

CIVIC SENSE

Why Civic Sense Could Change the Way We Live

The other day, I was walking down the street and saw something that pretty much sums up our daily life. A guy in a shiny car slowed down at the signal, rolled down his window... and threw an empty chips packet right onto the road. A few meters ahead, another person was honking non-stop even though the traffic light was clearly red. No one seemed surprised. Everyone just carried on like it was normal.

That's the problem. We've started treating these little acts of carelessness as *normal*. But they aren't. They show something bigger

— the lack of **civic sense**.



So, What's Civic Sense Anyway?

Think of civic sense as the “unspoken rules” of living together in a society. It's not written on every wall, but it shows up in small actions:

- Not littering.
- Stopping at a red light.
- Giving your seat to an elderly person on the bus.
- Saying “thank you” to the person who holds the door open.

These are simple things. But when everyone does them, life becomes smoother, kinder, and less stressful.

Why Do We Struggle With It?

Here's the tricky part: the lack of civic sense isn't about being rich or poor. It's about mindset. We often think, *“If I throw one wrapper, what difference will it make?”* But multiply that by millions of people and suddenly, the entire city looks like a dustbin.

Sometimes it's also because no one taught us — we didn't grow up hearing that civic sense is as important as math or science. And slowly, “it's not my problem” becomes the default attitude.

What Happens When We Ignore It

When civic sense is missing, society starts to feel chaotic. Roads are noisy, public spaces get dirty, rules stop mattering. It's not just unpleasant — it lowers everyone's quality of life.

Imagine trying to enjoy a walk in the park, but it's full of plastic bottles. Or reaching late to work every day because people block intersections. These little issues pile up and affect everyone.

Can We Fix This?

Yes — but it needs effort from both sides.

- **Start Young:** Kids should learn about civic sense the way they learn about alphabets. If schools and parents stress it early, it becomes second nature.

“ In Japan, kids practice O-soji — cleaning their own classrooms. It’s not punishment, it’s culture. They grow up knowing shared spaces = shared responsibility. Imagine if Indian schools did this? Civic sense wouldn’t feel like a lecture, it’d just be normal. The Discipline wants to be a subject like math, science and history. Knowledge is not only education ”
 - **Lead by Example:** Adults need to stop being “do as I say, not as I do.” If you throw garbage into a bin, your kid is more likely to do the same.
 - **Better Public Systems:** Sometimes people don’t follow rules because the system doesn’t support them. If there are no dustbins around, people will litter. If buses are overcrowded, rules get ignored. Good infrastructure can encourage good habits.
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Final Thought

At the end of the day, civic sense is just empathy in action. It’s about realizing that the space you use belongs to everyone. The street, the bus stop, the park, even the silence on the road — they’re all shared.

The question is: do we want to live in a place where everyone only thinks of themselves, or in a community where people look out for one another? The answer seems obvious, but it starts with us — with the next wrapper we decide not to throw, the next honk we hold back, the next smile we offer to a stranger.

Low-key, civic sense is the ultimate glow-up India needs. Like fr, picking up your trash isn’t just “cleaning,” it’s a flex. Imagine a future where kids grow up with *O-souji vibes* — cleaning their class today, cleaning their city tomorrow.

It’s not about rules, it’s about vibes. Good vibes = clean vibes.

So yeah, call it a dream, call it a journal entry, or call it me manifesting... but one day, I wanna say:

“This generation didn’t just *talk* about change — we literally swept it up.”

— *ajayvarman*