (1948)	Idealistic; selectively applied by major powers

Philosophy	Core Ethical Idea	Key Thinkers	Principles / Features	Examples	Criticisms
4. Utilitarianism / Consequentialism	Morality based on outcome: greatest good for greatest number	Jeremy Bentham, J.S. Mill	• Cost-benefit analysis • Ends justify means - Collective welfare	• Hiroshima bombing • Libya intervention (2011) • India's economic sanctions on Myanmar	Ignores justice and minority suffering
5. Just War Theory	War is morally justified only under specific ethical conditions	Augustine, Aquinas, Michael Walzer	• Just cause • Proportionality • No civilian targeting • Last resort	• India's intervention in East Pakistan (1971) • Critique of Iraq war (2003) • Delayed UN action in Rwanda	Often manipulated by states for self-interest
6. Constructivism	Ethics, interest, and identity are socially constructed and shaped by norms	Alexander Wendt, Martha Finnemore	• No fixed morality • Norms evolve • Identity matters	• Nuclear taboo • India's global climate leadership • Shift in refugee policies	Abstract; lacks clear normative guidance
7. Ethical Pluralism / Relativism	Ethics vary across cultures and civilizations; context matters	Isaiah Berlin, Gandhi	• No universal yardstick • Local ethics valid • Respect diversity	• India's non-alignment • BRICS call for multipolarity • Abstention on Ukraine vote	Can be misused to justify oppression or avoid action

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Philosophy	Core Ethical Idea	Key Thinkers	Principles / Features	Examples	Criticisms
8. Feminist Ethics	Global politics is gendered; ethics must include care, empathy, justice for women	Carol Gilligan, Cynthia Enloe	- Gender inclusion - Focus on care ethics - Voice of marginalized women	- India's all-women UN peacekeepers (Liberia) - UNSC Resolution 1325 - Sexual violence in Congo, Sudan	Underrepresented; seen as peripheral by mainstream IR

HUMANITARIAN AID AND INTERNATIONAL FUNDING

“True aid builds dignity, not dependence.” – Amartya Sen

Humanitarian aid and international funding in conflict and war zones aim to alleviate suffering, preserve dignity, and restore hope. However, they are fraught with ethical issues and problems.

“Humanitarian aid is the expression of human solidarity — but when corrupted, it can deepen the wounds it seeks to heal”-UN.

The Core Ethical Principles as guide for humanitarian aid

1. **Humanity** – alleviating suffering wherever it is found
2. **Neutrality** – not taking sides in hostilities
3. **Impartiality** – aid based on need, without discrimination
4. **Independence** – autonomous from political, economic, or military objectives

“To be truly humanitarian, we must first be truly human — free of interest, aligned only to justice.”

– Ban Ki-moon

Major Ethical Issues in International funding and humanitarian aid

Ethical issues	Examples
• Aid as a tool of geopolitical influence: Aid is sometimes used to gain strategic leverage rather than serve humanitarian purposes-Moral realism rather than idealism.	• Example: In Syria, competing powers (US, Russia, Turkey, Iran) funnel aid through groups aligned with their interests, violating neutrality and deepening the conflict.
• Diversion and misuse of aid by warring parties: Armed groups may seize or tax aid supplies to fund operations. Aid may indirectly fuel violence or prolong conflict. Psychological egoism-Hobbes.	• Example: In Somalia, Al-Shabaab intercepted UN food supplies; in Yemen, both Houthis and pro-government forces were accused of misappropriating aid.
• Conditionality and donor interests: Aid tied to ideological or political conditions undermines the ethical principle of unconditional care. Violates respect for autonomy and sovereignty of affected populations-affecting moral autonomy advocated by Kant.	• Example: Some western donor agencies attach conditions like abortion law reforms, privatisation, or alignment with foreign policy, undermining local agency. India's NEP 1991 and aid conditionality by IMF.

• Discrimination and inequity in aid distribution: Biases in who receives aid — based on religion, ethnicity, or political alignment. Human treated as means, not end in themselves-Kant as well as lack of fairness and justice-Rawls.	• Example: In the Rohingya crisis, international funding to Bangladesh was criticised for favouring registered camps while excluding unregistered refugees.
• Lack of Accountability and Transparency: In fragile states, poor monitoring enables corruption in aid handling- sunshine is the best disinfectant-Louis Brandeis.	• Example: Haiti earthquake (2010): Billions were pledged, but little reached victims. NGOs were criticized for lack of transparency and "white saviourism".
• Cultural insensitivity and imposition: Aid programs may disregard local customs, religious norms, or governance structures, causing resentment-Antonio Gramsci-culture of hegemony. Violates respect for dignity and cultural pluralism.	• Example: During the Afghanistan war, Western aid agencies promoted gender reforms without community engagement, leading to backlash and suspicion.
• Aid Dependency and Erosion of Local Capacity: Long-term humanitarian presence can create dependency and undermine local governance. Violates principle of sustainability and empowerment-Sen's Capability approach.	• Example: In South Sudan, prolonged external aid delivery replaced local service systems, stalling self-reliance.
• Double Standards in humanitarian responses: Unequal global response to different crises raises questions of moral selectivity. Erodes global moral credibility and universality of human rights-Dharma as universal law/Vasudhaiv kutumbakam.	• Example: Massive Western aid for Ukraine (2022) compared to lukewarm responses to Palestine, Yemen, or Tigray (Ethiopia).

“Where aid becomes selective, it ceases to be humanitarian.” – Mary Robinson, former UN Human Rights Commissioner

Ethical Way Forward:

Solution	Ethical Value Strengthened
Aid through neutral international bodies (e.g., ICRC, MSF)	Neutrality, Independence
Community-led delivery mechanisms	Local empowerment, dignity
Strengthening audit and transparency in aid	Accountability, probity
Avoiding tied aid and political strings	Autonomy, justice

Solution	Ethical Value Strengthened
Cultural training for aid workers	Empathy, respect
Monitoring to prevent misuse by armed actors	Responsibility, integrity

Conclusion: Humanitarian aid in conflict zones walks a tightrope between **compassion and complicity**. The ethical responsibility lies in ensuring that aid **heals, not harms; uplifts, not divides**. True humanitarianism must be **needs-based, context-sensitive, and values-driven**, rooted in **universal empathy** but delivered with **local sensitivity**. **“To do good, we must not only mean well — we must do it well, and justly.” – Kofi Annan.**

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE CRISIS

Definition: A **refugee crisis** arises when a large number of people flee their home country due to war, persecution, political instability, or environmental disasters, creating humanitarian, legal, and security challenges for host nations and the global community.

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt

Ethical Principle	Application in Refugee Crisis
Justice & Equity	Fair burden-sharing among nations; avoiding discrimination.
Non-Refoulement (Customary International Law)	No forced return to danger zones; rooted in moral duty to protect life.
Global Solidarity	Cooperative international response, as per UN Charter & SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

Ethical in IR

Ethical Principle	Application in Refugee Crisis
Humanitarianism (Peter Singer's utilitarianism)	Save the greatest number of lives; provide food, shelter, and safety.
Human Dignity (Kantian ethics)	Treat every refugee as an end, not a means to political goals.

Legal Frameworks

- **1951 Refugee Convention & 1967 Protocol** – Rights of refugees, duties of host states.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art. 14)** – Right to seek asylum.
- **UNHCR Mandate** – Humanitarian protection & resettlement.

Positive Examples

Case	Ethical Principle	Outcome
India's shelter to Tibetan refugees (1959 onwards)	Cultural empathy, humanitarianism	Preservation of Tibetan culture; Dalai Lama's peaceful activism from India
Operation Insaniyat (2017) – aid to Rohingya in Bangladesh	Regional solidarity	Medical, food relief to 3 lakh refugees
Uganda's refugee policy	Integration & rights-based approach	Refugees allowed to work, access public services
Germany's 2015–16 Syrian refugee acceptance	Moral leadership	Resettled over 1 million refugees

Negative / Controversial Examples

Case	Ethical Dilemma	Impact
Pushback of Rohingya boats in SE Asia (2020–2024)	Non-refoulement vs national security	Refugees stranded at sea, deaths reported
Australia's offshore detention policy	Security vs humanitarianism	Criticised for violating dignity & mental health of asylum seekers

Case	Ethical Dilemma	Impact
India's deportation of Rohingya to Myanmar (2018–2021)	Legal gap & security concerns vs right to life	UNHCR raised human rights alarm
US “Remain in Mexico” policy	Border control vs asylum rights	Refugees left in unsafe camps in Mexico

Ethical Challenges in IR

1. **Burden Sharing** – Some countries take disproportionate responsibility (e.g., Turkey hosting 3.6M Syrians), others refuse entry.
2. **Security vs Compassion** – Risk of terrorism, illegal arms, and human trafficking vs moral obligation to help.
3. **Xenophobia & Social Cohesion** – Host country backlash against perceived job loss and cultural change.
4. **Climate Refugees** – No legal recognition under current refugee law, despite ethical urgency.

Way Forward

1. **Codified Refugee Law for India** – Balancing humanitarian duty with security screening.
2. **Regional Refugee Framework** – SAARC/ BIMSTEC-level agreements for shared responsibility.
3. **International Cooperation** – Burden-sharing under UNHCR-led mechanisms.
4. **Integrating Refugees Ethically** – Right to work, access to education and healthcare to preserve dignity.
5. **Protection from Hate Speech** – Public campaigns to counter xenophobia.

“No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.” – Warsan Shire

“We may have all come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

Conclusion: In International Relations, **refugee protection is both a moral responsibility and a test of global solidarity**. The ethical challenge lies in crafting policies that protect security without sacrificing humanity — making compassion the cornerstone of foreign policy. *“Refugees are not terrorists; they are often the first victims of terrorism.”* – António Guterres

REFUGEES CRISIS IN INDIA

India's Refugee Profile

India is **not a signatory** to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol, but has historically hosted refugees from diverse regions.

India's context (2025) – hosts refugees from **Tibet, Sri Lanka (Tamils), Afghanistan, Myanmar (Rohingya & Chin), and Bangladesh** without being a signatory to the **1951 Refugee Convention**.

- **Tibetans** (since 1959) – ~85,000 remain in India (MHA 2024 data)
- **Sri Lankan Tamils** (1983–2009) – ~58,000 in camps in Tamil Nadu
- **Afghans** – ~15,000 registered with UNHCR in India as of 2025
- **Rohingya & Chin refugees from Myanmar** – ~40,000 Rohingya (many unregistered)
- **Bangladeshi migrants/refugees** – millions, though many undocumented

Legal Context in India

- **No dedicated refugee law** – refugees treated under **Foreigners Act, 1946** and **Passports Act, 1967**.
- **Supreme Court:** *NHRC vs State of Arunachal Pradesh (1996)* – refugees entitled to protection under Article 21.
- **Citizenship Amendment Act (2019, amended 2024)** – fast-track citizenship for persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh (religion-based criteria criticised).
- **UNHCR in India** – limited role; recognition of refugees depends on government discretion.

Positive / Humanitarian Actions:

1. **Tibetan Resettlement Model** – preserves culture & language while providing livelihood → **Cultural empathy**.
2. **Sri Lankan Tamil Skill Development** – promotes self-reliance → **Empowerment over dependency**.
3. **Humanitarian Aid Abroad** – helps refugees in neighbouring states, reducing migration pressure → **Regional responsibility**.

Group	Response	Ethical Principle
Tibetans	Land for settlements, schools (Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamshala)	Cultural preservation, compassion
Sri Lankan Tamils	Camps with housing, education, skill training	Duty of care, rehabilitation
Afghan minorities (Sikhs & Hindus)	E-visas & expedited citizenship under CAA (2024 amendment)	Moral duty to protect persecuted minorities
Operation Insaniyat (2017)	Relief to Rohingya camps in Bangladesh	Regional solidarity, humanitarianism
Ukraine war evacuation (2022)	Operation Ganga – included Nepali & Bangladeshi nationals	Global humanitarian cooperation

Restrictive / Security-Focused Actions:

1. **Ad-hocism in Refugee Policy** – decisions based on political/strategic interests → undermines **consistency & fairness**.
2. **Refoulement incidents** – e.g., deporting Rohingya despite persecution fears → challenges **international humanitarian norms**.
3. **Long-term camp dependency** – Tamil refugees in camps for decades → affects **dignity and self-determination**.

Group	Response	Ethical Dilemma
Rohingya	Deportations to Myanmar in 2018, 2019, 2021 despite UNHCR plea	Non-refoulement vs national security
Myanmar refugees post-2021 coup	Border fencing in Mizoram & Manipur; selective entry	Sovereignty vs ethnic kinship (Mizo tribes)
Bangladeshi undocumented migrants	NRC & proposed deportations	Human rights vs demographic & resource pressure

Ethical Issues in India's Refugee Policy

Ethical Conflict	Illustration	Value at Stake
Humanitarian duty vs National security	Rohingya considered security risk by MHA	Right to life vs sovereignty
Equality vs Selectivity	CAA grants path to citizenship for certain religious groups, excludes others like Muslims	Equality, secularism

Ethical Conflict	Illustration	Value at Stake
Cultural preservation vs Integration	Tibetan model focuses on separate settlements, not full integration	Pluralism vs assimilation
Burden sharing vs Resource constraints	Tamil Nadu's refugee camps strain state finances	Distributive justice
Transparency vs Political sensitivity	No official refugee law; decisions are executive & case-specific	Rule of law, fairness

Way Forward

1. **National Refugee Law** – codify rights, duties, entry conditions, and protection against arbitrary deportation.
2. **Balanced Security-Humanitarian Screening** – biometric ID + background checks before granting asylum.
3. **Regional Refugee Agreement (BIMSTEC/ SAARC)** – fair burden sharing.
4. **Integration through Skills & Employment** – move beyond camps to community-based living.
5. **Protection from Xenophobia** – public awareness on refugee contributions.

“Refugees are human beings with hopes, dreams, and rights — not burdens to be managed.” – António Guterres

“No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land.” – Warsan Shire

Conclusion: India's refugee approach reflects a **pragmatic blend of compassion and caution**. While humanitarian gestures like Tibetan settlement and Tamil refugee support show ethical leadership, **selective and ad-hoc policies** risk undermining moral consistency and international credibility. In a globalised era, **ethical statecraft** demands that refugee policy balances **security imperatives with the universal moral duty to protect human dignity**. *“The true measure of a society is how it treats the most vulnerable.”* – Mahatma Gandhi

CAA 2019 AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS

The Context:

- **CAA 2019 (amended 2024)** grants fast-track Indian citizenship to **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians** from **Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh** who entered India before **31 Dec 2014** due to religious persecution.
- **Excludes** Muslims and refugees from other neighbouring countries (e.g., Sri Lanka's Tamils, Myanmar's Rohingyas).
- Linked politically to the **NRC (National Register of Citizens)** debate.

Positive Ethical Arguments:

1. **Corrective Justice** – Offers legal sanctuary to minorities facing systemic persecution in Islamic-majority neighbours.
2. **Cultural Affinity** – Shared heritage can ease integration and social acceptance.
3. **Moral Leadership** – Demonstrates India's responsibility as a regional protector of oppressed communities.
4. **Pragmatic Compassion** – Focuses on groups least likely to have safe havens elsewhere.

Ethical Principles at Stake:

Ethical Dimension	Positive Perspective	Critical Perspective
Justice (Rawls)	Corrective justice for historically persecuted minorities	Violates <i>justice as fairness</i> by excluding certain groups
Utilitarianism	Maximises welfare for vulnerable minorities	Creates harm for equally persecuted excluded groups
Kantian Ethics	Protects dignity of targeted communities	Treats excluded refugees as means to political ends
Secularism	Seen as helping religiously persecuted minorities	Perceived as religion-based discrimination, against constitutional secularism
Non-Discrimination	Prioritises vulnerable groups based on persecution data	Breaks equality principle (Article 14) by religious filter
Humanitarianism	Recognises moral duty to protect the oppressed	Selectivity undermines universality of humanitarian ethics

Constitutional Morality vs Social Morality

- **Constitutional Morality** → Equality before law, non-discrimination (Articles 14, 15), secularism (Preamble).
- **Social Morality** → Majoritarian sympathy for co-religionists.
- **Ethical conflict:** Should citizenship policy be based on **religion** or **universal vulnerability**?

Ethical Dilemmas:

- **Selective Justice vs Universal Equality** – Can selective protection be ethically justified if it helps some but excludes others equally in need?
- **Humanitarian Duty vs Demographic Concerns** – Balancing compassion with resource and security considerations.
- **Moral Consistency vs Realpolitik** – Should India apply the same standard to all persecuted refugees, even if politically inconvenient?

Legal Context

- **SC Status (2025):** Multiple petitions pending; arguments focus on Article 14 (equality) and Article 21 (right to life).

- **Govt Position:** CAA does not affect existing citizenship rights of Indian Muslims; applies only to a specific refugee category.
- **UNHCR View (2020–2024):** Law is inconsistent with global refugee protection norms due to religion-based categorisation.

Way Forward

1. **Universal Refugee Law** – Replace ad-hoc religious criteria with vulnerability-based, persecution-based protection.
2. **Case-by-Case Screening** – Use objective risk assessment, not blanket religious categories.
3. **Regional Humanitarian Compact** – SAARC/BIMSTEC-level agreement on refugee protection.
4. **Safeguards Against Discrimination** – Explicit protection for excluded groups facing persecution.

“Justice is indivisible. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

“A moral society is judged by how it treats those who stand at its margins.” – Amartya Sen

Conclusion: The CAA embodies a **moral paradox**: it offers sanctuary to some of the most vulnerable but does so selectively, risking **moral**

inconsistency and erosion of constitutional secularism. For India's global moral credibility, refugee and citizenship policies must align with **universal humanitarian values** while balancing **security and social stability**. *“The measure of a civilization is the compassion it shows to strangers.”* – Mahatma Gandhi.

ETHICS OF NUCLEAR WEAPON

The Context: Nuclear weapons are among the most **destructive tools in human history**, capable of causing **instantaneous mass casualties** and **long-term ecological devastation**. As of 2025, **nine states** possess nuclear weapons, with ~12,000 warheads globally (SIPRI data 2025). Ethics debates centre on whether their **existence, possession, threat, or use** can ever be morally justified.

The Core Ethical Questions:

1. Is deterrence morally superior to disarmament if it prevents war?
2. Does possessing nuclear weapons violate humanitarian principles even if they are never used?
3. Can “mutually assured destruction” be reconciled with global peace ethics?
4. Do nuclear weapons undermine the moral legitimacy of a state in IR?

Ethical Framework Analysis:

Ethical Theory	View on Nuclear Weapons	Reasoning
Kantian Deontology	Opposed	Treats humanity as ends; indiscriminate civilian killing violates categorical imperative.
Utilitarianism	Conditional	If deterrence prevents greater wars, may be morally tolerable — but use is unacceptable due to disproportionate harm.
Just War Theory	Opposed	Violates <i>jus in bello</i> principles — proportionality & discrimination.
Pacifism	Absolutely opposed	Rejects all mass-killing instruments.
Realist Ethics in IR	Acceptable for state survival	Power politics prioritise security over universal moral law.

International Legal Framework:

- **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT, 1968)** – Disarmament, non-proliferation, peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** – Prohibits tests; not yet in force.
- **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW, 2017)** – First legally binding ban; none of the nuclear states signed.
- **ICJ Advisory Opinion (1996)** – Use generally contrary to humanitarian law; legality in self-defence under extreme circumstances remains undecided.

Positive Arguments (Pro-Deterrence):

1. **Security & Stability** – Cold War nuclear deterrence prevented direct US–USSR war.
2. **Defensive Equality** – Allows smaller states (e.g., North Korea) to deter stronger adversaries.
3. **Psychological Restraint** – The catastrophic potential dissuades rash military action.

Negative Arguments:

1. **Indiscriminate Destruction** – Civilians inevitably targeted; breaches humanitarian law.

2. **Environmental Harm** – Nuclear winter & radiation can cause intergenerational damage.
3. **Accident/Misuse Risk** – Technical failures, cyberattacks, or human error could trigger catastrophe (e.g., 1983 Soviet false alarm incident).
4. **Moral Hazard of Deterrence** – Normalises the legitimacy of possessing doomsday weapons.
5. **Inequity in Global Governance** – NPT’s nuclear–non-nuclear divide institutionalises privilege.

India’s Stance:

- **No First Use (NFU)** – Moral restraint in doctrine.
- **Credible Minimum Deterrence** – Limits arsenal to essential defensive needs.
- **Support for Global Disarmament** – Consistent at UN, though maintains weapons due to security environment (China, Pakistan).

Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas:

- **Ukraine War & Nuclear Threats** – Russian rhetoric has revived fear of tactical nuclear use.
- **AI in Nuclear Command** – Raises questions on delegating life-and-death decisions to machines.
- **Climate & Nuclear Link** – Use could wipe out decades of sustainability progress.
- **Middle East Instability** – Iran’s nuclear ambitions raise regional security vs non-proliferation ethics.

“The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking.” – Albert Einstein

“Nuclear weapons are not just a threat to peace, they are a threat to life itself.” – Ban Ki-moon

Conclusion: Nuclear weapons sit at the intersection of **security realism** and **humanitarian idealism**. While deterrence theory argues they maintain peace among nuclear states,

their existence perpetuates the risk of **annihilation** and undermines global justice. Ethically, the world must transition from **deterrence-based stability** to **disarmament-based security**, integrating moral responsibility with pragmatic international cooperation. *“The possession of nuclear weapons makes states secure only in the sense that a suicide pact makes people safe from murder.” – Jonathan Schell*

Gandhian Principle and Nuclear Weapon

Gandhian Principle	Reason Nuclear Weapons Violate It
Ahimsa (Non-violence)	Nuclear weapons cause indiscriminate killing of civilians and combatants alike.
Satya (Truth)	Their very existence is based on threat, fear, and mistrust — contrary to truth-based relations.
Sarvodaya (Welfare of all)	They harm not just enemies but also humanity at large, including future generations.
Trust & Moral Leadership	Reliance on deterrence undermines moral authority of a state.

Gandhi’s Explicit Views

- Gandhi called the **bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945)** *“the most diabolical use of science”*.
- He argued that **true security lies in moral courage, not destructive capacity**.
- He believed that adopting nuclear weapons would **corrupt national character**, making nations arrogant and morally complacent.

Ethical Reasoning

1. **Ends–Means Consistency** – In Gandhian ethics, immoral means corrupt even noble ends. Nuclear weapons, being mass-destructive, can never produce a morally just peace.

2. **Indiscriminate Harm** – Violates principle of discrimination in conflict; kills innocents.
3. **Moral Disarmament First** – Gandhi argued that disarmament must begin in the mind and heart; nuclear abolition should follow moral awakening.

“Peace will not come out of a clash of arms but out of justice lived and done.” Gandhi

“Means are to an end as a seed is to a tree.” – condemning destructive means for peaceful ends. Gandhi

Influence on India’s Stance

- **Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan (1988)** for global nuclear disarmament drew on Gandhian non-violence.
- **India’s No First Use (NFU) doctrine** echoes Gandhian restraint in war.
- **Moral Diplomacy** – India’s repeated calls at UN for universal nuclear disarmament are rooted in this moral heritage.

“What has happened to the soul of the destroying nation is yet too early to see. Force of arms will pass, but the moral bankruptcy it leaves will be the real tragedy.” – Gandhi on Hiroshima

RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENCE

Concept in IR

- In international law, the **Right to Self-Defence** is recognised under **Article 51 of the UN Charter**: “Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs...”
- In ethics, the debate is not just **whether** a state can defend itself, but **how far it can go** without violating humanitarian and moral norms.

Ethical Principles

Ethical Lens	Relevance	Key Moral Question
Natural Law (Hugo Grotius)	Self-defence is an inherent right of all beings	Is survival a higher moral law than treaty constraints?
Just War Theory	Must satisfy <i>jus ad bellum</i> (just cause, right authority, last resort) & <i>jus in bello</i> (proportionality, discrimination)	Does self-defence justify pre-emptive strikes?
Utilitarianism	Defence justified if it prevents greater harm	Can collateral civilian deaths ever be outweighed by security gains?
Kantian Ethics	Defence permissible if respects human dignity & universal law	Does retaliatory force treat opponents as mere means?

Legal vs Ethical Boundaries

- **Legal:** Requires an *actual* armed attack or imminent threat; use of force must be necessary & proportionate.
- **Ethical:** Goes beyond law — considers long-term peace, human dignity, and avoidance of unnecessary suffering.

Positive Examples

Case	Ethical Justification
India in 1971 (Bangladesh Liberation)	Collective self-defence with Mukti Bahini; prevented genocide (aligns with humanitarian intervention)
Kurds defending Kobane (2014)	Survival of civilian population against ISIS — proportional and necessity-based
Ukraine resisting Russia (2022-25)	Defence of sovereignty and civilian life; broad international moral support

Controversial / Negative Examples

Case	Ethical Concern
US invasion of Iraq (2003)	Claimed <i>pre-emptive</i> self-defence; lacked imminent threat evidence
Israel's Gaza strikes (2023-25)	Claimed defence vs Hamas; criticised for disproportionate civilian casualties
Russia's "self-defence" claim in Ukraine (2022)	Widely seen as fabricated pretext for aggression

Ethical Dilemmas in Practice

1. **Pre-emptive vs Preventive Defence** – Is striking first ever morally acceptable?
2. **Proportionality** – How much force is too much?
3. **Collective Self-Defence** – When should allies intervene?
4. **Civilian Protection** – How to defend without committing war crimes?
5. **Double Effect Doctrine** – Unintended civilian harm may be permissible if proportional and necessary — but who decides?

India's Ethical Stand

- **No First Use** in nuclear policy — restraint principle.
- **Surgical Strikes (2016) & Balakot Airstrike (2019)** framed as *measured* self-defence.
- Emphasis on **proportionality** and **post-action de-escalation** to maintain regional stability.

"Self-defence is not only our right; it is our duty." – Ronald Reagan

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." – Martin Luther King Jr. (often used to justify collective defence)

"The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting." – Sun Tzu

Quotes

- **UN Charter Preamble:** "To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war..."
- **Grotius (Father of IR Ethics):** "The liberty of self-defence is given by nature."
- **John Rawls:** "A just war is fought for the right reasons, and fought in the right way."
- **Kautilya:** "It is the duty of the king to protect the weak and punish aggression."

Conclusion: The right to self-defence in IR is **morally justified when it is necessary, proportionate, and aimed at restoring peace**, not vengeance or domination. Unchecked, it risks becoming a **cloak for aggression**, eroding the moral foundation of global order. Ethical statecraft demands that **self-defence protects life without destroying the very values it seeks to defend**. "An eye for an eye will leave the whole world blind." – Mahatma Gandhi (warning against disproportionate retaliation)

Right to Self-Defence in International Relations — Ethics Map

Component	Explanation	Example	IR Implication
Legal Basis	UN Charter Article 51 — Self-defence allowed if <i>armed attack occurs</i> .	Ukraine defending against Russian aggression (2022–2025)	Strengthens legal norms of sovereignty.
Natural Law Ethics	Self-defence is a moral right of individuals & states; survival is intrinsic.	Kurds defending Kobane against ISIS (2014)	Morality can exist even when legal frameworks are weak.
Just War Theory	Must meet 3 conditions: just cause, last resort, proportionality.	India's intervention in East Pakistan (1971)	Morality of war assessed beyond legality.
Utilitarianism	Actions justified if they maximise good over harm.	Israel's Iron Dome vs rocket attacks — mixed utility; some civilian losses	Civilian impact often raises questions of ethical cost-benefit.
Kantian Ethics	Ends never justify means; human dignity must not be violated.	US drone strikes on suspected terrorists (Yemen, 2012–2018)	Raises issue of targeted killings without trial — ethical violation.
Proportionality Principle	Force used must be equivalent to the threat.	Balakot airstrike (2019): Claimed limited, targeted	Important for escalation control in nuclear-armed regions.
Collective Self-Defence	Allowed when allies are attacked.	NATO support to Ukraine, Indian aid to Bhutan (Doklam, 2017)	Builds solidarity, but risks bloc politics.
Pre-emptive Strike Ethics	Morally contested — threat must be <i>imminent</i> .	Iraq War (2003): False claims of WMDs	Weakens trust in international institutions.
Double Effect Doctrine	Unintended civilian deaths may be ethically tolerated if side-effect of moral act.	Civilian casualties in Gaza raids justified as targeting militants — debated	Blurs line between ethical defence & disproportionate response.

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MAINS

Test Series 2027-28



GS Mains Test Series

From: **13th Sept. 2026**

Total Tests : 12

(8 Sectional + 4 Full Length Tests)

The Highlights

- Model Answer, Evaluation and Mentoring

Material Support

- Relevant Current Developments (Soft Copy)

Ethics Test Series

From: **17th Sept. 2026**

Total Tests : 06

(2 Sectional + 4 Full Length Tests)

The Highlights

- Recorded Discussion Videos for Tests (1-4)
- Model Answer, Evaluation and Mentoring

Material Support

- 1 Year Current Developments in Ethics (Soft Copy)
- Facts/examples/case studies framework (soft copy)

PA Test Series

From: **12th Sept. 2026**

Total Tests : 10

(8 Sectional Tests + 2 Mock Tests)

The Highlights

- Discussion for Tests (1-8)
- Model Answer, Evaluation & Mentoring

Essay Test Series

From: **18th Sept. 2026**

Total Tests : 06

(2 Foundational + 4 Full Length Tests)

The Highlights

- Strategy on Essay: Recorded Video
- Recorded Discussion Videos for Tests (1-4)
- Feedback Session with S Ansari: 03 (Recorded Video)
- Model Answer, Evaluation and Mentoring

Material Support

- Essay Study Material (Soft Copy)



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- ✓ **GS Paper-II**
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- ✓ **Essay**
- By S. Ansari**

👑 **Total selections 151 in CSE 2025** **More than 1850 selections in the last 14 years**

Top Rankers Since 2011: **01, 02, 03, 05, 07, 08, 09 & 10**

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For CSE 2027 | By S. Ansari



Total 32 Classes

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Coverage of entire syllabus

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- ✓ Contemporary & current developments
- ✓ Trend Analysis and Discussion of PYQs
- ✓ PYQs based Tests

Resource Support

- ✓ A book on Contemporary & Current Developments (Hard Copy)



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The Past Results from Public Admin. Crash Course

291 Marks



AIR 11

YASHASWI RAJ VARDHAN
CSE 2025

302 Marks



AIR 11

NUPUR GOEL
CSE 2019

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AIR 05

ABHILASH MISHRA
CSE 2016

(Five days to scale-up your Ans. writing with FLEXI-TIME)

The legacy of top ranks in Ethics since 2014 Continues

Top Ranks from Ethics Courses in CSE 2025



RAJESHWARI SUVE M
(AIR 02)
(Ethics Test Series 2023 & 2025)



AKANSH DHULL
(AIR 03)
(Ethics & Essay Test Series 2023 & Ethics Case Studies 2023)



ISHAN BHATNAGAR
(AIR 05)
(Ethics Test Series 2025)



A R RAJAH MOHAIDEEN
(AIR 07)
(Ethics Test Series 2025)



YASHASWI RAJ VARDHAN
(AIR 11)
(Ethics Crash Course 2025)

Practice 35 Best & Most Expected Ques.

For CSE 2027 | By S. Ansari

Theory Section

- Practice 25 most expected theory questions
- Learn how to write 4-5 examples with quotes in one answer
- Get one day advance a list of examples, philosophies and quotes to incorporate next day in your answer

Case Studies

- 10 most popular theme based new case studies
- Learn how to write Innovative INTRO, quotes and examples in one answer to make it philosophical
- Get one day advance as per the theme, legal and ethical framework for INTRO, a list of examples, philosophies and quotes to incorporate next day in your answer

From: 14th Sept. 2026

Test Time For Offline: 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM

For Online: Flexi Time

Discussion: Only Online Recorded Videos (Validity is 6 Days)

- ✓ Ethical framework notes for each day
- ✓ Evaluation & discussion videos
- ✓ Innovative model answers
- ✓ Same day evaluation



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Day	Theory Section (Syllabus)	Case Studies (Syllabus)
Day-1	Virtue Ethics, Kant, Teleology, Human Values and role of leaders, foundational values and terminologies	Development-environment conflicts and related issues of integrity and ethical leadership
Day-2	Attitude, Emotional intelligence, law, rules, regulations and conscience and relationship between two concepts	Land acquisition, developments and removal of encroachments, historical place and removal of encroachments, illegal mining etc.
Day-3	Civil services values, code of conduct, code of ethics, probity, integrity, accountability, corruption and fund utilization	Social justice-child labor, workplace harassment, shelter homes, rehabilitation centers, drugs and rehabilitation, other related topics
Day-4	Ethics in IR, ethical issues in international funding, corporate governance, ethical governance and RTI, CC, Social Audit, e-governance, social capital and good governance	Civil services, neutrality, integrity, politics-administration relations, corruption, whistleblowing, protecting honest officers, work culture
Day-5	Philosophical statements and applied ethics questions based on recent development	Ethics of Conflict management, ethics of weapon, ethics in IR, RTI, education, health, media, CSO, etc.

Top Rankers & Highest Marks from Ethics Courses Since 2014

Get Ready for Mains 2027 before you start your Prelims in December

MIGP

Mains Intensive Guidance Program

GS + Essay Advance Course for CSE 2027

- ✓ **Total Class: 101**
- ✓ **Total Tests: 30**
- Include 05 Essay Classes and 04 Essay Tests
- 5 hours a day & 5 days a week

From: 14th Sept.

Class Time: 2:30 PM to 5 PM & 5:30 PM to 8 PM

Why to join MIGP ?

- ✓ Effective Revision of Entire Syllabus
- ✓ Quality Content with Short Notes
- ✓ All PYQs Discussion with Answer-Writing Practice
- ✓ Optimum time utilisation till December

- Answer Writing, Evaluation & Discussion
- Answer Writing Practice 3 days in a week (5 Question including PYQs)

Essay, GS-II (Except IR) & GS -IV by S Ansari

- ✓ **Shorts Notes**
- ✓ **Value-addition**
- ✓ **Revision**
- ✓ **Writing**

14th Sept.

GS Paper-IV (Module)

- ✓ **15 Classes**
- ✓ **03 Tests**

GS Paper-IV (Ethics) By S. Ansari

19th Oct.

GS Paper-II (Module)

- ✓ **31 Classes**
- ✓ **06 Tests**

- Polity, Constitution, Social Justice & Governance by S. Ansari
- International Relations (IR) by Tejal Khandelwal

14th Sept.

GS Paper-I (Module)

- ✓ **26 Classes**
- ✓ **06 Tests**

Society

by Vaibhav Sharma

Geography

by Arjit M. Kumar

History & Culture

by Expert Faculty

26th Oct.

GS Paper-III (Module)

- ✓ **24 Classes**
- ✓ **05 Tests**

Economy and Science & Tech
by Kumar Shivang

Ecology, DM and Internal Security
by Arjit M. Kumar

02nd Nov.

Essay (Module) By S. Ansari

- ✓ **05 Classes**
- ✓ **04 Tests**

One Course, Multiple Advantages
For CSE 2027-28



Combo Foundation Courses

Offline | Live Online Classes (Recorded Videos) **By S. Ansari**

GS-IV + PA + GS-II

Total Classes: 263

Total Tests: 44

From: **16th Sept.**

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GS Paper-IV Foundation

From: **16th Sept.**

✓ 45 Classes

- Theory Classes: 33
- Case Studies: 7
- PYQs : 5 (Recorded Videos)

✓ 11 Tests

4 Class Tests on Theory and 7 Extempore Test on Case Studies with Evaluation and Model Answers

RESOURCE MATERIALS

- 4 Books on Ethics (Hard Copy) (2+1+1) books on syllabus topics, facts & examples and 100 best case studies

Public Admin. Foundation

From: **17th Sept.**

✓ 125 Classes

✓ 22 Tests

with Evaluation of Answers and Model Answer by Experts

RESOURCE MATERIALS

- Four booklets covering entire syllabus (26 chapters of paper-I & II).
- One booklet on Contemporary & Current Developments.

***Complimentary Prelims Test Series**

GS Paper-II Foundation

From: **14th Dec.**

✓ 93 Classes

Polity, Governance & Social Justice: 78
By S. Ansari
International Relations (IR): 15
By Tejal Khandelwal

✓ 11 Tests

4 PT Class Tests consisting of 50 MCQs, 5 Mains Class Tests consisting of 10 Questions and 1 Mains Mock Test and 1 Prelims Test

RESOURCE MATERIALS

- Polity through Short Notes (1 Book)
- International Relations (1 Book)
- Indian Polity - PT Booster (1 Book)
- Current Developments (Soft Copies)



Top Rankers Since 2011: 01, 02, 03, 05, 07, 08, 09 & 10

★ **Over 1850 successful students since 2011**

★ **Total selections 151 in CSE 2025**

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