Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“Public service is never about an individual but about serving people selflessly.” Discuss the significance of integrity, impartiality and accountability in civil services.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 31/10/2026	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Constitutional morality; integrity; political neutrality; impartiality; accountability; citizen-centric governance; ethical leadership; public trust

Model Answer

Introduction

Civil services are the permanent administrative machinery of the state. Their legitimacy rests on constitutional values, ethical conduct and commitment to public welfare rather than individual recognition.

Importance of Ethical Values

1. **Integrity:** Ensures honesty in decision-making and prevents corruption and misuse of public office.
2. **Impartiality:** Guarantees equal treatment of citizens irrespective of caste, religion, gender or political affiliation.
3. **Political neutrality:** Enables civil servants to implement lawful policies objectively, irrespective of changes in government.
4. **Accountability:** Makes officials answerable for administrative decisions, public expenditure and service delivery.

5. **Citizen-centric governance:** Encourages transparency, responsiveness and timely delivery of public services.

Challenges and Way Forward

Political interference, corruption, bureaucratic rigidity and lack of transparency can weaken public trust. Ethical training, social audits, grievance-redressal mechanisms, performance evaluation and protection for honest officials can strengthen administrative integrity.

Conclusion

Civil servants must view public office as a responsibility rather than a source of personal power. Constitutional commitment and ethical accountability are essential for democratic governance.