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MAINS 365

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Ethics

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Dear Students,

In the competitive landscape of the UPSC Mains examination, the significance of integrating data, facts, and examples into your answers cannot be overstated.

These elements serve as the backbone of a compelling and persuasive response, elevating your answer from a generic narrative to a well-substantiated argument.

To support you, we have distilled essential information from the VisionIAS Mains 365 resources which are renowned for their comprehensive coverage of current affairs.

For Ethics, this document provides a concentrated source of high-quality data, facts, initiatives, and applications. Given the demands of the UPSC Mains examination, it is crucial to be prepared with important data, applications, and facts that can enrich your answers.

This document includes relevant initiatives and applications that can be seamlessly integrated into your responses. This information is not limited to GS Paper 4 but is also helpful for essay answers.

The layout of this document is designed for quick reference and easy integration into your answer.

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1. VALUES

1.1. Accountability

- **Meaning**: Being answerable for one's actions and choices.
- **Forms:**
  - **Vertical Accountability**: Principal-agent relationship (e.g., elections).
  - **Horizontal Accountability**: Network of institutions ensuring mutual control.
  - **Social Accountability**: Civil society organizations and media checking public sector officials.
- **Effectiveness:** Prevents arbitrary power, avoids conflict of interest, promotes justice and equality and public trust.

Examples:

- **Morarji Desai**: Regular press conferences, promoting transparency.
- **Lal Bahadur Shastri**: Took accountability for major railway accident.

1.2. Leadership

- **Meaning**: Successfully marshaling collaborators to achieve ends, stemming from social influence rather than authority or power.
- **Importance**: Critical for good governance, ensuring participation, transparency, and accountability.

Examples:

- **Dr. Verghese Kurien**: Father of India's White Revolution, established Amul cooperative.
- **E. Sreedharan**: Known as "Metro Man of India," effective project management and engineering leadership.

1.3. Selflessness

- **Meaning**: More consideration to others' needs than oneself.
- **Importance in Governance**: Acting solely in the public interest, placing public needs ahead of personal needs.
- **Associated Traits**: Empathy, Compassion, Kindness, Respect.

Examples:

- **Shaheen Mistri:** Left her top-notch foreign education to teach low-income children.
- **Tukaram Omble**: Showed courage during 26/11 Mumbai attacks, sacrificing his life.

1.4. Empathy

- **Meaning**: Ability to sense and imagine others' emotions.
- **Types:**
  - **Affective Empathy**: Sensations and feelings in response to others' emotions.
  - **Cognitive Empathy**: Identifying and understanding others' emotions.
- **Empathy and Sympathy:** Empathy is deeper and stronger while sympathy is instinctive.
- **Empathy and Compassion:** While empathy is understanding others' emotions, compassion is acting on that emotion.

Examples:

- **Ratan Tata:** Offered new trucks to surviving Sikh drivers after 1984 riots against Sikh community.
- **Ayushman Bharat Scheme**: Empathetic policymaking, providing health coverage to over 12 crore families.

1.5. Justice

- **Meaning**: Fairness or equal treatment.
- **Most Fundamental Principle**: Equals should be treated equally and unequals unequally.

Examples:

- **Sagarmal Gopa**: Stood for justice against Jaisalmer's ruler's atrocities.
- **P Narhari**: Made Gwalior District barrier-free, aiding persons with disabilities.

1.6. Probity

- **Meaning**: Quality of having strong moral principles such as integrity, honesty, decency.
- **Effectiveness**: Essential for efficient and effective governance, socio-economic development, objectivity, and reducing bureaucratic hurdles.
- **Probity and Integrity**: Integrity is a broader concept while probity is specific to uprightness and incorruptibility.

Examples:

- **Jacinda Ardern**: Resigned as New Zealand PM, prioritizing the country's needs.
- **Shanmugam Manjunath**: Fought against petrol adulteration, exemplifying courage and probity.

1.7. Honesty

- **Meaning**: Speaking and acting truthfully.
- **Importance**: Foundation for trust, key in social relationships.

Classical Ethical Frameworks:

- **Aristotelian virtue ethics**: Honesty as a virtue, balancing between too little and too much honesty.
- **Consequentialism**: Honesty depends on situations and outcomes.
- **Deontology**: Immanuel Kant emphasizes honesty as an absolute moral obligation.

Examples:

- **Anil Swarup**: Implemented transparent e-auction system for coal block allocations.
- **Sachin Tendulkar**: Walked off the field voluntarily during the 2011 ICC World Cup, exemplifying sportsmanship.

1.8. Dedication to Public Service

- **Meaning**: Willingness to give time and energy, putting public interests first.
- **Dedication and Commitment**: Commitment is formally obligated whereas dedication is guided by sense of duty.

Examples:

- **Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam**: Contributions to missile and nuclear programmes.
- **Dr. M S Swaminathan**: Green Revolution and National Food Guarantee Act recommendations.

1.9. Integrity

- **Meaning**: Adhering to one's values and principles even when it is unprofitable.
- **Traits:**
  - Honesty / Truthfulness
  - Fairness
  - Decency / Respectfulness
  - Adherence to moral principles
  - Courage
  - Responsibility / Trustworthiness
- **Integrity and Honesty:** While honesty means holding the facts as they are, integrity means doing what is right at all times.

Examples:

- **Shaheed Hemu Kalani**: Resisted torture by the British, not revealing associates.
- **K.K. Pathak**: Worked to provide good mid day meals, reduce absenteeism and ensuring teacher accountability in Bihar's government schools.

1.10. Objectivity

- **Meaning**: Acting impartially, fairly, and on merit without bias.
- **Importance in Civil Services**: Upholds rule of law, reason, merit, and accepted standards.
- **Objectivity and Impartiality**: Objectivity focuses on evidences in observations whereas impartiality ensures that decisions are taken without bias.

Examples:

- **POSHAN Abhiyan**: Evidence-based decision-making using POSHAN Tracker.
- **Digital portals (PROBITY, SPARROW, SOLVE)**: Assessing performance of Central Government officers.

1.11. Impartiality

- **Meaning**: Not supporting a group over others, remaining apolitical in civil service.
- **Effectiveness**: Ensures public trust, good governance and justice.
- **Impartiality and Non-Partisanship:** While impartiality refer to not taking any sides, non-partisanship specifically conveys political neutrality.

Examples:

- **T. N. Seshan**: Reforms as Chief Election Commissioner ensuring non-partisan elections.
- **Nandan Nilekani**: Focused on technological and administrative aspects of Aadhaar, maintaining non-partisanship.

1.12. Tolerance

- **Meaning**: Fair and permissive attitude towards differing opinions, practices, etc.
- **Importance**: Fosters harmony and social cohesion in a pluralistic society, aids in inclusive policy formulation.

Examples:

- **Nelson Mandela**: Leadership characterized by tolerance and reconciliation post-apartheid.
- **Supreme Court of India**: Recognition of 'Third-Gender' and decriminalization of consensual same-sex relationships.

1.13. Conscience

- **Meaning**: Special ability of mind to judge how moral his/her own actions are.
- Conscience describes two things – what a person believes is right and how a person decides what is right.

Examples:

- **Fali Nariman:** Listened to conscience during 1975 Emergency and refused to defend suspension of constitutional rights.

2. CONCEPTS

2.1. Attitude

- **Meaning**: Predisposition to respond positively or negatively towards an idea, object, person, or situation.
- **Factors:**
  - **Classical conditioning**: Learning through repeated pairings.
  - **Instrumental conditioning**: Learning from rewards and punishments.
  - **Cognitive appraisals**: Evaluating information and experiences.
  - **Observational learning**: Learning through observing others.
  - **Persuasions**: Deliberate attempts to change attitudes.

Functions:

- Knowledge, Utilitarian, Ego-defense, Value-expression

2.2. Social Influence

- **Meaning**: Adapting opinions or behaviors through social interactions.
- **Models**: Compliance, Identification, Internalization.
- **Types**: Conformity, Self-fulfilling prophecy, Obedience, Persuasion.

2.3. Persuasion

- **Meaning**: Effort to change another person's beliefs, attitude or behaviour.
- **Principles**: Reciprocity, Consistency, Social Proof, Authority, Liking, Scarcity and Unity.
- **Modes of Persuasion**: Ethos (Credibility), Pathos (Emotions), Logos (Logic).
- **Factors**: Source, Message Content, Audience Characteristics, Reciprocity, Social Proof, Timing and Context.

2.4. Emotional Intelligence (EI)

- **Meaning**: Identifying, comprehending, and managing emotions of self and others.
- **Significance**: Leadership effectiveness, Decision-making, Communication, Conflict resolution, Public engagement.
- **Five Domains**: Self-awareness, Self-regulation, Motivation, Empathy, and Social Skills.
- **Social Intelligence**: Individual's ability to understand and manage interpersonal relationships.

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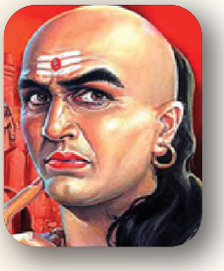
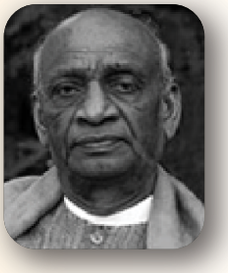
3. INDIAN THINKERS

Indian Moral Thinkers & Philosopher- Ideas/Values & Quotes

Personality	Ideas/Values/Vision	Quotes
Kautilya (Chanakya) 	⇢ **Duty and Righteousness:** A leader should show self-control by abandoning kama (lust), krodha (anger), lobha (greed), mana (vanity), mada (haughtiness), and harsha (overjoy). ⇢ **Happiness:** A leader's happiness lies in the welfare of his/her subjects. ⇢ **Individual Excellence:** A man is great by deeds, not by birth.	⇢ There is no enemy like infatuation and fire like wrath. ⇢ There is no austerity equal to a balanced mind, and there is no happiness equal to contentment; there is no disease like covetousness and no virtue like mercy.
Thiruvalluvar	⇢ **Conduct:** Propriety of conduct is the seed of virtue; impropriety will ever cause sorrow. ➲ Conduct is a virtue if it is free from these four things: **malice, desire, anger, and bitter speech.** ⇢ **Pure Soul:** Purity of the external body is caused by water and inner purity is caused by veracity.	⇢ To reprove a harm-doer, put him to shame by doing a good deed in return. ⇢ It is compassion, the most gracious of virtues, which moves the world.
Guru Nanak	⇢ **Vaand Chhako:** Sharing whatever God has given you with others and helping those who are in need. ➲ He encouraged followers to donate at least one-tenth of their earnings for the welfare of others. ⇢ **Speak the truth without any fear:** Getting victory by suppressing falsehood is temporary and standing firmly by truth is permanent.	⇢ The greatest comforts and lasting peace are obtained when one eradicates selfishness from within. ⇢ If the people use the wealth bestowed on them by God for themselves alone or for treasuring it, it is like a corpse. But if they decide to share it with others, it becomes sacred food.
Swami Vivekananda	⇢ **Humanism:** The masses should be our Gods. Service to man is service to God. ⇢ **Selflessness:** He propagated that selflessness is immoral, and that which is unselfish is moral. ⇢ **Oneness:** Implies that you are a part of me, and I of you; the recognition, that in hurting you I hurt myself, and in helping you, I help myself.	⇢ Whatever you think that you will be. If you think yourself weak, weak you will be; if you think yourself strong, you will be. ⇢ In a day when you don't come across any problems, you can be sure that you are travelling in a wrong path.

Personality	Ideas/Values/Vision	Quotes
Savitribai Phule 	➔ She upheld the values like **Perseverance and selflessness.** • Despite opposition from several members of the upper class of society, she promoted girls education. • She gave her life while protecting people during the bubonic plague. ➔ Along with her husband Jyotirao Phule, she opened India's first school for girls in 1848. ➔ She is recognized as the first female teacher in India's modern education system.	➔ The pen is **mightier** than the sword. Education is the greatest weapon to eradicate social evils. ➔ Empathy is the foundation of social justice. Understand the pain of others, and work towards alleviating it.
Jawahar Lal Nehru 	➔ **Welfare State:** A welfare state ideally provides basic economic security for its citizens by protecting them from market risks associated with unemployment, etc. ➔ **Administration:** Administration should be that it should be **oriented to people,** should show courtesy to the common man, should give people a sense of participation, and should inspire co-operation in the people.	➔ Loyal and efficient work in a great cause, even though it may not be immediately recognised, ultimately bears fruit. ➔ Evil unchecked grows, evil tolerated poisons the whole system.
Sardar Patel 	➔ He referred to civil services as the **'steel frame' of India,** emphasizing their significance in the administration. ➔ **Inclusivity in decision making process:** E.g., In the integration of the princely states, he encouraged dialogue and negotiation rather than imposing India's will.	➔ Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work. ➔ Two ways of building character – cultivating strength to challenge oppression, and tolerate the resultant hardships that give rise to courage and awareness.

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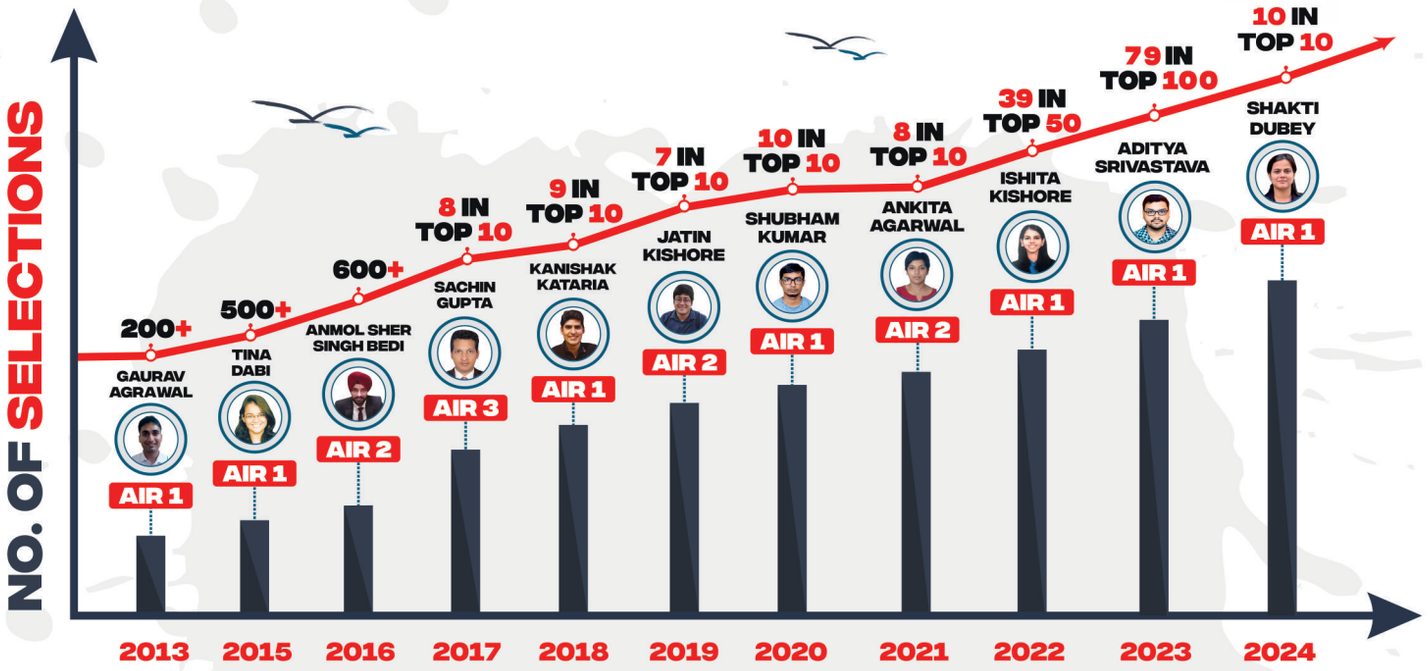

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