



# Ethics in Public Governance

- *Electronic News Magazine of IC Centre for Governance, for private circulation only*

**Ethics**

**Integrity**

**Excellence**

Volume X, No. 6

June 2021

## Reflections - United we stand; unity is strength!

**Shouldn't Unity, not fragmentation, be the collective wisdom for the educated Indians?**

Shouldn't education teach our Civilizational *vedantic* cultural ideal of '*whole world as our family*';

Of karma-yoga; of being an 'Useful' citizen who has care and concern for others;  
Gets educated to be able to identify, solve problems of community with his skills and degrees?  
Why first BA/MA's; and, then look for jobs, which have no relevance to the degree?

Should education simply prepare us for irrelevant degree; not even a job, let alone being good?  
If it doesn't explain ideals of our collective wisdom, how will the educated 'know'?

Shouldn't imbibing 'oneness' be an integral part of education, promotion, leadership positions? Will the idea of '*my-God-book*' and '*my-party*' Vs '*your-God-book*' and '*opposition party*', unite or divide?

Bharat had a collective wisdom of thru' Ethics Earn & Enjoy & attain Oneness with all!  
India is a divided with the Asuric ideas of My-Vs-Your; ABC123, Secularism, Democracy!  
How will we now be inspired to strive to imbibe higher values and ideals, beyond money?

How foolish, that this worldview as written on gates of our parliament is not taught!  
Instead, we allow preachers of my-religion vs your-religion and democracy to divide us!  
Unless we are established in daily self-development practices & commitment to duties;  
How do we get inspired to expand mind to feel oneness with more and more?

It should be the responsibility and obligatory duty of the educated to promise: -  
I will strive to understand and spread the worldview that the whole creation is our family;  
I will strive to fulfill my obligatory debt towards: -

Founders, Seers, Sages of all Religions; all beings; all my forefathers; all forces of nature.  
We pay our debts by daily self-development practices that awakens viveka; strengthens mind;  
And, being committed to righteous conduct – dharma, swadharma, continuous study, meditation,  
communicating-inspiring-mentoring others too.

## ICCFG HAPPENINGS

Members of the IC Centre for Governance at their Core Group meeting on 6th May 2021 expressed their deep grief and sorrow on the passing away of Shri Soli Sorabjee and JNL Srivatava



### **SHRI SOLI SORABJEE**

*Former Attorney General of India*

**A distinguished member of ICCfG Governing Council**, who also took a deep interest in the activities of the Centre.



### **SHRI JNL SRIVASTAVA**

*Former Managing Trustee of IFFCO Foundation*

**A distinguished member of the ICCfG Core Group**. He took active interest in the deliberation of the Core Group and was an asset in the functioning of the Centre.

Members wish to convey their deepest sympathy and condolences for the bereaved family and a copy of resolution was sent to their family as an expression of our respect and grief.

The Centre organized a talk by Dr. R K Srivastava, Former Director General Health Services, GoI, on the current status of the pandemic and the way ahead. He highlighted the need for stepping up the vaccination drive to ensure that we cover at least 50% of the population in the age group 18 to 44 and 45 plus years, by the end of Dec 2021. Following the Covid protocol was of course, axiomatic. This would be critical if have to forestall the third wave. He is an eminent public health administrator, medical education regulator and rehabilitation and disability expert. The presentation has been posted at <https://youtu.be/-o1u6xl6tVU>

The Centre also completed successfully a 3-day online program on Ethics in Public Service for 60 Management Trainees of NTPC.

The next webinar of Community of Ethics is scheduled on Sunday, June 13, 2021; you can register at <https://webinar.communityofethics.in/> for more details and Webinar Link.

### Train-journey that takes us across the heavens:

The Tren a las Nubes took around 27 years to construct, and its path includes an extremely dangerous zigzagging spiral through treacherous mountain terrain. The extensive route passes over 13 spectacular bridges, 21 tunnels, and at one point it even passes high over the clouds in order to avoid the mountains of northern Argentina.



### **Best Practices – From the Book: ‘Collector Bro’ by Prasanth Nair, IAS.**

A must read for all civil servants and others who dream for a better tomorrow, says Dr. Shashi Tharoor. It is a true story that played out in the district of Kozhikode when a young IAS officer Prasanth Nair, took charge as the District Collector in 2015. Over the next two years, he led the district and transformed the very concept of public administration with the use of social media, public consultation, usage of technology, volunteerism and public participation in governance.

The 2-year tenure of 'Collector Bro' transformed forever the landscape and narrative of district administration and its process of communication with the citizens, with initiatives like *Compassionate Kozhikode*, *Operation Sulaimani*, *Savari Giri Giri*, *Kozhipedia*, *Freedom Café*, *Yo Appooppa* and *Tere Mere Beach Mein*. It ushered in a new language of governance that endeavored to bridge the gap between the administration and citizens through the optimal employment of social media. The DC descended from the colonial ivory towers and mingled as one amongst the common man, totally dismantling the hierarchical stereotypes, we're used to!

Straight from the horse's mouth, the book is a chronicle of a personal journey of a compassionate administrator. This is not a typical arrogant bureaucratic 'I did this' book; not a high-horsed motivational 'you can do it' book, but a book that makes you think and prioritize what you want to do in life. It traces the story of how exactly this happened and how and why the public responded so overwhelmingly to such an initiative.

#### **1. Making Mining Mafia Pound Sand! Durga Shakti Nagpal: IAS:**

As a SDM she launched a bold and massive drive against sand mafia and illegal construction within her jurisdiction in Gautam Buddha Nagar in 2013, notwithstanding the personal risk, and faced the ire of the UP Govt. when desperate farmers approached her as their crop fields on the floodplains of the Yamuna were being destroyed due to illegal sand mining that caused rampant soil erosion and landslides. Extortion, theft, harassment, and even murder were reported regularly.

She arranged midnight raids and would monitor these areas with her trained armada, caught hold of the truck drivers and through them, reached the bigwigs. She approached the local public to call her

whenever they spotted or suspected any illegal activities during the day, and many came forward with genuine leads, overcoming their fears.

The local power lords who controlled the law of the land were causing losses worth crores to the state revenue while also endangering the agro-environmental balance of the region. She paid a price by getting suspended, which caused a massive media and public uproar. She was also openly threatened by the mining mafia; her efforts, though, were successful in reducing the illegal mining!

### **Change Yourself First:**

*Though modern society recognizes that 'subjective' rules the 'objective', it has failed to use the mind to go beyond itself to experience the Singular-Consciousness that is our 'subjective' reality!*

“Change the subject, (*the quality of the mind; its worldview, beliefs*) and the object is bound to change; Purify yourself, and the world is bound to be purified.

This one thing requires to be taught now more than ever before.

We are becoming more and more busy about our neighbors, and less and less about ourselves. The world will change if we change; if we are pure, the world will become pure.

The question is why I should see evil in others. I cannot see evil unless I be evil.

I cannot be miserable unless I am weak.

Things that used to make me miserable when I was a child, do not do so now.

The subject changed; so, the object was bound to change; so, says the Vedanta.

Thus the man that has practiced control over himself cannot be acted upon by anything outside; there is no more slavery for him. His mind has become free.

Such a man alone is fit to live well in the world.

We generally find men holding two opinions regarding the world.

Some are pessimists and say, "How horrible this world is, how wicked!"

Some others are optimists and say, "How beautiful this world is, how wonderful!"

To those who have not controlled their own minds, the world is either full of evil or at best a mixture of good and evil.

This very world will become to us an optimistic world when we become masters of our own minds. Nothing will then work upon us as good or evil; we shall find everything to be in its proper place, to be harmonious.

The more we grow in love and virtue and holiness, the more we see love and virtue and holiness outside. All condemnation of others really condemns ourselves.

Adjust the microcosm (which is your power to do) and the macrocosm will adjust itself for you. It is like the hydrostatic paradox; one drop of water can balance the universe.

We cannot see outside what we are not inside.

The universe is to us what the huge engine is to the miniature engine; and indication of any error in the tiny engine leads us to imagine trouble in the huge one.

Every step that has been really gained in the world has been gained by love; criticizing can never do any good, it has been tried for thousands of years.

Condemnation accomplishes nothing - *Vivekananda*

**BEST PRACTICES:**

*How **Rahul Kumar, DM, LAS**, saved nearly 250 lives by solving acute oxygen crisis in 8 hours*

On 12 May, around 3.30 am, the only oxygen plant in Bihar's Purnea district, 300 kilometres away from capital Patna, broke down. The plant would take care of the district's daily requirement but did not have a facility to store the medical oxygen it produced. By 7 am, the WhatsApp groups of Purnea's nodal officers started flooding with SOS messages, and people had taken to social media asking for help. For Purnea this was the "biggest crisis" so far; lives of nearly 250 critically ill patients across 13 hospitals, 40 of them on ventilators, were at stake if medical oxygen was not arranged within a few hours.

But Purnea averted such a disaster, thanks to its DM; he not only arranged the required medical oxygen within hours but also managed to restart the broken-down oxygen plant in Maranga industrial area, 5 km from the main city, within a day. The eight-hour operation that Kumar led from the Covid control room in Purnea Sadar Hospital not only saved the life of 250 critical Covid patients but should also serve as a lesson in crisis management; they did not waste a single minute in paper work to achieve ultimate goal of saving lives.

**Who in modern society are our Mentors?**

**We need to Reflect and brainstorm:** Who and where are the Mentors who can guide and inspire us to be good after explaining what goodness means and then, convince and show us, how to strive to be good and better?

Certainly, neither teachers nor politicians have so far been able to educate and guide societies towards goodness. Unless as a society we define the highest and best can we define good and bad or better or worse? Short-term or long-term good? Good for me or society? Are we equal or unequal from birth? And why? Why're we different? Haven't we as a society failed to identify, nurture and put 'good' people as our leaders?

In our collective worldview, and social, educational and governance systems, who are the good? Is it good to be good? Why? Are the educated good enough to define good? Is schooling producing the good? Are the educated good? Is goodness or merit associated with IQ/marks/degrees or performance or votes? Do we have the good, teaching and leading us? 'Increases in salary by seniority' and 'assignments' by what 'one can do; competence,' rather than comparing and promoting on 'merit', which leads to all kinds of jealousies?

**Healthy Worldview of Reality:** For the '*Asuric*' cultures that we're aping, *artha* and *kama* are the only goals. For those in 'Sur', i.e., in harmony with cosmic order, the 'highest and best' ideal placed before us is the holistic, healthy worldview of Reality of 'oneness' that identified with consciousness we're all one; that *man-and-man; man-nature; Creation-God-Consciousness*, are not 'separate' but are 'one', interconnected, interdependent, interrelated, 'integrated whole' though appearing 'separate'; it's an *intelligent-conscious* universe; and, there is a cosmic order, Rtm, harmonious relationship between 'differences' that creation is.

Thus, the whole creation maintains and works on the principle of karma; of law of cause and effect, etc. which arise from this worldview of unity, of oneness. Similarly, all ideas of compassion, virtues, goodness, knowingly or unknowingly, arise from this worldview of 'oneness', of unity in diversity, of team work, of families, of communities, where we've grown into some degree of '*apanapan*', oneness.

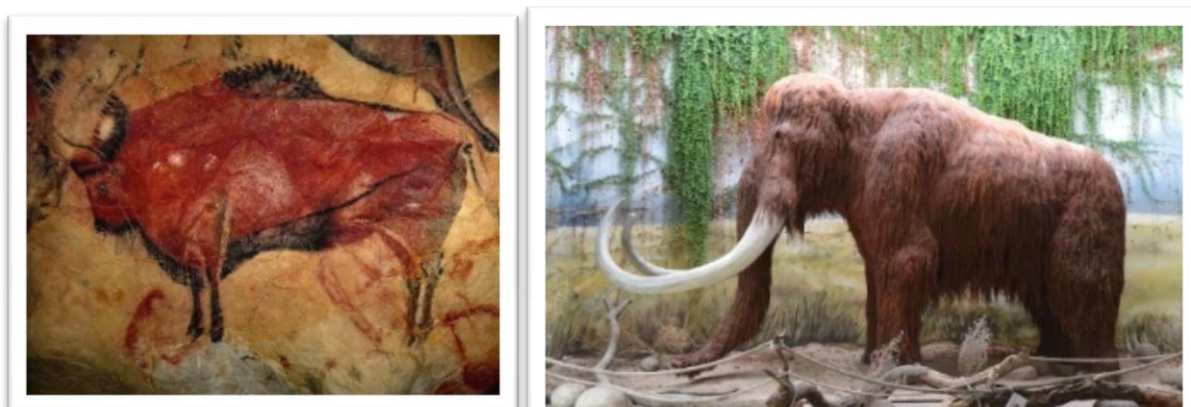
The good don't just appear; they come out of those who strive to become good; who are educated to be good and get inspired to be good. They become good who strive to help maintain the cosmic harmony by fulfilment of their respective duties, *swadharma*, *kartvyapalan*, and that is why we're asked to follow

ethics, duties, virtues, spirit of cooperation, helping, caring, concern, for each other righteous conduct, etc. because they alone really help us expand in consciousness to feel fulfilled! Doing our swadharma is the 'cause'; its 'effect' is purity of mind which leads to 'Peace and Ananda'. Similarly, not doing our swadharma, disturbs the Rtm and therefore, creates pain and suffering. This is how quality of our choices-actions alone make our mindset and, we're what we're, different and unique. It is only by continuous 'better', i.e., 'selfless' actions, that we can create a desired better-future for ourselves. Only when teachers, parents, citizens, learn to be Mentors, they can guide society towards goodness.

**Goodness depends on Quality of our Mind** much more than our IQ, marks, degrees, status, vocation, etc. Knowledge of sciences, history, geography et al which we are taught, doesn't make us good! Quality of our mind is being continuously formed, 'refined' or 'deformed', based on the quality of our thoughts-words-actions, desires, ideals, goals, beliefs, etc. which themselves arise from our basic 'foundational worldview'. Unselfishness arises from a worldview of 'oneness'; whereas selfishness arises from a worldview of 'separateness'. Good and bad arise from our worldview of Oneness or separateness.

We're what we're at this moment based on our existing worldview, and quality of our mind that we're creating every-moment by Quality of our thought-choices. A thumb-rule for defining, judging, the quality of our goodness, our worldview and thoughts, is our degree of Unselfishness versus Selfishness. Thus, Unselfishness, caring, helping, is good and Selfishness is not so good. Can we somehow include this benchmark also when we judge, evaluate, place, promote people?

### How ancient are civilized humans?

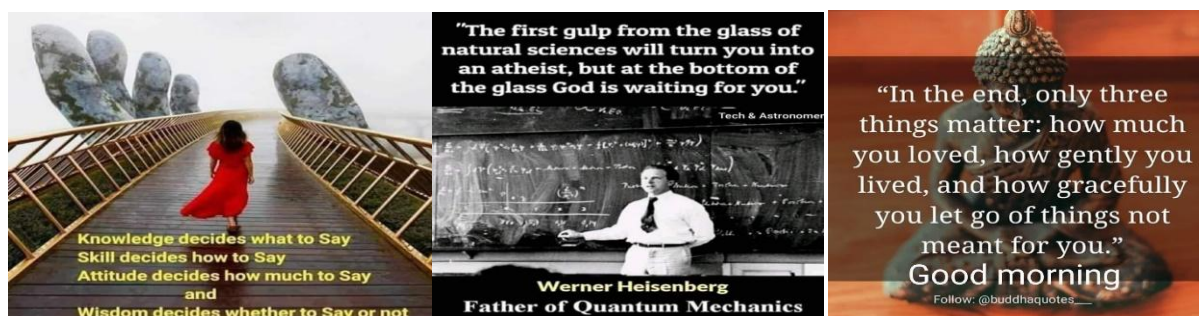
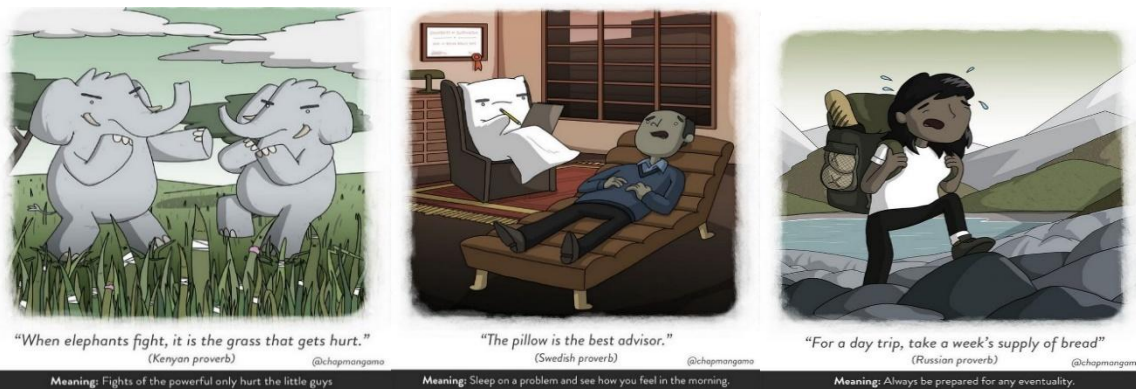


#### **1. Altamira Cave; 35,600 years old)2. Ice-age architecture, 25,000, year old**

*1. The most famous example of cave paintings are found in the Altamira Cave in northern Spain in the 19th century, which are so bright, detailed, and clear that they were first believed to be a forgery because scientists were convinced that prehistoric humans were unable to create art! It wasn't until 1902, that the authenticity of the painting was acknowledged!*

*2. An amazing example of Ice Age architecture was unearthed in 2014, in a forest about 300 miles south of Moscow. The circular structure was built with the bones of at least 60 woolly mammoths. What was the purpose of this elaborate structure? We don't know! A lot of time and effort went into building it; so, it was obviously important for some reason, says Alexander Pryor, archeologist, University of Exeter; experts are still trying to study the clues!*





---

Please send your comments, suggestions and short articles containing your experiences for publication through email at [info.iccfg@gmail.com](mailto:info.iccfg@gmail.com) and Sunil Kumar can be contacted at [kumar2sunil@yahoo.com](mailto:kumar2sunil@yahoo.com)