

Indian Express (Magazine) June 4, 1989

**Civil Servants
Or just
Very civil servants**

Sir,

Kudos for your cover story "Civil Servants or just very civil servants?" (Express Magazine, May 14), which deals with the problem in the greatest possible detail and covers practically all its aspects. The civil servant must stand up against immoral and unlawful orders. Even in the Army where discipline is all important, it is obligatory for a subordinate to obey only the lawful commands of his superior.

It may appear paradoxical but a British General (Tukkar) has gone to the extent of justifying disobedience provided this disobedience is not merely for the sake of itself or to further ones own ambition but for the good of all.

Doing the right may entail sacrifice but it has its own rewards too. There cannot be any reward higher than that of gaining self-respect and self-respect is something that cannot be purchased or fabricated. It comes to us only with the satisfaction that knowing the truth we have spoken it and knowing the good we have done it.

**K BRAHMA SINGH
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