

## PRIME MINISTER'S INTERNSHIP SCHEME

The Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS) is a flagship initiative designed to engage students and young professionals in the workings of government. Launched to foster a spirit of public service among the youth, the scheme aims to provide practical exposure to governance and policymaking. It serves as a platform for students to apply their academic knowledge in real-world scenarios while contributing to the nation's development.

The primary objectives of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme is to enhance the skills of students by exposing them to the intricacies of public administration and governance; inspire young people to consider careers in public service and governance, fostering a sense of civic responsibility; bridge the gap between academic learning and practical application, enabling students to understand how their education can impact society; allow interns to contribute to policy development and implementation, ensuring fresh perspectives on current issues.

The structure of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme is designed to maximize learning and practical experience.

Students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in various disciplines, including social sciences, management, law, and engineering, are eligible to apply. The selection process often considers academic performance, extracurricular involvement, and a personal statement.

Internships usually last between six weeks to three months, depending on the department and the specific project.

Each intern is assigned a mentor, often a senior official or expert in the field. Mentors provide guidance, facilitate learning, and help interns navigate their responsibilities.

Interns can work in various government departments and agencies, including finance, health, education, and urban development. This diversity allows them to explore different areas of governance and policy.

Interns are typically involved in specific projects, conducting research, preparing reports, and sometimes assisting in the implementation of initiatives. This hands-on experience is crucial for understanding the challenges faced by public officials.

The Prime Minister's Internship Scheme offers numerous benefits to participants.

Interns gain firsthand experience of how government functions, learning about the challenges and intricacies of public administration.

The scheme helps interns develop critical skills such as research, analysis, communication, and project management, which are valuable in any career.

Interns have the chance to meet and interact with professionals in the field, building a network that can be beneficial for future career opportunities.

By working on real projects, interns contribute meaningfully to public policy and governance, fostering a sense of accomplishment and civic engagement.

The internship allows students to explore potential career paths in public service, helping them make informed decisions about their future.

Upon successful completion of the internship, participants often receive a certificate and recognition from the government, enhancing their resumes.

The impact of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme extends beyond individual participants. It plays a significant role in shaping the future of governance.

By engaging young minds in governance, the scheme helps cultivate a new generation of leaders who are informed, motivated, and committed to public service.

The fresh perspectives brought in by interns can lead to innovative solutions for longstanding issues in governance, fostering a culture of creativity and adaptability.

By involving youth in the administrative process, the scheme strengthens public institutions, promoting transparency and accountability.

■ HIMANGSHU RANJAN BHUYAN

Morality and values are foundational aspects of human existence, intricately woven into the fabric of individual lives and societal structures. While often used interchangeably, the terms represent distinct yet interconnected concepts. Morality pertains to the principles that define right and wrong, guiding individuals in their actions and decisions. In contrast, values encompass the beliefs, ideals, and priorities that individuals or societies hold as significant. Together, these elements shape the way people interact, form relationships, and construct their identities, influencing the moral fabric of communities and nations.

The origins of morality can be traced to various sources, including philosophy, religion, culture, and social conventions. Throughout history, philosophers have grappled with questions surrounding morality, attempting to articulate what constitutes ethical behavior. Ancient thinkers, such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, laid the groundwork for moral philosophy, exploring concepts of virtue, justice, and the good life. For instance, Aristotle's virtue ethics emphasizes the development of character and the cultivation of virtuous habits as essential to achieving a flourishing life. His assertion that moral virtue lies in finding a balance between extremes has resonated through the ages, underscoring the significance of moderation and the importance of developing moral character.

In many societies, religious teachings have profoundly influenced moral values. Sacred texts, such as the Bible, the Quran, and the teachings of Buddhism, provide ethical guidelines that inform followers' moral decisions. The Ten Commandments in Judaism and Christianity, for example, delineate fundamental principles regarding one's duties to God and fellow humans. Similarly, in Islam, the concept of "akhlak" emphasizes moral character and ethical behavior, guiding adherents in their interactions. These religious frameworks intertwine with cultural values, reflecting the beliefs and practices of the communities in which they exist.

Cultural influences also play a vital role in shaping morality and values. Societies develop norms and standards based on shared beliefs and historical contexts, dictating acceptable behavior. Concepts of justice, equality, and human rights have evolved over time, often varying significantly across cultures. In some societies, collectivist values that prioritize community and family may take precedence over individual rights, while in others, individualism may be emphasized. This variation highlights the contextual nature of morality and values, illustrating that they are dynamic and subject to change.

The interplay between morality and values is particularly evident in how individuals navigate ethical dilemmas. Values serve as a compass for moral decision-making, guiding people when confronted with conflicting choices. For instance, an individual who values honesty may choose to speak the truth even when it is uncomfortable or could lead to personal

repercussions. Similarly, a commitment to social justice may drive someone to advocate for the rights of marginalized groups, even in the face of societal opposition. In these scenarios, values inform moral judgments, creating a foundation for ethical behavior. Moreover, morality and values are deeply intertwined with personal and collective identity. Individuals often derive their sense of self from the values they uphold, which in turn shape their beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors. This connection is particularly evident in the formation of cultural and religious identities. People who identify with specific groups often adopt the moral principles associated with those communities, leading to a strong sense of belonging. However, this can also result in tension when individuals encounter differing moral frameworks or face challenges to their beliefs. The challenge of reconciling personal values with those of a larger community can lead to inner conflict, forcing individuals to critically evaluate their moral positions.

The significance of morality and values extends beyond individual behavior; they are fundamental to the functioning of society. A shared moral framework can promote social cohesion and trust, facilitating cooperation and collaboration among individuals. Societies that cultivate strong moral values are often better equipped to address challenges and conflicts, as a common ethical understanding encourages dialogue and mutual respect. Conversely, a lack of shared moral values can lead to division, conflict, and societal breakdown. Political polarization, for instance, frequently stems from differing moral frameworks, making it challenging for individuals to find common ground in discussions about public policy and social issues.

In contemporary society, the relevance of morality and values has become increasingly pronounced as globalization and technological advancements create new ethical dilemmas. The rise of social media has transformed communication and interaction, raising important questions about privacy, consent, and the impact of online behavior on real-world relationships. Additionally, pressing global issues such as climate change, inequality, and human rights violations necessitate a reevaluation of moral values at both individual and societal levels. As people from diverse backgrounds engage with one another, there is an opportunity to develop a more nuanced understanding of morality that incorporates multiple perspectives, fostering empathy and respect in an interconnected world.

Ethical theories offer valuable frameworks for understanding the complexities of morality and values. Different philosophical approaches provide distinct perspectives on what constitutes ethical behavior. For instance, consequentialism evaluates actions based on their outcomes, suggesting that the morality of an action is determined by its ability to maximize overall good or minimize harm. Conversely, deontological ethics emphasizes the importance of duty and rules, arguing that certain actions are inherently right or wrong regardless of their conse-

quences. Meanwhile, virtue ethics focuses on the character of the moral agent, asserting that cultivating virtuous traits leads to ethical behavior. These theories illustrate the diverse ways in which morality can be understood and applied to real-world situations, highlighting the richness of moral philosophy. In addition to theoretical perspectives, contemporary discussions around morality often intersect with social justice and human rights. Movements advocating for equality—such as the civil rights movement, feminism, and LGBTQ+ rights—challenge traditional moral frameworks and call for a reevaluation of societal values. These movements underscore the importance of recognizing the dignity and rights of all individuals, emphasizing that morality must adapt to address injustices and promote inclusivity. By questioning established norms and advocating for change, these movements contribute to the evolution of moral values, prompting societies to reflect on their ethical principles and practices.

Education plays a crucial role in shaping morality and values, providing individuals with the tools to navigate ethical dilemmas and engage in moral reasoning. Through both formal and informal educational experiences, individuals encounter diverse perspectives and ethical frameworks. Schools and communities often serve as spaces for discussions about moral dilemmas, encouraging critical thinking and empathy. By engaging with different viewpoints and fostering open dialogue, individuals can develop a deeper understanding of morality and the values that underpin ethical behavior. This educational approach empowers individuals to navigate complex moral landscapes, make informed decisions based on their beliefs and values, and contribute positively to society.

The relationship between morality and values is further illuminated by the field of moral psychology, which examines how individuals process moral decisions. Cognitive biases, emotional responses, and social influences all play a role in shaping moral judgments. Research in moral psychology has shown that individuals often rely on intuitive feelings rather than rational deliberation when making moral decisions. This understanding of human behavior emphasizes the need to consider psychological factors when discussing morality and values, as they can significantly impact how individuals navigate ethical dilemmas.

As society continues to evolve, the relationship between morality and values remains a dynamic interplay. The challenges posed by globalization, technological advancements, and social justice movements necessitate ongoing reflection and dialogue about what constitutes ethical behavior and the values that underpin it. By fostering an understanding of morality that encompasses diverse perspectives, individuals can contribute to a more just and equitable society, one that recognizes the complexity of human experiences and the need for compassion.

Morality and values are fundamental aspects of human existence that shape indi-

vidual behavior, societal norms, and cultural practices. Morality refers to the principles of right and wrong that guide ethical behavior; while values encompass the beliefs and ideals individuals hold as important. Together, they influence how people interact with one another and form their identities. Understanding the origins, theories, and contemporary implications of morality and values is essential for navigating the ethical dilemmas of today's world. By engaging in thoughtful discussions and embracing diverse perspectives, individuals can contribute to the ongoing evolution of moral frameworks, ultimately fostering a more compassionate and just world.

As we reflect on the role of morality and values, it is essential to consider their impact on global issues, such as climate change and social inequality. The urgent need for collective action in addressing these challenges calls for a reexamination of our moral priorities. We must ask ourselves how our values shape our responses to these pressing issues and what ethical obligations we have to future generations. In doing so, we not only affirm our commitment to justice and equity but also recognize the interconnectedness of our moral responsibilities in an increasingly globalized world. The evolution of morality and values in the modern age invites us to consider the complexities of navigating diverse cultural perspectives. The challenge of moral relativism, which posits that moral truths are subjective and vary by culture, calls for a delicate balance between respecting cultural differences and upholding universal human rights. This discourse emphasizes the need for dialogue and mutual understanding in addressing moral conflicts that arise in a multicultural society.

Ultimately, the journey toward understanding morality and values is an ongoing process that demands reflection, dialogue, and growth. It is crucial to recognize that our moral beliefs are shaped by our experiences, interactions, and the cultures in which we live. As we confront the challenges of our time, fostering empathy, open-mindedness, and a commitment to social justice will be essential in shaping a moral framework that promotes the well-being of all individuals.

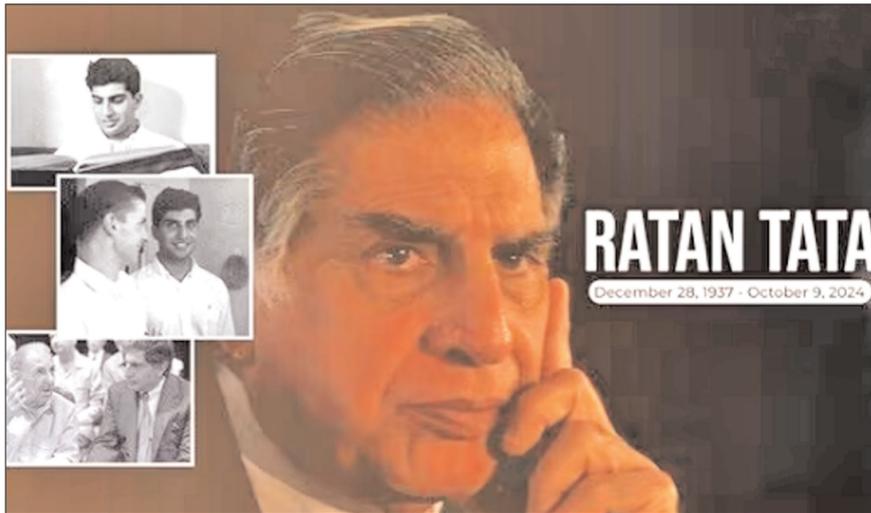
It can be said at the end that, morality and values are vital aspects of human existence that shape our behavior and relationships. By examining the origins, theories, and contemporary implications of morality and values, we can better understand their significance in guiding our actions and decisions. As we navigate an increasingly complex world, our ability to engage with diverse perspectives and uphold our moral obligations will determine the future of our societies and the quality of life for generations to come. The conversation surrounding morality and values is far from static; it is a living dialogue that evolves alongside humanity itself, reflecting our collective aspirations for a just and equitable world.

(The Writer is Editor in Chief of the Assamese E-Magazine SAMPROTIK).

## A Tribute to Lt. Rattan Tata Business giant, Tycoon &amp; Philanthropist

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The passing away of Rattan Tata, the great industrial leader and philanthropist is an irreparable loss to Indian economy, society and the country at large. His death has created a big void which is difficult to fill. Rattan Tata will be remembered for his valuable and outstanding contributions to India's economic and social development. He was the tallest leader of corporate social responsibility and had given much importance to business's responsibility towards society. Rattan Tata was a doyen of industry and a tall philanthropist and his towering socio-economic contribution and honesty and integrity will continue to inspire Indian industrialists and economic leaders. He was in fact an institution in himself and his death is a very big loss to the country and with his death an era has come to end. Rattan Tata has played commendable role in transforming Indian economy and society. Rattan Tata was the son of Naval Tata, who was adopted by Raranji Tata, son of Jamshedji Tata, the founder of the Tata Group. He graduated from Cornell University collage of Architecture with a bachelor's degree in architecture. He joined the Tata Group in 1961 starting on the shop floor of Tata Steel. He was born on 28 December 1937 in Bombay, British India - present day Mumbai & passed away on October 9, 2024 at the age of 86 years after a brief illness at Mumbai. His death is mourned by the industrial circles, political leaders, the government and the society at large. He was an Indian businessman who became chairman -1991-2012 & 2016-17 of the Tata Group, a Mumbai-based conglomerate. He was widely admired not only for his stewardship of the one of the country's largest conglomerates but also for his personal ethics and philanthropic activities. Tata was regarded as a visionary leader, and his legacy is one of compassion and innovation that transcends the confines of the corporate realm to impact millions of



ordinary lives. In his life time he received two of India's highest civilian honors - the Padma Vibhushan 2008 & the Padma Bhushan 2000. Rattan Tata was a member of a prominent family of Indian industrialists and philanthropists, credited with pioneering much of country's industrial establishments and practices. His grandfather Jamshedji Tata founded the Tata Group in 1968 - the businesses under this umbrella, including Tata Steel, played a key nation building role when India achieved independence from British rule in 1947. The Tata Group was later expanded by Ratan Tata's uncle J.R.D Tata, who founded prominent subsidiaries such as Tata Consultancy services, Tata Motors, and Tata Salt. Among the pioneering achievements of the Tata Group were the establishment of the iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel {1903, Mumbai}, India's first hotel with electricity, and the founding of Air India -1932 as well as the country's first indigenous cosmetics brand, Lakme-1952. Rattan Tata became chairman of Tata Sons at a crucial period of India's growth story -the liberalization of its economy. His ascent was

impeded by the stiff resistance from existing senior leadership. He consolidated power by implementing a retirement age policy, changing reporting structure, and terminating certain executives. Tata aggressively sought to expand the conglomerate, and increasingly focused on globalizing its businesses. In 2002 the group acquired London-based Tetley Tea for dollar 431.3 million, and in 2004 it purchased the truck-manufacturing operations of south Korea's Daewoo Motor's for dollar 102 million. Tata Steel completed the biggest corporate takeover by an Indian company when it acquired the giant Anglo-Dutch Steel manufacturer Corus for dollar 11.3 billion in 2007. The following year Tata oversaw Tata Motor's purchase of the elite British car brands Jaguar and Land Rover from the Ford Motor company. The dollar 2.3 billion deal marked the largest-ever acquisition by an Indian automotive firm. In December 2012 Tata retired as Chairman of the Tata Group. He briefly served as interim chairman beginning in October 2016 following the ouster of his successor, Cyrus Mistry. Tata returned to retirement in January 2017 when

Natarajan Chandrasekaran was appointed chairman of the Tata Group. Rattan Tata left a legacy of Philanthropy. Tata belonged to the Indian community known as the Parsis, followers of the Zoroastrian faith and well known for their public service work. He was greatly admired for his philanthropic interests, which included supporting research and improvement in the field of education, medicine, and rural development. He established and enhanced hospitals and research centers that helped advance cancer care. He was also committed to reducing social and economic inequality. In 2004 the Tata Group announced plans to build India's first indigenous semiconductor manufacturing facility in the state of Assam, which generated employment for more than 25,000 local residents. Donations by the Tata Group and the related philanthropic collective called Tata Trusts have led to the establishment of a variety of institutions and scholarships in U.S. Universities. These include a biological and physical sciences research facility at the University of California, San Diego, and an executive center at Harvard Business School - both are named Tata Hall. An endowment to

Cornell University provides financial aid to students from India. A donation from Tata Consultancy Services to Carnegie Mellon University funds research into cognitive systems and autonomous vehicles. The Tata Center of Technology and Design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology works on providing solutions to challenges faced by communities that have limited access to electricity, low income, and poor literacy. Tata was known for his love of animal, dogs in particular. Tata advocated for animal welfare all his life. During his life, Tata invested in over 30 start-ups, primarily in a personal capacity, with some through his investment company. Rattan Tata was a supporter of education, medicine and rural development and considered a leading philanthropist in India. Tata supported University of New South Wales Faculty of Engineering to develop capacitive deionization to provide improved water for challenged areas. In short Rattan N Tata was among India's respected and loved industrialists, who took Tata Group to new heights and touched the fabric of the nation through his contributions across different areas including philanthropy. One of the most internationally well-known Indian business leaders, Rattan Tata was known for his humility and compassion while also his vision, business acumen, integrity and ethical leadership. The passing of Rattan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, has left significant leadership gap at Tata Trusts. In fact his passing left Indian economy and philanthropy orphaned. It will take many years to fill the void created by his death. It is no exaggeration to say that Rattan Tata was a half business magnate and half saint. May God send many such industrial and social giants so that India will continue its economic and social development. Rattan Tata's philosophy will continue to inspire the corporate world as well as society. May his soul rest in peace.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

## Hand Washing: A Powerful Means Of Disease Prevention

■ ER. PRABHAT KISHORE

World Handwashing Day is a global day to promote hand washing with soap as an easy, effective, and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. Since 2008, this day is celebrated every year on October 15 all over the world and people are motivated to wash their hands with soap and running water on various occasions.

Hand washing or Hand hygiene is the important act of cleaning hands with soap and running water and drying them afterwards. For Indians it is essential, as we have culture of eating food with our natural hands. Hands are a convenient transportation system for germs, as they can easily enter the human body through dirty hands and cause various diseases. Therefore, it is important to wash hands with soap and water after defecation, after touching kid's stool, before eating and after touching any infected surfaces. This can significantly reduce the risk of serious and fatal diseases such as tooth decay and pneumonia.

Hand washing with soap is an easy, effective, and do-it-yourself behaviour that prevents infections and saves lives. Everyone can protect themselves, their families, and their communities by completing the six steps of hand washing with soap. The six steps are - (1) Wet hands with clean running water, (2) Apply soap and lather well, rubbing the hands together for at least 20 seconds, (3) Scrub all surfaces including the back of the hands, wrists, between the fingers and under the fingernails, (4) Rinse well, (5) Turn off the faucets using the elbow or a paper towel, (6) Dry hands using a towel or handkerchief, as it is easier for germs to spread on wet hands than dry ones.

Diarrhea is also a common disease in young children, which can be prevented to a large extent by simply washing hands with soap and water. Washing hands with soap at regular intervals is also recommended to prevent the spread of the virus. Regularly washing hands with soap and water helps prevent influenza and other infections, COVID-19.

Hand washing with soap and water can reduce diarrhea by 30 percent and acute respiratory infections by 20 percent. This process plays a vital role in reducing the transmission of pathogens associated with outbreaks such as Cholera, Ebola, Shigellosis, SARS, Hepatitis-A & E and COVID-19. Hand hygiene can also contribute to reducing neglected tropical diseases.

Hand washing habits have been linked to disease prevention as well as other benefits. Low rates of school absenteeism and recently encouraging older children to wash their hands regularly at school have helped the non-closure of the schools. The practice of regular handwashing with soap and running water is considered as a contributing factor to the well-being, dignity, educational fulfillment, and productivity of the common man.

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