Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

"The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people." – Swami Vivekananda. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Law and morality, social conscience, voluntary compliance, civic responsibility, trust, corruption, rule of law, social capital, ethical citizenship

Model Answer

Introduction

Laws establish minimum standards of conduct, whereas morality motivates individuals to act ethically even when legal enforcement is absent. A stable society therefore requires both effective institutions and ethical citizens.

Contemporary Relevance

1. Limits of law: No legal system can monitor every action. Internal conscience complements external enforcement.
2. Voluntary compliance: Tax payment, traffic discipline and environmental protection become more effective when citizens internalise civic responsibility.
3. Social trust: Honesty, empathy and reciprocity create social capital and facilitate collective action.
4. Anti-corruption culture: Strong laws may punish corruption, but integrity prevents it at the individual and institutional levels.

5. Democratic citizenship: Constitutional values such as liberty, equality and fraternity require citizens to respect others' rights.

Example

During disasters, spontaneous community assistance often demonstrates morality operating beyond formal legal obligations.

Conclusion

Laws provide the framework of social order, but morality provides its foundation. The ideal society therefore combines strong institutions with ethical education, civic responsibility and a culture of empathy, integrity and constitutional values.