

**Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and Consequences of Ethics in Human actions: dimensions of Ethics: Ethics in Private and Public relationships, Ethics integrity and Accountability in Public Service.**

### **Previous questions**

**Q. Define ethics, with reference to ethics in Indian tradition. Mention five principles to manage ethics in public service.**

**Q. How does time and space affect ethics in private and public relationships? Illustrate.**

**Q. Ethics in public service is an essential component of parliamentary democracy" In**

**this connection, discuss the pathway towards a 'Naitik Bharat'.**

**Q. Define Accountability'. Discuss the factors that have led to weakening of accountability in civil services. Suggest ways to improve the mechanisms for accountability in civil services.**

**Q. Public servants often face situations where personal values conflict with public responsibilities. Examine how a strong ethical foundation can help resolve such dilemmas while maintaining accountability.**

**Q. Whistleblowers are guardians of ethical accountability in governance. Discuss the ethical and institutional importance of whistleblower protection in ensuring integrity in public service.**

**ANSWER WRITING TECHNOLOGY**

STEP - 1 : Explain the 'terms' or 'phrases' of the question. Generally there will be two main terms (Point A and Point B)

STEP - 2 : Justification - Establish the connection between Point A and Point B.

STEP - 3 : Complement – without differing from the idea of the statement in the question add more value.

STEP - 4 : Contradict – critically analyse. (anti-thesis)

STEP - 5 : Prescription | relation to other concepts. ///

## Ethics

**Q. Define ethics, with reference to ethics in Indian tradition. 2020**

**M. Q. Define the term 'ethics'. Discuss the foundational principles of ethics as reflected in**

**the Indian tradition and explain their relevance to modern administration.**

Integrity refers to coherence between thought, speech and action, even in adverse situations.

Aptitude refers to skills and abilities, inherent or cultivated, that help to practice ethics well.

» Ethics are standards and principles of right and wrong to judge and guide human behaviour. It is a guiding light for human conduct. It provides frameworks for resolving moral dilemmas and evaluating actions based on principles beyond mere legality or self interest.

**Ethics in Indian Tradition:** While Western ethics focuses heavily on rights and social contracts, the Indian ethical tradition is fundamentally

duty-centric, holistic, and closely linked with human liberation.

### **Core Dimensions in the Indian Tradition**

- Dharma (Righteous Duty): It is the cosmic and moral law that sustains society. It comprises Sadharana Dharma (universal values like Satya and Ahimsa) and Svadharma (contextual, individual duties).

- Nishkama Karma (Selfless Action): Propounded in the Bhagavad Gita, it mandates performing duties without attachment to the results. It serves as the philosophical foundation for modern bureaucratic objectivity and anonymity.

- The Purusharthas (Balanced Life Goals): It integrates material pursuits (Artha) and desires (Kama) under the regulatory framework of righteousness (Dharma) to achieve ultimate liberation (Moksha).

- Heterodox Values: Buddhist ethics emphasizes compassion (Karuna) and the Ashtangika Marga (Eightfold Path), while Jaina ethics champions extreme non-violence (Ahimsa) and non-possessiveness (Aparigraha).

**Key Sources:** Ethical principles are derived from diverse sources:

1. Vedas & Upanishads: Emphasis on Rita (cosmic order), Satya (truth), Tapas (austerity), and the importance of right action (karma).
2. Epics (Ramayana, Mahabharata): Provide narratives illustrating ethical dilemmas, virtues (like Rama's adherence to truth, Yudhishtira's commitment to dharma), and the consequences of adharma.
3. Bhagavad Gita: emphasizing Nishkama Karma (selfless action without attachment to results),

duty, devotion, and equanimity as paths to ethical living.

4. Arthashastra: Kautilya's treatise on statecraft emphasizes pragmatic ethics in governance, including the king's duty, punishment for corruption, and welfare.

5. Teachings of Buddha & Mahavira: Emphasized non violence (Ahimsa), compassion (Karuna), truthfulness (Satya), and non possessiveness as core ethical virtues.

6. - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The world as one family, extending ethical concern to all beings.

### **Distinctive Features of Indian Ethics**

1. - Holistic: Integrates spiritual, social, and personal dimensions.

2. - Duty-oriented: Focuses more on obligations than rights.

3. - Universal: Extends morality beyond humans to all living beings.

4. - Practical: Narratives and parables illustrate ethical conduct.

### **Relevance to Modern Administration**

-Objectivity and Impartiality: Nishkama Karma

- Compassionate Governance: The ethical ideals of Karuna (compassion) and Daya translate directly into the Gandhian philosophy of Sarvodaya through Antyodaya —ensuring that administrative decisions actively prioritize the welfare of the most vulnerable sections of society.

- Global and Inclusive Outlook: The ancient maxim of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) fosters a spirit of environmental stewardship, sustainable development, and global cooperation in public policy.

**Conclusion»** In the contemporary era, the ancient Indian ethos provides vital governing principles. Embracing ideas like Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) and Sarva Hitaya, Sarva Sukhaya (welfare of all) can transition administration from mere governance to empathetic public service. ////

**What is right?:** moral choices that align with...  
o Human wellbeing o Happiness o Shared humanity. o One humanity o Justice – giving people their due. o Balancing the interest of all. o Ethical governance o Having a vision of inclusion of all – awakened conscience. ///

**Essential Characteristics of Ethics**

1. Universality (Not Absolutism): Ethics identifies core values—such as justice, human dignity, and integrity—that transcend cultural boundaries. However, it avoids the trap of moral absolutism by recognizing that rules must occasionally yield to prevent extreme harm.

2. Contextuality (Not Relativism): Ethical frameworks demand that decisions adapt to situational facts and vulnerabilities. Crucially, this is not moral relativism, where "anything goes"; rather, it is the application of universal principles to specific realities to achieve equity.

3. Obligation: Ethics carries an inherent moral force. It creates an internal, binding duty ("ought") to act rightly, regardless of personal gain or external surveillance. ////

**Q. Differentiate moral absolutism from ethical pluralism with suitable examples.**

**Q. "Ethical principles are both universal in nature and culturally relative." Critically analyze this statement with relevant examples.**

**Q. Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification.**

». ..... The debate between moral universalism (absolute values) and cultural relativism (context-dependent values) reveals that while the foundational core of ethics is universal, its practical application is often shaped by societal, temporal, and geographical contexts.

## **Arguments for the Universality of Ethics :**

Universal ethics argues that certain fundamental principles transcend geographical boundaries, cultures, and chronological eras. They are rooted in the inherent dignity of human life

- **Survival of Society:** Fundamental prohibitions against indiscriminate murder, theft, and deceit are universally enforced because no civilization can function without them.

- **Core Principles:** Values like compassion, honesty, justice, and human dignity are globally celebrated across eras.

- **Philosophical Basis:** Immanuel Kant's Categorical Imperative argues that certain moral duties apply to all rational beings unconditionally, regardless of context.

- Global Frameworks: The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides global proof that humanity agrees on immutable rights, such as freedom from torture and arbitrary detention.

**Arguments for Cultural and Temporal Relativity** : Cultural relativism asserts that Societal values shift due to historical progress, socio-economic developments, legal updates, and technological advancements.

- Historical Evolution: Practices like slavery and untouchability were legally and socially tolerated in the past but are heavily condemned today.

- Socio-Legal Progress: The expanding definition of equality now encompasses LGBTQ+ rights and gender parity, reflecting changing moral landscapes.

- Technological Dilemmas: The rise of artificial intelligence has pushed data privacy and digital justice to the forefront of modern ethics.
- Situational Adjustments: In Situational Ethics, actions adapt to circumstances; for instance, a public official prioritizing emergency relief over standard bureaucratic procedures during a disaster.

The Constitution beautifully reflects this synthesis. The core eternal values of Justice, Liberty, and Equality are permanently enshrined in the Preamble and Fundamental Rights. Meanwhile, the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) allow the state the flexibility to adapt governance to changing socio-economic realities over time.

For a public administrator, balancing this duality is vital for effective governance. - Upholding the Core: A civil servant must never compromise on core values like integrity, non-partisanship, and empathy for weaker sections, regardless of political pressure or situational difficulty. - Adapting the Periphery: Bureaucrats must remain flexible when implementing uniform national policies to respect local tribal customs, traditions, and regional sensitivities.

**Conclusion** » Ethical principles are neither entirely rigid nor completely fluid. It is best to view them as a pluralistic framework: the core goals of ethics—justice, dignity, and human flourishing—are universal, but the pathways and cultural vehicles used to reach those goals are relative. True ethical progress lies in upholding

universal human dignity while maintaining deep empathy for cultural diversity. ////

**19. Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective. (b) Giving examples, show how the two differ in their approaches.**

**Q. What is the relationship between Ethics and Law? Explain with examples**

». Law refers to a formal, codified system of rules and regulations created and enforced by a governing authority to maintain social order. Ethics ..... Law and ethics are the twin pillars of social control that transform a chaotic state of nature into a civilized society.

While Thomas Hobbes noted that without rules, human life would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short," law provides the external skeletal framework of order, and ethics supplies the internal moral soul that makes peaceful coexistence possible.

They are neither completely identical nor entirely distinct; rather, they exist in a dynamic, intersecting relationship where law provides the teeth and ethics provides the soul.

1. Law as the Codification of Ethics: Law is often society's attempt to institutionalize its shared ethical consensus. When a moral value becomes critical to preserving public welfare, it is formalised into legislation. - Example: Concepts like equality and human dignity are deep ethical ideals. They have been codified into law through

Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution, turning moral claims into enforceable rights.

2. Ethics as the Precursor and Critic of Law : Ethics is a dynamic, evolving framework that serves as the moral compass to judge existing laws. When laws fail to reflect shifting societal ethics, they lose their legitimacy and face pressure for reform. - Example (Decriminalisation of Section 377): demonstrating how ethics rectifies obsolete laws.

3. Lawful but Unethical (The Minimalist vs. Aspirational Gap) : Laws generally prescribe the minimum acceptable standard of behavior to avoid punishment, whereas ethics demands the highest standard of conduct driven by conscience. - Example: An MNC aggressively

marketing legally permitted, ultra-processed junk food to young children via misleading advertisements behaves lawfully but highly unethically.

4. Unlawful but Ethical (Conscientious Objection) When a state enforces unjust or oppressive laws, individuals driven by a higher ethical calling may choose to deliberately violate the law to uphold justice. - Example: Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi Salt March in 1930 was an illegal act under British colonial statutes. However, it was ethically impeccable as a non-violent protest against an exploitative imperial monopoly.

**(a) How Law and Ethics Achieve Civilized Social Existence** : Both mechanisms work in tandem

to regulate human conduct through distinct pathways:

- By Curbing Deviant Behavior: Law uses the fear of institutional punishment (deterrence) to prevent crimes like theft and violence, maintaining public order.

- By Fostering Voluntarism: Ethics instills an inner conscience, guiding individuals to act rightly (e.g., respecting elders, showing compassion) even when no one is watching.

- By Resolving Conflicts: Codified laws provide a predictable, uniform, and peaceful dispute resolution mechanism, replacing the rule of might with the rule of law.

- By Promoting Common Good: Ethical values like altruism and empathy drive social welfare activities, charity, and community support, which laws alone cannot mandate.

- By Evolving with Society: Ethics acts as a precursor to law; progressive ethical shifts eventually force the law to reform (e.g., the abolition of Sati, legalizing same-sex relationships).

**(b) Structural Differences in Their Approaches (with Examples) :** While their destination is social harmony, their journeys differ fundamentally:

**| Dimension | Approach of Law | Approach of Ethics |**

| Source & Force | External sovereign power; backed by state sanctions and force. | Internal conscience; backed by social sanction or self-reproach. |

| Benchmark | Sets the minimum standard of conduct required to avoid punishment. | Aims

for the highest standard of moral excellence and virtue. |

| Scope | Regulates only external actions that affect others. | Regulates inner motives, intentions, and thoughts. |

**Comparative Examples: ....**

**Conclusion: Constitutional Morality as the Synthesis** » Law without ethics is blind and oppressive, while ethics without law is fragile and unenforceable. For a public servant, merely following the letter of the law is insufficient; one must adhere to its underlying ethical intent. This synthesis is captured by the concept of Constitutional Morality, which requires administrators to interpret legal statutes through the ethical lens of justice, liberty, and

equity. Governance achieves its ultimate state of excellence when laws are completely anchored in ethics, ensuring that citizens obey the law not out of fear of state retribution, but out of a deep moral respect for the system. ////

**11. Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them.**

» Laws and rules constitute the regulatory architecture of a democratic welfare state. While laws provide the broad legislative framework for governance, rules offer the operational machinery to execute them. However, both remain mere mechanical tools of social control unless they are anchored in ethics, which infuses them with justice, legitimacy, and a human conscience.

**Distinction Between Laws and Rules :** While often used interchangeably in common parlance, they differ fundamentally across several administrative dimensions:

- **Source and Authority:** Laws are primary legislations enacted directly by the sovereign legislature (e.g., Parliament or State Assemblies), such as The Environment Protection Act, 1986. Rules are subordinate legislations framed by executive authorities (ministries or bureaucrats) to implement those laws, such as The Plastic Waste Management Rules.

- **Scope and Nature:** Laws are broad, macro-level frameworks establishing universal legal mandates. Rules are narrow, micro-level

directives detailing the specific "how-to" of daily administrative implementation.

- Flexibility and Amendment: Laws are rigid, requiring a time-consuming legislative process to amend. Rules are dynamic and flexible, easily updated by executive notifications to match changing technical or social realities.

- Hierarchy: Law holds supreme statutory authority. Rules are subordinate; they derive validity from the parent law and are void if they contradict it (*ultra vires*).

**The Role of Ethics in Formulating Laws and Rules** : Ethics serves as the foundational substrate and moral compass for lawmakers and administrators during the drafting process through the following ways:

- Transforming Legality into Justice: Ethics ensures that formulations go beyond mere order to achieve equity. For instance, drafting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act stems from the ethical value of inclusivity and dignity, ensuring the law actively corrects societal imbalances.

- Preventing the Tyranny of the Letter: Because laws cannot foresee every future scenario, an ethical foundation ensures that executive rules capture the spirit of the law.

- Guiding Bureaucratic Discretion: Under "delegated legislation," bureaucrats enjoy wide powers to write rules. Ethical values of transparency, integrity, and objectivity ensure these rules prevent corruption, eliminate conflicts of interest, and promote fair play (e.g.,

in public procurement or spectrum allocation rules).

- Ensuring Social Legitimacy and Compliance: Laws and rules that alienate public morality face severe resistance. Infusing societal ethics into formulation ensures voluntary compliance. striking down part of Section 377.

**Conclusion** » ... For a civil servant, a deep understanding of this relationship ensures that rules are never weaponized as mere technical traps, but are formulated and applied as instruments of empathy, keeping administrative action firmly aligned with the constitutional vision of a just society. ///

**Q. Distinguish between ethics and morality. How do they influence decision-making in**

**public administration? Illustrate with examples.**

». While ethics refers to the external system of rules and codes of conduct provided by a society, institution, or profession, morality represents an individual's internal, subjective compass of right and wrong based on personal beliefs. In public administration, both play a pivotal role in resolving administrative dilemmas, ensuring that public decisions remain legal, procedurally sound, compassionate, and publicly justifiable.

## **Distinction Between Ethics and Morality**

**| Dimension | Morality (The Internal Compass)**

**| Ethics (The External Blueprint) |**

| Source | Internal: Rooted in personal conscience, religion, philosophical beliefs, and cultural upbringing. | External: Prescribed by an organization, profession, code of conduct, or society. |

| Nature | Subjective and Absolute: Focuses on individual compliance with universal principles (e.g., honesty is always good). | Objective and Contextual: Focuses on situational application within a specific role (e.g., a lawyer defending a guilty client). |

| Sanction | Enforced by internal conscience; violations lead to guilt, shame, or spiritual unrest. | Enforced by external institutions; violations lead to professional penalties, demotion, or legal action. |

# **Influence on Decision-Making in Public Administration**

1. Influence of Morality (Conscience-Driven). -  
Fostering Empathy: Personal morality injects compassion into rigid bureaucratic frameworks. It drives an administrator to look beyond technicalities to serve the most vulnerable. -  
Providing a Core Identity: It acts as the ultimate defense against corruption. A deeply moral officer resists temptation even when systemic loopholes ensure they would never be caught. -  
Risk of Subjectivity: If unguided, personal morality can introduce bias, leading administrators to impose their personal, religious, or cultural views onto a secular public sphere.
2. Influence of Ethics (Rules and Constitution-Driven) .....

## **Illustrative Examples**

- Example 1: The Biometric Exclusion Dilemma (The Synthesis) - Context: An undocumented, elderly woman lacks the required Aadhaar biometric verification to receive her food grains under a digital public distribution scheme. - The Tension: The administrator's morality demands that a starving person must not be turned away. However, administrative ethics demand strict compliance with verification rules to prevent leakage. - The Decision: Influenced by both, an ideal public servant does not break the law, nor do they ignore the woman. They use moral empathy to trigger an administrative backup rule—such as verifying her manually via emergency discretionary powers—balancing system integrity with human dignity.

**Conclusion: The Harmonious Blend »** In public service, morality provides the soul, while ethics provides the structure. Morality ensures that an administrator remains humane, while ethics guarantees that governance remains predictable, institutionalised, and legally sound. For an effective parliamentary democracy, a public servant must continuously harmonize their internal moral compass with the overarching ethical framework of the Constitution, achieving the ultimate goal of Good Governance. ///

**Essence of Ethics**

**M. Q. What do you understand about the 'essence of ethics'? Discuss its importance in public administration.**

». The essence of ethics represents the core attributes and fundamental character of moral principles that guide human conduct. It goes beyond mere legal compliance to determine what ought to be done to ensure human dignity, justice, and collective well-being.

**Core Dimensions of the Essence of Ethics :**

- Voluntary Human Actions: Ethics only judges actions done consciously, deliberately, and with choice. Involuntary actions (like reflexes or breathing) do not fall under its purview.
- Context-Driven and Dynamic: Ethical standards vary based on Time, Place, and Circumstance

(e.g., historical acceptance of slavery vs. modern rejection).

- Social Orientation: It cannot exist in total isolation. It acts as a collective framework that balances self-interest with the common societal good.

- Prescriptive Nature: It focuses on what "ought" to be done rather than just describing what is currently happening.

- Beyond Legal Frameworks: Laws represent the codified minimum rules of a state. Ethics goes deeper into the realm of conscience, internal accountability, and absolute fairness

**Conclusion** » Laws can only control outer human conduct, but the essence of ethics refines inner motivation. For an administrator, it transforms a career of mere authority into a

calling of impactful public service, fulfilling the constitutional dream of justice and equity. //

**M. Q. What are the key determinants of ethics in human action? Illustrate how these determinants can assist a public administrator in navigating complex ethical dilemmas.**

». Determinants of ethics are the foundational variables and sources that shape, guide, and judge the morality of human conduct. They act as reference points to evaluate whether a particular voluntary action is right or wrong, serving as both internal and external moral frameworks for individuals and society.

**1. Structural Determinants (The Anatomy of Action)** - The Object: The intrinsic nature of

the act itself. For example, speaking the truth or helping a person in pain is inherently good, whereas theft or unprovoked violence is intrinsically wrong. - The Intent/Purpose: The inner motive or the goal behind performing the action. Even an intrinsically good act can become unethical if the intent is corrupt. For instance, donating money (good object) to bribe a voter or money launder (bad intent) becomes an unethical action. - The Circumstances: The external context, timing, or situation surrounding the action. Circumstances can mitigate or aggravate the moral weight of an action. For example, stealing food to survive a devastating famine is judged differently than stealing out of greed.

**2. Extrinsic Determinants (Socio-Institutional Factors)** - Family and Upbringing: The primary

institution where an individual internalizes foundational morals like honesty, respect, and empathy. Example: [Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam]( attributed his lifelong integrity to the values taught by his parents. - Society and Culture: Prevailing traditions, collective expectations, and social norms outline what is acceptable. What is ethical in a collectivist, community-driven culture (e.g., caring for aging parents at home) might differ from individualistic Western societies. - Religion and Scriptures: Sacred texts and spiritual principles provide absolute moral guidelines (e.g., Ashtanga Yoga in Hinduism, The Ten Commandments in Christianity, or the Five Pillars of Islam). - Constitution and Law: Legal frameworks establish minimum, enforceable standards of conduct. Codified tools like the Right to

Information (RTI) Act, 2005 institutionalise transparency, reshaping governance ethics. -

Educational Institutions: Formal schooling introduces civic responsibilities, scientific temper, and rational logic to question outdated dogmas.

### 3. Intrinsic Determinants (Individual Factors) -

Conscience: The inner "voice" or moral compass that acts as the ultimate internal judge when laws or rules are silent or ambiguous. -

Personal Values: Deeply held convictions about what is valuable (e.g., integrity, fairness, neutrality), which prevent a person from compromising even under extreme pressure. -

Emotional Intelligence: The capacity to handle one's emotions and empathize with others, guiding highly compassionate decision-making.

4. Situational and Administrative Determinants - Organizational Culture: Codes of conduct, institutional history, and the behavior of leaders shape the workplace climate. Clear structures like the Civil Services Conduct Rules encourage professional neutrality. - Incentives and Deterrence: The presence or absence of swift punishment or reward alters choices. Low risks of accountability can easily normalize corruption within systems. - Time and Context: Ethical norms are dynamic and evolve across eras. Practices like slavery or Sati were socially normalized in the past but are heavily condemned as severe human rights violations today.

**Conclusion** » "Ultimately, no single determinant operates in isolation; individual values, cultural upbringing, and organizational cultures constantly interact and reinforce one another. Therefore, fostering a just society requires aligning an individual's intrinsic conscience with robust extrinsic frameworks, such as the rule of law and constitutional morality. ///

**Q. Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in contemporary times. [2017]**

**Q. What do you understand by ‘values’ and ‘ethics? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? [2013]**

### **PURPOSE / CONSEQUENCES OF ETHICS**

**Q. What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration? [2014]**

> ... While it guides individual behavior in everyday life, its importance is vastly magnified in public administration because civil servants wield immense discretionary power, manage public resources, and directly impact the lives of citizens.

## **What Ethics Seeks to Promote in Human Life :**

Ethics serves as a moral compass, translating human actions from mere survival to a purposeful, shared existence through several key dimensions:...

## **Why Ethics is All the More Important in Public AdministrationIn :**

public administration, the stakes are much higher than in private life. An individual's unethical choice affects few, but an administrator's unethical choice can devastate entire communities. Ethics is critical in governance due to the following structural realities....

**Conclusion** > Laws can only regulate external behavior, but ethics regulates the inner thoughts that guide an administrator's pen. In

the words of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), an ethical infrastructure is indispensable to transform governance from a mechanical exercise of power into a value-based service that upholds constitutional morality. ///

**Q. It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure the smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning? 2022**

> Adherence to ethics acts as the foundational glue of any system, converting mechanical compliance into value-based governance. While it ensures systemic stability, its ultimate purpose

is rooted in enriching human existence and resolving daily friction.

## **What Ethics Seeks to Promote in Human Life....**

**Role of Ethical Values in Resolving Day-to-Day Conflicts :** In daily administration, ethical values transform chaotic dilemmas into fair, structural decisions:

- Integrity and Objectivity: Resolve Conflicts of Interest (Duty vs. Personal Gain) by helping public servants isolate personal bias and prioritize organizational goals.
- Compassion over Rigid Bureaucracy: Resolve the clash between Rules and Empathy when a poor citizen lacks legal documents, guiding administrators to find legal yet humane solutions.

- Moral Courage: Resolves External Pressure vs. Professional Duty, empowering officials to resist unethical directives from political superiors or commercial lobbies.
- Accountability: Resolves the temptation of Short-Term Benefits, ensuring decisions favor long-term public welfare over immediate convenience.

**Conclusion** > Ultimately, ethics is not a restrictive set of rules but an enabling framework. It bridges the gap between what is legally permissible and what is morally right, transforming public systems from centers of power into instruments of public trust. ///

**In lecture : 3 : 1.50 - What is right ? is also purpose of ethics**

» The 'consequences of ethics' refer to the real-world outcomes, impacts, and repercussions that emerge when moral principles guide human actions. Ethics serves as the foundational operating system of a society; its presence or absence directly determines the stability, survival, and progress of both individuals and the collective community.

## **Individual level :**

### **Means of ethics at individual level**

o Virtues: Develop moral excellence (e.g., honesty, courage). Eg: Nelson Mandela's perseverance and integrity.

o Tolerance: Respect differing viewpoints and behaviors. Eg:

Mahatma Gandhi's advocacy for religious harmony.

o Sensitivity: Be aware of others' feelings and needs. Eg: Mother Teresa's care for the poor.

o Emotional Intelligence (EI): Manage emotions effectively. Eg: Barack Obama's calm leadership during crises.

o Moral Reasoning: Make decisions based on ethical principles. Eg: Martin Luther King Jr.'s arguments for civil rights.

o Critical Thinking: Analyze and evaluate ideas critically. Eg: Socrates' method of questioning.

o Self-Reflection: Contemplate one's values and actions. Eg: Marcus Aurelius' meditations.

o Reflective Equilibrium (John Rawls): Balance different moral principles.

o Dialectic Method (Socrates): Engage in dialogue to discover truth.

- o Wisdom: Apply knowledge with good judgment. Confucius' teachings.
- o Leadership: Guide others ethically. Eg: Winston Churchill's leadership during WWII.
- o Creativity: Innovate ethically to solve problems. Eg: Steve Jobs' innovation balanced with ethical considerations.

### **End of ethics at individual level**

- o Dignity: Recognize and respect the inherent worth of individuals.
- o Liberty: Ensure freedom from oppression.
- o Autonomy: Empower individuals to make their own choices.
- o Freedom: Promote the ability to act and think freely.
- o Happiness: Foster overall well-being and contentment.

- o Adherence to Conscience: Act in accordance with one's moral principles.
- o Acting as Agency: Enable individuals to be agents of change

## **Social level**

### **Means of ethics at social level**

- o Empathy: Understand and feel the pain and suffering of others. Eg: Dalai Lama's teachings on compassion.
- o Emotional Connection: Build strong interpersonal relationships.
  - o Mutual Respect and Understanding: Foster respect and comprehension between people.
- o Good Relations: Maintain healthy and constructive relationships.
- o Trust: Build and maintain trust in relationships. Eg: Warren Buffet's business ethos.

- o Value Alignment through Persuasion: Align values through ethical persuasion.
- o Expansion of Social Morality: Extend ethical considerations to broader society.

### **Ends of ethics at social level**

- o Shared Humanity: Recognize the common humanity of all people.
- o Human Well-Being: Promote the overall welfare of individuals.
- o Peace and Harmony: Ensure societal tranquility and mutual respect.
- o Justice: Strive for fairness and equity in society.
- o Balancing Interests: Ensure fair consideration of all parties' interests.
- o Cooperation and Consensus: Foster collaborative and consensual decision-making.
- o Social Capital: Build networks of relationships that facilitate societal functions.

## **Administrative level**

### **Means**

- o Public Service Values: Uphold values of public service and commitment.
- o Dedication: Commit to serving the public effectively. Eg: Malala Yousafzai's advocacy for education.
- o Spirit of Service: Foster a willingness to serve others.
- o Resolution of Ethical Concerns and Dilemmas: Address ethical issues with care.
- o Public Reasoning: Engage in reasoned discourse for public good.
- o Using Conscience for 'Caring Bureaucracy': Apply moral principles in public administration.
- o Probity and Transparency: Ensure honesty and openness in governance

### **Ends**

- o Public Service: Provide effective and ethical public services.
- o Public Interest: uphold interest of all section of society. .
- o Honoring Social Contract: Uphold the implicit agreement between the government and the governed.
- o Trusteeship: Act with care and virtues.
- o Justice Delivery: Ensure fair administration of justice.
- o Rule of Law: Maintain legal integrity and fairness.
- o Peace and Order: Maintain societal peace and order.
- o Accountability: Hold public officials accountable for their actions.
- o Ethical Governance: Ensure governance is conducted with ethical principles.

## **Consequences of Unethical Actions**

**M. Q. "Unethical actions not only erode individual integrity but also trigger a systemic collapse of institutional trust." Critically analyze the multi-dimensional consequences of unethical behavior in public administration. Suggest measures to foster an ethical work culture.**

Ethics forms the bedrock of public administration. When individual integrity fails, the resulting unethical actions create a domino effect, transforming personal moral lapses into systemic institutional decay

**Conclusion** > As Mahatma Gandhi noted, "Commerce without morality" and "Politics without principles" are social sins. Combating unethical actions requires a synthesis of strict

legal enforcement and deep-seated internal moral conditioning to restore the pristine nature of public service. ///

### **Normative principles - Ethical issues**

- Rights: violation of natural rights, constitutional and legal rights.
- Virtue: Moral degradation or Character corruption, moral corruption.
- Justice: lack of effective resolution of dilemma, lack of moral intactness, lack of synthesis of interests of different sections, non-delivery of service, not giving due to all. Justice = Liberty + Equality + Fraternity
- Rule of law: lack of respect for the law, abuse of power.
- Deontology: Moral relativism, ethical Inconsistency, lack of moral worth of the action.

- Utilitarianism: minimising the pleasure and maximising the pain.
- Common good: Social fragmentation or Individualistic excess
- Consequentialism: Means-end inversion or Ethical myopia, ethical dilemma of means vs. ends.

### **At Individual Level**

- Loss of integrity : Unethical behavior erodes personal character and credibility. Example: A civil servant accepting bribes loses moral authority and respect.
- Guilt and inner conflict : Acting against conscience creates psychological stress. Example: A student cheating in exams may succeed temporarily but suffers guilt and insecurity.

- Damaged reputation : Unethical actions tarnish one's social standing. Example: A business leader involved in fraud loses reputation and trust in the market.
- Legal and professional consequences : Unethical acts often invite punishment or career setbacks. Example: Insider trading leads to criminal charges and professional disqualification.
- Erosion of self-respect : Acting immorally diminishes self-worth. Example: A doctor prescribing unnecessary medicines for profit loses respect for their own profession.

## **Consequences of Unethical Actions at Social Level**

- Breakdown of trust : Widespread unethical conduct weakens trust among

citizens. Example: Corruption in public offices reduces people's faith in governance.

- Social conflict : Unethical practices fuel resentment and disharmony. Example: Discrimination against minorities leads to protests and communal tensions.

- Weak institutions : Persistent unethical behavior corrodes institutional credibility. Example: Electoral malpractices weaken democracy and public confidence in elections.

- Inequality and injustice : Unethical actions deny fair opportunities and rights. Example: Nepotism in recruitment perpetuates inequality in society.

- Loss of social capital : Trust networks and cooperation collapse when unethical behavior dominates. Example: Failure of cooperative

societies due to mismanagement reduces collective strength.

- Hindrance to Explanation: Unethical practices divert resources and stall progress. Example: Scams in infrastructure projects delay development and harm public welfare.

**Conclusion** : As Mahatma Gandhi noted through his concept of "Politics without Principles and Wealth without Work" as social sins, material progress without an ethical anchor is inherently self-destructive. Cultivating ethical actions is not an option but a structural necessity to ensure holistic human development and equitable governance. ///

# **Consequences of Unethical Actions at Administrative Level**

## **Lecture 3: 1.38**

- o Social contract: Social Disintegration or Civic Alienation, violation of social contract.
- o Public interest: Private interest or Conflict of Interest
- o Trusteeship: Resource Misappropriation or Fiduciary Breach
- o Accountability: Responsibility Evasion, not considering people as principal.
- o Probity: Moral Compromise, opaqueness.
- o Transparency: Information Obscurity or Bureaucratic Opacity
- o Rule of Law: Arbitrary Governance, Legal Subversion, lack of respect for law, lack of sense of duty.

- o Participatory Governance: Civic Exclusion or Democratic Deficit
- o Decentralization: Power Centralization or Autonomy Erosion
- o Neutrality: Partisanship, favoritism, compromised bureaucracy.
- o Responsiveness: Bureaucratic Inertia, administrative apathy, cruel and inhuman bureaucracy, non-virtuous and non-caring bureaucracy.
- o Timeliness: Procedural Delays or Inefficiency
- o Accessibility: Service Exclusion, erosion of common good.
- o Reliability: Institutional Inconsistency or Service Unreliability, lack of trustworthiness.
- o Competence: Professional Inadequacy or Skill Deficiency

- o Efficiency: Resource Wastage or Operational Ineffectiveness

- o Equity and Fairness: Discriminatory Practices or Systemic Bias

- o Continuous Improvement: Stagnation or lack of innovation.

- Erosion of public trust : Citizens lose faith in institutions when administrators act dishonestly. Example: The 2G spectrum scam damaged public trust in government decision-making.

- Inefficiency and delays : Corruption and favoritism slow down processes, increasing costs. Example: Delays in infrastructure projects due to kickbacks and red-tape reduce efficiency.

- Lack of accountability : Unethical actions often involve concealment, weakening

transparency. Example: Manipulation of audit reports in public sector enterprises undermines accountability.

- Injustice and inequality : Bias, nepotism, and corruption deny fair opportunities to citizens. Example: Favoritism in recruitment leads to injustice for deserving candidates.

- Corruption and resource misuse : Misallocation of funds harms development and welfare. Example: PDS leakages where food grains meant for the poor are diverted to black markets.

- Conflict and unrest : Unethical governance fuels resentment and social disharmony. Example: Police brutality or biased handling of protests can escalate into widespread unrest.

- Weakening of institutions : Persistent unethical practices corrode institutional integrity. Example: Electoral malpractices weaken the credibility of democratic institutions.
- Loss of social capital : Trust networks collapse when administration is perceived as corrupt. Example: Failure of cooperative banks due to unethical management reduces community trust.

**Conclusion** » As the 2nd ARC emphasizes, ethics in governance is non-negotiable. Administrative corruption weaponizes state power against its citizens. Upholding constitutional morality requires public servants to view integrity not as a passive legal duty, but as an active tool for social justice, ensuring the state remains a

transparent guardian for the last person in the queue. ////

## **CORRUPTION**

**Introduction** » Corruption in public administration is the abuse of entrusted power for personal or private gain. Beyond being an economic offence, it represents an ethical failure where a civil servant breaches their fiduciary duty to citizens. As aptly defined by Transparency International, it is the ultimate betrayal of public trust.

## **REASONS INTERNAL**

- Greed and materialism : Excessive desire for wealth and luxury drives individuals to misuse authority. Example: Officials demanding bribes

for issuing licenses reflect greed-driven corruption.

- Weak moral values : Lack of ethical grounding or poor value education fosters corrupt practices. Example: A bureaucrat ignoring fairness in recruitment due to weak moral compass.

- Low job satisfaction : Discontent with pay, recognition, or working conditions leads to unethical shortcuts. Example: Police officers underpaid resorting to extortion for extra income.

- Absence of accountability : When actions are not monitored, individuals exploit loopholes. Example: Lack of vigilance in procurement allows officials to inflate bills.

- Psychological rationalization : Individuals justify corruption as “normal” or “necessary” for

survival. Example: A clerk rationalizing bribes as compensation for low salary.

- Power without responsibility : Concentration of authority without checks breeds misuse.

Example: Local officials misusing discretionary funds for personal gain.

- Lack of integrity culture : If honesty is not valued within institutions, corruption becomes normalized. Example: Offices where bribery is seen as routine practice discourage ethical behavior.

- Fear of punishment being low : Weak enforcement emboldens individuals to act corruptly. Example: Delayed trials in corruption cases reduce deterrence.

## **EXTERNAL REASONS**

- Political interference : Excessive political influence in administration weakens

neutrality. Example: Frequent transfers of honest officers due to political pressure discourage integrity.

- Weak legal enforcement : Ineffective anti-corruption laws or delayed trials reduce deterrence. Example: Long-pending cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act embolden offenders.

- Low salaries and economic disparity : Poor compensation compared to rising living costs pushes officials toward bribes. Example: Traffic police demanding small bribes due to inadequate pay.

- Red-tapism and bureaucratic delays : Complex procedures create opportunities for rent-seeking. Example: Citizens paying bribes to speed up passport or license approvals.

- Social tolerance of corruption : When society normalizes corruption as “necessary,” it perpetuates the cycle. Example: Bribery seen as routine for securing government contracts.
- Weak institutional checks : Lack of vigilance bodies or ineffective audits allow misuse of power. Example: Poor monitoring in welfare schemes leads to leakages in PDS distribution.
- Electoral funding pressures : High cost of elections drives politicians to seek illicit funds. Example: Use of black money in campaign financing encourages quid pro quo corruption.
- Globalization and market pressures : Rapid privatization and liberalization without strong regulation create loopholes. Example: Corporate lobbying influencing policy decisions in telecom or mining sectors.

§ Lack of social influence to maintain integrity.

§ Absence of ethical ecosystem. § Narrow “perception of good life” in society.

§ Lack of rule of law | Poor implementation of laws

§ Lack of concept of public service § Crony capitalism – nexus between politicians, builders and bureaucrats.

§ Lack of accountability and absence of ethical governance § Lack of active participation of citizens.

**Conclusion** » Tackling corruption requires moving from mere compliance-based codes to cultivating a culture of value-based governance. By leveraging technological transparency, ensuring stringent penal actions, and adopting the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission

(ARC) recommendations, administration can restore citizen faith. Ultimately, a corruption-free state is non-negotiable for achieving constitutional justice. ///

**Q. Ethics in public service is an essential component of parliamentary democracy" In this connection, discuss the pathway towards a 'Naitik Bharat'. Appsc 2023**

». In a parliamentary democracy, sovereignty resides in the people, and public servants hold public office as trustees of the collective will. Ethics in public service is the moral fabric that bridges the gap between state power and citizen welfare. Without ethical governance, constitutional promises of justice and equality remain unfulfilled, transforming democracy into

a mere procedural ritual. A 'Naitik Bharat' (Ethical India) represents a vision where administrative efficiency merges with moral integrity to achieve Sarvodaya (welfare of all).

**The Pathway towards a 'Naitik Bharat' :** To transition from a rule-bound bureaucracy to a value-driven governance system, India must adopt a multi-pronged pathway:

1. Legislative and Policy Reforms - Codification of Values: Enact a statutory 'Public Service Code of Ethics' to replace outdated civil service rules, explicitly defining core values like integrity, empathy, and objectivity. - Whistleblower Protection: Strengthen the operational framework of the Whistleblowers Protection Act to safeguard honest officials exposing corruption. - Electoral Reforms: Decriminalise

politics and ensure transparency in election funding to ensure that the political executive—to whom civil servants report—embodies ethical leadership.

2. Strengthening Institutional Accountability - Empowering Oversight Bodies: Grant greater functional autonomy and resources to institutions like the Lokpal, Lokayuktas, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). - Effective Grievance Redressal: Implement Citizen's Charters with mandatory penalties for service delivery delays, making public servants directly accountable to citizens. - Audit and Evaluation: Expand the scope of social audits (as seen in MGNREGA) to other public welfare schemes to allow community-led monitoring of ethics.

3. Procedural and Technological Reforms - E-Governance and Digitalisation: Leverage AI, blockchain, and data analytics to minimise human discretion in public procurement, licensing, and citizen services, thereby choking avenues for corruption. - Process Simplification: Repeal redundant laws and simplify bureaucratic procedures to reduce red tape, which often breeds bribery and rent-seeking behavior. - Performance-Linked Tenure: Introduce objective performance management systems that reward ethical excellence and enforce compulsory retirement for corrupt or inefficient officials (e.g., Fundamental Rule 56(j)).

4. Human Resource Transformation - Ethical Recruitment and Training: Incorporate psychometric and ethical evaluation tools during

civil services recruitment. Expand Mission Karmayogi to provide continuous, value-based training throughout an official's career. - Protection of Honest Officers: Establish clear guidelines to protect bureaucrats from arbitrary transfers or political victimization when taking ethical stances - Mid-Career De-radicalisation: Conduct regular reviews to prevent commercialisation of mindsets, shifting the bureaucratic culture from a "status-quoist ruler" to a "compassionate facilitator".

5. Societal and Cultural Awakening - Value-Based Education: Integrate ethics, constitutional morality, and civic duties into school and university curricula to build an ethical citizenry. - Jan Andolan (People's Movement): Cultivate a societal intolerance toward corruption. Citizens must transition from passive consumers of

governance to active co-guardians of public integrity. - Celebrating Role Models: Publicly honor and reward civil servants who display exemplary courage, honesty, and innovation to inspire peers and the youth.

**Conclusion** » The pathway to a Naitik Bharat requires shifting from a compliance-based approach (driven by fear of punishment) to an integrity-based approach (driven by inner conscience). Public servants must use Mahatma Gandhi's 'Talisman' as their ultimate compass—evaluating every decision by its impact on the poorest citizen. True parliamentary democracy is realized only when the administrative machinery acts not just as the steel frame of structure, but as the moral conscience of the nation. ////

**M. Q. What is a moral dilemma? Explain with suitable examples how a civil servant can resolve moral dilemmas in public administration.”**

> A moral dilemma is a complex decision-making situation where a civil servant faces a conflict between two or more competing moral values, where choosing one inevitably compromises the other. In public administration, these dilemmas arise due to the overlapping demands of law, professional ethics, personal conscience, and public interest.

**Common Moral Dilemmas in Public Administration**

- Law vs. Conscience: Strict adherence to rules vs. empathy for the marginalized.- Example: An officer faces an order to demolish unauthorized slums during peak winter, creating a conflict between legal duty and basic human compassion.

-. Ends vs. Means: Achieving a good outcome through questionable methods. Example: Meeting poverty alleviation targets by fudging data or bypassing due process.

- Political Neutrality vs. Public Duty: Staying loyal to the elected executive vs. upholding the public trust.- Example: A minister pressures a bureaucrat to favor a specific contractor for a public project, pitting career security against financial integrity.

- Efficiency vs. Accountability: Fast-tracking development vs. following rigid bureaucratic

procedures.- Example: Bypassing a lengthy environmental clearance process to quickly build a critical hospital in a remote tribal area.

**Mechanism to Resolve Moral Dilemmas :** Civil servants can navigate these conflicts by anchoring their decisions in a structured ethical framework:

[Constitutional Morality] → [Statutory Codes/Laws] → [Ethical Frameworks] → [Inner Conscience]

- Constitutional Morality: The Constitution of India serves as the ultimate moral compass. Decisions must prioritize fundamental rights and directive principles over personal or political interests.

- Adherence to Codes: Utilizing the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules and the Code of Ethics

provides a legal shield and clear boundaries for objective decision-making.

- Applying Ethical Principles: - Utilitarianism: Opting for the greatest good for the greatest number of people (e.g., opting for the hospital project but ensuring compensatory afforestation).
- Gandhian Talisman: Evaluating if the decision will positively transform the life of the poorest and weakest individual.
- Documented Accountability: Ensuring all decisions, especially under political pressure, are recorded clearly in written files to maintain transparency and institutional integrity.

**Conclusion** > Resolving moral dilemmas requires a delicate balance of administrative competence and emotional intelligence. By aligning actions with constitutional values,

statutory laws, and an unyielding inner conscience, a civil servant can transition from mere rule-following to exemplary, value-based governance. .... ///

### **Dimensions of Ethics**

**Q. What are the key dimensions of ethics? Explain with suitable examples.**

**Q. Differentiate between normative ethics and applied ethics. How are they relevant to civil services?**

..... The key dimensions of ethics help us understand, evaluate, and apply moral reasoning in both personal and public life. These dimensions include descriptive, normative, meta, and applied ethics.

**1. Descriptive Ethics-:** Descriptive ethics is the empirical study of moral beliefs, practices, and values as they exist in society. Unlike normative ethics (which prescribes how people ought to act), descriptive ethics simply describes what people actually believe and do in relation to morality.

### **Key Features**

- Empirical Approach: Uses sociology, anthropology, psychology, and history to study moral behavior.
- Value-neutral: It does not judge whether beliefs are right or wrong, only records and analyzes them.
- Focus on Diversity: Examines how moral codes vary across cultures, religions, and communities.

- Foundation for Normative Ethics: Provides data that philosophers and policymakers use to build ethical theories and laws.

**Examples-** Studying how different cultures view marriage, divorce, or polygamy. - Researching attitudes toward euthanasia or capital punishment in various societies. - Observing how business ethics differ between Western corporations and Indian family-owned firms.

**2. Normative Ethics** - Normative ethics is the branch of ethics that prescribes standards of right and wrong conduct. Unlike descriptive ethics (which studies what people do), normative ethics asks what people should do and provides principles, rules, and theories to guide moral action.

### **Key Features**

- Prescriptive Nature: Focuses on how individuals ought to behave.
- Philosophical Frameworks: Provides systematic theories to evaluate actions.
- Guidance for Decision-making: Helps resolve dilemmas by offering moral principles.
- Universal vs Contextual: Some theories claim universal rules, others emphasize context and consequences.

## **Major Theories in Normative Ethics**

**| Theory | Core Idea | Strengths | Limitations | Example |**

> | Consequentialism (Utilitarianism) | Actions judged by outcomes; maximize happiness | Practical, outcome-focused | Can justify harmful means | Approving a policy if it benefits majority |

- > | Deontology (Kantian Ethics) | Duty-based; morality lies in following rules | Clear principles, respects rights | Can be rigid, ignores outcomes | “Never lie,” even if truth causes harm |
- > | Virtue Ethics (Aristotelian) | Focus on character and virtues | Holistic, emphasizes moral growth | Less clear for specific dilemmas | Cultivating honesty, courage, compassion |
- > | Contractualism | Morality based on social agreements | Promotes fairness, cooperation | Assumes rational consensus | Laws based on social contract |
- > | Care Ethics | Emphasizes relationships and empathy | Values compassion, context | May lack universal standards | Prioritizing care for vulnerable groups |

**3. Meta ethics** : Meta-ethics is the branch of ethics that studies the nature, meaning, and foundations of moral concepts. Instead of asking “What should we do?” (normative ethics) or “What do people believe?” (descriptive ethics), meta-ethics asks “What does ‘good’ really mean?” and “Are moral values objective or subjective?”.

### **Key Questions in Meta-Ethics**

- Meaning of moral terms: What do words like good, bad, right, wrong, justice actually signify?
- Objectivity vs Relativity: Are moral truths universal (objective) or dependent on culture/personal opinion (subjective)?
- Moral Ontology: Do moral facts exist independently of humans, or are they human constructs?

- Moral Epistemology: How do we know what is morally right—through reason, intuition, or social consensus?

**4. Applied Ethics****Ethics:** Applied ethics is the branch of ethics that deals with the application of moral principles to real-world issues and dilemmas. It moves beyond theory (meta-ethics, normative ethics) and focuses on specific contexts like medicine, environment, governance, and technology.

### **Key Features**

- Problem-Oriented: Addresses concrete moral problems in society.
- Interdisciplinary: Draws from law, medicine, business, politics, and science.
- Dynamic: Evolves with new challenges (e.g., AI ethics, biotechnology).

- Decision-Making Tool: Helps policymakers, administrators, and professionals resolve dilemmas.

A. Medical Ethics - Euthanasia: Debating the moral permissibility of assisted dying. - Organ Donation: Prioritizing recipients—should it be based on urgency, age, or social contribution? - Informed Consent: Ensuring patients understand risks before treatment.

B. Environmental Ethics - Climate Justice: Balancing development with ecological sustainability. - Animal Rights: Ethical treatment of animals in agriculture and research. - Pollution Control: Regulating industries to protect public health.

C. Business Ethics - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Companies contributing to societal welfare. - Fair Trade Practices: Avoiding

exploitation in global supply chains. - Whistleblowing: Employees exposing unethical practices.

D. Cyber Ethics - Data Privacy: Protecting user information online. - AI Bias: Ensuring fairness in algorithmic decision-making. - Digital Piracy: Ethical concerns around intellectual property.

E. Legal and Governance Ethics - Capital Punishment: Debating its moral justification. - Surveillance vs. Privacy: Balancing national security with civil liberties. - Conflict of Interest: Public officials declaring personal stakes.

F. Education Ethics - Equity in Access: Addressing digital divide in online learning. - Student Privacy: Handling sensitive data responsibly.- Ethical Curriculum: Teaching values alongside academics.

**Conclusion:** >> These dimensions of ethics—descriptive, normative, meta, and applied—enables individuals, especially public servants, to navigate complex moral dilemmas with clarity and integrity. These not only deepen philosophical insight but also strengthen ethical governance, promote public trust, and foster a culture of accountability and justice in society.

///

### **Environmental Ethics**

**Q. What is meant by ‘environmental ethics’? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. (UPSC)**

**Q. What do you understand about environmental ethics? Discuss its relevance in contemporary public policy and suggest ways**

**to promote environmental responsibility among citizens and administrators.**

>> Environmental ethics is a branch of applied ethics that examines the moral relationship between humans and the environment. It asks whether nature has intrinsic value beyond human utility and emphasizes principles like sustainability, intergenerational justice, and respect for biodiversity.

In the contemporary era of climate change, ecological degradation, and resource scarcity, environmental ethics provides the normative foundation for public policy.

### **Relevance in Contemporary Governance**

1. Climate Crisis and Sustainability - Ethical frameworks are essential to guide decisions on

climate change, pollution, and resource depletion.

2. Intergenerational Justice - Policies must consider the rights of future generations, not just present utility.

3. Equitable Development - Environmental ethics ensures that marginalized communities are not disproportionately affected by environmental degradation (e.g., tribal displacement due to mining).

4. Global Commitments - Ethical responsibility underpins India's stance in international agreements like the Paris Accord and SDGs.

## **Plastic Pollution through the Lens of Environmental Ethics**

Plastic pollution is a global crisis affecting oceans, wildlife, and human health. From an environmental ethics perspective:

1. - Violation of Intrinsic Value: Marine life and ecosystems are harmed by non-biodegradable waste, disregarding their inherent worth.
2. - Anthropocentric Exploitation: Overuse of plastic reflects human-centered convenience at the cost of ecological balance.
3. - Intergenerational Harm: Microplastics persist for centuries, affecting unborn generations.
4. - Corporate Responsibility: Ethical scrutiny of industries that prioritize profit over environmental safety.
5. - Justice and Equity: Poor communities often bear the brunt of waste mismanagement and health hazards.

Example: The ban on single-use plastics in India reflects an ethical shift toward sustainability and ecological responsibility.

## **Role in Public Policy and Administration**

- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA): Ethical scrutiny of developmental projects.
- Polluter Pays Principle: Moral accountability for environmental harm.
- Public Trust Doctrine: Government as a trustee of natural resources for the people.
- Example: The Supreme Court's intervention in the Vedanta mining case in Niyamgiri Hills upheld tribal rights and ecological sanctity.

## **Issues in Environmental Ethics**

1. Anthropocentric Bias- Policies often prioritize economic growth over ecological balance. - Example: Large-scale deforestation for industrial projects despite ecological costs.
2. Intergenerational Injustice- Overexploitation of resources leaves future generations

deprived. - Climate change and groundwater depletion are classic cases of ethical neglect.

3. Inequitable Distribution of Environmental Burdens- Marginalized communities often bear the brunt of pollution, displacement, and resource scarcity. - Example: Industrial zones near poor settlements → environmental justice concerns.

4. Conflict Between Development and Conservation- Infrastructure projects (dams, highways, mining) clash with biodiversity preservation. - Ethical dilemma: short-term human benefits vs. long-term ecological sustainability.

5. Weak Enforcement of Environmental Laws- Despite strong legal frameworks (e.g., Environment Protection Act, 1986), enforcement is lax. - Corruption, political

pressure, and lack of administration will undermine ethical governance.

6. Global Inequality - Developed nations historically responsible for emissions, yet developing nations face harsher impacts. - Raises ethical questions of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR principle in climate negotiations).

7. Technological & Scientific Dilemmas - GM crops, geoengineering, nuclear energy → ethical debates on ecological risks vs. human benefit. - Lack of consensus on precautionary principle.

8. Consumerism & Lifestyle Choices - Unsustainable consumption patterns driven by materialism. - Ethical issue: Should individuals sacrifice convenience for ecological responsibility?

## **Ways to Promote Environmental Responsibility**

1. Among Citizens - Environmental Education: Integrate ethics into school and college curricula. - Community Participation: Encourage local stewardship through programs like Swachh Bharat and Jal Shakti Abhiyan. - Behavioral Nudges: Promote eco-friendly habits (e.g., banning single-use plastics).

2. Among Administrators - Training and Sensitization: Include environmental ethics in civil service training. - Green Budgeting: Allocate resources for sustainable development. - Transparency and Accountability: Use RTI and public audits for environmental decisions.

**Conclusion** >> Environmental ethics is no longer a philosophical luxury—it is a governance

imperative. As custodians of public interest, civil servants must integrate ecological sensitivity into every policy and action. Only then can we ensure a just, sustainable, and harmonious future.

» Environmental ethics is not merely philosophical but a practical necessity in the age of ecological crises. Embedding ethical principles into public policy and fostering responsibility among citizens and administrators ensures sustainable, just, and resilient development. It transforms governance from a growth-centric model to one of stewardship and intergenerational justice. ///

**Q. The nature of a business's operations has a major influence on the ethical issues with which it must contend. discuss how business**

**ethics is crucial in today's world Giving examples.**

**Q. What do you understand about business ethics? Discuss its significance in the contemporary corporate environment with suitable examples.**

>> Business ethics refers to the application of moral principles and standards to business behavior. It governs how companies interact with stakeholders, employees, customers, investors, society, and the environment and ensures that profit-making activities are aligned with fairness, transparency, accountability, and responsibility towards stakeholders.

In the contemporary corporate environment—characterized by globalization, technological disruption, and rising consumer awareness—

business ethics has become indispensable for sustainable success.

## **Significance of Business Ethics in the Contemporary Corporate Environment**

1. Builds Trust and Reputation - Ethical companies earn long-term goodwill among customers and investors. - Example: Tata Group is widely respected for its ethical business practices and social responsibility.

2. Ensures Compliance and Reduces Legal Risks - Ethical conduct helps avoid regulatory violations, penalties, and litigation. - Example: Volkswagen's emissions scandal damaged its global reputation and led to heavy fines.

3. Promotes Employee Morale and Retention - A culture of fairness and integrity fosters loyalty and productivity.

4. Encourages Sustainable Development - Ethical businesses consider environmental and social impacts, aligning with ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) goals..

5. Attracts Ethical Investment - Investors increasingly favor companies with strong ethical and sustainability records.

## **Core Principles of Business Ethics**

### **| Principle | Description |**

| Integrity | Honesty and consistency in actions and decisions. |

| Transparency | Open communication with stakeholders. |

| Accountability | Owning up to decisions and their consequences. |

| Fairness | Equitable treatment of all stakeholders. |

| Respect for Stakeholders | Valuing the rights and dignity of employees, customers, and communities. |

## **Challenges to Business Ethics**

1. - Profit vs. Ethics Dilemma: Short-term gains often tempt unethical shortcuts.
2. - Weak Regulatory Oversight: Inadequate enforcement encourages malpractices.
3. - Globalization Pressures: Varying ethical standards across countries.
4. - Corporate Lobbying: Influence over policy-making can distort public interest.

## **Measures to Promote Business Ethics**

1. - Corporate Governance Frameworks: Independent boards, audit committees, and whistleblower policies.
2. - Ethics Training: Sensitizing employees to ethical dilemmas and decision-making.

3. - CSR Mandates: Legal and voluntary initiatives to give back to society.

4. - Transparency Tools: Public disclosures, sustainability reports, and third-party audits.

**Conclusion** >> Business ethics is not just about compliance—it is about creating value responsibly. In a globalized and socially conscious world, ethical business practices are essential for long-term success, stakeholder trust, and sustainable development. Civil servants must also ensure that regulatory frameworks encourage and enforce ethical corporate behavior. ///

**M. Q. Analyse the ethical implications of using generative artificial intelligence in creative industries.**

**M. Q. “Generative Artificial Intelligence is both a technological boon and an ethical challenge.”**

**Discuss the ethical implications of Generative AI. Suggest measures to ensure its responsible use.**

> Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) refers to algorithms (like Large Language Models) capable of creating novel content, including text, images, and code. While acting as a force multiplier for economic productivity and governance efficiency, its dual-use nature poses unprecedented ethical risks to societal fabric and democratic stability.

## **Ethical Implications of Generative AI**

1. Bias, Fairness, and Discrimination -  
Algorithmic Bias: AI models learn from historical

internet data, which inherently contains societal prejudices. Generative models can perpetuate and amplify racial, gender, or cultural biases, leading to discriminatory outcomes.

- Lack of Cultural Context: Over-representation of western-centric data in foundational models leads to the homogenization of art and culture, potentially marginalizing diverse indigenous perspectives.

## 2. Intellectual Property (IP) and Plagiarism -

Copyright Infringement: Generative AI tools scrape vast datasets of human-created text, art, and music without explicit consent or compensation. This blurs the line between genuine creativity and sophisticated plagiarism.

- Attribution and Ownership: The legal and ethical ambiguity surrounding who actually owns AI-generated content (the prompter, the

developer, or the model creator) poses a major rights management challenge.

3. Misinformation and Trust - Deepfakes and Synthetic Media: The ability to generate hyper-realistic fake images, videos, and audio (Deepfakes) can be maliciously used for disinformation campaigns, political manipulation, extortion, and impersonation.- Erosion of Truth: The mass proliferation of AI-generated content can degrade public trust in media and democratic institutions.

4. Accountability and Transparency (The "Black Box" Problem)- Lack of Explainability: Deep learning models function as opaque "black boxes". When AI systems make harmful or erroneous decisions, it is difficult to assign moral or legal responsibility. - Value Alignment: Translating complex human morals (e.g., justice,

empathy, fairness) into explicit mathematical rules and code presents a massive philosophical hurdle.

5. Privacy and Security - Data Harvesting: Training massive models requires vast quantities of personal data, raising serious consent and privacy concerns. - Cybersecurity Risks: Generative AI can be weaponized to create advanced malware, highly personalized phishing scams, and social engineering attacks that evade conventional security measures.

6. Socio-Economic Impact and Human Dignity - Job Displacement: The automation of creative and white-collar tasks threatens livelihoods, raising questions about the socio-economic responsibilities of governments to address income inequality. - Dilution of Human Agency: Over-reliance on AI for decision-making and

content generation may diminish human critical thinking and moral reasoning.

## **Measures to Ensure Responsible Use**

1. Statutory and Regulatory Interventions - Risk-Based Regulatory Framework: Adopt a tiered regulatory approach similar to the EU AI Act, where generative AI applications are classified by risk levels (unacceptable, high, limited, minimal). - Mandatory Watermarking: Institutionalise cryptographic watermarks and visible labeling for all synthetic media, audio, and deepfakes to protect public discourse and curb misinformation. - Intellectual Property (IP) Reform: Amend existing copyright laws to ensure fair compensation and mandatory "opt-in" consent mechanisms for artists and creators whose data trains foundational AI models.

2. Institutional and Governance Frameworks - Empowered AI Regulatory Authority: Establish an independent national body (e.g., a Digital India Act Authority) to supervise large-scale AI deployment, handle public grievances, and audit enterprise foundational models. - Mandatory Ethical Audits: Require tech companies to perform independent algorithmic audits, "red-teaming" (simulating malicious attacks), and privacy impact assessments before public release. - Explainable AI (XAI) Standards: Enforce strict transparency protocols mandating that developers build models capable of explaining their automated outputs, removing the "black box" dilemma.

3. Operationalizing Ethical Principles (The "NITI Aayog" Paradigm) - Adhering to National Guidelines: Align AI integration with the 7 core

principles outlined in the [NITI Aayog National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence] Safety, Equality, Inclusivity, Privacy, Transparency, Accountability, and Human Value Reinforcement. - Ethics by Design: Embed ethical guardrails directly into the software development lifecycle rather than applying them post-deployment.

#### 4. Human-Centric Socio-Economic Strategies

- Reskilling and Upskilling: Proactively fund national skilling programs to transition vulnerable portions of the workforce into new roles like prompt engineering and AI dataset curation. - Digital Literacy Campaigns: Broaden civil public education to build societal cognitive immunity against deepfakes, phishing scams, and algorithmic manipulation.

5. Global Standards Harmonization: Champion a unified global governance framework by expanding the foundational consensus established in the GPAI New Delhi Declaration, finding a pragmatic middle ground between innovation and risk mitigation.

**Conclusion / Thesis Note :** "Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master." Generative AI must be steered through the lens of Gandhian Trusteeship, where tech conglomerates act as trustees of public data, ensuring that innovation ultimately serves human dignity and the constitutional goal of an inclusive society (#AIforAll).

> Generative AI is a defining technology of the 21st century. To harness its potential while mitigating existential ethical threats, India must

champion a regulatory paradigm that balances innovation with constitutional morality. Aligning technological growth with human-centric values will ensure that AI acts as an inclusive tool for empowerment rather than disruption. //

### **Ethics in Private Relationships**

> Ethics in private relationships refers to the moral principles, values, and responsibilities that govern an individual's personal interactions with family, friends, romantic partners, and themselves.

#### **Key Features of Private Relationships**

- Informal Nature: No formal rules, legal frameworks, or institutional guidelines govern these dynamics.

- Emotionally Driven: Built primarily on affection, empathy, trust, and shared personal experiences.
- Internal Regulation: Governed by individual conscience, personal values, and moral compass rather than external laws.
- High Tolerance: Displays a greater acceptance of human imperfections and mistakes compared to professional environments.
- Relatively Permanent: Inherited (kinship) or deeply chosen (marriage, friendships) bonds meant to endure over time.

**Significance:** they have a high tolerance for imperfections and a deep expectation of reciprocal affection. Ethical behavior here ensures internal peace and emotional stability, shielding individuals from the friction of daily life.

## **Core Ethical Values in Private Life**

- Fidelity & Loyalty: Remaining faithful and reliable to life partners and family members.
- Love & Compassion: Showing genuine concern and affection for the well-being of close ones.
- Confidentiality: Protecting personal secrets and respecting boundaries within trusted interactions.
- Truthfulness: Maintaining honesty to strengthen emotional bonds and minimize internal friction.

## **Sources of Private Ethics**

1. Social Conditioning: Values absorbed during early childhood development via peers, family traditions, and cultural setups.
2. Religion & Divine Commands: Scriptural texts and religious laws that lay down codes of

personal conduct, such as the Ten Commandments or Panchatantra tales.

3. Law of the Land: Constitutional values that legally enforce private decency, such as provisions against domestic violence or rules governing inheritance and divorce.

4. Individual Intuition: Innate human emotions and internal conscience that guide immediate responses to personal dilemmas.

**The Spillover Effect on Public Life :** The ultimate value of private ethics lies in its spillover effect into the public domain. A person's private life serves as the foundational testing ground for their overall character. For instance, an individual who practices fairness, respect, and emotional integrity with family is highly likely to

mirror those virtues of integrity and accountability as a public citizen or professional.

**Conclusion** > Ultimately, the boundary between public and private ethics is porous. True moral integrity cannot be compartmentalized; a robust framework of ethics in private relationships is the indispensable prerequisite for building a just, trustworthy, and compassionate broader society. //

## **Structural Comparison: Private vs. Public Relationships**

<b>  Feature  </b>	<b>Private Relationships</b>	<b>  Public Relationships  </b>
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<b>  Domain  </b>	Family, friends, marital bonds, and intimate social circles.	<b>  Professional life,</b>
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administrative duties, and interactions with citizens. |

| Nature | Informal, emotionally driven, and deeply personal. | Formal, legally structured, and highly predictable. |

| Control Mechanism | Governed by an individual's internal conscience and personal morality. | Enforced by external codes of conduct, laws, and departmental rules. |

| Key Values | Love, affection, fidelity, confidentiality, and mutual care. | Impartiality, objectivity, accountability, and transparency. |

| Orientation | Particularistic (treating family differently than strangers). | Universalistic (treating all citizens equally under the law). |

## **The Spillover Effect: Impact on Public Life**

- Core Character: A person who practices honesty and empathy in personal relationships is highly likely to maintain administrative integrity.
- Cognitive Dissonance: A severe divergence between private misbehavior (e.g., domestic abuse) and public duty (e.g., executing women's safety policies) leads to psychological stress, eroding an official's professional dedication.
- Vulnerability to Corruption: Weak ethical standards in private life, such as living beyond legal means to satisfy family demands, increase vulnerability to bribery or honey-trapping.
- Public Trust: Society frequently judges an official's public credibility by their personal conduct. Personal scandals quickly destroy public institutional trust.

**Ethical Dilemmas and Conflicts** : Civil servants often encounter points of friction where private expectations clash with public duties: -  
Nepotism: - Conflict of Interest: - Regressive  
Social Norms: ///

### **Ethics in Public Relations**

**M. Q. "An individual's ethical conduct in public life is often a reflection of their values in private relationships. However, conflicts between the two are inevitable for a public servant." Discuss with relevant examples.**

> Human morality is a unified whole; an individual cannot be perfectly ethical in one domain while being entirely corrupt in another. While private ethics governs personal spaces

through affection and loyalty, public ethics directs administrative conduct through constitutional morality, objectivity, and rule of law.

**Private Values as the Foundation of Public Conduct** : A strong ethical foundation in private relationships provides the moral compass required for public service: [5]

- Integrity: A person who practices financial honesty within the family is highly likely to maintain financial probity in public administration.]

- Empathy: Compassion nurtured while caring for elderly parents or family members translates into administrative sensitivity toward marginalized citizens.

- Gender Equality: Respecting women at home ensures a civil servant creates safe, unbiased workspaces and implements women-centric policies effectively.

### **Inevitable Conflicts Between the Two Domains**

: Despite their synergy, a public servant frequently faces structural conflicts where private loyalty clashes with public duty: [8]

1. Nepotism vs. Meritocracy (Conflict of Interest): - Scenario: A civil servant is part of an interview panel where a close relative is a top candidate. - Conflict: Private ethics demands helping family; public ethics demands strict objectivity and fairness.

2. Confidentiality vs. Personal Trust: - Scenario: An officer knows about an upcoming land acquisition project that will affect their

friend's business. - Conflict: Sharing the info fulfills private friendship but violates the official oath of secrecy.

3. Compassion vs. Rule of Law: - Scenario: An administrator must evict illegal slum dwellers for a development project, knowing it includes vulnerable children. - Conflict: Private empathy causes psychological distress, but public duty requires executing the legal mandate.

**The Way Forward for a Public Servant :** To resolve these inevitable friction points, a public servant must institutionalize a clear hierarchy of values:

- Principle of Recusal: Step away from decision-making processes involving family or friends to eliminate bias.

- Constitutional Supremacy: Whenever private emotions collide with institutional frameworks, the Constitution and statutory laws must strictly prevail.
- Emotional Intelligence: Develop the psychological resilience to manage cognitive dissonance without compromising public welfare.

**Conclusion** > While private ethics provides the raw material of good character, public ethics sets the unyielding standard for governance. A public servant must maintain a Chinese wall between personal affections and official duties to ensure that public interest always triumphs over private ties. //

**Q. “A person who is ethical in private life is more likely to be ethical in public life.” Critically examine.**

> Human morality is generally integrated; virtues cannot be easily compartmentalized. While private ethics relies on emotional bonds like love and loyalty, public ethics is anchored in constitutional morality and law. Private virtue often acts as a reliable foundation for public integrity, but the transition is not automatic.

**Why Private Virtue Reinforces Public Ethics :** A strong personal conscience naturally flows into professional conduct:..

**Why Private Virtue Alone is Insufficient (The Counter-Perspective):** Private goodness does

not guarantee public rectitude due to conflicting structural demands:

- The Trap of Particularism: Private ethics is particularistic (favoring loved ones). Public ethics demands universalism (treating everyone equally). Misplaced familial love often leads directly to nepotism and cronyism.

- The "Weak" Good Person: An individual can be an exemplary parent but lack the administrative courage to resist political pressure or fight institutional corruption.

- Loyalty vs. Rule of Law: Protecting a corrupt colleague out of "friendship" honors private loyalty but severely violates public trust.

**Conclusion** > Private ethics provides the essential raw material of character, but public life demands specialized tools like objectivity, political neutrality, and accountability.

Therefore, while private morality makes an individual more likely to be ethical, true public integrity requires the active subordination of personal impulses to constitutional morality. ///

**Q. How does time and space affect ethics in private and public relationships? Illustrate.**

> Ethics is not static; it is dynamically shaped by the contextual dimensions of time and space. While fundamental human values like integrity remain constant, the practical application of ethical norms shifts across different eras (time) and environments (space), creating distinct behavioral expectations in private and public spheres.

**The Impact of Time on Ethics** : Time influences ethics across both spheres through shifting generational eras (historical time) and the urgency of immediate situations (situational time).

TIME DIALS —▶ Historical Eras —▶ Evolution of Social Morality (e.g., Section 377)  
—▶ Situational Time —▶ Rule-bound vs. Crisis Management (e.g., Pandemics)

### **In Private Relationships**

- Historical Evolution: Societal evolution transforms domestic moral duties. For example, traditional private relationships historically tolerated patriarchal hierarchies. Today, contemporary time demands gender equality, shared accountability, and individual autonomy within the household.

- Situational Urgency: The immediate allocation of time tests emotional virtues.- Illustration: A civil servant prioritizing rigorous public service hours over family time faces an internal ethical dilemma regarding marital fidelity and parental duty.

### **In Public Relationships**

- Shifting Legalities: Public standards evolve with chronological progression.- Illustration: The Supreme Court of India's decriminalization of Section 377 moved LGBTQ+ relationships from being legally sanctioned in public employment to being recognized with dignity and inclusion.

- Crisis Management: In urgent scenarios, standard procedural transparency may be temporarily altered for the greater good.- Illustration: During a sudden disaster or pandemic, an administrator must instantly

deploy state resources, prioritizing the ethical directive of saving lives over standard bureaucratic protocol.

**The Impact of Space on Ethics** : Space dictates ethical frameworks by altering the environment, shifting from closed boundaries (physical vs. digital space) to geographic settings (local vs. global space).

SPACE MATRIX —▶ Geographic Spheres  
—▶ Regional Norms vs. Constitutional Standards

—▶ Closed vs. Open —▶ Deep Intimacy (Confidentiality) vs. Public Scrutiny

### **In Private Relationships**

- Cultural Geography: Private ethics conform heavily to localized cultural standards. -  
Illustration: In tightly-knit rural communities,

private ethics may emphasize community collectivism. Conversely, urban spaces prioritize personal liberty and individual choice.

- The Digital Domain: The expansion of social media has blurred the boundaries of private spaces.- Illustration: Sharing confidential family matters or private images online violates the core principles of trust and mutual confidentiality essential to personal intimacy.

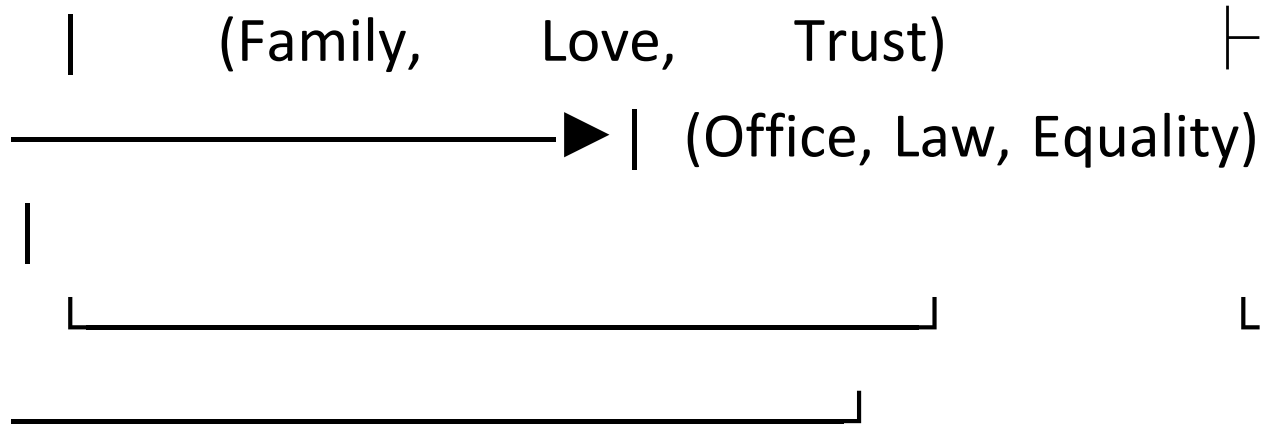
### **In Public Relationships**

- Institutional Environments: The office or public forum demands objectivity, neutrality, and professional codes of conduct over personal emotions.- Illustration: A District Magistrate must treat every citizen uniformly at their office desk, irrespective of personal feelings, caste dynamics, or regional ties.

- The Sovereign Limit: Crossing geopolitical borders changes a public servant's ethical obligations. - Illustration: An Indian diplomat operating in an international space must balance domestic constitutional interests with global ethics, human rights, and international law.

**The Spillover Effect and Synthesis** : Time and space do not isolate these spheres; instead, they cause a dynamic spillover effect. A toxic physical environment at work can erode patience at home, while strong values cultivated within the private sphere provide a foundation for robust public integrity.





**Conclusion** > Ultimately, time and space serve as the canvas upon which human ethics are practiced. A civil servant must develop high emotional intelligence and ethical competence to navigate these shifts smoothly. By anchoring behavior in the foundational principles of the Constitution, an administrator can ensure that despite changing times and diverse spaces, their public integrity and private morality remain uncompromised. ///

## The Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life

## **| Principle | Meaning | Example in Public Service |**

| 1. Selflessness | Decisions should be made solely in terms of public interest, not personal gain. | A district magistrate allocating flood relief funds based only on need, not personal bias. |

| 2. Integrity | Avoid obligations to external individuals or organizations that could influence duties. | A civil servant refusing gifts from contractors to ensure impartiality in awarding tenders. |

| 3. Objectivity | Decisions should be based on merit, evidence, and fairness. | Recruitment through transparent competitive exams rather than favoritism. |

| 4. Accountability | Public officials must be answerable for their actions and decisions. |

Publishing audit reports of welfare schemes and being open to parliamentary scrutiny. |

| 5. Openness | Decisions and actions should be transparent unless restricted by law or security.

| Making government procurement details available online to prevent corruption. |

| 6. Honesty | Public officials must declare private interests and resolve conflicts openly. |

A minister disclosing shareholdings before taking policy decisions affecting that sector. |

| 7. Leadership | Leaders should promote and uphold these principles through example. |

A senior IAS officer setting high ethical standards by refusing undue political interference. |

**Q. Whistleblowers are guardians of ethical accountability in governance. Discuss the ethical and institutional importance of**

## **whistleblower protection in ensuring integrity in public service. 2025**

» Whistleblowers are individuals who expose corruption, maladministration, or unethical practices within organizations or government. They act as guardians of ethical accountability by ensuring that misconduct does not remain hidden. Protecting whistleblowers is essential to uphold integrity in public service and strengthen democratic governance.

### **Ethical Importance of Whistleblower Protection**

1. Safeguarding Integrity - Their disclosures prevent erosion of ethical standards in governance.

2. By exposing hidden wrongs, they ensure openness in decision-making and Promote Transparency. - Example: RTI activists revealing irregularities in welfare schemes.

3. Public Trust will be Strengthened and Citizens gain confidence when wrongdoing is exposed and corrected.

4. - Protection ensures individuals can act on conscience without fear of retaliation and encourages Moral Courage. - Example: IAS officer Ashok Khemka exposing land scams despite personal risk.

### **Institutional Importance of Whistleblower Protection**

1. Acts as a check on misuse of power by politicians, bureaucrats, and corporations. - Example: Whistleblowers in the banking sector exposing frauds like PNB scam.

2. Strengthening Rule of Law - Ensures that violations of law are reported and acted upon. - Institutionalizes ethical responsibility within governance structures.

3. Encouraging Internal Vigilance - Promotes self-correcting mechanisms within organizations. - Example: Vigilance officers relying on whistleblower inputs to detect irregularities.

4. Supporting Anti-Corruption Framework - Complements institutions like Lokpal, CVC, and CAG. - Example: Whistleblower Protection Act (2014) provides statutory safeguards.

### **Challenges in Whistleblower Protection:**

Whistleblower protection faces major challenges, which discourage individuals from exposing corruption or misconduct.

1. Fear of Retaliation- Whistleblowers often face harassment, demotion, transfers, or dismissal from their organizations. - In India, cases like Satyendra Dubey (NHAI engineer) and Manjunath (IOCL officer) highlight how whistleblowers were killed for exposing corruption.

2. Weak Legal Framework - The Whistleblower Protection Act, 2014 exists but is criticized for being ineffective and diluted.

3. Lack of Anonymity & Confidentiality - Whistleblowers struggle to remain anonymous due to poor mechanisms for secure reporting. - Disclosure of identity often leads to social ostracism and professional isolation.

4. Institutional Apathy - Investigations into whistleblower complaints are often delayed or

ignored. - Bureaucratic red tape and lack of accountability discourage reporting.

5. Cultural & Ethical Dilemmas - Employees face conflict of loyalty between duty to employer and duty to public interest. - Ethical dilemmas test values like integrity, justice, and accountability.

6. Limited Awareness & Support- Many employees are unaware of their rights under whistleblower laws. - Lack of legal aid, counseling, and institutional support systems makes whistleblowing a lonely battle.

## **Way Forward for Strengthening Whistleblower Protection**

1. Strengthening Legal Safeguards - Amend the Whistleblower Protection Act, 2014 to cover all public servants, private sector employees, and

sensitive agencies. - Introduce penal provisions for retaliation against whistleblowers.

2. Ensuring Anonymity & Confidentiality - Establish secure digital platforms for anonymous reporting. - Use encrypted communication channels and independent oversight bodies to protect identity. - Adopt global best practices like the US False Claims Act and UK Public Interest Disclosure Act.

3. Ensure time-bound inquiry and protection during investigation. - Link with Lokpal and CVC for accountability.

4. Institutional & Cultural Change - Promote organizational ethics training to normalize whistleblowing as a duty, not betrayal. - Encourage corporate governance reforms—mandatory whistleblower policies in companies.

**Model Conclusion»** By strengthening laws, ensuring anonymity, building independent institutions, and fostering a culture of integrity, India can transform whistleblowing into a pillar of transparency and accountability.

**Conclusion»** As emphasized by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2nd ARC), an honest whistleblower is a prerequisite for ethical governance. To transition from mere compliance to deep-rooted institutional integrity, India must operationalize strict identity-protection measures, establish fast-track oversight courts, and institutionalize the Lokpal's focus to "Empower Citizens, Expose Corruption".

» Whistleblower protection is critical for transparency, accountability, and good

governance, yet challenges like retaliation, weak laws, and cultural stigma undermine its effectiveness. Strengthening legal safeguards, ensuring anonymity, creating independent investigative bodies, and promoting ethical awareness are essential reforms to make whistleblowing a safe and respected act of public service. ////

## **INTEGRITY**

» Integrity refers to coherence between thought, speech and action, even in adverse situations.

- Integrity integrates morality with behaviour. Integrity gives effect to ethics. Ethics asks what is right; integrity does what is right.

- Integrity ensures moral intactness. Integrity implies an element of constancy, reliability and incorruptibility.

Values live through integrity. Values of integrity become the foundation for values like impartiality, non-partisanship etc

**Examples** - Mahatma Gandhi called off the non-cooperation movement after the violent incident of Chauri Chaura even though masses and many leaders were against the decision.

- Abraham Lincoln's commitment to preserving the Union and emancipating slaves despite immense political pressure.

- Lal Bahadur Shastri resigning as the railway minister after a rail accident during his term in office.

- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar while advocating for widow remarriage allowed his son to marry a widow – Practiced what he

preached. - Verghese Kurien, the father of India's White Revolution, chose to remain in Anand, Gujarat, leading a modest life despite his significant contributions to the dairy industry.

- Kailash Satyarthi's persistent efforts against child labor, leading to his Nobel Peace Prize.

### **Basis Of Integrity – Goodness Of Human Nature**

- Socrates: Human beings by nature are good. - Plato: Soul comes with a drive to seek the truth and pursue the good. - Aristotle: Humans are naturally inclined towards virtue and happiness. - John Rawls: Human beings are born with a sense of justice. - Kant: Moral law is innate in human reason. - Nelson Mandela: People are capable of great compassion when given the opportunity. - Swami Vivekananda:

Each soul is potentially divine; the goal is to manifest this divinity. - Mahatma Gandhi: There is an element of good in every person, which is always responsive to noble treatment.

**Introductions** > As defined by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission, integrity is not merely the absence of corruption, but the proactive adherence to core public service values like impartiality, dedication, and accountability.

> As Mahatma Gandhi rightly observed, 'There is no such thing as a separate code of ethics for public and private life.' Integrity bridges this gap, making private morality the foundation of professional conduct

**Conclusions** > : "Personal integrity is the precursor to institutional integrity. Building transparent and resilient institutions requires civil servants who lead by example and prioritize citizen-centric delivery over personal gains.

> "In a diverse and developing democracy, integrity acts as an antidote to nepotism and favoritism. Upholding it ensures that the steel frame of civil services remains responsive, empathetic, and trustworthy for the most vulnerable sections of society.

### **LINKING ETHICS AND INTEGRITY**

- Ethics prompts conscience to determine right from wrong. Conscience informs both, ethics and integrity, but integrity actualizes conscience.

- Ethics implies knowledge and judgment of values; integrity perfects judgment through practice, strengthening why values matter and how to uphold them. Integrity develops moral expertise.
- Ethics sets good standards for behaviour. Integrity expands the standards of ethics. It expands compassion born of ethics into moral responsibility.
- Ethics relies on integrity to serve its end. However, integrity depends on ethics to guide its way. ///

### **LINKING ETHICS & INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE**

- Ethics determines what is morally right; integrity motivates us to do right; aptitude gives us the ability and skill to do right well. Ethics: Knowing the good, Integrity: Doing the good,

Aptitude: Doing the good well. Together they shape moral character.

- Integrity needs ethics for direction, and aptitude for effectiveness.
- Strong ethics and integrity denote noble intentions and will. Aptitude signifies knowledge and capacity to translate intentions into outcome.

- Ethics sets multiple standards for human conduct. Aptitude exhibits wisdom to perceive and address complex moral situations, resolve ethical dilemmas and choose the most moral course of action.

- Integrity and aptitude fulfill the promise of ethics.

- Weakness in one area threatens another's capacities. Continuous nurturing of all three is key. Strong ethics and integrity without aptitude risk poor judgment and ineffectiveness;

aptitude without ethics or integrity raises dangers of manipulation or irresponsibility.

- Balance of head and heart, ideals and skills is needed. Shared moral purpose unites then. ///

### **Instances for 'ethics but no integrity'**

- Johnson & Johnson promoted its baby products as gentle and safe but allegedly knew about asbestos contamination in its talcum powder products. - Sahara Group: Claimed to serve the common man while running a large-scale illegal deposit scheme. - Facebook: Promised to protect user privacy while repeatedly mishandling personal data and spreading misinformation. - Lance Armstrong: Advocated for clean sports and cancer awareness while using performance-enhancing drugs throughout his career. - Volkswagen:

Advertised "clean diesel" technology while installing software to cheat emissions tests. -  
Satyam Computer Services: Promoted corporate governance while its founder, Ramalinga Raju, orchestrated a massive accounting fraud.

### **Instances for 'ethics and integrity but poor aptitude'**

**Young Bengal movement - FAILURE** o Ethics: they knew the standards for widow remarriage, abolition of child marriage, sati etc o Integrity: they attempted social reform, acted as per the principles. o Aptitude: Poor in aptitude - didn't respect the religious sentiment of people, low EI.

**Raja Rammohan Roy - SUCCESS** o Ethics: knew the standards for widow remarriage, abolition of child marriage, sati etc o Integrity: attempted social reform, acted as per the principles. o

Aptitude: high aptitude – respected the scripture, high EI, exhibited tolerance, patience, humility. Leadership - effective coordination with various groups.

**Dr. Verghese Kurien (White Revolution)**

o Ethics: Believed in farmer empowerment and rural development.

o Integrity: Lived a simple life, refused to commercialize his efforts.

o Aptitude: Excellent organizational skills, built cooperative structures, understood market dynamics, built strong institutions (AMUL, NDDDB)

## **INSTRUMENTS TO ENSURE INTEGRITY**

### **Internal**

Reason —> Clarity —> Conviction —> courage

Conscience —> Obligation

Respect for reason —> Dutifulness

Emotion —> Motivation

Belief —> Responsibility

Habit —>

| Reason → Clarity → Conviction | Using logic to see a situation clearly, leading to a firm belief in a specific action. | A scientist who reasons through data, gains clarity on environmental risks, and acts on the conviction to speak out despite industry pressure. |

| Conscience → Obligation | An internal sense of right and wrong that creates a felt duty to act. | Finding a lost wallet and feeling a deep moral obligation (prompted by conscience) to return it to the owner immediately. |

| Respect for Reason → Dutifulness | A commitment to objective principles and "doing one's duty" because it is logically right. | A judge

who puts aside personal feelings to apply the law dutifully, out of respect for the reason behind the legal system. |

| Emotion → Motivation | Using empathy and feelings as a catalyst for positive moral action. | Feeling deep empathy (emotion) for a struggling colleague, which provides the motivation to mentor them after hours. |

| Belief → Responsibility | Personal values or faith systems that define what one is accountable for. | A leader whose belief in transparency leads them to take full responsibility for a team error rather than shifting blame. |

## **External**

» **Sociological** • Social influence and persuasion. • Ethical ecosystem - sense of justice in society.

» **Administrative** • Rule of law • Codes of ethics • Whistleblower protection • Access to justice • Moral work culture • Audit and vigilance • Accountability: CAG, performance reviews; CVC; citizen charters; activist groups, media, etc. • Probity • Transparency: Eg. RTI Act, mandatory disclosures for public independent audits • Resolving Conflict of interest • Separate private and public relation

### **Downstream of integrity**

» **Individual** - Moral consistency : Possibility of a moral order - Integrity give rise to other values : Consistency in giving respect to others

– tolerance : Consistency giving due to others –  
justice : Consistency on actively considering  
others – empathy. - Internal consistency and  
harmony are the source of happiness. This  
implies lack of crisis of conscience, cognitive  
dissonance etc. - Integrity develops moral  
expertise. - Actualizes conscience and develops  
moral consistency. o Ability to reason,  
resolve dilemmas, identify principles and seek  
truth.

» **Sociological** - Expands the standards of ethics  
-> tolerance -> inclusiveness.

- Maturing moral reasoning and empathy to  
weigh and balance competing moral interests.

» **administrative** - Trust, moral authority,  
credibility and legitimacy. - Ethical  
governance

## **Connecting Integrity Outcomes with other values** »»»»»» -

**Ethics in Public Relationships:** ensures public officials maintain professional boundaries and treat all citizens equally.

**Ethics in Public Administration:** translates policy laws into fair, unbiased action on the ground.

**Accountability:** shifts accountability from a forced box-checking exercise into genuine transparency. Eg: : A government department discovers a major calculation error that accidentally leaked citizen data. Instead of covering it up, the tech director immediately takes ownership, informs the public, and fixes the flaw.

**Ethical Governance:** ensures that the ultimate goal of governance remains the welfare of the public, especially the marginalized. Eg:: A state government designs a

direct-benefit pension scheme for widows. An ethical governance framework uses biometric verification and doorstep delivery to ensure no middleman skims money off the top. - Challenges of Corruption: serves as the active shield that disrupts deeply entrenched corrupt networks. Eg: A junior engineer notices their department senior accepting bribes to clear substandard bridge materials. Driven by integrity, the engineer bypasses local channels to securely file a report with the anti-corruption bureau.

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**Q. One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real-life example.**

**Q. “Integrity is a value that empowers the human being.” Justify with suitable illustration.**

»..... Empowerment refers to one's capacity to make right choices and bring changes and reform in society. Empowerment can be internal, developing human character, and external, earning moral authority and power of persuasion.

**Integrity empowers within**

- o Self-awareness: integrity requires constant self-reflection.
- o Integrity actualises conscience by repeated moral action.
- o Moral courage: Consistently choosing right over easy builds strength of character.
- o Ethical decision-making: Regular

application of integrity hones one's moral reasoning skills.

**Integrity empowers without** o Integrity develops trust due to moral character development. o Trust gives moral authority and legitimacy. o Integrity leads to expansion of one's standard, resulting in social capital, cooperation, ease of reform.

However apart from integrity one needs to possess Knowledge, emotional intelligence, empathy and compassion and wisdom to choose the most moral course of action.

Conversely, empowerment can strengthen integrity. As individuals gain confidence and capability, they are better equipped to maintain their ethical standards in challenging situations.

**To develop integrity:**

- o Clarify personal values
- o Practice ethical decision-making in daily life
- o Seek feedback and accountability
- o Learn from ethical role models
- o Reflect regularly on actions and their alignment with values.

. T.N. Seshan utilized the constitutional powers of the Election Commission to enforce the Model Code of Conduct with absolute integrity. His moral rectitude empowered him to single-handedly clean up Indian elections, proving that an upright bureaucrat can bend a corrupt system to the rule of law.

During the Apartheid regime, Nelson Mandela was offered conditional release from prison if he agreed to renounce the armed struggle and recognize the segregationist government. He refused to compromise his core values for personal freedom. Mandela's integrity during 27

years of imprisonment empowered an entire nation.

**Conclusion:** " Ultimately, integrity is the bedrock of character that transforms a vulnerable individual into an institution of hope, proving that true empowerment flows from internal moral rectitude rather than external authority.

» As the saying goes, "When you stand for nothing, you fall for anything." Integrity is the ultimate source of human empowerment because it anchors the soul to immutable truths. It elevates a fragile individual into an unstoppable force for good, demonstrating that true strength does not come from physical might or official status, but from an unyielding moral character. ///

## **Accountability**

Accountability refers to the obligation of those in authority to account for their actions, accept responsibility for decisions, and be subject to appropriate consequences.

It means that those exercising public power must answer for their decisions and actions to appropriate authorities and to the citizens they serve.

It has two dimensions — answerability (explaining decisions) and enforceability (facing consequences for wrongdoing).+

Accountability in governance emanates from the social contract between citizens and the state. Citizens entrust the state with power and resources in public interest. This makes the state a trustee. Accountability prevents abuse of

power, arbitrary actions, misuse of resources. Public servants are accountable to citizens to serve public interest ethically, guided by values of integrity, impartiality and dedication to public welfare. Accountability builds trust in institutions central to democracy and rights.

**Models of accountability** : Social Audits- Pioneered in NREGA schemes, community-led audits ensure ground reality checks through 'jan sunways' hearings. Address exclusion errors.

- Lokayukta- Anti-graft ombudsman institutionalized across Indian states for misconduct investigations in public service against abuse of power.
- Sevottam- Adopted by central departments, focuses on citizens' charters, service standard compliance, and

public grievance redress efficiency. Citizen's Charter- A voluntary commitment by service providers, clearly outlining the standards, timelines, and processes citizens can expect. Enhances transparency and accountability. Whistle Blower Protection- The Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014, provides a mechanism for reporting corruption and misuse of power by public servants, while ensuring protection for the complainants.

### **Types of Accountability:**

**| Type | Mechanism |**

| Political | Parliament, elections |

| Legal | Courts, tribunals |

| Administrative | Superiors, departmental inquiry |

| Social | Civil society, media, RTI |

| Financial | CAG, PAC |

2nd ARC link: The 2nd ARC recommended strengthening social accountability through citizen charters, grievance redressal, and community monitoring of public services.

### **Upstream**

- Institutional mechanism— Ethical training, Oversight agencies, performance audits, Transparency and information sharing, RTI, citizens charter, social audit, independent review boards, court redress etc.

- Structural mechanism— Laws, rules, regulation and conscience and source of ethical guidance, Budget Utilization Reporting, Financial reporting, output tracking metrics, embedded vigilance functions, decentralization, direct democracy tools etc.

- Moral Mechanisms: Attitude for accountability, values of integrity, impartiality and dedication, EI, virtues of responsibility, collective care, courage and compassion for the vulnerable, probity in governance, concept of public service, code of conduct and code of ethics, Whistleblowing etc.

### **Downstream**

- Fulfilling role of a trustee - Upholding public interest - Peace and progress  
- Honouring social contract - Safeguard probity - Justice and fairness - Moral authority, legitimacy, credibility - Ethical governance.

**Q. Define Accountability'. Discuss the factors that have led to weakening of accountability in civil services. Suggest ways to improve the**

## **mechanisms for accountability in civil services.**

### **upsc mains**

...In civil services, accountability runs horizontally (to oversight bodies like the Judiciary and CAG) and vertically (to the political executive and ultimately to the citizens). It transforms administrative power into a tool for public welfare.

### **Factors Leading to the Weakening of Accountability**

- Systemic Red Tape: Multi-layered, complex bureaucratic hierarchies lead to a dilution of responsibility, making it easy for officials to "pass the buck."
- Political-Bureaucratic Nexus: Arbitrary transfers and political interference often

incentivize a "committed bureaucracy" over a neutral, accountable one.

- Misuse of Legal Safeguards: While Article 311 of the Constitution provides necessary protection against arbitrary dismissal, its cumbersome processes are sometimes used to shield non-performing or corrupt officials.

- Culture of Secrecy: Legacy colonial laws, such as the Official Secrets Act, create an opaque administrative environment that resists transparency.

- Weak Enforcement Mechanisms: Anti-corruption institutions like the Lokpal, CVC, and state Lokayuktas frequently suffer from staff shortages, structural bottlenecks, and a lack of complete functional autonomy.

**Measures to Enhance Accountability Mechanisms**

- Institutionalizing Social Audits: Expanding citizen-led social audits beyond MGNREGA to all major welfare schemes to allow direct community monitoring of public funds.
- Strengthening Citizen's Charters: Making Citizen's Charters legally enforceable with clear penalties for service delivery delays, similar to State Right to Public Services Acts.
- Leveraging e-Governance: Deploying end-to-end digitization, blockchain tracking for procurement, and platforms like e-Office to eliminate human discretion and establish clear digital audit trails.
- Reforming Performance Appraisals: Transitioning from subjective Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) to data-driven, outcome-oriented performance metrics, while

actively enforcing compulsory retirement for non-performers.

- Protecting Whistleblowers: Fully operationalizing and strengthening the Whistleblowers Protection Act to shield upright officers who expose internal institutional corruption.

**Conclusion** > Accountability must not be viewed merely as a reactive, punitive tool, but as a proactive mechanism to build public trust. As recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), true accountability can only be achieved by shifting the administrative paradigm from "rule-bound compliance" to "role-based performance." Only an accountable bureaucracy can bridge the gap between policy intent and actual developmental

impact, ensuring the realization of constitutional goals. ///

**Q. Public servants often face situations where personal values conflict with public responsibilities. Examine how a strong ethical foundation can help resolve such dilemmas while maintaining accountability. 2025**

». Public servants operate at the intersection of societal expectations and legal frameworks, leading to frequent ethical dilemmas where personal conscience collides with institutional mandates. A strong ethical foundation acts as a moral compass, reconciling these conflicts by aligning individual values with constitutional morality.

[ Personal Values ] <— Conflict —> [ Public Responsibilities ]

|

[ Strong Ethical Foundation ]

|



[ Harmonized Action & Accountability ]

### 1: Resolving Dilemmas via an Ethical Foundation

:A robust ethical framework provides objective resolution strategies to an administrator:

- Supremacy of Constitutional Morality: It ensures that when personal religious or social beliefs conflict with progressive laws, the [Constitution of India] remains the ultimate guide.
- Objectivity and Impartiality: Values like neutrality insulate decision-making from

personal biases, ensuring state resources are distributed without prejudice.

- Constructive Discretion: When laws are ambiguous, foundational values like empathy allow officials to apply Gandhian Talisman, guiding decisions to benefit the most vulnerable.

2: Maintaining Institutional Accountability : Resolving a dilemma must not lead to arbitrary actions; an ethical foundation enforces accountability through:

- Statutory Compliance: It ensures strict adherence to codified guidelines, such as the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, preventing personal ethics from becoming chaotic or ad-hoc.

- Meticulous Record-Keeping: True integrity drives an official to document the reasoning behind complex decisions, ensuring they

withstand external scrutiny by the CVC, CAG, or Judiciary.

- Proactive Transparency: Ethical clarity fosters openness, welcoming public audits and citizen evaluation to justify administrative choices.

**Conclusion** » An ethical foundation ensures that while a public servant's inner conscience infuses empathy into governance, their outer actions remain strictly bound by the rule of law. Ultimately, as highlighted by the 2nd ARC, integrating personal integrity with institutional accountability is vital to achieving Sarvodaya and sustainable good governance. ///