

Key Concepts

1. Dharma

- righteousness
- does not mean religion (“panth”)
- *svadharm* → one’s duty vs *sadharan dharma* → ethics applicable to all.

2. Ethics

- ethos = character or habit
- as a study branch of moral philosophy
- 2nd ARC → set of moral principles

3. Morality

- individual’s sense of right or wrong
- comes from within
- may not conform to societal ethics
- can be a source of ethical dilemma

4. Law

- codified rules of society
- needs central authority to enforce → redressal mechanism
- violation is punishable
- codification of social ethics

5. Dilemma

- choice between equally desirable options
- resolution → weighing pros and cons
- reason → FOMO, lack of objectivity in assessment
- e.g. UPSC prep or IT Job;


6. Ethical Dilemma

- different from dilemma
- choice between two actions
- one moral value compromised
- “Dharma-sankata”
- both equally undesirable
- choosing the lesser evil
- e.g. Dashrath → Kaykeyi’s boons
- Vibhishan’s dilemma → Rams vs Ravana.

7. Values

- principles or standards → determine desirability of an action / choice
- *Purushratha* = Artha, Dharma, Kama, Moksha
- e.g. Value of Warriors → Courage
- Value System of Traders → Risk
- Value system middle class → stable job

8. Religion

- religare → to bind
- western religion - holy book/ scripture, One God, evangelist;
- identity giver to individual or group;
-  debate → what is good is defined by God (God > Good) vs God does what is good = (Good > God).

9. Politics

- power to write the rules that govern society, including self;
- politics = compulsions of state craft → doing things that may be unethical
- Politics & ethics possible? 

