Child Rights and Media

Identity, Dignity and Responsible Reporting

UPSC General Studies IV • Reviewed: 11 October 2026



Symbolic illustration; not a reconstruction of a reported event.

01 Gist of the Issue

A child involved in a justice process remains a person with dignity, an evolving identity and a future. The central ethical question is how journalism can inform the public about an alleged offence and the justice system without making a child permanently identifiable or treating an allegation as the child's defining characteristic.

At the national consultation on ten years of the Juvenile Justice Act, inaugurated on 10 October 2026, Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant was reported as distinguishing a child's circumstance of conflict with law from the child's identity. The Supreme Court's official release confirms the consultation on 10-11 October, organised by its Juvenile Justice Committee with UNICEF. These were consultation remarks, not a judgment, a case hearing or a new binding order. The reported wording is attributed to news coverage; an official transcript has not been used here. [1-2]

What is established and what requires care

The public has a legitimate interest in crime, victims' experiences, public safety and institutional accountability. That interest often can be served through a verified, anonymised account. A name, school, face, address or combination of local details may expose a child while adding little to understanding the public issue.

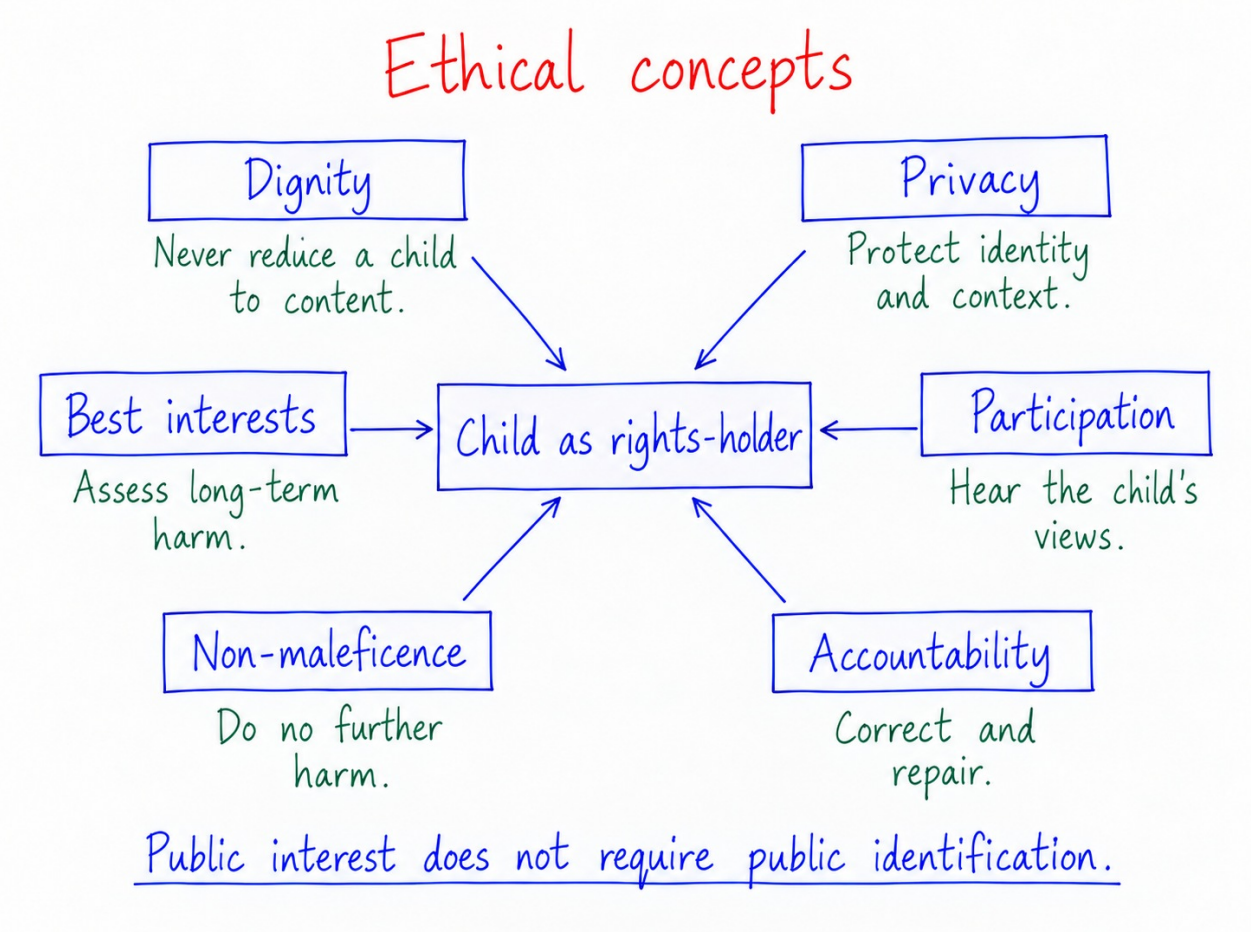
Digital circulation can make identification hard to reverse and can hinder schooling, relationships and rehabilitation. Harm is a serious foreseeable risk, not an inevitable claim that every identified child's future is destroyed. Similarly, this lesson does not assume that all children accused of offences have experienced poverty, neglect or abuse, or assert an enforcement failure rate without evidence.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 already contains an identity-protection rule. Its precise scope and limited exception matter. The ethics lesson is therefore about both legal compliance and the judgment needed to prevent avoidable harm. The fictional newsroom case below applies the principles; it is not an account of a real child or court proceeding. [3]

Anchor concepts

Human dignity asks whether we see the whole person. Rehabilitation asks whether our response allows constructive change. Compassion towards the vulnerable asks what protection and support are needed without denying agency, excusing wrongdoing or ignoring the victim.

02 Ethical Concepts and Keywords

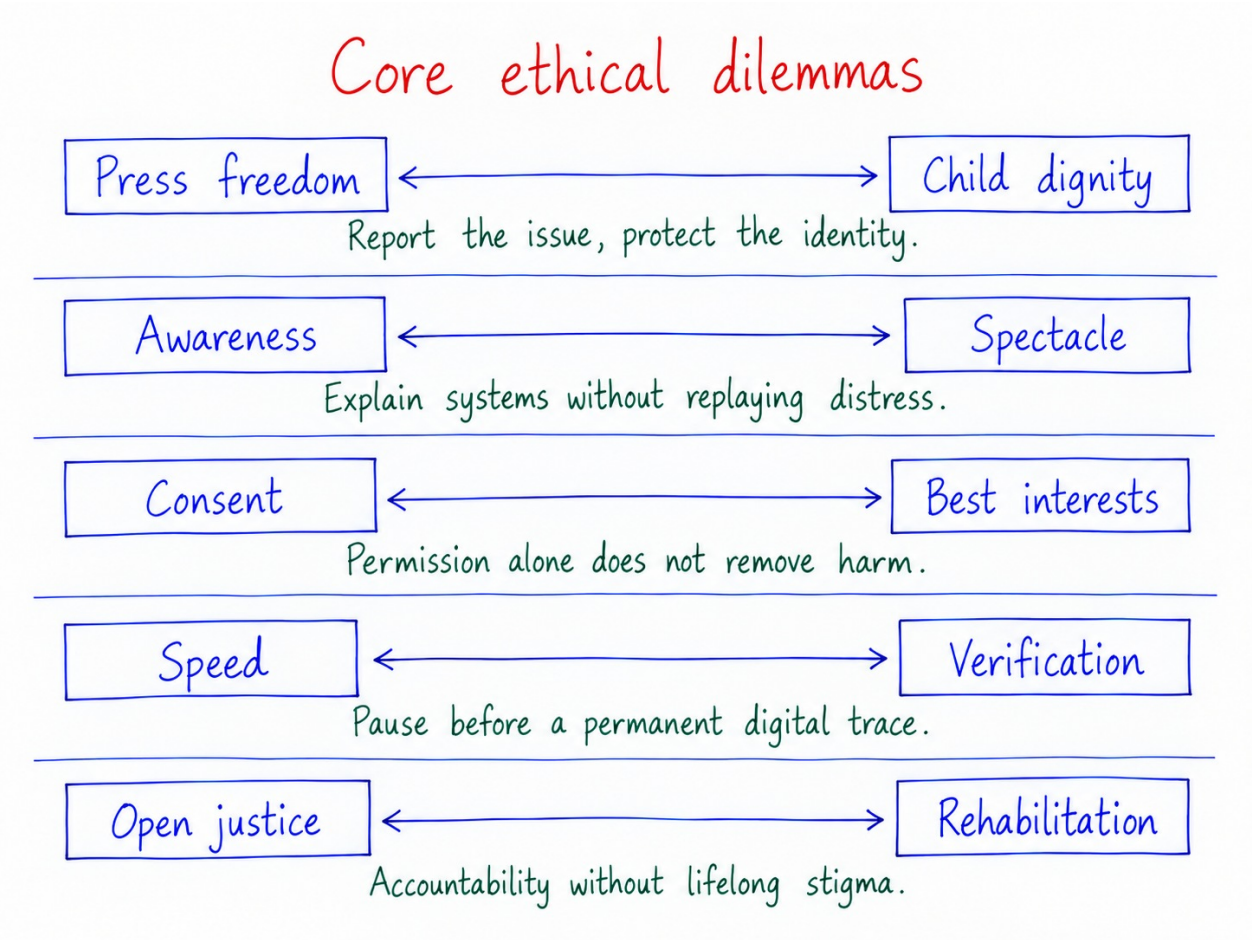


Ethical Concepts and Keywords • Handwritten revision aid

Value or concept	Application to child-sensitive reporting
Human dignity	A child's worth is not exhausted by an allegation or a finding of wrongdoing. Language and images should avoid humiliation and dehumanisation.
Rehabilitation and accountability	A fair justice process can address harm while supporting reintegration. Public shaming is a separate burden and need not advance accountability.
Stigma and social identity	A searchable label can overshadow later conduct. Avoid turning one episode into an apparently permanent social identity.
Privacy and contextual integrity	A photograph on a personal social-media page is not an ethical invitation to recirculate it as crime coverage. Context changes the risk.
Compassion towards the vulnerable	Consider age, maturity, support needs and power imbalances. Compassion requires practical safeguards, not assumptions about the child's background.
Media responsibility	Verify claims, preserve the presumption of innocence and distinguish public interest from audience curiosity or commercial appeal.
Rule of law	Check the applicable legal restriction and the authority competent to allow an exception. An editor's preference or a parent's permission is not a substitute.
Restorative justice	Ask how the response can repair harm and support responsible participation in society, while respecting the victim's needs and lawful process.
Best interests and participation	Assess foreseeable effects on safety, education and development. Hear the child appropriately without pressuring the child to perform for an audience.
Non-maleficence and accountability	Do not compound harm through reporting. If disclosure occurs, correct the publication, limit further spread and follow through on remedial action.

Application tip: do not merely list these values in an answer. Connect each value to a fact, identify the decision it changes, and explain the safeguard it requires. For example, privacy changes the treatment of the school name, not just the wording of the conclusion.

03 Core Ethical Dilemmas



Core Ethical Dilemmas • Handwritten revision aid

Dignity and transparency

Reporting an alleged violent incident can alert the public and scrutinise official action. Identifying a child may add exposure rather than accountability. The editor should ask what the audience needs to know about the event, which details are necessary, and whether a less intrusive account serves the same purpose. Anonymisation must cover indirect clues as well as the name.

Press freedom and child protection

A free press has a watchdog role, including exposing failures within child-protection institutions. A child-sensitive approach should preserve that scrutiny while respecting legal identity safeguards. The answer is not a blanket silence about juvenile justice; it is accurate reporting designed around the child's vulnerability and the legitimate information need.

Individual reform and claimed deterrence

Some may argue that publicity deters wrongdoing. That assertion needs evidence, and an alleged deterrent benefit does not by itself justify unlawful exposure. A child's identity should not become an instrument for frightening others. Public safety can be discussed through patterns, prevention measures and the response of competent authorities.

Legal duty and commercial pressure

Newsrooms may reward speed, dramatic images and traffic. A sub-editor's job security can conflict with a duty to prevent harmful disclosure. Ethical courage is more credible when paired with an implementable alternative: hold the identifying version, prepare an anonymised report, record the concern and escalate through proper channels.

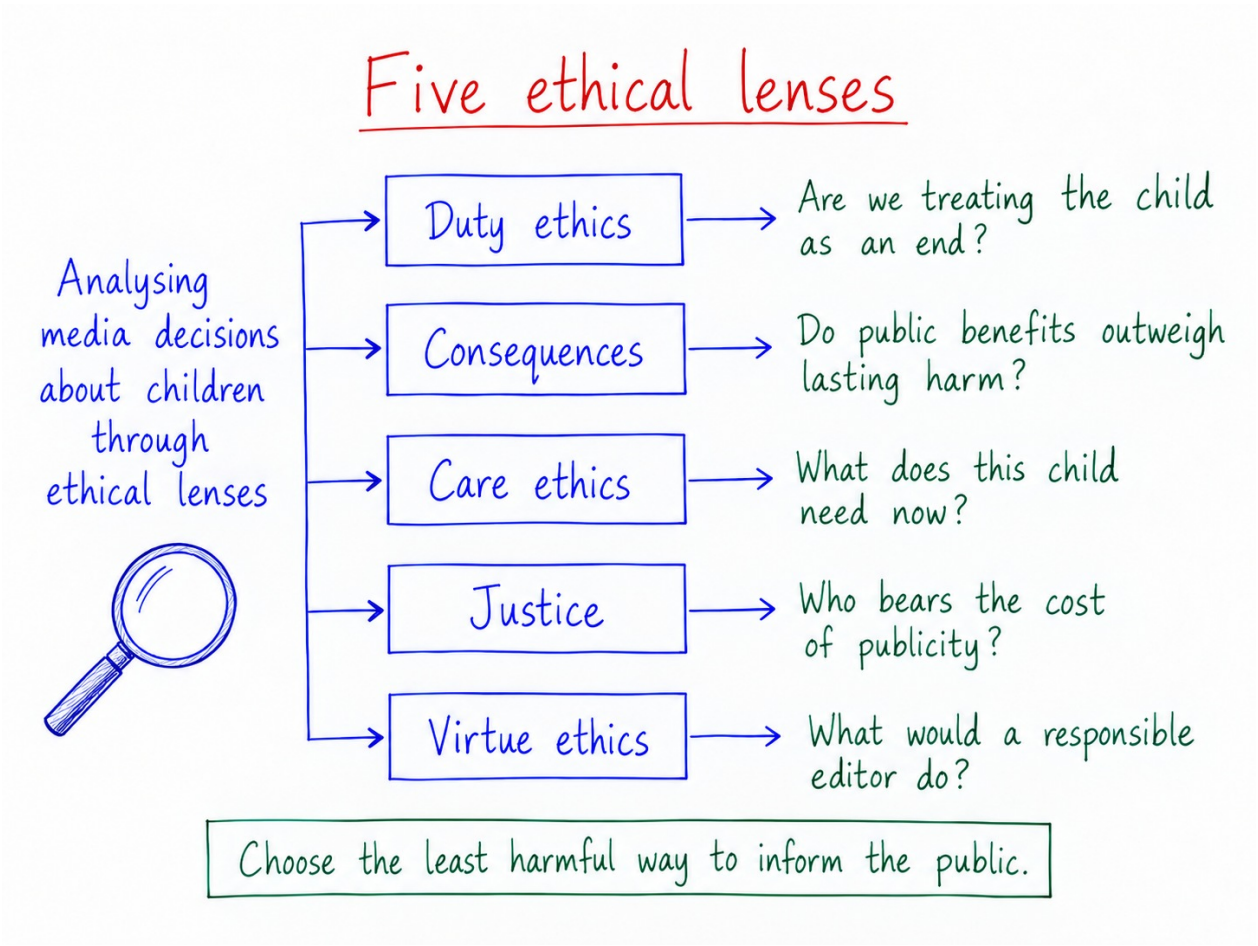
Circumstance and identity

The phrase "child in conflict with law" describes a legal situation that includes allegations. It does not licence the headline "criminal child." Even where wrongdoing is established, accountability should address conduct while leaving room for growth. A label may influence how teachers, peers and employers respond long after the immediate event.

Consent and best interests

A child or parent may agree to an interview under distress, pressure or incomplete understanding of digital circulation. Their views deserve respect, but permission alone does not settle the legal or ethical question. Journalists must separately consider identity restrictions, foreseeable harm and alternatives that preserve the substance of the story.

04 Multi-Framework Analysis



Multi-Framework Analysis • Handwritten revision aid

Rights-based and duty ethics

Dignity and privacy are not rewards for good conduct. A rights-based editor begins with the child's protected interests and the limits on disclosure, rather than first asking whether identification would attract readers. Kant's humanity formulation offers a useful ethical application: do not use a child merely as a means to traffic or sensational impact. This is a reason for restraint, not a claim that a modern reporting rule was written by Kant.

Rights reasoning must also be legally precise. The existence of a narrowly authorised disclosure exception does not make protection optional; it means the competent body must apply the prescribed best-interests test. An editor cannot create an exception by declaring a story newsworthy. A responsible answer identifies both the protection and who is empowered to assess an exception.

Care ethics

Nel Noddings and the wider care tradition direct attention to relationships, dependence and responsiveness. In this case, ask what the individual child needs from adults, institutions and the press. Is the child safe? Is support available? Could the report trigger harassment or exclusion? These questions must be investigated rather than answered with a stereotype about poverty or family failure.

Care also extends to the victim and to the staff member facing pressure. A sensitive report can acknowledge the victim's fear and the seriousness of the allegation without identifying the child. The newsroom should offer Meera a safe route to raise concerns so that child protection does not depend entirely on one employee's willingness to risk dismissal.

Virtue ethics and practical wisdom

Aristotle's idea of practical wisdom helps explain the difference between merely following a checklist and exercising sound judgment. A responsible editor combines honesty, restraint, courage and fairness. The right response is neither sensational exposure nor evasive suppression of a legitimate story. It is careful reporting that fits the facts, protects vulnerable people and withstands professional scrutiny.

Consequences and proportionality

Compare feasible options, not an unrealistic choice between naming the child and reporting nothing. An anonymised story can retain information about the allegation, the victim's experience and the justice process while reducing exposure. Consider the probability, severity, duration and distribution of harm. A short-lived traffic gain is a weak justification for a potentially enduring burden on a child.

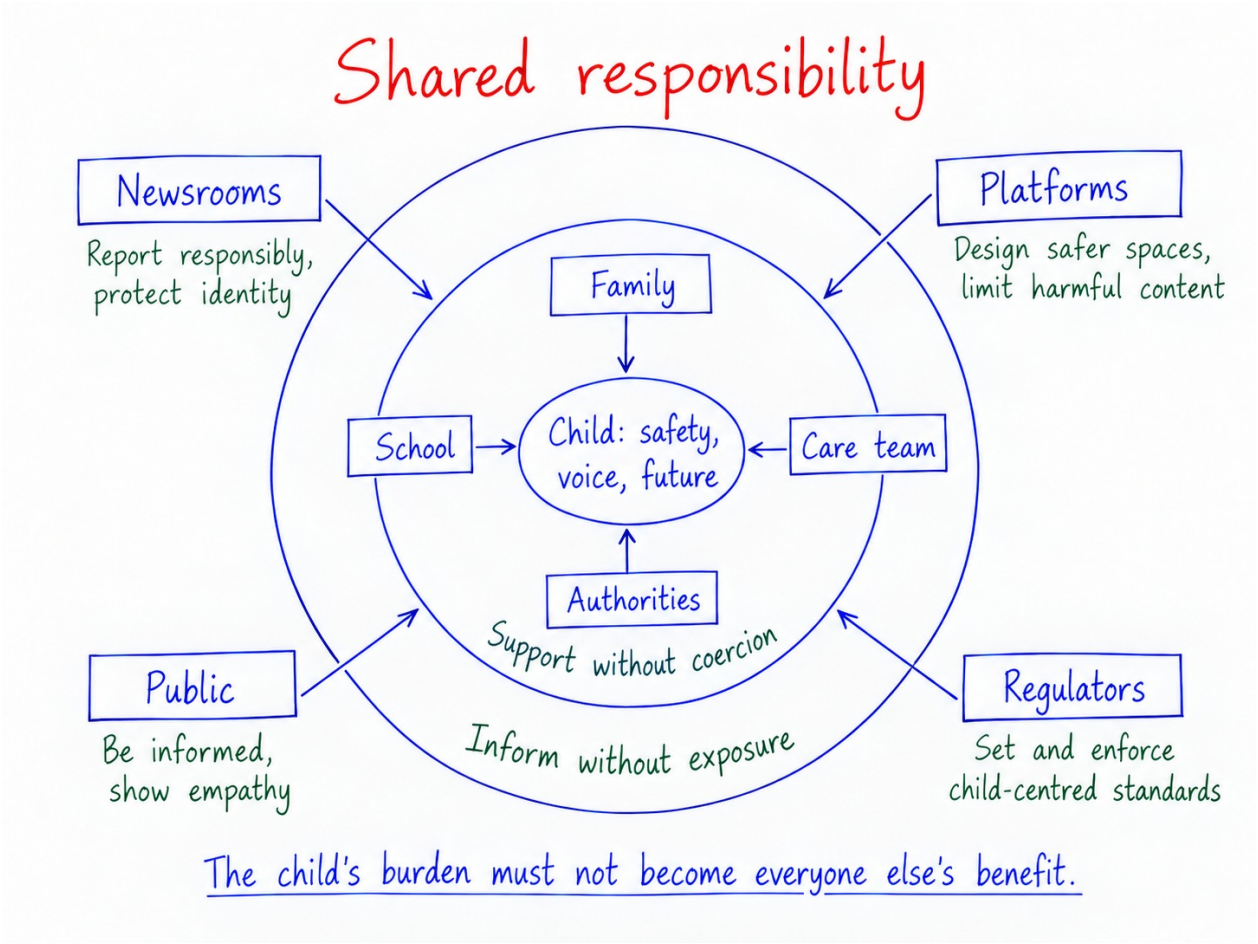
Justice and the perspective of those affected

Rawls's veil of ignorance invites us to evaluate a reporting rule without knowing whether we will be the accused child, the victim, a parent, an editor or a member of the public. That perspective supports fair procedures, meaningful accountability and protection from disproportionate stigma. It does not require assuming that every reasonable person would choose an identical policy.

A combined ethical judgment

The frameworks converge on an anonymised, verified report and a documented refusal to publish unnecessary identifiers. They do so for different reasons: respect for persons, prevention of harm, attention to vulnerability, professional character and fairness. A strong answer explains these reasons and then names the practical action they support.

05 Stakeholder Analysis



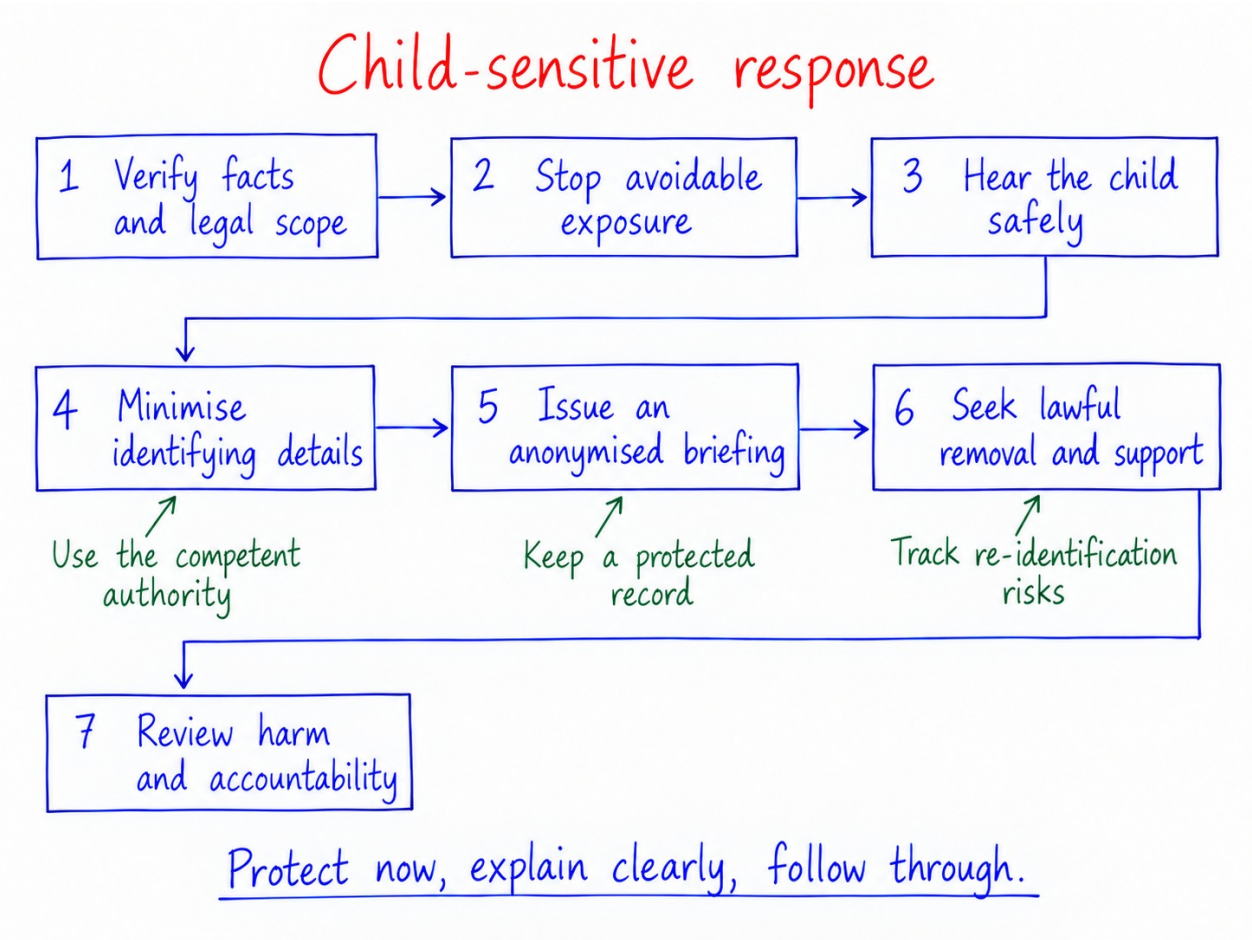
Stakeholder Analysis • Handwritten revision aid

Stakeholder	Interest or concern	Responsibility or appropriate response
Child involved in the case	Safety, dignity, a fair process, education and future reintegration	Primary rights-holder. Participation should be age-appropriate; protection is not conditional on a child proving deservingness.
Parents or caregivers	The child's welfare, privacy and continued support	Support lawful participation and rehabilitation; avoid pressure, concealment of evidence or public retaliation.
Victim of the alleged offence	Safety, being heard, support and lawful accountability	The system and media should respect these interests without requiring public identification of the child.

Stakeholder	Interest or concern	Responsibility or appropriate response
Reporter, sub-editor and owner	Accurate reporting, audience trust, livelihood and commercial viability	Verify the account, minimise exposure and maintain an escalation process that protects conscientious staff.
Juvenile Justice Board and child-protection services	Fair inquiry, rights protection, legal aid and care planning	Exercise their actual statutory functions; coordinate support and use competent legal channels for remedies.
Courts and other competent authorities	Enforcement, due process and effective remedies	Apply relevant law and jurisdiction. A media-ethics breach is not automatically contempt of court.
Internet platforms and search services	Content hosting, user safety, compliance and redress	Operate effective complaint and review routes; act on applicable lawful requests and orders, with safeguards.
School, peers and community	Safe learning and social reintegration	Prevent harassment and unnecessary sharing; avoid treating an allegation as a settled identity.
Regulators, civil society and the public	Responsible journalism, public information and accountability	Use the appropriate complaint route, avoid amplifying identifiers, and assess institutions as well as individual conduct.

Stakeholder analysis should not turn the victim into an opponent of the child or place the duty of protection on the child alone. The most powerful actors control publication, circulation and remedy; their greater capacity creates a stronger responsibility to prevent avoidable harm.

06 Administrative and Governance Angle



Administrative and Governance Angle • Handwritten revision aid

The legal baseline as of 11 October 2026

Section 74 of the JJ Act covers reports about inquiries, investigations or judicial procedures involving a child in conflict with law, a child in need of care and protection, or a child victim or witness. It restricts names, addresses, schools, pictures and other identifying particulars. The Board or Committee holding the inquiry may permit disclosure for recorded reasons when it considers disclosure in the child's best interests. Contravention by any person can attract up to six months' imprisonment, a fine up to Rs 2 lakh, or both. [3]

The Act also contains privacy, non-stigmatising language and fresh-start principles. Its record-destruction provisions have qualifications and exceptions; they are not a blanket mechanism to erase everything online. Section 8 concerns the Board's functions, including protection and legal aid. It should not be cited as a general internet injunction power. [3]

Distinguish present remedies from proposals

A newsroom should obtain legal advice on the correct authority and remedy. It may alert the Board and the child's legal representative to an exposure risk and use appropriate complaint, platform or court routes. Do not promise that a Board can automatically order every publisher or search engine to remove material, or that a fixed 24-hour removal deadline applies to every case.

The Press Council of India can warn, admonish or censure within its statutory remit concerning the press. It is not the universal regulator of every online portal or platform. A stand-alone online outlet requires careful identification of the applicable mechanism. Government media accreditation under PIB guidelines is distinct from the Press Council's functions and should not be described as a Press Council licence. [4-5]

Contempt also has separate legal requirements. It must not be used as a casual synonym for irresponsible journalism or assumed to follow automatically from an identity disclosure. The relevant facts, proceeding, order, law and competent forum must be examined. [6]

Data protection and digital records

Section 12 of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 provides a conditional route to correction and erasure, subject to its terms and retention exceptions. However, the commencement notification places sections 11-17 in an 18-month tranche from 13 November 2025. Section 12 is therefore not operative on this lesson's review date, 11 October 2026. It is inaccurate to say that the Act contains no erasure provision or that this provision currently guarantees removal of all juvenile material. [7-8]

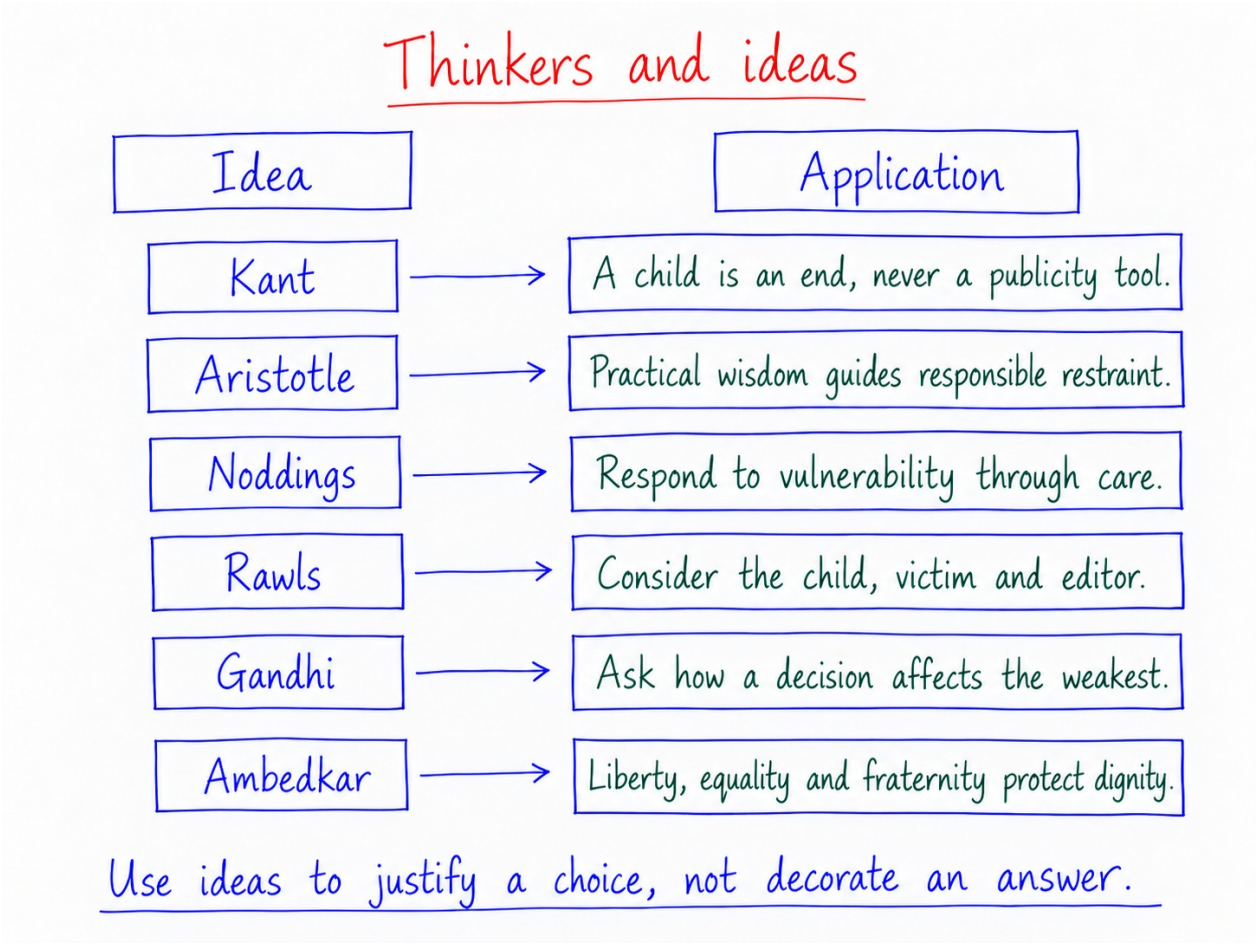
Removal from a publisher, de-indexing by a search service and deletion of official records are different actions. A corrected article may still have cached previews, syndicated copies, screenshots or social posts. Administrators and editors need a lawful, traceable process for requesting corrections and checking residual exposure; they should not promise complete deletion from the internet.

Practical governance reforms

Reform	How to implement it
Pre-publication identity check	Flag child-related stories, verify age and legal context, and examine the headline, photograph, caption, URL, metadata and indirect identifiers before release.
Protected escalation	Name a senior editorial or legal contact, record decisions and prevent retaliation against staff who raise a good-faith concern. A mandatory officer for every outlet would be a policy proposal.
Rapid correction process	Maintain an accessible complaint route; promptly assess credible alerts, restrict further sharing where appropriate, correct the source and contact syndication partners.
Child-friendly administration	Use confidential records, controlled access, appropriate participation and coordinated legal and welfare support. Preserve evidence needed for lawful proceedings.
Training and review	Use worked examples in journalism education and newsroom induction. Audit failures and teach staff how combinations of innocuous details can identify a child.
Evidence before stronger sanctions	Assess complaints, outcomes and enforcement data before claiming impunity or proposing higher penalties. Evaluate effectiveness, proportionality and press-freedom safeguards.
Clear platform procedures	Develop child-sensitive reporting channels with verified requests, reasoned decisions and review. Universal automatic de-indexing within 24 hours is a proposal here, not an established general rule.

Measure success through reduced harmful exposure, timely corrections, continued schooling and access to support. Counting takedown notices alone may reward activity without showing whether the child's position actually improved.

07 Thinkers and Ideas



Thinkers and Ideas • Handwritten revision aid

The following are applications of philosophical ideas to a contemporary case. Except where expressly marked, they are paraphrases rather than quotations, and they should not be presented as policy prescriptions made by the thinkers themselves.

Thinker	Relevant idea	Application and caution
Immanuel Kant	Treat persons as ends, not merely as means	A child should not become a tool for traffic. The humanity formulation is a clearer argument here than asserting that all naming makes rehabilitation logically impossible.
Aristotle	Practical wisdom and character	An editor combines honesty, courage, restraint and justice when selecting details. This is an application of virtue ethics to journalism.

Thinker	Relevant idea	Application and caution
Nel Noddings	Care and responsiveness to vulnerability	Attend to the child's concrete needs and relationships while also recognising the victim's suffering; do not presume a particular family history.
John Rawls	Fair terms chosen without knowing one's social position	Consider the child, victim, family, editor and public. Protect fair opportunity and accountability without pretending the thought experiment determines one exact rule.
Mahatma Gandhi	The talisman asks how a contemplated step affects the poorest and weakest	Use the question as a check on who bears the burden of publicity. This is safer than repeating an uncertain "measure of society" quotation. [9]
Dr B R Ambedkar	Liberty, equality and fraternity as foundations of a just social order	Apply these commitments to equal dignity, inclusion and enforceable safeguards. This is an authorial application, not an equation between juvenile reporting and the history of caste oppression. [10]

Exam use: select one or two ideas that advance your reasoning. Explain why the idea changes the choice. A long list of names without an operational consequence adds little analytical value.

08 Adapted Case Study

Fictional teaching case. All people, the portal and the incident in this scenario are invented. "Arjun" is a fictional name, not a changed name drawn from a Board record. The child is accused; guilt is not established in the scenario.

Meera Pillai is a senior sub-editor at a widely read regional online news portal. A Juvenile Justice Board has just held a hearing involving a 15-year-old boy, called Arjun in this fictional case, who is accused of snatching a woman's mobile phone at knifepoint. A junior reporter files a story containing the child's identifying name, school and a photograph obtained from a social-media profile. The reporter argues that the weapon allegation makes identification necessary for public safety.

The editor-in-chief, under pressure from the owner to increase traffic during a slow news week, provisionally approves the identifying version and asks Meera to clean up the copy and publish it. The facts provide no disclosure permission from the competent Board or Committee. Meera knows that the story concerns a child in a justice process and that publishing these details raises a serious legal and ethical problem.

She is concerned about the victim's experience, the public's right to a verified account, and the child's dignity and rehabilitation. Online repetition may make exposure hard to undo. Challenging her editor could threaten her livelihood, while competing portals may publish identifying details regardless of what she does. She must decide what to do before this portal's story goes live.

(a) What ethical dilemmas does Meera face? (b) What options are available, and what are their merits and limitations? (c) Which course should she adopt, and why? (d) What newsroom and governance measures would reduce similar risks?

Practice instruction: attempt a 250-word response under timed conditions. Section 9 provides an expanded teaching discussion; Section 10 gives a separate concise model. The expanded discussion is intentionally longer than an exam-length answer.

09 Expanded Model Discussion

Introduction

Meera's responsibility is to preserve a legitimate news report while preventing avoidable identification of a child. She should take the allegation and the victim's interests seriously, retain the presumption of innocence, and act within her professional role. The central choice is how to report responsibly under pressure, not whether the victim or child is more deserving of dignity.

(a) Ethical dilemmas

Legality and institutional loyalty: a superior is asking her to facilitate identifying publication without any stated lawful permission. Loyalty to an employer cannot settle a question of legal compliance. Professional responsibility includes helping the organisation recognise and correct a risky decision, rather than treating obedience as an ethical defence.

Dignity and commercial interest: the child's identity, school and photograph might increase clicks, but they are not shown to be necessary to explain the alleged incident. Exposure can impose lasting social costs on a person with limited control over the story. Treating the photograph as an engagement device risks using the child merely as a means.

Moral courage and job security: Meera's livelihood is a genuine concern. An answer should not glorify an immediate resignation that leaves the harmful story untouched. Courage can take a practical form: hold the unsafe version, propose a lawful alternative, document the concern and use available review channels before considering further steps.

Accountability and compassion: the allegation is serious, and the victim deserves to be heard. Compassion for the child does not require denying the alleged harm or predicting innocence. It requires avoiding an unnecessary extra burden of public stigma while the competent process determines responsibility.

Individual agency and the futility argument: rivals may behave irresponsibly, but their possible actions do not justify this portal's participation. Meera can reduce one source of exposure and help establish a better newsroom standard. She cannot promise to prevent every future disclosure, but she remains responsible for the decision within her control.

(b) Options and their evaluation

Option	Merits	Limitations or risks
Publish the identifying copy as directed	Avoids immediate conflict and meets the owner's traffic objective	Exposes the child without a stated lawful basis, creates foreseeable harm, and risks personal and organisational responsibility. Reject it.
Prepare and propose an anonymised version	Preserves the public-interest story and can prevent the portal's immediate contribution to identification	Requires a full indirect-identifier check and appropriate editorial authority; another editor could restore details.
Hold the unsafe version and escalate internally	Creates an opportunity for legal review and a documented institutional decision	Can attract workplace pressure and may fail if senior management refuses to engage.
Decline participation and use competent external channels if needed	Can secure protection or review when internal correction fails	Requires careful selection of authority, proportionate disclosure, legal advice and protection against further spreading the child's identity.

These options need not be isolated choices. A sensible sequence combines an immediate hold and anonymised alternative with internal escalation, followed by a proportionate external response if publication remains imminent or occurs. Simply stripping the name is insufficient if the school, photograph or local details identify the child.

(c) Preferred course and justification

First, Meera should pause the identifying version within her authority and tell the editor clearly what requires review. She should not knowingly facilitate unlawful publication. She can prepare an anonymised version at once so that the newsroom can still report promptly once the necessary checks and editorial approval are complete.

Second, she should remove the name, school, photograph, profile link and any combination of identifying details. This includes the headline, URL slug, image caption, thumbnail, social copy and embedded metadata. She should ensure that the remaining narrative does not identify the child indirectly through a small locality or distinctive family detail.

Third, she should record a concise written objection and ask for review by the editor-in-chief and legal counsel. The record should explain the child-related risk, the relevant prohibition and the publishable alternative. It should use a restricted channel and minimise identifiers. Documentation supports accountability; it is not a device that automatically eliminates her legal responsibility.

Fourth, the revised story should accurately describe an allegation, distinguish verified facts from claims and give the victim's experience appropriate weight without sensationalism. Where information is incomplete, acknowledge that limitation. Do not describe Arjun as a convicted offender or use an image from social media on the assumption that public availability removes protection.

Fifth, if management insists on the unsafe version, Meera should decline to facilitate it and seek urgent legal guidance on the appropriate external route. Depending on the circumstances, this can include alerting the Board, the child's legal representative or relevant child-protection authorities, and seeking relief through a competent forum. A stand-alone web portal is not automatically within every Press Council remedy.

If publication has already occurred, the priority becomes harm reduction: seek correction at the source, stop promotional resharing, contact relevant platforms or syndication partners through applicable procedures, and preserve a secure record needed for lawful review. A public correction must not repeat the identifiers. Support for the child and victim should continue beyond the news cycle.

This sequence respects the child as a person, retains the public value of reporting, gives the organisation a fair chance to correct itself and recognises Meera's professional constraints. Kantian respect, care ethics and practical wisdom each support it. Neither commercial urgency nor rival misconduct supplies a sufficient reason to publish the identifying version.

(d) Policy and institutional measures

News organisations should adopt a written child-sensitive reporting policy, mandatory pre-publication checks and a protected escalation route. Legal and editorial staff should train reporters to recognise indirect identification, image risks and allegation language. Templates can make the safer action easier during a deadline, but staff must still exercise judgment.

A named senior reviewer or ombudsperson can own child-related complaints and corrections. Making a Child Rights Compliance Officer compulsory across specified categories of outlets would require an appropriate policy design; it is presented here as a

proposal. The design should avoid unaffordable burdens on small publishers and preserve independent journalism.

For digital remediation, agencies and platforms should develop clear request routes, verification, response standards and review mechanisms. A universal 24-hour automatic removal rule is not assumed to exist. Any new deadline or sanction should be evidence-based, legally authorised and accompanied by safeguards against misuse to suppress legitimate reporting.

Finally, assess enforcement data before increasing penalties, and distinguish accreditation from the power to publish. Strengthening implementation of existing safeguards, access to legal aid and reintegration support may achieve more than announcing a new punishment. Proposed reform should identify who will implement it, the authority needed and how results will be assessed.

Conclusion

The ethically strongest response is timely, accurate and anonymised reporting backed by documented resistance to harmful disclosure. A justice system can hold conduct accountable without allowing a childhood allegation to become a person's public identity. The newsroom's duty is to inform with care and to repair harm when its safeguards fail.

10 Exam Ready Model Answer

Concise model for a 250-word practice task. The longer discussion above explains the reasoning and alternatives in greater depth.

Meera should preserve the public-interest story while protecting the child's identity and the presumption of innocence. The victim's experience deserves coverage, but identification is not shown to be necessary.

Her dilemmas concern legal duty versus obedience, dignity versus commercial gain, professional courage versus livelihood, and rehabilitation versus sensational publicity. Rivals' misconduct does not cancel her responsibility.

Publishing the identifying version is unacceptable. Silent anonymisation reduces harm but may be reversed. Refusal alone may leave the story unchanged. The strongest approach combines an anonymised alternative with documented escalation.

She should hold the unsafe version within her authority, remove the name, school, photograph and indirect identifiers, and seek editorial and legal review. Checks must include captions, social posts, thumbnails and the URL. The revised account should distinguish allegations from established facts and report the victim's concerns sensitively.

If management insists on identification, she should decline participation and seek advice on competent child-protection, complaint or judicial channels. If disclosure occurs, pursue correction and applicable removal procedures without repeating identifiers. A written objection supports accountability; it is not automatic immunity.

Newsrooms need child-sensitive reporting policies, trained reviewers, protected escalation, accessible complaints and correction audits. Stronger sanctions or fixed removal deadlines should be clearly identified as proposals, supported by evidence and lawful authority.

Kantian respect discourages using the child merely for traffic; care ethics requires attention to vulnerability. Responsible journalism can scrutinise wrongdoing and institutions while preserving dignity, fair process and the possibility of rehabilitation. Public accountability is strengthened when reporting remains accurate and proportionate.

11 Practice Questions and Value Addition

Practice questions from the source lesson

1. What do you understand by "labelling" in the context of social identity? How can attaching a lasting label to a young person conflict with rehabilitation? Answer in 150 words. 10 marks. Syllabus link: essence, determinants and consequences of ethics in human actions.

2. The family and school are the first places where a child learns to distinguish right from wrong. What role can they play in prevention and in supporting reintegration after wrongdoing? Answer in 150 words. 10 marks. Syllabus link: role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

3. How should compassion towards the vulnerable shape the conduct of a district-level official responsible for children in institutional care? Illustrate with examples. Answer in 150 words. 10 marks. Syllabus link: empathy, tolerance and compassion towards weaker sections.

4. Suggest concrete measures through which media organisations can protect vulnerable individuals while preserving legitimate public-interest reporting. Answer in 150 words. 10 marks. Syllabus link: strengthening ethical and moral values in governance.

Answer-writing method

Begin with the ethical issue, connect two or three values to concrete facts, compare feasible choices and identify an implementable course. End with a reasoned balance rather than a slogan. In a case study, state who acts, what happens immediately, how escalation works and what follow-through is needed.

Common errors to avoid

Do not turn consultation remarks into a Supreme Court judgment. Do not describe an accused child as guilty. Do not present the Press Council as a universal internet regulator. Do not claim automatic contempt, a blanket Board injunction power or an already-operative DPDP erasure right. Do not label a long teaching discussion "250 words."

Useful distinctions

Distinction	Why it improves the answer
Public interest and public curiosity	A detail can attract attention without helping readers understand the issue.
Anonymisation and concealment of wrongdoing	One protects identity; the other hides relevant conduct or obstructs accountability.
Child participation and publicity consent	Hearing a child safely is different from obtaining permission to broadcast identifying material.
Correction, de-indexing and record destruction	These address different locations and legal processes; none should be assumed to erase every copy.
Current law and reform proposal	A sound governance answer describes the existing baseline before recommending change.

One-line value addition

Report the conduct and examine the institution; avoid turning a child's circumstance into a permanent public label. This is an original teaching formulation, not an attributed quotation.

12 Sources and Reading

Reviewed on 11 October 2026. Sources below separate the official event record, reported remarks, statutory provisions and analytical applications. The lesson is for ethics education and is not case-specific legal advice. The source DOCX supplies the teaching theme and fictional newsroom scenario; factual and legal overstatements have been corrected.

[1] Supreme Court of India - official consultation announcement, 9 October 2026

[2] LawFinder - reported CJI consultation remarks, 10 October 2026; secondary account, not an official transcript

[3] India Code - Juvenile Justice Act, especially sections 3, 8, 24 and 74

[4] Government of India - Press Council functions and statutory remit

[5] PIB - Central Media Accreditation Guidelines, 2022

[6] Supreme Court of India - judgment dated 13 August 2024, for the separate legal requirements of contempt

[7] MeitY - Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, section 12

[8] MeitY - commencement notification of 13 November 2025; sections 11-17 in the 18-month tranche

[9] Gandhi Research Foundation - Gandhi's talisman and related quotations

[10] Ministry of External Affairs - Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings and Speeches, Volume 1

Philosophical reading: Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals; Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics; Noddings, Caring; Rawls, A Theory of Justice. Their ideas are used as interpretive frameworks; the specific newsroom recommendations are this lesson's applications.