



# MARKS IMPROVEMENT BOOKLETS (MIB)

For Extra

## 20+ Marks

Ethics | Essay | Society | Polity | Economy | Science & Tech  
Environment | Disaster Management | Geography

**ETHICS**  
**MIB 2025**

**SAMPLE**



Join Kalam IAS Telegram  
Channel for MIBs

<https://t.me/KalamIAS/5285>



**Ayan Jain, AIR-16**

I want to thank Kalam IAS for their support in CSE 2023. I was a part of the interview guidance course where I found the current affairs material to be extremely good, and I have also benefited previously from the value addition material provided by Kalam IAS for Mains

Thank you!

.....

**Delhi Center: 57/13, Bada Bazaar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar**

Jaipur Center: Ridhi Sidhi Chauraha, Gopalpura Bypass  
Sikar Centre: Nawalgarh Road, Sikar, Rajasthan



Jaipur: +91- 86963-44044  
Sikar : +91- 95497-44044

## REVERSE LEARNING PROGRAM (RLP)

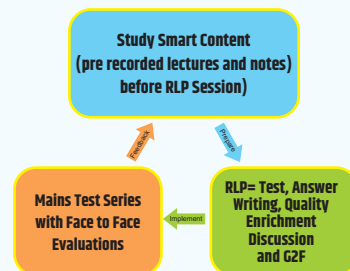
An innovative **Quality Enrichment Program** and **Answer Writing**  
Mains Program dove tailed with **Face 2 Face** evaluation

### 13 Tests + 27 Sessions

#### 8-Sectional+ 5 Full Length Tests

- ★ **Content:** Recorded Lectures (100+ hours) on Mains topics.
- ★ **Study Materials:** Handouts on **Mains Topics** (Essay, Ethics, Economy, Society, Governance, Geography, etc).
- ★ **Workshop: 27 RLP Sessions** (Daily Answer Writing + Live Discussions) will help in better structuring of answers and better utilization of value addition materials
- ★ Each RLP session will consist of **1.5-hour test** (10-PYQs) followed by **1.5-hours of quality discussion** and Group 2 Face evaluation.
- ★ One RLP test = 10Q = PYQs + Current Affairs
- ★ Integrated with **GS Mains Test Series** (1 CA + 7-Sectional + 5 FLT)
- ★ **Face to Face** Evaluation for internalization of personal feedback
- ★ **8-Marks Improvement Booklets** (Essay & Ethics etc.) including **Current Issues**.

### RLP WORKFLOW



**ABHISHEK  
VASHISHTHA**  
AIR-14



**DEVANSH  
MOHAN DWIVEDI**  
AIR-228



**TANISHI  
KALRA**  
AIR-386



**SARTHAK  
SINGH**  
AIR-393

Date	No of Day	Subject/Theme
10-June	RLP_2500	Essay, Geography*
11-Jun	RLP_2505	Biodiversity and Env.
13-Jun	RLP_2506	Biodiversity and Env. & DM
15-Jun	ST_2501	Geo., Biodiversity, Env. & DM
16-Jun	RLP_2507	Indian Culture & History
18-Jun	RLP_2508	Indian Culture & History
20-Jun	RLP_2509	Indian Culture & History
22-Jun	ST_2502	Indian Culture & History
23-Jun	RLP_2510	International Relation
25-Jun	RLP_2511	Security
27-Jun	RLP_2512	Technology
29-Jun	ST_2503	IR, Security & Technology
30-Jun	RLP_2513	Society
2-Jul	RLP_2514	Social Justice
4-Jul	RLP_2515	Governance
6-Jul	ST_2504	Society, SJ & Governance
7-Jul	RLP_2516	Constitution and Polity
9-Jul	RLP_2517	Constitution and Polity
11-Jul	RLP_2518	Constitution and Polity
13-Jul	ST_2505	Constitution and Polity
14-Jul	RLP_2519	Economic Development

Date	No of Day	Subject/Theme
16-Jul	RLP_2520	Economic Development
18-Jul	RLP_2521	Agriculture
20-Jul	ST_2506	Economic Development + Agri
21-Jul	RLP_2522	Ethics Part A
23-Jul	RLP_2523	Ethics Part A
25-Jul	RLP_2524	Ethics Part A
27-Jul	ST_2507	Current Affairs
28-Jul	RLP_2525	Ethics Part B
30-Jul	RLP_2526	Ethics Part B
1-Aug	RLP_2527	Ethics Part B
3-Aug	ST_2508	Ethics
4-Aug	RLP_2501	Geography
5-Aug	RLP_2502	Geography
6-Aug	RLP_2503	Geography
7-Aug	RLP_2504	Geography
08-Aug	FLT_2501	ESSAY
09-Aug	FLT_2502	GS-I
	FLT_2503	GS-II
10-Aug	FLT_2504	GS-III
	FLT_2505	GS-IV

### Concession Details

**Fee: ₹15000 /-**

Reg: <https://bit.ly/3ZhsSbz>

Kalam IAS Students: **20%**

UPSC Interview Student: **30%**

CSE Selected Students: **50%**

Dear Students,

We are elated to present you the fourth edition of Kalam **Mains Marks Improvement Booklet (MIB) 2025**. It contains examples, quotes, anecdotes, references from the movies & books, poems, case studies among others to enrich your mains answer writing.

Moreover, given the **elaborate coverage of data/facts/ committee recommendations etc.** in each other GS MIBs, we have not included them everywhere to prevent the repetition. We **recommend you go through Separate MIBs** for the comprehensive coverage.

Best Wishes!

Team KALAM

Dear Aspirants

Less than **80 days** are left for CSE MAINS 2025. We strongly recommend each one of you to:

1. **GIVE TEST ANYWHERE** and **GET FACE 2 FACE Evaluation** by **UPSC topper** here. Flexibility of getting **second opinion** on your answers by selected candidate.

2. **Marks Improvement Booklets MIB (8)** are first of its kind booklet for CSE MAINS that is highly endorsed by toppers and coveted by all the aspirants at any stage of the preparation. It enhances your Marks by at least **20+ Marks** and helps to get your name in the CSE Merit list.

3. **REPLAY IAS Mains 2025** – write exam on the day of Exam - Each CSE aspirant who **missed mains** MUST write REPLAY - which gives opportunity to gauge their preparation; intensity of competitiveness in Mains and psychological advantage of knowing the mental and physical tiredness of the mains exam.

APPEAL to all Selected/Senior/ Mains giver to encourage your Friend/candidate/ward to write this one program. **YOU KNOW THE IMPORTANCE**. Don't let them give excuses "abhi prepare nai hai"  
Good Luck!

## List of Marks Improvement Booklets

- Ethics Marks Improvement Booklet
- Essay Marks Improvement Booklet
- Society Marks Improvement Booklet
- Polity Marks Improvement Booklet
- Economy Marks Improvement Booklet
- Environment & Disaster Management Marks Improvement Booklet
- Internal Security Marks Improvement Booklet
- International Relations Marks Improvement Booklet

## Face to Face Mentors (Mains 2025)



AIR  
**14**

**Abhishek Vashishtha**  
PSIR



AIR  
**228**

**Devansh M. Dwivedi**  
PSIR



AIR  
**386**

**Tanishi Kalra**  
ECONOMY



AIR  
**393**

**SARTHAK SINGH**  
PSIR



AIR  
**543**

**MANISH KUMAR**  
ANTHROPOLOGY

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28	<b>Case Studies based on Applied Ethics</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discrimination and inequality</li> <li>2. Gender issues</li> <li>3. Ethics in International ethics</li> <li>4. Regulation of NGOs</li> <li>5. Following rules vs acting with compassion</li> </ol>



➡ Scan to get more Study Material

Join our Telegram Channel ➡





## Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, Determinants and Consequences of Ethics in - Human Actions; Dimensions of Ethics.

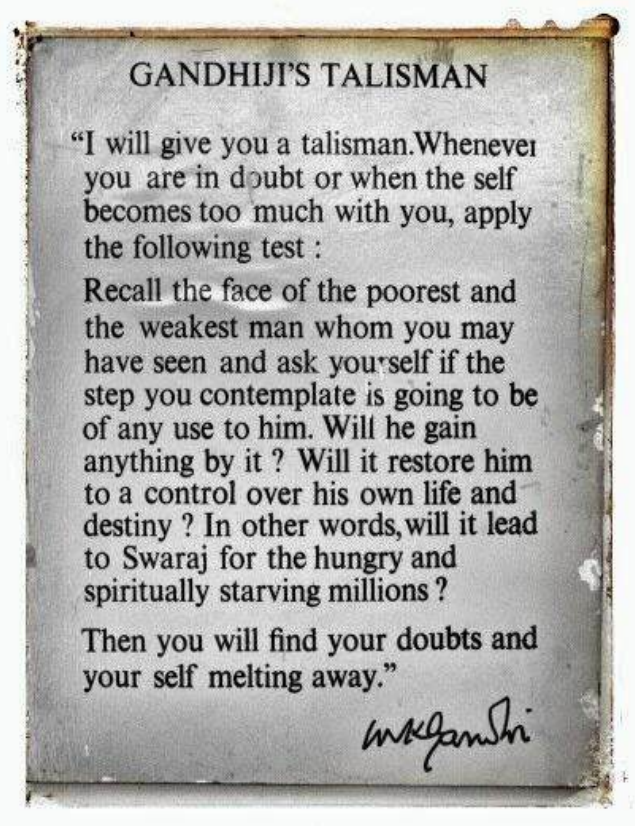
"Ethics is choosing what's right over what's easy."

### Ethic

- Study of moral behavior and defining what is right and wrong in an individual's behavior
- Ethics are uniform
- May derive from cultural, religious, philosophical, or legal sources
- Determines the extent of rightness or wrongness

### Values

- Beliefs and principles that individuals or groups consider important and desirable
- Values differ from person to person
- Shaped by a combination of factors like cultural upbringing, family background, education, and personal experiences
- Determines the level of importance



**Vijay Pandhare**, Chief Engineer in Maharashtra's Water Resources department, exposed a Rs 120 billion irrigation scam in 2012. It would have been easy to stay silent and keep his comfortable position, but he chose the difficult path of revealing that 99% of the 227 irrigation projects were either non-functional or never commenced, leading to the resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

"Ethics is the philosophical compass that guides us between right and wrong."

When **Arjuna** faced the moral crisis of fighting his own relatives in the Kurukshetra war, Lord Krishna provided ethical guidance through the Bhagavad Gita. Krishna's teachings on duty, righteousness, and moral decision-making became the philosophical compass that guided Arjuna to fulfill his responsibilities as a warrior while maintaining his moral integrity.

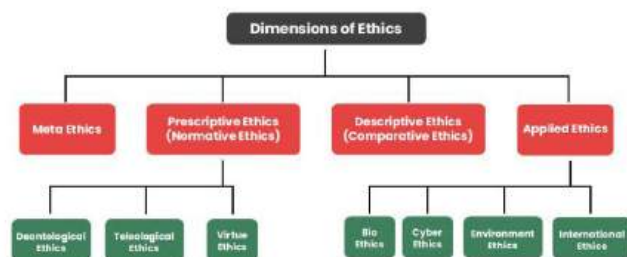
### Definition of Ethics

"Ethics is doing the right thing even when no one is watching."

During the 1984 Sikh genocide, when thousands lost their livelihoods as their trucks were destroyed by mobs, **Ratan Tata** quietly gave away new trucks to Sikh genocide survivors without charging a penny. This act of humanity was done without publicity or expectation of recognition, helping them restart their businesses from scratch.

"Ethics is the difference between 'Can I?' and 'Should I?'"

**IAS Officer Ashok Khemka** in 2012 cancelled a land deal between Robert Vadra and DLF in Haryana. While the deal was legally approved and he could have let it pass, Khemka asked should he allow what appeared to be corruption and misuse of political influence. He chose to act on ethical grounds despite potential career consequences.



### Schools of Thoughts in Ethics

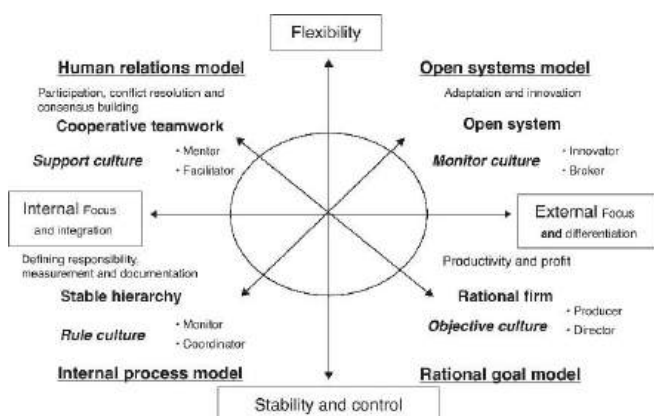
#### Normative Ethics (What ought to be done)

- 1) Mahatma Gandhi's principle of Ahimsa (non-violence) is a normative ethic, prescribing non-violent behaviour as morally right.
- 2) Supreme Court mandates that politicians must declare criminal cases - establishing moral duty for transparency

## Human Values - Lessons from the Lives and Teachings of Great Leaders, Reformers and Administrators; Role of Family Society and Educational Institutions in Inculcating Values.

Hate the crime and not the criminals. – **M. K. Gandhi**

Be the change you wish to see in the world - Mahatma Gandhi's principle that true transformation begins with oneself



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" - Gandhi's philosophy of selfless service

"Every saint has a past and every sinner a future". - **Oscar Wilde**

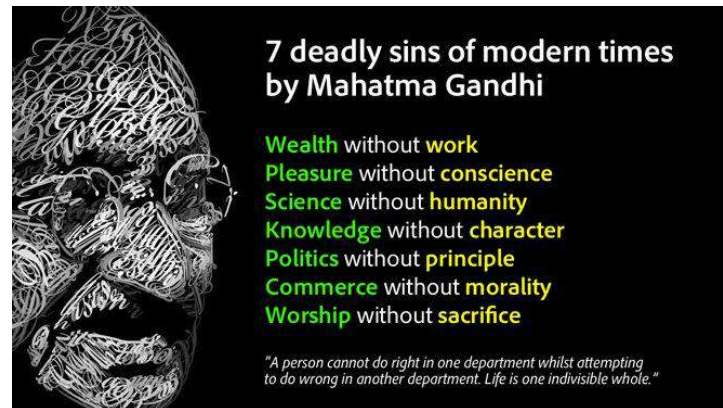
"Educate, Agitate, Organize" - **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's** formula for social change and empowerment

"The wealth of the country is in its education" - **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's** emphasis on education as national strength

"It is the prime responsibility of every citizen to contribute towards strengthening national unity" - **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's** vision for a unified nation

"If you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L. means 'First Attempt In Learning'" - **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's** approach to resilience

"Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action" - turning vision into reality through determination



## Kohlberg's Theory

Level/Stage	Age Range	Description
I: Obedience/Punishment	Infancy	No difference between doing the right thing and avoiding punishment
I: Self-Interest	Pre-school	Interest shifts to rewards rather than punishment – effort is made to secure greatest benefit for oneself
II: Conformity and Interpersonal Accord	School-age	The "good boy/girl" level. Effort is made to secure approval and maintain friendly relations with others
II: Authority and Social Order	School-age	Orientation toward fixed rules. The purpose of morality is maintaining the social order. Interpersonal accord is expanded to include the entire society
III: Social Contract	Teens	Mutual benefit, reciprocity. Morally right and legally right are not always the same. Utilitarian rules that make life better for everyone
III: Universal Principles	Adulthood	Morality is based on principles that transcend mutual benefit.

## Ethical Lessons from the life of Dr Manmohan Singh



- Prioritising national benefit over personal gain:** In 1991, following rupee devaluation, he voluntarily contributed the difference in



News / Explained / Explained Sports / Rumble in the Jungle: Remembering the epic George Foreman-Muhammad Ali fight

## Rumble in the Jungle: Remembering the epic George Foreman-Muhammad Ali fight

Heavyweight boxing legend George Foreman passed away on Friday. He was 76

IE Explained; By Arjun Sengupta;  
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Ethics [Link](#)

**Why in News?** George Foreman, boxing legend known for the iconic **1974 "Rumble in the Jungle"** against Muhammad Ali, has passed away, marking the end of an era in boxing history.



### Ethical Lessons from George Foreman-Muhammad Ali Fight

#### Moral Courage and Integrity

- 1) Ali sacrificed nearly four years of his career peak by standing against the Vietnam War
- 2) Lost titles and boxing license but remained committed to his beliefs despite personal cost
- 3) His principled stance became integral to his legacy beyond athletics

#### Justice and Equality

- 1) Ali positioned himself as a champion for civil rights
- 2) The bout symbolized intersection of sports and social movements
- 3) Became what Ali's biographer called "the symbolic validation of what the 1960s stood for"

#### Strategic Wisdom vs. Raw Power

- 1) Ali's **"rope-a-dope" strategy** demonstrated intelligence overcoming physical advantages
- 2) Used tactical wisdom rather than matching Foreman's destructive power
- 3) Illustrates ethical principle of using discernment over brute force

### Reconciliation and Forgiveness

- 1) Despite initially contesting results, Foreman developed deep friendship with Ali
- 2) "I loved our relationship and to this day I still miss him" - Foreman
- 3) Demonstrated transformation from rivalry to friendship

### Compassion and Human Dignity

- 1) Years later, Foreman helped Ali with cuff links when showing early signs of Parkinson's
- 2) When criticized for this kindness, Foreman responded: "Joe, we are our brother's keeper"
- 3) Showed recognition of human dignity beyond competition

### Humility and Personal Growth

- 1) Foreman's journey after defeat exemplifies transformation
- 2) Following religious experience in 1977, "anger, hate had been sucked out of my life"
- 3) Evolution from intimidating fighter to preacher showed moral development

### Authenticity and Self-Knowledge

- 1) Both fighters navigated complex narratives about their identities
- 2) Struggled with and against imposed public identities
- 3) Reflected ethical challenge of maintaining authentic selfhood under scrutiny

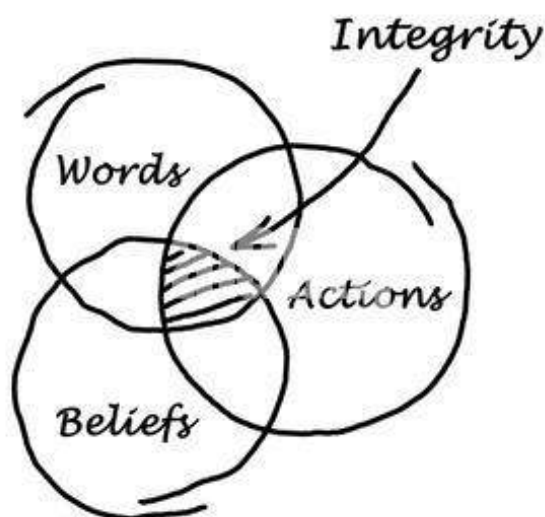
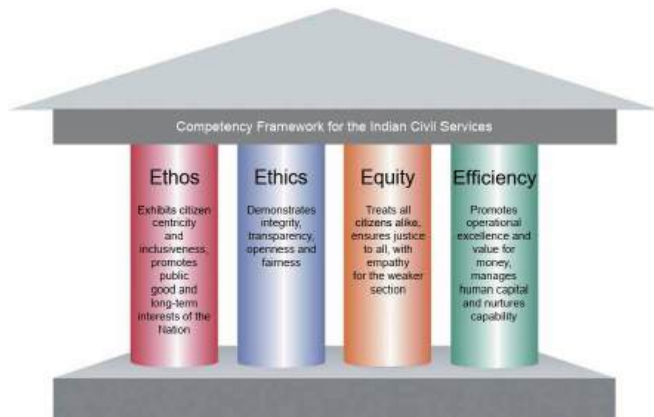
### Pune Porsche Tragedy: Outrage Over Lenient Penalty for Teenager in Fatal Accident

In Pune, a tragic accident involving a Porsche Taycan driven by a 17-year-old son of a prominent builder resulted in the deaths of two young software engineers, Aneesh Awadhia and Ashwini Koshta, on a motorcycle.

The teenager, who was accompanied by four friends, was subsequently detained by the Yerawada police and booked under relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act and Indian Penal Code. The police investigations revealed that the car was being driven at a speed of 160 kmph at the time of the crash, and CCTV footage showed the teenager consuming alcohol at a pub before the accident.



## Aptitude and Foundational Values for Civil Service: Integrity, Impartiality and Non-partisanship, Objectivity, Dedication to Public Service, Empathy, Tolerance and Compassion towards the weaker sections



### Integrity

Integrity as a civil service value means being honest, trustworthy, and having strong moral principles in all your actions and decisions.

At its core, integrity is about **consistency between what you think, say, and do**. For civil servants, this means:

- 1) Being honest and truthful in all dealings with the public, colleagues, and superiors<sup>2</sup>
- 2) Upholding ethical standards even when facing difficult situations or temptations<sup>4</sup>
- 3) Serving the public interest rather than personal gain<sup>2</sup>
- 4) Taking responsibility for your actions and decisions<sup>2</sup>
- 5) Being fair and impartial in treating all citizens without favoritism

"Integrity should not only be practised but it should be seen to be practised. The best measure of it is that it is practised when nobody is watching you" - **Minister of State Jitendra Singh**

### K.K. Pathak - Standing Against Political Interference

IAS officer K.K. Pathak resigned from the Indian Civil Service in protest against political interference. This act of unwavering honesty set a high standard for ethical conduct in public service, demonstrating that integrity means choosing principles over career advancement when faced with unethical pressures.

### T.N. Seshan - Ensuring Electoral Integrity

Former Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan is remembered for his integrity and impartiality in conducting free and fair elections. He ensured that every citizen's vote counted regardless of their background or affiliations, upholding the democratic process despite facing significant political pressure.

### Kiran Bedi - Accountability in Action

Former IPS officer Kiran Bedi, who later joined the IAS, is known for her people-centric approach and strong work ethic. She faced public scrutiny during her tenure but maintained accountability and transparency, upholding her commitment to ethical service even when under intense public examination.

### Ashok Khemka - Fighting Corruption

IAS officer Ashok Khemka is known for his fight against corruption in land deals. His exemplary work restores public trust in the

# UPSC MAINS 2025

# ESSAY | ETHICS

## MARKS IMPROVEMENT 2025

### What EMI Programs Have?

#### Content

Ethics/Essay Recorded sessions comprehensively covering the syllabus and all PYQ themes (2014-2024)

#### Test Series with F2F Evaluation

Ethics/Essay 5-Tests with Real-Time Face to Face Evaluation

#### Workshop

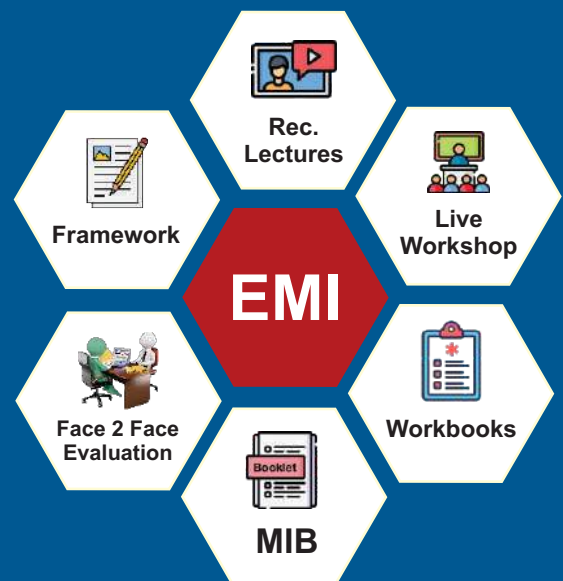
Answer Development & Brainstorming sessions & Set-piece approaches to Philosophical-based questions

#### MIB: Marks Improvement Booklet

Marks Improvement Booklet (MIB) – Covering all contemporary issues relevant for Ethics/Ethics

#### 5-Year PYQ Booklets

Ethics/Essay 5-Years PYQ Booklets covering all questions

**Master****Live Workshop****ESSAY & Ethics** Writing through PYQs

Theme wise coverage of 2014-2024 PYQs

Includes **Essay & Ethics**  
Practice Test in **Live Class****₹ 1500/-** **10 June, Timing: Essay-2 PM & Ethics-5 PM**

# PYQ-ACE

A choice to Improve your chance of Selection in Mains

## FEATURES

- ▶ Write a half-Full Syllabus Test (h-FST) daily
- ▶ 1h-FST Complete Mains Syllabus = 2+ 8 PYQs
- ▶ **40 h-FST** (GS I - IV & Essay)
- ▶ 1-Set of Full Length Tests (Essay & GS I-IV)

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>Essay</b>	<b>GS-I</b>	<b>GS-II</b>	<b>GS-III</b>	<b>GS-IV</b>

## TEST SCHEDULE

Date	Test Code	Subject/Theme
2-Jun-25	ACE_2501	Essay
3-Jun-25	ACE_2502	General Studies I
4-Jun-25	ACE_2503	General Studies II
5-Jun-25	ACE_2504	General Studies III
6-Jun-25	ACE_2505	General Studies IV
9-Jun-25	ACE_2506	Essay
10-Jun-25	ACE_2507	General Studies I
11-Jun-25	ACE_2508	General Studies II
12-Jun-25	ACE_2509	General Studies III
13-Jun-25	ACE_2510	General Studies IV
16-Jun-25	ACE_2511	Essay
17-Jun-25	ACE_2512	General Studies I
18-Jun-25	ACE_2513	General Studies II
19-Jun-25	ACE_2514	General Studies III
20-Jun-25	ACE_2515	General Studies IV
23-Jun-25	ACE_2516	Essay
24-Jun-25	ACE_2517	General Studies I
25-Jun-25	ACE_2518	General Studies II
26-Jun-25	ACE_2519	General Studies III
27-Jun-25	ACE_2520	General Studies IV
30-Jun-25	ACE_2521	Essay
1-Jul-25	ACE_2522	General Studies I

## Toppers Evaluating Your Mains

Write Mains **Test Anywhere**  
Get **Face to Face** Evaluation here!

### Students' Test

GS & Essay  
F2 F Evaluations



**Sarthak Singh**  
**AIR-393**

### PYQ Test

10-Years PYQs  
GS-I to IV & Essay



**Manish Kumar**  
**AIR-543**

- ☑ **Face to Face** Evaluation/week
- ☑ **Answer Explanation** (soft)

Date	Test Code	Subject/Theme
2-Jul-25	ACE_2523	General Studies II
3-Jul-25	ACE_2524	General Studies III
4-Jul-25	ACE_2525	General Studies IV
7-Jul-25	ACE_2526	Essay
8-Jul-25	ACE_2527	General Studies I
9-Jul-25	ACE_2528	General Studies II
10-Jul-25	ACE_2529	General Studies III
11-Jul-25	ACE_2530	General Studies IV
14-Jul-25	ACE_2531	Essay
15-Jul-25	ACE_2532	General Studies I
16-Jul-25	ACE_2533	General Studies II
17-Jul-25	ACE_2534	General Studies III
18-Jul-25	ACE_2535	General Studies IV
21-Jul-25	ACE_2536	Essay
22-Jul-25	ACE_2537	General Studies I
23-Jul-25	ACE_2538	General Studies II
24-Jul-25	ACE_2539	General Studies III
25-Jul-25	ACE_2540	General Studies IV
1-Aug-25	POT_2501	Essay
2-Aug-25	POT_2502	General Studies I
2-Aug-25	POT_2503	General Studies II
3-Aug-25	POT_2504	General Studies III
3-Aug-25	POT_2505	General Studies IV

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**98878-44044**

Visit: [kalamias.academy](https://kalamias.academy)

**Delhi Center: 57/13, Bada Bazaar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar**

Jaipur Center: Ridhi Sidhi Chauraha, Gopalpura Bypass

Sikar Centre: Nawalgarh Road, Sikar, Rajasthan



Jaipur: +91- 86963-44044

Sikar : +91- 95497-44044



## Laws, Rules, Regulations and Conscience as Sources of Ethical Guidance; Accountability and Ethical Governance; Strengthening of Ethical and Moral Values in Governance;



### RULES AND LAWS

keep us safe and tell us what we should and shouldn't do



**Laws:** Codified values enacted by legislature with legal enforcement

Examples:

- 1) Sati Abolition Act (1829) - guided society toward progressive ethics
- 2) Section 377 decriminalization (2018) - Supreme Court striking down homosexuality criminalization
- 3) Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act

Impact/Significance: Progressive laws can guide ethics and make society more evolved; provide legal framework for moral conduct

**Rules:** Administrative directives for organizational functioning

Examples

- 1) All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968

- 2) Indian Civil Services Act (1861)
- 3) Workplace dress codes and professional conduct guidelines

Impact/Significance: Ensure disciplined administration and professional behavior; bridge gap between laws and daily operations

**Regulations:** Detailed requirements to reshape specific behaviors

Examples

- 1) Wildlife Protection Act
- 2) Forest Conservation Act
- 3) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act
- 4) Environmental regulations for industries

Impact/Significance: Protect natural resources and public health; provide specific implementation mechanisms

**Conscience:** Internal moral guidance system

Examples

- 1) Ashok Khemka exposing corruption in Haryana
- 2) Sanjeev Chaturvedi's anti-corruption stance
- 3) Durga Shakti Nagpal's action against sand mafia in UP
- 4) Civil servants helping undocumented poor citizens

Impact/Significance: Enables ethical behavior beyond legal requirements; crucial for situations where laws are silent or inadequate

### Should assisted dying be legalised?

**Why in News?** The UK House of Commons voted in favour of legalizing assisted dying for terminally ill adults in England and Wales, signalling a significant shift on this ethically complex issue.

#### Arguments in Favour

- 1) Autonomy: Respects individual choice in end-of-life decisions
- 2) Suffering Relief: Alleviates unbearable pain when palliative care falls short
- 3) Dignity Preservation: Allows control over manner and timing of death
- 4) Quality of Life: Prioritizes life quality over quantity in terminal cases

#### Arguments Against

- 1) Sanctity of Life: Violates fundamental moral principle

## Ethics and Mythology

### Characters Demonstrating Integrity and Righteousness

- 1) **Lord Rama** - Embodied perfect ethical conduct and never compromised on moral values, earning the title Maryada Purushottam (the perfect man)<sup>46</sup>
- 2) **Lakshman** - Demonstrated unwavering loyalty by willingly giving up worldly luxuries to accompany his brother Rama during 14 years of exile<sup>1</sup>
- 3) **Bharata** - Refused to sit on the throne and rule Ayodhya, recognizing Rama as the rightful heir despite unfair banishment<sup>1</sup>
- 4) **Prahlada** - Showed unwavering faith and devotion to Vishnu despite his father's attempts to kill him for his beliefs<sup>3</sup>
- 5) **Shravana** - Exemplified filial duty by carrying his blind, elderly parents on pilgrimage and requesting water for them even with his dying breath

### Stories Teaching Professional Ethics

- 1) **Duryodhana consulting Sahadeva** - Demonstrated professional ethics by seeking astrological advice from an enemy camp member for the most auspicious time to start war<sup>6</sup>
- 2) **The Butcher's Virtue** - A butcher earned a place in heaven through respectful conduct toward his old, infirm parents despite his apparently sinful profession<sup>6</sup>
- 3) **Arjuna's moral dilemma** - Faced the conflict between warrior duty and killing kinsmen, learning about dharma (righteous duty) from Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita

### Characters Showing Strength and Patience

- 1) **Goddess Durga** - Demonstrated that women possess great courage, strength, and righteousness by defeating the demon Mahishasura<sup>3</sup>
- 2) **Mandodari** - Showed patience and loyalty by continuously trying to convince her husband Ravana to be just and honorable, even asking him to free Sita

## Stories Highlighting Ethical Failures

**Bhishma and Dronacharya's silence** - Their failure to speak during Draupadi's disrobing despite knowing the correct moral stand serves as a lesson about the importance of standing up for justice.

## Ethics and Historical figures

### Ancient Period

- 1) **Buddha (563-483 BCE)** - Established the Five Precepts emphasizing non-violence, honesty, sexual integrity, truthful speech, and mental clarity; taught that ethical behavior leads to enlightenment and reduces suffering.
- 2) **Chanakya (350-275 BCE)** - Known as the "Indian Machiavelli," developed statecraft principles balancing pragmatic governance with moral responsibility in his Arthashastra.
- 3) **Valmiki** - Called "Adi Kavi," transformed from a dacoit to sage, demonstrating redemption through ethical transformation while composing the Ramayana.
- 4) **Ashoka the Great (304-232 BCE)** - Created an "ethical infrastructure" by ending animal sacrifices and royal hunting, declaring "no living being is to be sacrificed or harmed" throughout his empire.

### Pre-Independence Era

- 1) **Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)** - Advocated ethics based on "divine harmony and love" rather than caste duty; emphasized social altruism over state criticism, writing "Man does not have to beg for his rights, he must create them for himself".
- 2) **Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917)** - Called the "Grand Old Man of India," pioneered economic ethics by exposing British wealth drain in "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India" (1867), demonstrating moral courage in challenging imperial exploitation.
- 3) **Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866-1915)** - Founded the Servants of India Society, advocating self-governance through ethical service and education reform; mentored Gandhi in combining political action with moral principles.
- 4) **Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)** - Developed Satyagraha combining truth (Satya) and non-violent resistance (Agraha); believed "self-sacrifice was the law of life" and made his entire existence an "experiment with truth".

- 5) **Nayak** - Examines the challenges of maintaining ethics while navigating political power
- 6) **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** - Champions moral integrity against institutional corruption
- 7) **Shool** - Demonstrates the personal cost of maintaining honesty in a corrupt system
- 8) **Rang De Basanti** - Shows how civic consciousness can drive youth toward ethical governance
- 9) **All the President's Men** - Underscores the importance of transparency and accountability in democracy

### Emotional Intelligence and Human Psychology

- 1) **Dear Zindagi** - Demonstrates how emotional intelligence can heal psychological wounds and improve relationships

- 2) **3 Idiots** - Shows how emotional intelligence can navigate academic pressure and personal relationships
- 3) **Inside Out** - Explores the essential role of emotions in human decision-making and adaptation

### Philosophical Foundations and Moral Leadership

- 1) **Lage Raho Munna Bhai** - Reinterprets Gandhian non-violence and truth for contemporary social challenges
- 2) **Gandhi, My Father** - Examines the personal sacrifices required for moral leadership and social change
- 3) - Questions the nature of reality, free will, and moral choice in human existence

### Ethics and Civil Servants

#### 2025 Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards

**Why in News?** The 2025 Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards recognized 16 district magistrates for their innovative approaches across various categories.

**Agriculture - KM Sarayu (Krishnagiri, Tamil**



**Nadu)**

Helped farmers take their produce to global markets, implementing initiatives that transformed local agricultural practices and improved farmer livelihoods.

#### Healthcare - Pushpendra Kumar Meena (Durg, Chhattisgarh)



Spearheaded mental health awareness by **screening 3.4 lakh rural households and treating over 2,900 mental health patients**. His team stabilized a schizophrenic girl and identified multiple potential suicide cases. He overcame significant challenges including rural mental health stigma and trained district staff to identify mental health issues. He described his award as being about "lives saved".



## A HANDBOOK FOR SOLVING ETHICS CASE STUDIES

### 1: Case Studies based on Public Sector

#### Theme 1.1: Following rules vs acting with compassion

Cases illustrate the tension between strictly enforcing rules and acting with empathy towards citizens. Examples:

- 1) **2016 Question:** Where enforcing eligibility criteria would deny support to a needy woman, but making an exception would violate rules.
- 2) **2018 Question:** Where strictly enforcing all tax rules would hamper a much-needed charitable hospital, but ignoring minor defaults could set a wrong precedent.

#### Standard Answer Dimensions

##### Ethical Issues/ Dilemmas Involved

- 1) **Regulatory Compliance vs Compassionate Governance:** Balancing regulations with individual circumstances.
- 2) **Equality vs Equity:** Treating everyone the same vs adjusting responses based on needs.
- 3) **Institutional Integrity vs Moral Imperatives:** Upholding rules vs addressing moral obligations.
- 4) **Public Welfare vs Rule of Law:** Balancing welfare with law enforcement.
- 5) **Long-term vs Short-term Solutions:** Immediate problem-solving vs sustainable solutions.
- 6) **Consistency vs Flexibility:** Ensuring uniform rule application vs adapting to unique cases.
- 7) **Transparency vs Confidentiality:** Maintaining openness vs protecting individual privacy.

#### Available Options before the Decision Maker

**Option 1: Rigorous Rule Adherence:** This approach, grounded in deontological ethics, prioritizes institutional integrity and the rule of law.

Pros	Cons
Upholds the principle of equality and maintains institutional integrity; provides clear and consistent enforcement of rules.	Could potentially harm vulnerable groups; lacks flexibility to account for individual circumstances.

**Option 2: Exceptions Based on Empathetic Understanding:** This option, inspired by consequentialist ethics, focuses on maximizing welfare outcomes.

Pros	Cons
Addresses the immediate needs of individuals or groups in distress; demonstrates empathy and compassion.	May compromise institutional integrity; sets a precedent for subjectivity in rule enforcement; could lead to accusations of favouritism.

**Option 3: Consultative Review of Rules:** This proactive approach involves a comprehensive review of the existing rules through engagement with stakeholders.

Pros	Cons
Upholds the principle of participatory governance; potential to balance institutional integrity with societal needs.	Could be time-consuming; may lead to conflicts among stakeholders; no immediate relief provided.

**Option 4: Rule Revision and Policy Change:** Advocating for policy change if existing rules are restrictive or unjust, upon review.

Pros	Cons
Provides a long-term solution; sets a positive precedent for institutional reform; maintains institutional integrity while addressing societal needs.	Could be a long-drawn process; may face resistance from stakeholders; no immediate relief provided.

#### Best Option

The combination of the third and fourth options generally represents the best route for decision-making because:

- 1) **Inclusive Approach:** Balances institutional enforcement with societal compassion.
- 2) **Adaptive Governance:** Encourages institutional evolution and responsiveness.

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## Schedule

(IAS Mains 2025 Paper)

**22<sup>nd</sup> Aug:** Essay 02:00–5:00 PM

**23<sup>rd</sup> Aug:** GS 1 02:00–5:00 PM

GS 2 07:30–10:30 PM

**24<sup>th</sup> Aug:** GS 3 02:00–5:00 PM

GS 4 07:30–10:30 PM

**25<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Reserved 9 AM–5 PM

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