



SUMMARY

Ethics



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI

Building Mental Resilience for UPSC CSE with VisionIAS Student Wellness Cell

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is one of the most prestigious exams in the country, bringing immense professional and personal satisfaction. However, the journey often involves overcoming loneliness, intense competition pressure, anxiety, and other psychological challenges. These issues can impact both your preparation and overall well-being.

At **VisionIAS**, we recognize the multifaceted nature of this journey. To support our students comprehensively, we have established a dedicated Student Wellness Cell. Since April 2024, our highly professional psychologists and experienced professionals have provided confidential and mindful support as per student needs.

From Stress Management to Academic Excellence



Enhancing Academic Performance:

Effective stress management contributes to better academic outcomes.



Professional Mental Health Support:

Seeking professional help is crucial for success in UPSC preparation.



Well-Supported Mind for Excellence:

Mental well-being is essential for achieving success in UPSC exams.



Comprehensive Wellness Cell:

Addressing various issues impacting mental health and academic performance.



Safe and Non-Judgmental Environment:

A space for students to discuss issues and receive personalized support.



Confidential and Structured Support:

Multiple, structured sessions based on the severity of the issues.

Common Issues and Our Approach

Our counseling services have addressed a variety of issues, including:



Anxiety and Hopelessness: Using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) to promote positive thinking.



Lack of Motivation and Focus: Introducing time management strategies and SMART goal-setting.



Emotional Struggles: Providing a safe space for expression and techniques such as journaling and progressive muscle relaxation.



Social Isolation and Loneliness: Encouraging healthy social interactions and setting personal boundaries.



Family and Personal Issues: Offering advice on coping with family dynamics, personal loss, and significant life stressors.




To support the larger student community, **VisionIAS** is now extending our counseling and wellness support to all students preparing for UPSC CSE, regardless of their coaching institute affiliation. Schedule a session by visiting our office at Apsara Arcade near Karol Bagh Metro Station or emailing student.wellness@visionias.in.

Remember, seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

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1. Ethical Concerns and Dilemmas in Government and Private Institutions

1.1. Ethics of Lawmakers






- ◇ **Introduction:** Concerns raised about the conduct of lawmakers in India, such as the 'Cash for Query' scandal and unruly behavior in the Parliament.
- ◇ **Factors Causing Decline in Ethical Values in Lawmakers:**
 - » Cases like the **Commonwealth Games scam**.
 - » **Criminalisation of Politics**.
- ◇ **Lawmakers with business interests** influencing legislative outcomes.




| Stakeholders | |
|---|---|
|  Voters |  Political Parties |
|  Election Commission |  Media |
|  Judiciary | |

| Way Forward | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
|  Strengthening Legal Measures |  Code of Conduct |  Political Party Reforms |  Electoral Reforms |  Effective Enforcement of Penalties |

1.2. Political Ethics and Conflict of Interest






- ◇ **Introduction:** The resignation of a Calcutta High Court judge and a senior IPS officer to join political parties.
- ◇ **Ethical Implications of Judges and Bureaucrats Joining Politics**
 - » **Breach of the separation of powers**.
 - » **Potential political bias** in official duties.
 - » Perception of bias **harms credibility**.
 - » Political affiliations **can politicize public services**.

| Stakeholders | |
|---|---|
|  Government |  Political Parties |
|  Institutions |  Citizens |
|  Judges/ Bureaucrats | |

| Way Forward | | |
|--|--|---|
|  Cooling-off Period of at least two years |  Code of Ethics for Bureaucrats |  Resolving Conflict of Interest through recusal, divestiture, and disclosure |




1.3. Bhagavad Gita and Learnings for Administrative Ethics





- ◇ **Introduction:** Gujarat government introduces Bhagavad Gita in school syllabus. Its principles offer guidance for administrative ethics.
- ◇ **Applications of Bhagavad Gita in Administration and Governance**
 - » **Integrity in Actions:** Promotes Nishkama Karma (selfless actions)
 - » **Objectivity in Decision Making:** Advocates Lok Samgraha (holding all together).
 - » **Leadership Development:** Emphasizes Svadharma (own duty or dharma).
 - » **Motivation:** Focuses on distinguishing subconscious and conscious actions to promote Sattva (goodness).
- ◇ **Way Forward**
 - » **Emotional Intelligence:** Achieving equanimity or calmness.
 - » **Compassion (Karuna):** Overcoming prejudices through clarity of mind.

| Ethical Issues in Governance | |
|---|--|
|  | Lack of Accessibility and Responsiveness |
|  | Lack of Transparency and Accountability |
|  | Ineffective Leadership |
|  | Lack of Objectivity in Decision Making |
|  | Corruption |

1.4. Knowledge without Character

- ◇ **Introduction** – Instances like misuse of dark web for illegal activities highlight the detrimental effects of knowledge without character.
- ◇ **Ethical Issues/Concerns**
 - » Unjust Decision-Making
 - » Promotes Unethical Activities
 - » Blurredness between Right Means and End
 - » Lack of Accountability






| Stakeholders | |
|---|--|
|  | Citizen/ Individuals/ Society |
|  | State/ Governments |
|  | Institutions (Schools, Research Institutes). |

| Way Forward | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Intertwining Knowledge with Character | Developing Critical Thinking and Wisdom | Promote Emotional Intelligence | Transforming Self-interest-oriented Mindset |






2. Ethics and Technology

2.1. Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

- ◇ **Introduction:** The increasing integration of AI in various aspects of life presents numerous ethical dilemmas. UNESCO is deliberating guidelines for AI use by governments and tech companies.
- ◇ **Key Stakeholders and Interests:**
 - » **Users:** Data privacy, system accuracy, and potential biases.
 - » **Developers:** Development and maintenance costs and system security.
 - » **Investors:** Provide financial support for AI development.
 - » **State and Regulators:** Establish laws and regulate AI's development and use.
 - » **Civil Society Organizations:** Advocate for responsible AI development and use.






| Ethical Issues Associated with AI | |
|--|---|
|  Opacity |  Judges/ Bureaucrats |
|  Privacy Intrusion & Surveillance |  Unemployment |
|  Biasedness | |

Way Forward: UNESCO's principles for ethical AI design

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
|  Proportionality |  Fairness |  Continuous impact assessment |  Privacy protection |  Human oversight, and multi-stakeholder governance |
|--|---|---|---|--|

2.2. AI and Human Rights

- ◇ **Introduction:** AI impacts human rights, necessitating a balance between promoting and safeguarding these rights.
- ◇ **How Does AI Harm Human Rights?**
 - » **Misinformation/Disinformation:** Example: YouTube's recommendation algorithm promoting misleading content.
 - » **Discrimination:** Example: Amazon's gender-biased hiring tool.
 - » **Violation of Right to Privacy:** Example: Meta's facial recognition system.
 - » **Association and Assembly:** AI can identify and track protesters, enabling state retaliation.
 - » **Election Interference:** Example: Twitter bots spreading disinformation during elections.






| Stakeholders | |
|---|---|
|  International Organizations |  AI Developers and Engineers |
|  Governments |  Users (citizens) |
|  Civil Society and Activists | |

◇ **How Does AI Strengthen Human Rights?**

- » **Right to Equality:** AI can reduce biases in decision-making.
- » **Privacy Protection:** AI can enhance data encryption and secure communication.
- » **Ensuring Accountability:** AI can document misconduct, like police brutality.
- » **Protecting Collective Rights:** AI can help law enforcement with predictive policing while managing resources effectively.
- ◇ **Way Forward:** AI regulations should embed human rights principles and involve public and stakeholder engagement to respect human rights.

2.3. AI and Creativity

- ◇ **Introduction:** AI’s integration into artistic processes raises ethical and legal questions, such as recreating deceased singers’ voices.
- ◇ **Ethical Issues:**
 - » **Artistic Integrity:** Concerns about authenticity and distinguishing AI-generated from human-created works.
 - » **Consent and Ownership:** Issues related to intellectual property rights and consent for using creative contributions.
 - » **Preservation vs. Exploitation:** Debate on whether AI efforts preserve heritage or exploit identities for commercial gain.
 - » **Technological Determinism and Cognitive Justice:** Risks of homogenization and loss of diversity due to AI in creative industries.
 - » **Regulatory Oversight:** Need for regulations to safeguard privacy and prevent discrimination.

| Way Forward | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
|  Ensure transparency and disclosure in AI-driven creative processes. |  Uphold authenticity and recognize human creators’ contributions. |  Develop ethical guidelines for AI use in creative endeavors. |  Advocate for regulatory oversight to protect rights in AI-driven projects. |  Empower education on AI ethics for informed decision-making. |






2.4. Ethics of Online Gaming





- ◇ **Introduction:** The online gaming industry signed a voluntary Code of Ethics to promote responsible gaming.
- ◇ **About Code of Ethics for Online Gaming Intermediaries (OGI):**
 - » Signed by major gaming associations in India.

- » Objectives include protecting consumer interests, promoting responsible gaming, and elevating industry standards.

◆ **Key Principles Outlined in the Code:**

- » Responsible Gaming
- » Safeguards for Minors
- » Fair Gaming
- » Financial Safeguards

| Stakeholders | |
|--|--|
|  Game Developers |  Content Creators / Streamers |
|  Advertisers / Sponsors |  Gamers |
|  Regulatory Bodies | |

| Way Forward | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  Consumer Protection |  Inclusiveness |  Policy Measures |  Responsible Advertising |






2.5. Religious Beliefs and Evolving Scientific Advancements

- ◆ **Introduction:** The dynamic relationship between religion and science involves tension, debate, and conflict. Both seek to understand reality, but scientific advancements often challenge religious ideas.
- ◆ **Scientific Advancements Challenging Religious Belief:**
 - » **Life and Death:** Biotechnology advancements like genome editing challenge religious views on life creation.
 - » **Evolution:** Darwin’s theory of evolution contradicts religious beliefs on human origins.
 - » **Space:** The Big Bang theory conflicts with religious narratives on the universe’s creation.
- ◆ **Limitations of Scientific Enquiry:**
 - » **Limitations of Empirical Evidence**
 - » **Scientific inquiry doesn’t address moral values or ethical principles.**
 - » **Complex Ethical Questions:** Biotechnology raises ethical questions about genetic engineering and human evolution.
 - » **Unanswered Mysteries:** Science cannot explain the nature of the soul, afterlife existence, etc.
- ◆ **Way Forward: Reconciling Faith and Reason** – Adopting Intellectual Humility, Dialogue and Cooperation, Developing Critical Minds etc.

3. Ethics And Society






3.1. Ethics of Nudge






- ◇ **Introduction:** Haryana's Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme aims to nudge residents towards conserving aging trees.
- ◇ **What is a Nudge?** Gentle intervention steering individuals towards a desired action without forbidding options or significantly changing economic incentives.
- ◇ **Significance of Nudges:** Promote law and order, more effective than mandates, evidence-based, and accommodate diverse preferences and cultural contexts.
- ◇ **Way Forward:** Nudges should be transparent, culturally sensitive, and consistent with the values of the people being nudged.

| Key Ethical Concerns with Nudge | |
|---|--|
|  Transparency concerns |  Boomerang effect |
|  Goals of the nudger |  Manipulation |
|  Behavioral exploitation | |

3.2. Bare Necessities and Scarce Resources

- ◇ **Introduction:** Supreme Court ordered ration cards for 80 million migrants and unorganized workers under NFSA 2013.
- ◇ **Why Government is Responsible for Providing Bare Necessities?**
 - » **Social Contract Theory:** Public services in exchange for certain freedoms.
 - » **Constitutional Mandate:** Articles 39(a) and 47 ensuring livelihood and nutrition.
 - » **Expanding Nature of Rights:** E.g., Right to Education, Right to Information.
 - » **International Commitments:** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ◇ **Ethical Approaches for Fulfillment of Bare Necessities:**
 - » Justice-based approaches, Utilitarianism, Capability Approach, Deontology, Rights-Based Approach.

| Stakeholders | |
|---|---|
|  International Organizations |  Individuals & Communities |
|  Government |  Corporations |
|  Civil Society | |

| Way Forward | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
|  Global public goods |  Prioritization and efficient allocation |  Principles to define bare necessities |  Technological innovation |  Convergence of resources |

3.3. Happiness

- ◇ **Introduction:** Finland ranks first and India 126th in World Happiness Report 2024.
- ◇ **What is Happiness?** No universally accepted definition, but “Ananda” or pure bliss in Indian culture.
- ◇ **Different Philosophical Theories:** Upanishadic tradition, Epicureanism, Buddhism.
- ◇ **How Ethical Values Cultivate Happiness:** Altruism, compassion, integrity, fairness, self-regulation, and positive relationships.

| Impact of Happiness | |
|---------------------|--|
| | Individual-Level Benefit of Happiness: Improves productivity and marital satisfaction |
| | Social-Level Impacts: Higher civic engagement and trust in political institutions |
| | National-Level Implications: Political stability, sustainable practices, and economic growth |
| | Global Ramifications: Higher happiness levels associated with peace and international collaboration |

3.4. Consumerism





- ◇ **Introduction:** Rising consumerism noted, affecting even developing countries like India.
- ◇ **Ethical Values Undermined by Consumerism:**
 - » Promotes undesirable means, mindless consumption, undermines social justice, and violates environmental ethics.
- ◇ **Way Forward: Striking a Balance Between Needs and Desires -**
 - » Ethical Consumerism, promoting corporate responsibility, regulating advertisements/influencers, and government nudging sustainable practices.

| Stakeholders | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Consumers | Environment |
| Government/ Authorities | Brands |
| Advertising Companies | |

3.5. Use of Unfair Means (Cheating) in Public Examination




- ◇ **Introduction:** Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act (PEA) 2024 to prevent cheating.
- ◇ **Ethical Reasoning Against Cheating:**
 - » Violates deontological ethics, against utilitarianism, violates categorical imperative, justice as fairness principle, and virtue ethics.
- ◇ **Reasons for Cheating in Examinations:**
 - » Ambiguous attitudes, competitive pressures, high-end technology, institutional apathy, and altruistic cheating.
- ◇ **How PEA 2024 Seeks to Prevent Unfair Means:**
 - » Lists 15 unfair means actions, offenses are cognizable and non-bailable, investigation by senior officers.

| Stakeholders | |
|--|------------|
| Examination Centers /Service Providers | Students |
| Society | Government |

| Way Forward | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  Technological solutions |  Social influence |  Value-based education |  Parental involvement |

3.6. Individual Social Responsibility (ISR)

- ◇ **Introduction:** Significant philanthropic contributions by Indian business tycoons.
- ◇ **What is ISR?** Ethical obligations and actions individuals have towards their community and society.
- ◇ **Difference Between ISR and CSR:** Scale, nature of contributions, and drivers.
- ◇ **Need for ISR in India:**
 - » Predominance of public sector, funding gap in SDGs, resource redistribution, environmental sustainability, and technology development.
- ◇ **Ethical Considerations When Engaging in ISR:**
 - » Beneficiaries' needs, cultural sensitivity, balance between social and personal interest, outcome orientation, and empowerment.







| Stakeholders and Their Interests | |
|---|---|
|  | Person in Need: Expect compassion and help. |
|  | Government: Benefits from saving lives, aims to reduce road accidents |
|  | Police/Authorities: Responsible for collecting information and ensuring no harassment of Good Samaritans |






3.7. Good Samaritans

- ◇ **Introduction:** Delhi HC emphasized the duty to help injured persons and protect Good Samaritans.
- ◇ **Good Samaritan and Legal Provision in India:**
 - » Guidelines by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, SC made them legally binding, Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- ◇ **Issues Hindering Acts of Good Samaritan:**
 - » Selfishness, bystander apathy, fear of public judgment, legal issues.
- ◇ **Way Forward:** Promoting Good Samaritan culture through rewards, recognition, and adopting best practices from other countries.

3.8. Ethics of Influencer Endorsements

- ◇ **Introduction:** Celebrity endorsements influence purchasing decisions, new endorsement guidelines titled "Endorsements Know-hows!".
- ◇ **Ethical Issues in Influencer Endorsements:**
 - » Misuse of trust, lack of responsibility, limited product understanding, conflict of interest, deceptive marketing, targeting vulnerable groups, and reinforcing dark patterns.
- ◇ **Endorsement Know-hows: Guidelines for Celebrity and Social Media Influencers:**
 - » Compulsory disclosure of benefits, penalties for non-disclosure, clear communication, and responsible advertising.

| Stakeholders | |
|--|---|
|  Consumers |  Regulatory Bodies |
|  Advertising Agencies |  Media |
|  Brands |  Celebrities |

| Way Forward | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
|  Implementing guidelines |  Code of ethics for influencers |  Self-regulation |  Age restrictions |  Governmental due diligence structure |



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4. Ethics And Business





4.1. Compassionate Capitalism

- ◇ **Introduction:** Narayana Murthy highlighted the income disparity in Indian companies, advocating for compassionate capitalism to address this issue.
- ◇ **About Compassionate Capitalism:** Combines capitalist opportunity with equitable wealth distribution from socialist thought.
- ◇ Contributions of Moral Thinkers
 - » **Buddhism (Pratityasamutpada):** Emphasizes interdependence among people and the Earth.
 - » **Immanuel Kant's Categorical Imperative:** Treating every person as an end, not a means.
 - » **Gandhian Thought:** Values of truth, non-violence, simple living, sarvodaya (uplifting all), and trusteeship.
 - » **Amartya Sen's Capability Approach:** Evaluates well-being and social policies based on capabilities and freedoms, beyond monetary metrics.
- ◇ **Practices to Materialize Compassionate Capitalism**
 - » **Workplace:** Flexible work cultures, growth opportunities, compassionate leadership.
 - » **Environment:** Environmental accounting, adopting a circular economy
 - » **Society:** CSR, wealth redistribution, and fulfilling societal needs.

| Ethical Dilemmas in Compassionate Capitalism | |
|--|--|
|  | Employee Welfare vs. Profit Maximization |
|  | Consumer Interests vs. Profit-Driven Products |
|  | Environmental Responsibility vs. Cost Efficiency |
|  | Attracting Talent vs. Income Equality |
|  | Community Engagement vs. Shareholder Returns |

4.2. Ethics of Food Service and Safety

- ◇ **Introduction:** Issues in food safety highlighted by carcinogenic pesticide in MDH and Everest spices and sugar in Nestlé infant milk in India but not in Europe.
- ◇ **Food Ethics:** Concerns the morality of food production and consumption, encompassing principles and standards guiding behavior in the food industry.
- ◇ **Key Principles of Food Service Ethics :** Justice, Autonomy, Non-maleficence, Accountability and Transparency.
- ◇ **Ethical Concerns in Food Service and Safety**
 - » **Assigning responsibility** for preventing and controlling foodborne diseases.
 - » **Balancing costs and safety** especially for small-scale producers.
 - » **Respecting consumer choices**
 - » **Protecting stakeholders** i.e., Privacy and accountability without compromising public interest.
 - » **Universal safety standards**

| Stakeholders | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|
|  | Consumers |  | Companies Businesses |
|  | Government Regulators |  | Society NGOs International Organizations |






| Way Forward | | |
|--|--|---|
|  <p>Nudging consumers: Small changes to promote beneficial choices (e.g., FSSAI's Eat Right India Campaign).</p> |  <p>Stakeholder Capitalism: Considering environmental, consumer, and animal industry perspectives.</p> |  <p>Food safety training and education: Preventing contamination and outbreaks.</p> |

4.3. Ethics and Entrepreneurship

◇ **Introduction:** Recognition of young leaders who also contribute to society.





◇ **Ethical Issues Faced by Entrepreneurs**

- » **Conflict of Interest:** Balancing profitability and social impact (e.g., Lijjat Papad's mechanization dilemma).
- » **Environmental Responsibility:** Often neglected (e.g., Reliance Industries fined for ecological loss).
- » **Adopting Wrongful Means:** Manipulating financial statements (e.g., Satyam Scam 2009).
- » **Work Culture/Fair Treatment with Employees:** Excessive work pressure on employees.

| Stakeholders | |
|--|--|
|  Investors |  Entrepreneurs |
|  Customers |  Business Partners Dealers |
|  Government/Regulatory Authorities | |








◇ **Key Guiding Principles for Ethical Entrepreneurship**






- » **Utilitarianism Ethics:** Actions that foster happiness or pleasure and oppose harm.
- » **Deontology Ethics (Immanuel Kant):** Upholding moral obligations regardless of the result.
- » **Virtue Ethics:** Practicing honesty, courage, justice, charity for a righteous life.
- » **Stakeholder Theory:** Creating value for all stakeholders, not just shareholders.

| Way Forward | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  <p>Balancing Profit and Purpose: e.g., eHealthPoint for rural health consultations</p> |  <p>Stakeholder Engagement/ Foster Open Communication: e.g., TATA Steel's stakeholder engagement.</p> |  <p>Ethical Sourcing of Raw Materials: e.g., Ben & Jerry's commitment to ethical sourcing.</p> |  <p>Lead by Example: e.g., Wipro's COVID-19 relief commitment</p> |

4.4. Labour Ethics and Long Work Hours

- ◇ **Introduction:** Narayana Murthy’s suggestion of a 70-hour work week sparked debate on labour ethics, focusing on the treatment of labor.
- ◇ **Ethical Concerns Against Overtime and Long Work Hours**
 - » **Violation of Nonmaleficence:** Care should be taken not to harm others. – Long hours lead to exhaustion, medical negligence, and disasters (e.g., Chernobyl).
 - » **Wealth over Health:** Extra income compromises health (e.g., job burnout).
 - » **Profit over Principles:** Long hours undermine sustainable work culture.
 - » **Erosion of Family and Societal Values:** Diminishes time for personal relationships.
 - » **Against Socialistic and Gender Ethics:** Limits job opportunities, particularly for women with dual burdens.

| Stakeholders and Their Interests | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Employees: Gainful employment, good working conditions, work-life balance | Employers/Industrialists: Organizational efficiency, profits, human resource development | Management: Professional responsibility, long working hours in certain fields | Investors: Maximizing returns, ethical investments | Labour Unions: Better workers’ rights, safer working conditions, reasonable hours. | Labour Regulatory Bodies: Enforcement of labor laws, promoting worker welfare | Government: Economic growth, human capital development |

| Way Forward | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Governments: Enforcing labor laws regulating work hours. | Businesses: Investing in employee health and wellbeing (healthcare, paid leaves). | Employees: Better time management for work-life balance. | Upskilling: Addressing workforce shortages and promoting labor division | Collaboration: Multiple stakeholders creating an ethical framework for a sustainable work culture. |

5. Ethics And Media

5.1 Media Ethics and Self-Regulation





◇ **Introduction** – The Supreme Court expressed concerns about the ineffectiveness of the self-regulatory mechanism by the News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority (NBSA).

◇ **Need for Effective Media Ethics in India**

- » **Conflicts of Interest:** Impartiality challenged by personal relationships.
- » **Confidentiality and Integrity:** Ethical concerns over private life coverage.
- » **Bias and Subjectivity:** Media biases leading to public mistrust.
- » **Cross-Media Ownership:** Alarming concentration of media ownership.
- » **Ineffective Self-Regulation:** Market pressures and inadequate penalties.

◇ **Way Forward**

- » Strengthen self-regulation based on Hutchins Commission principles.
- » Penalties proportional to profits.
- » Implement a universal code of ethics for journalists focusing on accuracy, truth, objectivity, and accountability.

| Stakeholders | |
|--|--|
|  Government |  Media Actors |
|  Police |  General Public |

5.2 Ethical Use of Social Media Platforms

◇ **Introduction** – ECI concerned about social media misuse in election campaigns, raising ethical questions.

◇ **Ethical Debates**

» **Individuals vs. Social Media Platforms**

- » **Privacy:** Informed consent and breach of confidentiality.
- » **Discrimination:** Equitable access for minoritized voices.

» **Society vs. Social Media Platforms**

- » **Polarization:** Echo chambers and filter bubbles creating informational silos.

» **Regulatory vs. Social Media Platforms**

- » **National Interest vs. Individual Freedom:** Regulation may compromise free speech.

- » **Transparency and Accountability:** Tracing accountability is challenging.

| Stakeholders and Their Interests | |
|---|--|
|  | Users/Citizens: Social connectivity and quality digital services. |
|  | Social Media Platforms: Quality service, customer base growth, and profitability. |
|  | Political Parties: Reach voter base and electioneering |
|  | Government/Regulatory Bodies: Ensure fair competition and protection of rights. |
|  | International Organizations: Global consensus on ethical use and preventing misuse. |

◇ **Way Forward**





- » Balance regulation and facilitation methods.
- » Implement IT Rules 2021 with grievance redressal, compliance officers, and oversight.
- » Voluntary Code of Ethics and self-regulation for political parties.
- » Society’s collective responsibility in holding platforms accountable.




5.3 Ethics of Media Trial

◇ **Introduction** - Media’s role in investigation and trial affects justice. SC directed guidelines for police briefing to avoid media trials.

◇ **Stakeholders and Their Interests**

- » **Judiciary:** Ensure free and unbiased trial.
- » **Accused/Family:** Fair representation without fabrication.
- » **Victim/Family:** Protect identity and aid in justice.
- » Witnesses: Safety and protection of identity.
- » **Media:** Truthful reporting aligned with democratic principles.
- » **Citizens:** Honest reporting on socially significant issues.

| Key Ethical Issues | |
|--|--|
|  | Right to Privacy: Identity disclosure impacts public image. |
|  | Media Ethics: Violates principles of truth and accountability. |
|  | Credibility of Justice System: Undermines "innocent until proven guilty." |
|  | Right to Fair Trial: Media discussions affect judicial perceptions. |






| Way Forward | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| Balance rights of the accused and media reporting. | Promote self-regulation through comprehensive guidelines. | Implement media ethics via Press Council of India norms. |

5.4 Social Media and Civil Servants

◇ **Introduction** - Use of social media by civil servants for public engagement and information sharing.








◇ **Ethical Issues**

- » **Neutrality and Anonymity:** Maintain political neutrality and avoid public recognition.
- » **Parliamentary Government:** Bureaucrats accountable to authority lines, not public.
- » **Confidentiality and Security:** Risk of information leakage and unauthorized access.

| Stakeholders | |
|--|--|
|  Civil Servants |  Colleagues/Peers |
|  Citizens |  Media |
|  Government | |

- » **Blurred Identity:** Difficulty separating professional and private identities.
- » **Self-Promotion:** Fame for personal promotion, creating biased narratives.

Way Forward – Core Values Suggested by Department of Electronics and Information Technology

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|  <p>Identity: Clearly state role and use disclaimers.</p> |  <p>Authority: Comment only when authorized.</p> |  <p>Relevance: Issue relevant comments</p> |  <p>Professionalism: Be polite and discrete; avoid politicization</p> |  <p>Openness: Accept positive and negative comments</p> |  <p>Compliance: Follow rules and regulations.</p> |  <p>Privacy: Protect personal information</p> |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|



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6. Miscellaneous

6.1. Ethics of War

- ◇ **Introduction:** Ongoing conflicts (Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Hamas) raise ethical issues highlighted by social media.
- ◇ **Ethical Concerns in War**
 - » **Right vs. Wrong:** Judgments often reduce conflicts to one side being right and other wrong, but justification does not equal ethical correctness.
 - » **Punishment and Revenge:** Actions based on punishment and revenge are viewed as moral paths to correct wrongs.
 - » **Degradation of Humans:** Humans are used as tools for war objectives.
 - » **Individual vs. Collective Identity:** Recent conflicts show people are seen in collective identities rather than as individuals.
- ◇ **Ethical Framework**
 - » **Just War Theory:** Assesses if a war is just, ethical, or legitimate.
 - » **Jus ad bellum:** Justice in resorting to war (right authority, just cause, right intention).
 - » **Jus in Bello:** Justice in conduct of war (proportionality).
 - » **Jus post Bello:** Post-war responsibilities (constraining victor wrongdoing, post-war reconstruction).
- ◇ **Ensuring Adherence**
 - » **Strengthening Cooperation:** Enhance roles of institutions like the ICC and UN Security Council.
 - » **Arms Control and Disarmament:** Limit weapons causing disproportionate harm.
 - » **Peace building:** Address conflict roots, promote dialogue, facilitate negotiations.
 - » **Code of Conduct:** For military based on consensus on war ethics.

| Challenges | |
|---|--|
|  | Non-State Actors: Insurgent groups not bound by legal and ethical constraints |
|  | Distinction Principle Ignorance: Civilians often become unintended victims. |
|  | Technological Advancements: Raises questions about proportionality and discrimination. |
|  | Limited Global Governance: Effectiveness of international treaties and institutions is often questionable |

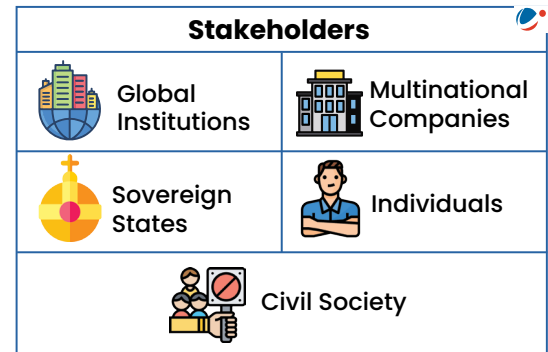
6.2. Ethics of Global Governance

- ◇ **Introduction:** The UN's inability to hold powerful nations especially US accountable undermines global governance, marked by double standards and human rights abuses.
- ◇ **Ethical Issues in Global Governance**
 - » Lack of Accountability
 - » Discrimination
 - » Polarizing Narratives

- » Underrepresentation of developing and low income countries
- » Human Rights Violations

◇ **Potential Solutions**

- » **Accountability Mechanisms:** Empower global governance bodies to enforce accountability.
- » **Rule of Law:** Governance based on rule of law and consensus policymaking.
- » **Dialogue-Based Approach:** Address concerns of all parties.
- » **Inclusivity and Participation:** Explore “one country, one vote” rather than economic criteria.
- » **Mandatory Human Rights Upholding:** Effective enforcement mechanism for a common minimum code of conduct.

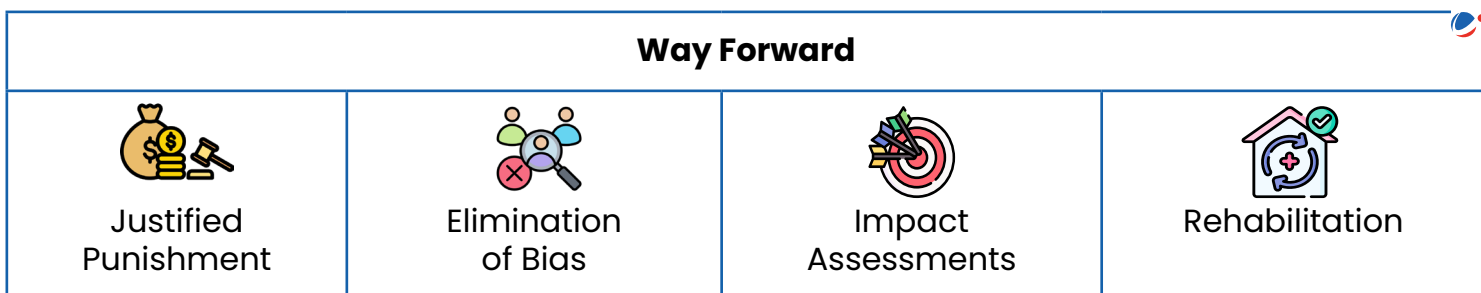
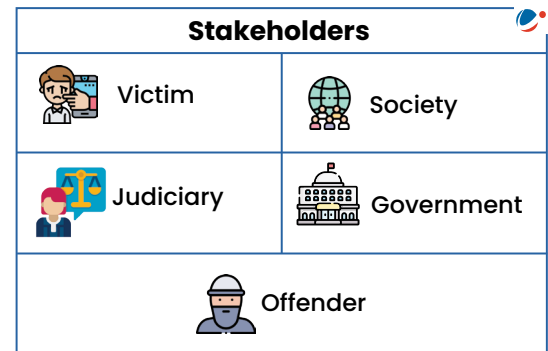


6.3. Ethics of Punishment

◇ **Introduction:** A fatal accident involving a privileged teenager in Pune has sparked outrage over the lenient treatment afforded to him by the Juvenile Justice Board, highlighting the glaring disparities in the justice system.

◇ **Philosophies of Punishment and Ethical Dilemmas**

- » **Deterrence:** Discourages crime through punishment (issue: harsher punishments).
- » **Incapacitation:** Restricts offender from society (issue: human rights, long-term efficacy).
- » **Retribution:** Punishment based on offense severity (issue: rigidity, societal behavior change).
- » **Restoration:** Aims to restore harm caused (issue: suitability for all crimes, victim’s justice perception).
- » **Rehabilitation:** Change offender behavior through interventions (issue: fiscal restraints, public demand for harsher sentences).




6.4. Buddha's Teachings

- ◇ **Introduction:** Vice President of India emphasized Buddha's teachings at the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP).
- ◇ **Important Teachings of Buddha**
 - » **Four Noble Truths:** Life brings sorrow; freedom through overcoming desire.
 - » **Eight-Fold Path (Ashtangika Marg):** Right views, aspiration, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, concentration.
 - » **Middle Path:** Simple, virtuous life between extreme austerity and luxury.
 - » **Three Gems (Triratna):** Knowledge, conduct, meditation for liberation.
 - » **Five Conducts for Monks:** Non-violence, non-stealing, celibacy, truthfulness, no intoxicants.
- ◇ **Contemporary Relevance**
 - » **Consumerism and Greed:** Pursuit of inner contentment over materialism.
 - » **Scientific Temper:** Encourages mindfulness, concentration, right understanding.
 - » **Citizen-Centric Governance:** Right speech, conduct, livelihood for responsive, inclusive administration.
 - » **Peace and Harmony:** Love towards all, law of karma to curb violence.
 - » **Inter-Faith Harmony:** Focus on individual actions over the existence of God.
 - » **Ethical Guide:** Guidance for dealing with ethical ambiguity in AI, biotechnology.
 - » **Conflict Resolution:** Rejection of violence, promotion of dialogue.

6.5. Ethics in Sports

- ◇ **Introduction:** Controversy in Cricket World Cup for timed-out decision against Angelo Mathews, highlighting sportsmanship issues.
- ◇ **Sports Ethics is based on Key Virtues:** Fairness, integrity, responsibility, respect.
- ◇ **Ethical Issues:** Emphasis on outcomes over means, competitive pressure, law-morality conundrum, bracketed morality.
- ◇ **Promoting Sports Ethics**
 - » **Role Modelling:** Promote ethical behavior through positive role models.
 - » **Anti-Doping Initiatives:** Ensure fair competition and athlete health.
 - » **Media Responsibility:** Fair reporting, avoid sensationalism.
 - » **Sponsor Responsibility:** Align sponsorship with ethical standards.

| Stakeholders | |
|--|--|
|  Government |  Sports Organizations |
|  Sports persons |  Sport Fans |

6.6. Beyond Bites: Ethical Considerations in Stray Dogs Control






◇ **Introduction:** India's stray dog population and the high rate of dog bites leading to deaths highlight the need for management.





◇ Ethical Aspects

- » **Abandonment:** Moral irresponsibility.
- » **Responsibility:** Unique relationship with humans, territorial instincts.
- » **Public Health:** Concerns for human and dog health.
- » **Animal Control Methods:** Ethical alternatives like TNR programs.

◇ Present Policy Framework

- » Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA), 1960
- » Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), 1962
- » Animal Birth Control (ABC) Program
- » Judicial View (Supreme Court in AWBI vs Nagaraja case-2014): every species has a right to life and security

| Stakeholders | |
|--|--|
|  Animal Welfare Organizations / Activists |  Pet Owners |
|  Local Population |  Government |
|  Local Authorities Society | |





| Way Forward | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
|  Animal Control Measures |  Infrastructural Support |  Training and Education |  New Relationships |







6.7. Ethics and Climate Change

◇ **Introduction:** UN COP26 and the Glasgow Climate Pact highlight gaps in climate negotiations.

◇ Ethical Issues




- » **Disproportionate Effects:** Developing countries, marginalized communities bear more burden.
- » **Climate Migration:** Displacement increases insecurity and impacts dignity.
- » **Unequal Responsibilities:** Industrialized nations historically contributed most emissions.
- » **Climate Justice for Indigenous Peoples:** Threatened lands, disrupted lifestyles.
- » **Technological Inequity:** Unequal access to climate-friendly technologies.

| Stakeholders | |
|---|---|
|  Scientific Community |  Governments |
|  Intergovernmental Organizations |  Indigenous People |
|  Local Communities |  Businesses and Corporations |

| Way Forward | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|  Prevention of Harm |  Solidarity |  Precautionary Approach |  Equity & Justice |  Sustainable Development |  Scientific Knowledge |

6.8. Cognitive Dissonance

- ◇ **Introduction:** Example of Dmitry Maltsev shows internal conflict between supporting the country and understanding the plight of others.
- ◇ **What is Cognitive Dissonance?**
 - » **Definition:** Mental conflict when holding conflicting beliefs or actions contradict beliefs.
 - » **Types:** Anticipated (before moral violation) and experienced (after action).
 - » **Markers to identify:** Feeling uncomfortable before decisions/actions, Justifying or rationalizing decisions, Feeling embarrassed, ashamed, or guilty about past actions etc.
- ◇ **Ethical Issues**
 - » **Moral Dilemmas:** Clash of personal values and professional responsibilities.
 - » **Decision-Making Integrity:** Justifying unethical actions to reduce discomfort.
 - » **Trust and Credibility:** Deception to reconcile actions and values.
 - » **Ethical Erosion:** Compromising moral values over time.
 - » **Social Impact:** Polarized attitudes and intolerance in large groups.

| Way Forward | | |
|--|---|---|
|  Cognitive Consistency: Resolve dissonance through behavior change or re-evaluating beliefs. |  Recognition of Issue: External interference for institutional resolution. |  Effective Leadership: Leaders should connect emotionally to resolve collective dissonance. |

Heartiest Congratulations

to all Successful Candidates



1
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Aditya Srivastava

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Pradhan**



5
AIR

Ruhani



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Dabas**



7
AIR

Anmol



9
AIR

Nausheen



10
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**Aishwaryam
Prajapati**

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