

## 1. Do you think all countries in the world should open their borders to refugees? Critically comment.

### Introduction

A refugee is a displaced person who has been forced to cross national boundaries and who cannot return home safely. They have immense physical, emotional and psychological suffering.

### Body

#### All countries in the world should open their borders to refugees

- **Justice** – Rohingyas are being forced to leave their own homeland by real or perceived dangers. The perpetrators are not punished.
- **Rights** – The natural rights as human beings and constitutional rights as citizens are being violated.
- **Mirrors our value as a civilization** – The values of inclusivity, tolerance, empathy and compassion, the democratic values of the host nation.
- **International empathy** – Concerns by other nations, help by International NGO's and effectiveness of International body like U.N.
- **Common good** – Peace and prosperity in the South Asian region.

#### All countries in the world should not open their borders to refugees

- National interest and national security is the highest goal of governance. Refugee may precipitate socio-economic crisis.
- National resource may not be sufficient to host large number of refugees.
- National and cultural identity will be threatened.

### Conclusion

The issue must be dealt with compassion. We can take lessons from the message inscribed on the statue of liberty which reflects the successful assimilation of refugees in USA helping it become a great nation.

“Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

More efforts can be put in skill development of refugees so that they can contribute to their new home as is being done by the government of Germany.

## 2. What are your views on the Palestine issue? Comment from an ethical perspective.

### Introduction

'Palestine issue' refers to the ongoing struggle between Israelis and Palestinians that began in the mid-20th century. The key issues are – mutual recognition, borders, security, water rights, control of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, Palestinian freedom of movement, and Palestinian right of return.

### Body

#### My views on the Palestine issue

- **Justice** – Palestinians are being forced to leave their own homeland by real or perceived dangers. The perpetrators are not punished.
- **Rights** – The natural rights as human beings and constitutional rights as citizens are being violated.
- **Responsibilities of power centers in the region** – Despite a long-term peace process, Israelis and Palestinians have failed to reach a final peace agreement. Powerful and prosperous nations must act as facilitator of dialogue to diffuse tension and bring stability.
- **International empathy** – Concerns by other nations, help by International NGO's and effectiveness of International body like U.N.
- **Common good** – Peace and prosperity in the Middle East region is important for regional stability and development.

### Conclusion

Long going Israelis – Palestinians conflict puts a question mark of the efficacy of international ethics and governance. The issue must be dealt with idea of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family). All countries must take steps to resolve the conflict and make the world a better place to live.

## 3. What is the ethical foundation of democracy? Analyse.

### Introduction

"Real democracy is possible only when people truly imbibe democratic principles and respect ethical values above everything else".

### Body

#### Ethical foundation of democracy:

- Principle of mutual respect: every citizen is given equal rights and everyone owes others when they make decisions that affect others. E.g. Right of religion as an individual affair.
  - Minority rights: with majority not being authoritarian and respect minorities as individuals with equal rights.
  - Freedom of expression: to every individual including the right to criticize the very government they elect.
- Social equality: every person is given due opportunity in economy, political space and social space regardless of their social class background.
- Deference to the majority: decisions must be taken taking due considerations of the minorities as well. The end goal is to come to consensus-based decision making.
- Integrity: of the elected government to implement the promises made, of the appointed officials to work with honesty and dedication to public service.
- Power: sovereignty of the public with the principle by the public, for the public of the public. No person can retain power for eternity and total absence of Authoritarian regimes and leadership. E.g. Change of power after emergency.
- Transparency and accountability: Government as the representative of the public interest, guardian of public resources. For the same reason, we have meritorious and watch dogs like UPSC, CAG and so on.
- Welfare state: Democratically elected government is the protector of individual rights and act in interests of public to uplift them. Thus, every decision taken by the government must benefit the public and should have wide approval. E.g. Brexit when citizens favour it, right to recall etc.,
- Equity and effectiveness: the principle of 'putting the last first' of John Rawls theory of justice is followed which is also enshrined in the Indian constitution as equal protection of law under Article 14.

The legal regulations and formal rules of democracy alone are not enough to hold a society together and govern its processes. Ethics of its citizens as well as the democratically elected representatives provide a just administration in any democratic country/society.

The majority community should not misuse/ dictate power on minorities and act ethically with the principles of secularism, equality and fraternity. One has to follow the principle of 'do not unto others what you don't want other unto you'.

### Conclusion

Social contract theory of John Locke premises the ethical foundation as a part of democracy where in the citizens give up their rights to be ruled in a civil society and the elected will be a philosopher king who works for societal development. Democracy is driven 'by the people', but is just only as long as the one driving it and the one being driven are ethical.

#### 4. Recently, Iran shot down a Ukrainian plane accidentally. Who would you hold accountable for this terrible catastrophe and why? Substantiate.

##### Introduction

Just a few hours after Iran launched an attack against US bases in Iraq in **retaliation** for the US killing of Qassem Soleimani, a Boeing passenger jet bound for Ukraine crashed shortly after it took off from Tehran. All 176 people on board were killed. Iran originally claimed the crash was not caused by any military action. However, later, Iranian officials admitted the plane was shot down which has raised the **global calls for accountability** for this terrible loss of life.

##### Body

- Iranian officials called the act the result of human error, and President Hassan Rouhani apologized in a statement on social media. The military apologized for downing the plane, saying it would upgrade its systems to prevent such "mistakes" in the future. It added that those responsible would be held accountable and prosecuted.
- While the resignation of officials are seen as a "weakness" in Iran, such a measure would demonstrate "accountability" at a time when public trust has been badly shaken due to the attempts to mislead Iranians and the international community.
- Earlier, after the plane was shot down, despite the statements by the US and Canada as well as the media's release of the video — Iran continued to deny that a missile felled the plane. States have been historically reluctant to take responsibility for attacks on civilian planes.
- An act of such dishonesty has led to many calls for prosecution of Iranian officials especially the revolutionary guards, who are responsible for this attack. People of different nationalities have been killed in this disaster which brings in the question of international diplomacy and ethics involved in it.
- As a rule, all modern states tend to be secretive. Classifying even the most mundane information as "secret" is second nature to the bureaucratic state. States lie and cheat and justify all in the name of a higher purpose: *raison d'etat* (national interest).
- But democratic systems have produced a measure of transparency that curbs lying and corruption. The constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran does the opposite. It is a unique blend of theocracy and democracy - and it is uniquely bad when it comes to transparency. This makes a mockery of the separation of powers that is in the letter of the Iranian Constitution. Article 77 of the Iranian Constitution also forbids secret diplomacy.
- Further, analysts have questioned the decision not to close Tehran's airspace in the days after the escalation with USA over killing of an Iranian general. Closing airspace entails serious financial losses, fines and forfeits, therefore a cynical approach prevailed in Iran. This certainly should be acted upon in the measures towards pinning accountability for the accident.

- Just hours before the incident, Iran had launched long-range ballistic missiles into Iraq toward bases hosting U.S. personnel. In such a situation, usually Iranian air defense systems would be on high alert. Shortly after the crash, images began circulating on social media purporting to show remnants from a missile fired by a Russian-manufactured SA-15 air defense system near the site of the crash. Iran's air defense is equipped with the SA-15 system
- The international nature of that tangle of weapons systems and security interests—a Russian air defense system, a Ukrainian airliner, tensions with the United States—complicates the efforts at investigating the crash. Under international aviation rules, authorities in the country where the crash took place have the authority to lead a crash investigation. Countries representing the owner of a crashed aircraft, its manufacturer, and the victims may also participate in the investigation.
- The US did not retaliate the night of the ballistic missile strikes on Iraqi bases housing US troops. However, that has not stopped Iranian officials who sought to try to blame "US adventurism" for Iran shooting down the airplane.
- The more recent shootdown of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 shows that international law is still ill equipped to handle states that refuse to take responsibility for their own actions.
- After the dutch investigation in this regard, the International Civil Aviation Organization adopted new rules for how civil aircraft operate in or near conflict zones. Those new rules hold the state responsible for safety in airspace it controls, which includes ensuring that lines of communication between aircraft and local military assets is functional and communicating risks to airlines and airports.

### Conclusion

Thus, it can be seen that Iran stands responsible for the gruesome attack on civilian aircraft as per the established international rules and regulations which entails collective efforts of countries involved to bring the victims to justice while also considering the nature of 'human error' involved as well as broader accountability of people involved.

**5. Corporate governance is driven by motives. Do you agree? Can ethics fit into corporate governance? Examine.**

### Introduction

Corporate governance is the system of rules, practices, and processes by which a firm is directed and controlled. Corporate governance essentially involves balancing the interests of a company's many stakeholders, such as shareholders, senior management executives, customers, suppliers, financiers, the government, and the community.

### Body



- Corporate governance is concerned with holding the balance between economic and social goals and between individual and communal goals. The governance framework is there to encourage the efficient use of resources and equally to require accountability for the stewardship of those resources. The aim is to align as nearly as possible the interests of individuals, corporations and society.
- Most companies strive to have a high level of corporate governance. For many shareholders, it is not enough for a company to merely be profitable; it also needs to demonstrate good corporate citizenship through environmental awareness, ethical behavior, and sound corporate governance practices. Good corporate governance creates a transparent set of rules and controls in which shareholders, directors, and officers have aligned incentives.
- Bad corporate governance can cast doubt on a company's reliability, integrity or obligation to shareholders—all of which can have implications on the firm's financial health. Tolerance or support of illegal activities can create scandals like the one that rocked Volkswagen AG starting in September 2015.
- The development of the details of "Dieselgate" (as the affair came to be known) revealed that for years, the automaker had deliberately and systematically rigged engine emission equipment in its cars in order to manipulate pollution test results, in America and Europe. Volkswagen saw its stock shed nearly half its value in the days following the start of the scandal, and its global sales in the first full month following the news fell 4.5%.
- While the drive for good corporate governance is generally associated with publicly listed companies, the governance benefits to non-listed companies are less often talked about – in many countries, national codes of corporate governance set out practices and standards that are desirable but not mandatory for non-listed companies.
- Revolution in information technology facilitated companies to adopt new changes in the field of communication for improving corporate performance. Growth is another driving force for corporate governance.

Corporate governance is out-and-out a matter of ethics. It is about who is responsible to whom, and for what, and under what conditions. The balance of pursuing market opportunities while maintaining accountability and ethical integrity has proved a defining challenge for business enterprise since the arrival of the joint-stock company in the early years of industrialism.

- Business ethics is the application of general ethical principles to business dilemmas and encompasses a broader range of issues and concerns than laws do, as everything that is legal is not ethical. Ethics involves learning what is right or wrong, and then doing the right thing -- but "the right thing" is not nearly as straightforward.
- Although the law can guide ethical behaviour, ethicists are quick to point out that the law should be thought of as the bare minimum of an ethical

framework. Complying with the law and behaving ethically are not necessarily synonymous.

- The overall objective should be pluralist in the sense that companies should be run in a way which maximizes overall competitiveness and wealth and welfare for all. But the means which company law deploys for achieving this objective must be to take account of the realities and dynamics which operate in practice in the running of a commercial enterprise.
- It should not be done at the expense of turning company directors from business decision-makers into moral, political or economic arbiters, but by harnessing focused, comprehensive, competitive decision-making within robust, objective professional standards and flexible, but pertinent accountability.
- Moral liability occurs when corporations violate stakeholder expectations of ethical behaviour in ways that put business value at risk thus endangering the entire corporate structure towards malpractices.

### **Conclusion**

The effectiveness of the Corporate Governance has become a global concern. Mainly after many corporate collapse (e.g. Enron, Boeing etc), fraud cases (e.g. Lehman Brothers), shareholder suits or questionable strategic decisions are drawing attention to the top level decision-making body of the corporation and the board of directors, necessitating the need for ethical considerations where in Indian context, Uday Kotak committee recommendations can form guidelines for better ethical corporate governance.