



An Institute for Civil Services

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# INTERVIEW GUIDANCE SERIES

IAS  
2023

## CURRENT AFFAIRS & MAJOR DEBATES

*of*

## ETHICS

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An Institute for Civil Services

# INTERVIEW GUIDANCE PROGRAMME 2023

Give **Mock Interview** with the **India's Most Eminent Panel**  
of **Acclaimed Civil Servants & Academicians**



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# ETHICS

## 1. CUSTODIAL DEATH AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES

- ◆ **Preface:** In recent instances, the cases of police brutality and custodial deaths have seemingly increased. Such cases disrupts the order in the society as custodial death is nothing but a crime against law enforcement.
- ◆ **Available law:** In **CrPC, section-176**, where later **sub-section 1(A)** was amended, it states that where any individual under custody of the police dies, disappears or is allegedly raped, should be inquired by either the magistrate or the court and also an investigation by the police should be held.
- ◆ **Ethical issues:** Custodial deaths raise various ethical concerns, including:
  - ◆ **Use of Power:** The use of power by law enforcement is at the forefront. Custodial deaths often involve abuse of authority, excessive force, or negligence by those entrusted to protect citizens.
  - ◆ **Human Rights Violations:** Every individual has the right to life and dignity. Custodial deaths, if not thoroughly investigated and addressed, can infringe upon these basic human rights, raising questions about the state's obligation to protect its citizens.
  - ◆ **Accountability and Transparency:** When authorities aren't held responsible or investigations are opaque, it erodes trust in the justice system and raises questions about fairness and integrity.
  - ◆ **Legal and Moral Responsibility:** Those in positions of power have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of individuals in their custody. When custodial deaths occur due to negligence, abuse, or failure to provide necessary care, it highlights the ethical failure in fulfilling this responsibility.
  - ◆ **Social Implications:** Custodial deaths can provoke social unrest and distrust in law enforcement, impacting community relationships and perceptions of justice. Ethical considerations involve how such incidents affect societal cohesion and justice delivery.
- ◆ **Required measures:** Ethical considerations include discussions about preventive measures. This involves proper training for law enforcement, oversight mechanisms to ensure humane treatment, and reforms in the justice system to prevent such tragedies.

## 2. ETHICS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT

- ◆ **Preface:** Recent issue of an MP from TMC (Bengal) been expelled from Parliament in a case involving ethical breach of conduct in cash for query case.
- ◆ **What were the allegations and violations?** It has been alleged that the said MP asked the

question in parliament based on the certain inputs and queries for a private person and private interest.

- ◆ The committee found the allegation that these acts also involved monetary interest. After that the committee recommended her expulsion from the house. Based on the above issue it is important to look at role of Ethics committee and how does it evaluates its breach by parliamentarians.
- ◆ **What is violation of ethics? Ethical** means relating to beliefs about right and wrong. Violation is when if someone **violates** an agreement, law, or promise, they break it. So when an act which is considered as something right and when any acts violates that, then it may be called as violation of that particular ethics.
- ◆ **On what grounds the parliamentary Ethics were violated?** Acceptance of money for raising question which served the private interest violates the principles of transparency and is against the constitutional morality. It defeats the purpose of questions being asked in the parliament if it was asked with an intent to benefit one individual or company.

#### The Ethics committee

- ◆ The Ethics committee was first established in Rajya Sabha in 1997 and then in Lok Sabha in the years 2000. Its main work is to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the Members.
- ◆ It examines the conduct and also based on case referred by speaker of the house. It **Formulate a Code of Conduct** for members. The ethics panel handles common people's complaints against lawmakers.
- ◆ Any Indian citizen can lodge a complaint against a lawmaker however a complaint have to be submitted to the panel through a lawmaker. The idea was that a lawmaker would try to protect a fellow MP from non-serious allegations.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS:

- ◆ **Preface:** Environmental ethics is like the rulebook for how humans should treat nature and everything in it. It's all about figuring out what's right and wrong when it comes to our actions and their impact on the environment and the creatures living in it. It's like asking, "How should we treat the planet and its inhabitants?"
- ◆ **Prudent questions dealing with Environmental Ethics:**
  - ◆ Suppose putting out natural fires, culling feral animals or removing some individual members of overpopulated species is necessary for the protection of the integrity of a certain ecosystem.
    - Will these actions be morally permissible or even required?
  - ◆ Is it morally acceptable for farmers in non-industrial countries to practise slash and burn techniques to clear areas for agriculture?
  - ◆ Consider a mining company which has performed open pit mining in some previously unspoiled area. Does the company have a moral obligation to restore the landform and surface ecology?
- ◆ **Ethical issues involved in Sustainable Development:** The concept of sustainable development treats environment as an **instrument to fulfil the need of future generation**. According to this concept, we are conserving nature for future needs and not for the environment's own sake. However, this concept does not recognize the **right of natural entities** to have their 'own independent existence'.

- ◆ **Relationship between Humans and Environment:** Both humans and environment affect each other.
  - ◆ Humans affect environment as they need to interact with the environment to obtain their food, water, fuel, medicines, building materials and many other things.
  - ◆ Conversely the environment also affects humans living conditions like availability of fresh air, water, food etc.
- ◆ **Does environment have any right:** All the life forms on Earth have the 'right to live'. By destroying nature, we are denying the life forms this right. This right was also acknowledged by Uttarakhand High court.
  - ◆ In the year 2017, the **Uttarakhand High Court (UHC)** ruled that **the Indian rivers Ganga and Yamuna, the Gangotri and Yamunotri glaciers**, as well as other related natural elements are 'legal persons' with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person.

#### 4. ETHICAL ISSUES IN CHILD BORN OUT OF IVF

- ◆ **Ethical issues involved in child born out of IVF:** Life is a gift of god, Artificial reproduction is opposed to normal sexual reproduction thus is considered to be an act against God's creation.
  - ◆ It can be seen as turning child into a commodity.
  - ◆ Often extra embryos are involved in the process of IVF to enhance the chances of Pregnancy. What will happen to those extra embryos is also a matter of Ethical concern. They will be denied of Right to life of an unborn.
  - ◆ There is an increased chance of chromosomal abnormality in child born of IVF. Who is responsible for the abnormality of the child is also a matter of ethical concern.
- ◆ **What are issues involved in 'Woman above 70 years giving birth to child using IVF':**
  - ◆ The intent to produce child in at such an old age is questionable
  - ◆ Leaving a young child fatherless or motherless at a tender age is also a possibility
  - ◆ Many older women are unable to meet the physical demands of motherhood
  - ◆ The baby is at risk of congenital abnormalities
  - ◆ The incidence of maternal and neonatal mortality is also higher in older couples

#### 5. RISING CONSUMERISM- THE ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE

- ◆ **Preface:** In recent years, an exponential and unhindered growth is witnessed in consumerism. The rise is more prevalent in developing country which though do have a rising economy but it exists along deepening inequality which is a stark contrast.
- ◆ **What is consumerism?**
  - ◆ It deals with greed and superficial happiness. It is an ideology where consumers are motivated or manipulated to buy something, even if they don't really need it.
  - ◆ It is mainly derived by the lifestyle obsession instead of necessity. It tracks the behaviour of a person etc.
  - ◆ It is the belief that buying more stuff is always a good thing, and that your happiness depends on getting more things.

- ◆ It's like the idea that constantly getting new gadgets and fancy stuff will make your life better, even if you don't really need all of it.
- ◆ People end up chasing after all these things they desire, even if they might not actually need them.

#### ◆ The Ethical perspective

- ◆ **It is against social ethics:** The rising consumerism though benefits economy with rising demand and supply etc. but in the broader perspective it harms society and the environment.
- ◆ **Magnify hedonism:** The society is harmed by promoting Promotes undesirable means to possess something. Further it also losses the consciousness living of a person and s/he purchases anything without giving a second thought just serving his pleasure and hedonistic mentality.
  - It violates equity and equality and compounded it with loss of traditional cultures and values
- ◆ **Violates Environmental Ethics:** Breaking the rules of environmental ethics happens when the demand for goods goes up, causing more production. This, in turn, messes with the land, endangers different species, and creates more pollution and waste. Take the fashion industry, for example—they use animal skins for leather products, putting some species in danger of disappearing. And the habit of getting new mobile phones every year? That just adds up to more electronic waste.

## 6. WORK ETHICS & MOONLIGHTING

- ◆ **Meaning:** Work ethic is a belief that work and diligence have a moral benefit and an inherent ability, virtue or value to strengthen character and individual abilities.
  - ◆ In most cases, work ethics in an organization are derived from values like: trustworthiness, integrity, fairness, responsibility, accountability, loyalty, citizenship, respect, caring etc.
- ◆ **What is moonlighting:** The practice of working for one organisation while also taking up extra responsibilities and jobs, typically without the employer's knowledge, is referred to as moonlighting.
- ◆ **Is an employee, an employee for 24 hours or for the duration one is being paid:** It depends on the nature of contract or agreement that has signed between the employer and employee. However working hours and conditions must be just and humane.
  - ◆ Government has put certain restrictions on working hours. According to The Factories Act 1948, No worker under shall be required to work for more than 48 hours in a week. Further appropriate time must be given to employee for his own personal development and well being.
- ◆ **Implications for civil Servants if moonlighting is legitimized:** Conflict of interest may happen as civil servants who are dedicated towards public service may also seek interest in private gains and may use their power and position for personal gains.

## 7. ETHICS OF PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION:

- ◆ **Meaning:** In the Indian context, the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is interpreted as a mechanism to fulfil the constitutional objectives extending beyond the interests of individual litigants in a case. As the name indicates, it is the litigation to represent the unrepresented/under-represented, while extending the *locus standi* regime, in the public interest.



- ◆ **Judicial ethics:** It refers to the moral principles and standards that guide the behavior of judges in the legal system. It encompasses a set of values and rules designed to ensure fairness, impartiality, and integrity in the administration of justice.
- ◆ **Ethical perspective of PIL:** Public Interest Litigation (PIL) serves ethics in several ways by upholding
- ◆ **How PIL adds to the burden of pendency:** PILs being matter of greater public concern takes precedence over ordinary cases thus causes delay in hearing of ordinary cases.
- ◆ **Judicial Activism vs. over-reach:** Judicial activism refers to the use of judicial authority to define and enforce what is for the benefit of the society, whereas judicial overreach occurs when the judiciary interferes with the legislative and executive's ability to operate properly.
  - ◆ **Thin line:** However there's a thin line between the two. Same act can be judicial activism from one's perspective while from other's it may be judicial over-reach.

## 8. RULE OF BULLDOZER

- ◆ **How far Demolition as a Deterrent is correct:** Law full Demolition of illegal properties is correct seeing the damages such property can cause to environment and public property however
  - ◆ Demolition must not be used as a tool to punish a particular community or to do instant justice for any other wrong doing.
  - ◆ Further before demolishing a property, proper guidelines must be followed so that rule of law is upheld.
- ◆ **Threats to principles of Natural Justice in case of building demolition:** One of the principles of Natural Justice is that no one should be punished unheard. However demolishing building without giving victim a chance to defend is unlawful and against the principles of natural Justice.
- ◆ **Immediate justice is good or bad:** Immediate or instant justice is not a form of justice rather it can be said as a tool for taking revenge. Punishments are not for revenge but for reformation. Thus focus must not be on taking revenge rather focus must be on reforming the culprit.
- ◆ **The nature of Justice:** The question of immediate justice arises in this context. While the desire for swift resolutions is understandable, it is crucial to distinguish between justice and revenge. Immediate justice, devoid of due process, can devolve into a tool for vengeance rather than a mechanism for reformation. The focus, therefore, should not be on retaliation but on reforming the offender, aligning with the true objectives of the legal system.

## 9. ISSUES IN CIVIL SERVICES

- ◆ **Cooling off period before joining post-retirement job in Civil Services:** Currently **Rule 26 of the AIS Death-cum-Benefits Rules** restricts a pensioner from commercial employment for one year after retirement, except with government sanction. This cooling off period of one year is needed to prevent conflict of interest as civil servants holds various valuable information which may benefit the company a civil servant joins post retirement.
- ◆ **Reason for Politico-Bureaucratic Nexus:** Arbitrary and questionable methods of appointments, promotions and transfers of officers by political superiors hinder the independence of civil servants.
  - ◆ It has strengthened the temptation in services to collusive practices with politicians to avoid the inconvenience of transfers and for officers to gain advantages by ingratiating themselves to political masters.
  - ◆ This can be said as major cause of Politico-Bureaucratic Nexus.

- ◆ **Is impersonal Bureaucracy good or bad :** **Max weber** who gave the concept of impersonal Bureaucracy was of the view that emotions affects the objective decisions of an administrator in negative way thus recommended for a bureaucracy that is highly formalized, impersonal, and organized. However, it ignores the importance of emotions in Bureaucracy. For an emotionally intelligent person Emotions enhances the efficiency of Bureaucracy.
- ◆ **Reasons for people indulging in unethical act:** Lack of fully developed conscience, Negative emotion of greed, Wrong Cognition. The mind-set that little bit of corruption will not hurt anyone. **SC has said corruption is worst form of violence.**

## 10. ABORTION: MORAL OR IMMORAL

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- ◆ **Is Abortion a form of killing:** Abortion involves violation of Right to life of an unborn. However this right must also consider the right of a woman over her own body. Abortion is legal in India. Hence it is not considered as killing in India.
- ◆ **Ethical issues involved in Abortion:** 1) Right of women over her body vs. right to life of an unborn 2) God is the source and sustainer of life. Abortion is not only a rejection of gift of new life but rebellion against God. 3) Since there is no agreement to the answer that when does life begin. On the basis of morality, the benefit of doubt must go in favour of the most disadvantaged and in this case it is the unborn.
- ◆ **Arguments in favour of abortion:** 1) during first trimester of pregnancy, foetus cannot exist independent of mother, thus it must not be considered as beginning of life and abortion must be allowed during that period. 2) In cases of pregnancies due to rape, incest or Teenage motherhood Abortion must be allowed. 3) If any medical intricacies happens in that case also abortion must be allowed.

## 11. INFLUENCE OF OPINION POLL

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- ◆ **Meaning:** Opinion poll is a pre-election survey to gather voter's view on range of electoral issues.
- ◆ **How opinion poll influences voters:** 1) It shapes the view of voters especially undecided voters to vote or not to vote a candidate. 2) The Bandwagon effect: If a particular party is shown winning up with huge margin, the supporters of that party might not vote for that party or candidate. 3) If social media further gives impression that election is already won, then bandwagon effect is even greater 4) A party or candidate who is trailing or doing badly in opinion polls may be represented in news and commentary as the underdog.
- ◆ **Is there any need to put reasonable restrictions on opinion poll:** Reasonable Restriction must be applied to ensure transparency in methodology and selection of sample size and disclosure of source of funding to public must also be done in transparent manner.
- ◆ **The balancing Act:** Opinion polls wield significant influence on voter behaviour, shaping opinions and triggering the bandwagon effect. To maintain electoral integrity, reasonable restrictions are vital, ensuring transparent methodology, sample size selection, and disclosure of funding sources. Striking a balance between free expression and fair elections is imperative.

## 12. ETHICAL DILEMMAS RELATED TO WAR (JUST WAR THEORY)

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- ◆ **What is 'just war theory':** The just war theory is a doctrine to ensure that a war is morally justifiable. It believes that War is not always the worst option. It focuses on Just conduct during War. **For example:** Civilian structures must not be destroyed, accepting the surrender of enemy soldiers etc.

- ◆ **Can Wars be ethically justified:** According to utilitarian point of view if the consequence of not conducting war is worse than that of conducting war. In such scenario war is justified.
  - ◆ **For example** the **World War 2** stopped the Mass killings by **Hitler**. However according to Gandhian point of view all wars are unjust and have no place in any ethical theory.
- ◆ **What is the concept of Jus ad bellum and Jus in Bello in Just war theory:** Jus ad bellum means "right to war". It is a set of criteria that are to be consulted before engaging in war in order to determine whether entering into war is permissible, that is, whether it will be a just war.
- ◆ **Distinction:** This is distinct from the set of rules that ought to be followed during a war, known as jus in Bello.
- ◆ **"Jus in Bello"** deals with the conduct of warring parties.
  - ◆ It deals with the declarations of war, acceptance of surrender and the treatment of prisoners of war; military necessity, along with distinction and proportionality; and the prohibition of certain weapons that may cause unnecessary suffering.

### 13. ETHICAL ISSUES IN SURROGACY:

- ◆ **Why India opted for Altruistic Surrogacy, why not commercial surrogacy:** To prevent turning embryo into a commodity and to prevent womb renting, government came up with altruistic surrogacy in India.
- ◆ **Ethical issues involved in the concept of surrogacy:**
  - ◆ Life is a gift of God, surrogacy is opposed to normal sexual reproduction thus is considered to be an act against God's creation.
  - ◆ Unborn child act as a means to serve someone else end i.e. of their adopting parents which is unethical
  - ◆ Even women with child bearing capacity are going for surrogacy to save them from physical and mental stress.
- ◆ **Does adopting Mother provide adequate Motherhood to the child:** Since adopting mother had not carried the child in her womb nor she is able to breastfeed the child thus question remains that whether such Mother will be able to provide adequate motherhood.
- ◆ However no one can comment what Mother-child relationship is going to be in future.
  - ◆ **A wonderful example is Lord Krishna's mother Yashoda.** Her love and affection for Lord Krishna is exemplary. Nothing beats the mother-child bond of Krishna and Yashoda.

### 14. EMBRACING EQUALITY: SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN A NUTSHELL

- ◆ **Congruence:** The growing acceptance of same-sex marriage is a triumph for love and equal rights. Legalization brings economic benefits, emotional security, and societal inclusion. Yet, challenges persist, from social opposition to legal complexities and religious concerns.
- ◆ **Legal Status:** There are currently 34 countries where same-sex marriage is legal: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uruguay.

◆ **Issues and challenges:**

- ◆ Despite progress, there are still pockets of resistance and social opposition to same-sex marriage. Some individuals or groups hold conservative views that may clash with the idea of marriage equality.
- ◆ While many countries have embraced same-sex marriage, there is still a lack of global consensus. In some regions, cultural and legal differences hinder progress, leading to disparities in the recognition of LGBTQ+ rights.
- ◆ Despite hurdles, the push for same-sex marriage is reshaping societal norms and fostering a more inclusive world.

## 15. DECEPTIVE TECH: NAVIGATING THE ETHICS OF DEEPPAKES

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◆ **Preface:** In our rapidly advancing digital era, the rise of deepfakes has sparked heated debates surrounding the ethical implications of this transformative technology.

- ◆ While technology itself is neutral, its application is intricately tied to the morals and ethics of its users, unveiling a complex ethical landscape.

◆ **Understanding Deepfakes**

- ◆ Deepfakes, powered by artificial intelligence, have the ability to craft convincingly fake videos and audio that blur the lines between reality and manipulation.
- ◆ While their potential benefits in fields like cinema are apparent, ethical concerns intensify when applied to social media, news outlets, and politics.

◆ **The Significance of Deepfakes**

- ◆ The manipulation of audio and video content can lead to the dissemination of false information, with tangible real-world consequences. For instance, a deepfake video featuring a political leader making controversial statements could potentially disrupt an election.
- ◆ Moreover, deepfakes contribute to the rampant issue of online bullying by enabling the harassment and defamation of individuals.
- ◆ While the technology is a double-edged sword, aiding law enforcement or solving cases, the growing integration of technology into society amplifies its associated risks.

◆ **Unraveling the Ethical Implications**

- ◆ **Privacy and Reputation Threats:** The creation and distribution of deepfakes pose severe threats to individuals' privacy and reputation. The ethical questions raised prompt us to ponder the consequences of technology misuse.
- ◆ **Role of Technology in Society:** Deepfakes force us to examine the role technology plays in shaping societal norms. Are we ready to accept the potential repercussions of its misuse, particularly in the realms of politics and media?
- ◆ **Trust in Digital Media:** Deepfakes challenge our trust in digital media, questioning the reliability of information presented on social platforms. The difficulty in distinguishing between genuine and manipulated content contributes to this erosion of trust.
- ◆ **Identity Theft and Fraud:** Mimicking someone's appearance and voice with precision, deepfakes escalate concerns about identity theft and fraud, further emphasizing the ethical minefield they represent.
- ◆ **Undermining Democracy:** The spread of disinformation through deepfakes strikes at the very core of democracy. When individuals are unable to make informed decisions due to false or misleading information, the foundations of democracy are compromised.

- ◆ As we navigate the ethical landscape of deepfakes, it becomes imperative to strike a balance between technological advancement and ethical responsibility.
- ◆ Implementing regulations, raising awareness, and fostering digital literacy are essential steps toward mitigating the potential disturbances deepfakes can cause in our society.

## 16. WARS AND ETHNIC CONFLICTS

- ◆ **Preface:** In contemporary times, wars and ethnic conflicts are being witnessed regardless of regions and time. Recent incidence of violence in Manipur and Israel-Hamas war have highlighted the ill-fated conditions which these wars and conflict inflict on human beings/individual by violating the human rights, the dignity of women, merciless killings in the name of war and ethnic cleansing.
  - ◆ Thus it is prudent to look at the various nuances which are involved in this scenario and looking at them from ethical perspective lend an insight into the human nature and interactions, outcomes of ethics and violation of ethics from different dimensions.

### Ethical Violations:

- ◆ **Targeting Civilians:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Deliberate targeting of civilians or non-combatants violates the principle of non-combatant immunity and the distinction between civilians and military personnel.
  - ◆ **Human Rights Impact:** Results in loss of innocent lives, displacement, and destruction of communities, infringing on the right to life, security, and shelter.
- ◆ **Use of Chemical Weapons:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Concern:** The use of chemical weapons is universally condemned, as it causes indiscriminate harm and suffering.
  - ◆ **Human Rights Impact:** Inflicts severe physical and psychological harm, violating the right to life, health, and freedom from torture.
- ◆ **Displacement and Forced Migration:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Forced displacement of populations for strategic or ideological reasons disregards the right to live in one's own country without interference.
  - ◆ **Human Rights Impact:** Denies individuals their right to a homeland, community, and the basic conditions for a dignified life.
- ◆ **Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Systematic use of sexual violence violates basic principles of human decency and constitutes a war crime.
  - ◆ **Human Rights Impact:** Results in physical and psychological trauma, undermining the right to security, dignity, and freedom from torture and inhumane treatment.
- ◆ **War Profiteering:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Exploiting conflict for economic gain, such as through illegal arms trade, undermines the moral principles of fairness and justice.
  - ◆ **Human Rights Impact:** Fuels conflicts, prolongs suffering, and diverts resources that could be used to address basic human needs.
- ◆ **Harm to Human Rights:**
  - ◆ **Right to Life:** Violated through indiscriminate attacks, targeted killings, and the use of tactics that result in civilian casualties.

- ◆ **Right to Security and Freedom from Torture:** Undermined by tactics like torture, extrajudicial killings, and the use of inhumane and degrading treatment.
- ◆ **Right to Shelter and Home:** Displacement and destruction of communities violate the right to adequate housing and the right to live in one's own country.
- ◆ **Right to Health:** Chemical weapons and attacks on healthcare facilities compromise the right to health and access to medical care.
- ◆ **Right to a Homeland and Community:** Forced displacement denies individuals their right to a homeland and disrupts their sense of community.
- ◆ **Right to Dignity:** Systematic sexual violence as a weapon of war undermines the right to dignity, especially for women and marginalized groups.

## 17. SANCTIONS REGIME: UNDERSTANDING THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES AND COLLATERAL DAMAGE

- ◆ **Preface:** Sanctions are used by countries to impose some restrictions on the other country with which the former have some issues pertaining to clash of interest or at war or conflict etc.
  - ◆ In the history of world and diplomacy, sanctions were used to impose the blockade with intended economic loss, however these also caused harm to the populations at large.
  - ◆ So there arise a pertinent question, that whether to achieve some diplomatic goals or control or power or to make alignment through security calculations in terms of world political scenario, it is necessary to follow the method of blockade or sanctions which harms the human lives and living conditions? Is ethical to do so?
- ◆ **The Unintended Toll of Sanctions: Navigating Ethical Dimensions and Unforeseen Consequences**
  - ◆ In the complex realm of international relations, the use of sanctions has been a longstanding tool for countries to assert influence, express disapproval, or address conflicts of interest.
  - ◆ However, the unintended consequences and collateral damage of such sanctions pose significant ethical dilemmas, prompting a critical examination of their necessity and impact on human lives.
- ◆ **Understanding Sanctions:**
  - ◆ Sanctions typically involve imposing restrictions on trade, finance, or diplomatic relations to compel a country to alter its behaviour.
  - ◆ While the intention may be rooted in achieving diplomatic goals, the ethical implications arise when the broader population bears the brunt of economic hardship and diminished living conditions.

### Ethical Dimensions:

- ◆ **Humanitarian Impact:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Sanctions often lead to severe economic downturns, affecting access to food, healthcare, and basic necessities.
  - ◆ **Recent Example:** The sanctions imposed on Iraq in the 1990s had devastating consequences on civilians, impacting their health and well-being.
- ◆ **Collective Punishment:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Sanctions can be seen as a form of collective punishment, affecting ordinary citizens who may have no control over government policies.

- ◆ **Recent Example:** The sanctions on North Korea have been criticized for exacerbating the suffering of the population while achieving limited diplomatic results.
- ◆ **Undermining Human Rights:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Sanctions might unintentionally contribute to human rights abuses by destabilizing economies and fostering internal conflicts.
  - ◆ **Recent Example:** The sanctions on Venezuela have raised concerns about their impact on the country's economic stability and the well-being of its citizens.

## Unforeseen Consequences:

- ◆ **Rise of Black Markets:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Implication:** Sanctions can lead to the growth of illegal markets, exacerbating corruption and illicit activities.
  - ◆ **Recent Example:** Sanctions on Iran have been associated with the rise of black market activities to circumvent economic restrictions.
- ◆ **Political Fallout:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Implication:** Sanctions may strain diplomatic relations, hindering opportunities for dialogue and peaceful resolution.
  - ◆ **Recent Example:** The strained relations between the U.S. and Russia due to sanctions have created geopolitical tensions.
- ◆ **Social and Cultural Erosion:**
  - ◆ **Ethical Implication:** Prolonged sanctions can contribute to the erosion of social structures and cultural values.
  - ◆ **Recent Example:** Cuba's experience with long-standing sanctions has been associated with social challenges and economic hardships.

## The Ethical Question:

- ◆ The fundamental ethical question revolves around whether achieving diplomatic, strategic, or security goals justifies the imposition of sanctions that inadvertently harm the lives and living conditions of innocent civilians.
- ◆ Striking a balance between achieving geopolitical objectives and preserving human rights requires a nuanced approach.
- ◆ As the global community grapples with this ethical dilemma, it becomes imperative to explore alternative diplomatic strategies that minimize the unintended consequences of sanctions. Emphasizing diplomacy, dialogue, and international cooperation can pave the way for more ethical approaches to conflict resolution, recognizing the shared responsibility to protect the well-being of all individuals affected by geopolitical decisions.

## 18. THE GIG ECONOMY: BALANCING OPPORTUNITIES AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES

- ◆ **Preface:** The gig economy has emerged as a transformative force, presenting both opportunities and challenges. Examining its impact on the economy reveals interplay of advantages and ethical considerations that shape the way work is conducted in contemporary times.



## Opportunities in the Gig Economy:

### ◆ Flexibility and Autonomy:

- ◆ **Opportunity:** The gig economy provides workers with flexibility and autonomy over their schedules, allowing for a better work-life balance.
- ◆ **Economic Impact:** This flexibility can lead to increased productivity and job satisfaction.

### ◆ Job Creation and Market Expansion:

- ◆ **Opportunity:** The gig economy facilitates job creation and market expansion by connecting businesses with a diverse pool of freelancers and independent contractors.
- ◆ **Economic Impact:** This dynamic structure fosters innovation and agility within industries.

### ◆ Global Talent Pool:

- ◆ **Opportunity:** Businesses can tap into a global talent pool, leveraging diverse skills and expertise without geographical constraints.
- ◆ **Economic Impact:** Enhances competitiveness and fosters a more interconnected global economy.

## Challenges and Ethical Considerations:

### ◆ Job Insecurity:

- ◆ **Challenge:** Gig workers often face job insecurity due to the absence of traditional employment benefits like health insurance and job stability.
- ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Raises questions about the ethical responsibility of businesses towards the well-being of their workforce.

### ◆ Exploitative Practices:

- ◆ **Challenge:** Some platforms within the gig economy may engage in exploitative practices, such as low wages and inadequate worker protections.
- ◆ **Ethical Concern:** The ethical implications involve the fair treatment of workers and the prevention of exploitation.

### ◆ Lack of Social Security:

- ◆ **Challenge:** Gig workers often lack access to social security benefits, such as retirement plans and unemployment insurance.
- ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Raises questions about the societal responsibility to ensure the financial well-being of all workers.

### ◆ Unequal Access to Opportunities:

- ◆ **Challenge:** Certain demographics may face barriers to entry and advancement within the gig economy, leading to inequality.
- ◆ **Ethical Concern:** Highlights the need for ethical practices that promote inclusivity and equal opportunity.

## Striking a Balance:

### ◆ Regulatory Frameworks:

- ◆ **Solution:** Implementing robust regulatory frameworks that ensure fair treatment, worker protections, and access to benefits within the gig economy.



- ◆ **Ethical Approach:** Balancing business interests with the ethical imperative of prioritizing the well-being of workers.
- ◆ **Promoting Transparency:**
  - ◆ **Solution:** Fostering transparency in gig economy platforms regarding pay structures, expectations, and worker rights.
  - ◆ **Ethical Approach:** Upholding ethical values by providing workers with clear information to make informed decisions.
- ◆ **Collaborative Industry Initiatives:**
  - ◆ **Solution:** Encouraging collaborative efforts within industries to establish ethical standards and best practices for gig work.
  - ◆ **Ethical Approach:** Acknowledging the shared responsibility of businesses to uphold ethical values in shaping the gig economy.

