Polity & Governance · GS - IV

"Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and adherence of the rule of law." Examine the significance of constitutional morality for public servant highlighting the role in promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - IV	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional values, rule of law, equality, liberty, fraternity, impartiality, public trust, accountability, Article 14, Article 21, institutional integrity

Model Answer

Introduction

Constitutional morality means adherence to the Constitution’s values, procedures and institutional limitations rather than merely following personal, social or majoritarian preferences.

Significance for Public Servants

1. Rule-bound administration: It ensures that discretion is exercised within constitutional and legal limits, preventing arbitrariness.
2. Equality and non-discrimination: Article 14 encourages impartial delivery of public services irrespective of caste, religion, gender or status.

3. Protection of rights: Constitutional morality makes dignity, liberty and due process integral to administrative decisions.
4. Accountability: Transparency, reasoned decisions, audits and grievance redressal strengthen public accountability.
5. Ethical neutrality: A civil servant must remain politically neutral while being constitutionally committed.
6. Inclusive governance: Constitutional fraternity encourages sensitivity towards minorities and vulnerable groups.

Example

In *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India*, constitutional morality was emphasised over prevailing social morality, illustrating the transformative potential of constitutional values.

Conclusion

For civil servants, constitutional morality converts the Constitution from a legal document into an ethical compass. Civil education, institutional checks, transparency and adherence to rule of law can therefore promote citizen-centric and accountable governance.

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