



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** Corruption is often described as a moral failure that erodes the social fabric of a nation. In your opinion, what ethical principles should guide anti-corruption measures? **(150 words)**

01 May, 2025 GS Paper 4 Theoretical Questions

### Approach

- Introduce the answer by defining corruption as a moral and ethical failure.
- Outline key ethical principles that can guide anti-corruption efforts.
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction

Corruption reflects a **breakdown of ethical values** such as integrity, justice, and responsibility. It undermines **public trust**, weakens institutions, and damages the **moral fabric of governance**. Ethical principles must therefore lie at the heart of anti-corruption strategies.

### Body

#### Integrity and Honesty:

- Integrity ensures public officials remain committed to **truthful, fair, and lawful conduct** in all circumstances.
- **Honesty** in declarations, audits, and resource allocation builds **credibility and public confidence** in governance.
  - Example: The **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act** promotes institutional integrity through independent oversight mechanisms.

#### Accountability and Transparency:

- Ethical governance demands **clear responsibility for actions** and openness in decision-making processes.
- **Proactive disclosure of information** reduces the scope for manipulation, favoritism, and bribery.
  - The **RTI Act, 2005** empowers citizens to demand transparency from public offices, curbing corrupt behavior.

#### Justice and Fairness:

- Corruption disproportionately affects the poor, violating the principle of **distributive justice and equal opportunity**.
- Anti-corruption efforts should ensure **equitable access** to public services and impartial application of laws.
  - Example: **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** minimizes middlemen and leakages, promoting

fairness in welfare delivery.

### **Empathy and Public Service Ethos:**

- Corruption thrives in a culture of **indifference to public suffering and personal gain-seeking behavior**.
- Promoting **empathy and service orientation** instills a sense of duty and care for public well-being.
- Ethical training in civil services encourages officers to act as **trustees of public resources**.

### **Courage and Moral Responsibility:**

- Whistleblowing against corruption requires **moral courage** and institutional protection.
- Ethical frameworks must support those who uphold public interest, such as through the **WhistleBlowers Protection Act**.
  - Example: **Satyendra Dubey**, an IES officer who exposed highway corruption, exemplifies moral courage in action.

## **Conclusion**

Corruption is a serious ethical issue requiring **transparency, accountability, and justice**. High-profile scams highlight the need for strong laws like the **Prevention of Corruption Act** and **Whistleblower Protection Act**. Promoting ethical leadership and strict accountability can help build a corruption-free governance system and restore public trust.

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