



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2070)

Name of Candidate	Archit Dongre	Registration Number	1138117
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Date	25 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023
Center	ORN		

### INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1(a)	10	
1(b)	10	
2(a)	10	
2(b)	10	
3(a)	10	
3(b)	10	
4(a)	10	
4(b)	10	
4(c)	10	
5(a)	10	
5(b)	10	
6(a)	10	
6(b)	10	
7	20	
8	20	
9	20	
10	20	
11	20	
12	20	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).  
उत्तर पुरितका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWELVE** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI** इसमें बारह प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**  
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.  
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.  
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.  
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

VisionIAS

SECTION - A

1. (a) Differentiating between courage and bravery, discuss why courage is often thought of as the first of all virtues. (150 words) 10  
साहस और बहादुरी के मध्य अंतर बताते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि साहस को प्रायः सभी सद्गुणों में सर्वप्रमुख क्यों माना जाता है।

Courage is the foremost virtue of a human being even according to Plato's theory along with knowledge & temperance

Bravery on the other hand is the active consequence of courage in the heart of a person.

Differences

Courage precedes bravery. A person without courage cannot be brave in times of difficulty.

Courage is not restricted to physical fearlessness but also applies to mental acts eg rape victim coming forward requires tremendous courage first & her

act of coming out is termed as a brave act.

Courage helps break down barriers of the mind & cause transformative changes while Bravery looks beyond self-preservation & self-care. eg A person stepping up to a bully ~~is~~ is an act of bravery whereas a person overcoming stage fright (transformative attitude) requires courage.

Courage is not quantifiable in acts within hierarchy but bravery can be hierarchical eg Ant carrying 3 times its weight not less or more courageous than a soldier.

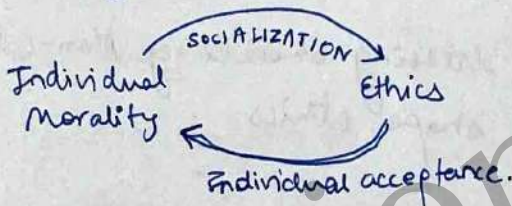
But, a person overcoming stage fright cannot be said to be more brave than a soldier who puts his life on the line.

Hence, Courage is the necessary condition for overcoming difficulty & showing bravery.

1. (b) Discuss how social, cultural and religious factors act as determinants of ethics. (150 words) 10

चर्चा कीजिए कि कैसे सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और धार्मिक कारक नैतिकता के निर्धारक के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

Ethics is the set of values & beliefs that guide personal outlook, decision making & life choices & also serve as the basis of individual morality.



### Determinants of ethics

#### Social

- peer group influences attitudes towards actions (ethical relativism)
- Education institutions shape outlook & pre knowledge. (persuasion)
- parents & home → first place of learning values (foundational ethics)
- Society as a whole influences person due to unseen norms & time based notions of right or wrong.

## Cultural

- Civilizational ties & beliefs guide ethics of person eg Amazon tribes respect for nature & principle of no-harm.
- Festivals guide ethics & mythology eg Diwali & Lord Rama's victory shape ethical perceptions of victory of good over evil.
- Food practices, dressing choices eg Non-eating of meat etc shape ethics.

## Religious

- Beliefs of no-harm eg Jainia idea of Anekantavada
- Humanism eg Advaita Idea of all is Brahman
- Tolerance & acceptance eg Sarva Dharma Sambhava & Vasudaira Kutumbhakam.
- Generosity & Compassion eg Sikhi idea of langar etc.

Hence, social, religious & cultural aspects are crucial in shaping ethics of a human.

2. (a) Bring out the relevance of the teachings of Gautam Buddha in contemporary times.  
 (150 words) 10  
 समकालीन समय में गौतम बुद्ध की शिक्षाओं की प्रासंगिकता को वर्णित कीजिए।

Gautam Buddha was primarily an ethical teacher that taught the importance of self-discipline & ethics to lead a happy life.

four fold truth

He taught his ethics via the 4 truths :-

- (1) world is full of suffering
- (2) Suffering has a cause
- (3) Desire is the cause of suffering
- (4) If desire is eliminated suffering can be eliminated.

for this he recommended the 8-fold path of yoga → yama, niyama, pranayama, asana, pratyahara, dharana, dhyana & samadhi.

Contemporary times

- (1) Greed & vices can be reduced & controlled following path of yama & niyama along with pratyahara (aversion to passions) (control of senses)

- (2) Stress management & Anger management  
on reducing desires for self & becoming  
more compassionate
- (3) Avoiding extremities i.e. aversion or  
hate & attachment or obsession to things  
by following Buddha's Madhyam marga  
(middle path).
- (4) Conflict of interests can be avoided by  
understanding momentariness of things by  
Buddha's teaching of Kshamika vada  
(Theory of momentariness)
- (5) Peace of Mind & freedom from sorrow can  
be achieved using Buddha's teachings of  
meditation & temperance.

Hence, Buddha's teachings of momentariness  
& middle path give us a good &  
reliable moral compass to navigate  
in ethical dilemmas.

2. (b) If one takes care of the means the end will take care of itself. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

यदि कोई साधनों का ध्यान रखता है तो साध्य स्वयं सिद्ध हो जाता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Means & ends have been a debate of many thinkers. Gandhiji said that if means are good only then can the ends be justified.

Kantian Deontology also in its categorical imperative says no man should be treated as a means but should always be treated as an end in himself.

Willemmas

If we don't justify the means then we would be subject to lot of moral guilt eg construction of a dam at the cost of displacing tribals would cause significant guilt to the developers.

Its important that means be such that

they lead to benefit of more number of people without harming them in the process (utilitarianism)

Also means must be such that they are ethically justifiable to others (ethical altruism)

### Drawbacks

→ These could lead to significant delays in taking action & also cause problem to people who are not party to the ethical dilemma of Beneficiaries of the dam.

### Way forward

Adequate provisions to be made to the persons (means) that are disadvantaged in the process of achieving the ends.

"Principle of least harm" must be utilized before taking any form of action.

3. (a) Explain the relevance of the following in the context of civil services:

(150 words) 10

(i) Impersonality

(ii) Anonymity

(iii) Perseverance

(iv) Fairness

सिविल सेवाओं के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित की प्रासंगिकता की व्याख्या कीजिए:

(i) निर्वैयक्तिकता

(ii) अनामिता

(iii) दृढ़ता

(iv) निष्पक्षता

Impersonality

It's the lack of a ~~personal bias~~ <sup>favouritism</sup> towards the attitude of the civil servant towards the people he/she is supposed to serve.

Relevance

leads to a better connect to all the stakeholders equally. Ensures Objectivity, Impartiality & equality in public service.

Also reduces scope of discrimination & ensure a political & duty oriented outcomes (deontology) (non-consequential normative ethics)

Anonymity → Refers to the secrecy of identity maintained in discharging public

functions.

Restraint :- Reduces scope of recognition & people (known) asking for favors. Also reduces ~~chance~~ chances of conceitedness & pride on recognition of good work done. Ensures humility & dedication to duty remains prime focus (2<sup>nd</sup> ARL)

Perseverance → Ability / Quality of never giving up on one's targets & goals despite failures

Restraint :- Ensures civil servant serves all sections despite challenges & gets mandate of government fulfilled under any circumstances. Duty is prioritized (Kantian deontology & virtue ethics)

Fairness - Impartial & Objective outlook

Restraint :- Ensure justice without partiality (Rawls theory of justice as fairness).

Objectivity, non-discrimination, meritocracy non-partisanship & public service approach achieved by being a fair administrator.

3. (b) With the help of relevant examples, bring out the difference between the following: (150 words) 10

(i) Intelligence Quotient and Emotional Quotient

(ii) Attitude and Aptitude

प्रासंगिक उदाहरणों की सहायता से, निम्नलिखित के मध्य अंतर स्पष्ट कीजिए:

(i) इंटेलिजेंस क्वेशन्ट (बुद्धि लब्धि) और इमोशनल क्वेशन्ट (भावनात्मक लब्धि)

(ii) अभिवृत्ति और अभिरुचि

(i) Intelligence Quotients (IQ) vs Emotional Quotient (EQ)

IQ is necessary for functions such as logic, pattern recognition, perception.

EQ necessary for empathizing, understanding emotions, reconciliation of emotions etc.

eg scientist discovering theory needs IQ but police officer addressing riot victims needs EQ.

IQ not that much necessary to build social relations

EQ is extremely crucial to building social relations eg Oppenheimer was a brilliant scientist yet had poor relations (social) with peers, wife etc.

IQ may not regulate personal happiness & self perception but EQ is necessary to regulate self perception & self actualization eg study

shaved successful people had IQ contribution of only 20%. rest 80% attributed to EQ.

## Attitude vs Aptitude

Attitude is the learned predisposition we have towards things, events, society, ideas etc.

Aptitude is the ability of a person to comprehend, grasp, learn a set of skills or values.

eg A person though having Aptitude for science if holds a negative attitude will not make the effort to learn.

eg A person having positive attitude to piano but not the aptitude would not be ~~able~~ able to achieve a level of mastery in it.

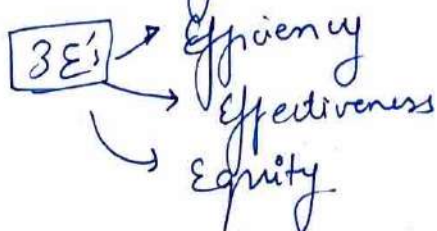
However, while attitude can be transformed it is very difficult to build/change aptitude as its largely inbuilt eg child prodigies in math are born with it.

4. (a) What do you understand by political neutrality? Explain its significance in public service. (150 words) 10  
राजनीतिक तटस्थता से आप क्या समझते हैं? लोक सेवा में इसके महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए।

Political neutrality refers to the non-partisan-ship & impartial attitude one holds towards all political parties & ideologies without fear, favor, affection or ill-will.

### Significance

- (1) Ensures efficient implementation of government policy irrespective of the govt in power → ensures people get good public service delivery



- (2) Ensures non-discrimination to people on basis of their political identity & morality (moral individualism)

(3) Objectivity & primacy of duty is prioritized over political affiliations  
eg Deontology & Virtue based governance  
& not political ideology based.

(4) Reduces chances of collusion with  
politicians & crony capitalism at cost  
of public welfare (eg) ensures effective  
& honest use of taxpayers money

(5) \* Work to alleviate red tapism & policy paralysis in public service due to  
political favoritism of bureaucrats →  
reduce "regulatory cholesterol", "stigmatized capitalism" & chances of asymmetric incentives

Hence, impartiality & apolitical public servants is the sine-qua-non of an  
efficient & honest bureaucracy.

4. (b) There is more to integrity than honesty. Illustrate with examples. Also, suggest ways to inculcate integrity as a value in civil services. (150 words) 10
- ईमानदारी की तुलना में सत्यनिष्ठा अधिक व्यापक है। उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए समझाइए। साथ ही, सिविल सेवाओं में सत्यनिष्ठा को एक मूल्य के रूप में विकसित करने के तरीके सुझाइए।

Integrity refers to adherence & probity of a person to a broad set of values, ideologies & beliefs. To have integrity means unchanging & unwavering resolve towards a particular thing no matter what happens.

Honesty is only a small part of integrity. Integrity also includes probity, justice, righteousness, courage, resolute behaviours.

Integrity must also be tempered with a sense of justice, to never do an immoral act. Hence, its closely linked with Virtue ethics,

Integrity includes not just being honest but actively pursuing higher standards of morality while taking principled approach to life.

## Ways to inculcate integrity in public life

- (1) Civil servant training must include relevant modules & parameters  
eg Mission Karmayogi, DIKSHA platform etc.
- (2) Strict & comprehensive code of ethics to ensure adherence & make violations punishable (deterrence effect)
- (3) Role models & seniors to lead by example  
eg TN Sheshan, SR Sankaran, TCA Subramanian
- (4) Integrity tests & regulatory checks with 360° appraisals, 14 yr & 20 yr performance reviews (2nd ARC)
- (5) Inclusion of technology & e-governance to reduce chances of moral lapses & actively inculcate civil servants to be moral eg like US False Claims Act (rewards honest civil servant)

Hence, integrity is the foundational value of a honest & pro-people civil service.

4. (c) What do you understand by probity? Why is it considered essential for good governance? (150 words) 10

शुचिता (प्रोबिटी) से आप क्या समझते हैं? सुशासन के लिए इसे क्यों आवश्यक माना जाता है?

Probity is the strict & unchanging adherence of a person to his moral & ethical principles. It demands the highest level of morality & ethical behaviour.

Probity does not change with circumstance, or favouritism, it is an end in itself.

It's a characteristic trait of a courageous, honest & morally sound human being.

Essential for good governance

- ① Ensure corruption & other ill practices of bribery, are not committed.

Tax payers money is not used for illit purposes.

(2) Probity to principles & foundational values of constitution ensures "pro = people" & pro active public service delivery  
↳ low level of delays, active grievance redressal, non-discrimination & sensitized approach to beneficiaries.

(3) Trusteeship model between public & civil servants is maintained by probity - ensure no favoritism or collusion by civil servants & politicians.

(4) Good governance also needs active participation of people, probity ensures ~~no~~ no partisanship takes place & civil servant addresses all sections of society equally.

Hence, steel frame of civil services requires a steel frame of moral infrastructure within the civil servant as well & probity ensures this.

5. (a) Although utilitarianism is arguably the most reason-based approach to determining right and wrong, it has obvious limitations. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

यद्यपि उपयोगितावाद सही और गलत का निर्धारण करने के लिए संभवतः सर्वाधिक तर्क-आधारित दृष्टिकोण है, तथापि इसकी स्पष्ट सीमाएं भी हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Utilitarianism is the principle of ensuring maximum benefit to maximum number of people (Jeremy Bentham).

It's a obvious idea of public service delivery of allocation of benefits among different stakeholders in society.

Anything that ensures max benefit to max number is termed as moral & ethical (ethical egoism). Hence it's a consequence based approach of normative ethics.

### Limitations

- (i) In ensuring max benefit to max people

We give no benefits to a small number of people. This is ethically not proper as people are being used as means to justify the ends. (against categorical imperative of Kant)

(2) It promotes quantity of benefit but overlooks quality of public service delivery.

Promotes consumerism & mass production for the sake of people.

(3) Concerned only with benefit of people hence overlooks collateral damage to environment etc (ethical environmentalism)

(4) Idea is bereft of an moral or spiritual refinement of individuals and is restricted only in terms of material benefits & possessions (Gandhiji said Wealth without conscience is a sin).

Hence, Utilitarianism though obvious has many flaws.

5. (b) What do you understand by ethical dilemma? Explain with examples, how it can lead to crisis of conscience. (150 words) 10  
 नैतिक दुविधा से आप क्या समझते हैं? उदाहरण सहित स्पष्ट कीजिए कि यह किस प्रकार अंतःकरण का संकट उत्पन्न कर सकती है।

Ethical dilemma is a position in which a person is forced to make choices between opposing ethical situations & selection of one would lead to some opportunity cost or violation of the other moral / ethical principle.

### Crisis of Conscience

- (1) Between Law & Ethical values

eg Hungry person stealing bread.

Follow law & put him in jail would go against values of compassion & empathy.

- (2) Individual vs Society

eg Person's right to freedom of expression but silenced in interest of society.

dilemma between individual liberty & societal adjustment

(3) Dilemma in case of duty

eg Soldiers shoot enemy

dilemma - no personal enmity & killing another human & on other hand duty before anything else.

(4) Social Structure & Mentoracy

eg Uphold values of reward for good actions & mentoracy but also provide affirmative action to backward for historical wrongs  
 crisis between - libertarians & socialists

(5) Scientific & Environmental

eg Oppenheimer made atom bomb to serve nation but use of weapon to kill humans.

eg Build hospital & schools but cut trees to build. dilemma between social upliftment & environmental ethics.

Hence, dilemma can be resolved to certain extent by adopting idea of Nishkam Karma (Bhagvat Gita) i.e. duty for duty's sake.

6. (a) What is code of conduct? How is it different from code of ethics?

आचरण संहिता क्या है? यह नीतिपरक आचार संहिता से किस प्रकार भिन्न है? (150 words) 10

Code of conduct is the narrow & specific set of values & actions that are permissible & desirable within a public service.

Code of ethics represents a broader vision on the values & ethical aspects of public service that are desirable & aspirable.

### Difference

(1) Currently we have a Code of Conduct for civil servants (CoC)

Code of Ethics (CoE) is currently not drafted

But, it has been recommended by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC.

(2) CoC is narrow & specific, whereas the CoE is a broad vision document

with ethical & philosophical overtones.

(3) CoL is enforceable & the violations or deviations from this are punishable offences under law.

CoE is not easily enforceable & its violation has no direct punishable provisions.

(4) CoL deals with actions & mode of operation, whereas CoE deals with the inner values & way of conduct in ethical dilemmas i.e. its not prescriptive but descriptive in nature.

Hence, Gandhiji said "courts of conscience" are higher than "courts of law" in that respect of code of Ethics is a more powerful code & needs to be formulated soon.

6. (b) Bring out the relevance of the seven principles of public life stated by the Nolan Committee in the Indian context, with the help of examples.

(150 words) 10

भारतीय संदर्भ में, नोलन समिति द्वारा सुझाए गए सार्वजनिक जीवन के सात सिद्धांतों की प्रासंगिकता को उदाहरणों की सहायता से स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Nolan Committee gave the principles of  
Honesty, Objectivity, Leadership, Openness,  
Integrity, Accountability & Selflessness.

Indian Context & Examples

Honesty → needed to ensure public welfare & corruption free public service

eg Satyendra Dubey tried to expose NHAI scam (murdered)

Ashok Khemka (IAS) renowned for his honesty in public service - exposed scams.

Objectivity - ensure efficiency & deliverance of mandate without subjective denances in public service.

eg Judges taking recluse from hearing cases where they may be partial  
"principle of natural justice"

**Leadership** - to lead people & subordinates & achieve targets.

eg Lal Bahadur Shastri ji worked as a great leader during times of war.

"Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" - enthused masses

**Openness** - Accessible & Affordable public service for all without discrimination.

eg MyGov.in for public responses & suggestions to legislations.

PM Man Ki Baat for connecting with people.

**Integrity** - Value of not deviating from moral stand.

eg TN Shesham as EC did not crumble under political pressure.

**Accountability** → To be responsible to public & others for one's actions.

eg RTI provisions to hold public servants accountable & suggested RTI provisions on MPs & MLAs (2<sup>nd</sup> ARC).

**Selflessness** → to work without self interest for others (ethical altruism).

eg Mother Theresa's work or Civil Society work for poor, diseased, old etc.

## SECTION - B

In the following questions, carefully study the cases presented and then answer the questions that follow (in around 250 words):

7. The Right to Information (RTI) Act is one of the most important reforms brought by the government. You have recently been transferred as the Public Information Officer (PIO) in the irrigation department of a district. While inspecting the RTI applications, you find that many of these applications relate to information on the recruitment of staff in your department. Your juniors point out that all of these have been filed by an aspiring local politician who may be trying to create an issue related to irregularities in recruitment in the department. The department fears that he is filing RTI applications for political gains in the upcoming state elections.

In this context, answer the following questions:

(a) Identify the stakeholders and the issues involved in the case.

(b) What measures will you take to handle the situation? (20)

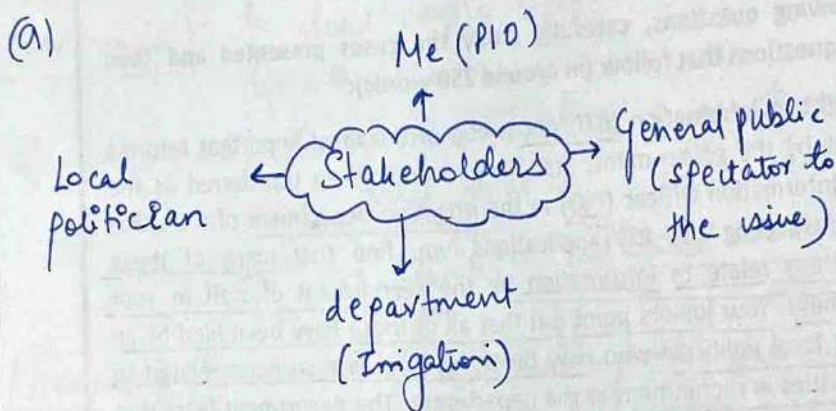
सूचना का अधिकार (RTI) अधिनियम सरकार द्वारा किए गए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण सुधारों में से एक है। आपको हाल ही में एक जिले के सिंचाई विभाग में जन सूचना अधिकारी (PIO) के रूप में स्थानांतरित किया गया है। RTI आवेदनों का निरीक्षण करते समय आप पाते हैं कि इनमें से कई आवेदन आपके विभाग में कर्मचारियों की भर्ती की जानकारी से संबंधित हैं। आपके कनिष्ठ अधिकारी बताते हैं कि ये सभी एक महत्वाकांक्षी स्थानीय राजनेता द्वारा दायर किए गए हैं जो शायद विभाग में भर्ती में अनियमितताओं से संबंधित एक मुद्दा बनाने का प्रयास कर रहा है। विभाग को आशंका है कि वह आगामी राज्य चुनावों में राजनीतिक लाभ के लिए RTI आवेदन दाखिल कर रहा है।

इस संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

(a) इस प्रकरण में शामिल हितधारकों और मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए।

(b) इस स्थिति से निपटने के लिए आप क्या उपाय करेंगे?

The RTI Act, is a great initiative towards Open & Transparent public service delivery also emphasized by Nolan Committee. It ensures time bound access to public information to citizens of India.



Issues at hand:

- (1) Issue of possible populism by local politician to show his public service oriented or 'honest' persona to public & secure votes.
- (2) Irregularities in recruitment in my department : Bigger issue & needs my immediate attention as it affects principle of meritocracy & affects quality of public service delivery.
- (3) fear & Chances of Action to be taken on people employed in department due to irregularity : They might try to persuade

me to overlook the RTIs filed & let go of the situation.

They might also try to blackmail or pressure me.

(4) Possible Issue of collusion between juniors & politicians to cause fake claims of irregularity & reap joint benefits :-  
problem of trust deficit between me & juniors.

(5) Personal dilemma (Issue) :- departmental loyalty or the duty based idea to provide information on recruitment process. (as I am only a PIO).

(6) Dilemma of overreaching duty & performing duty of ordinary citizen & informing authorities of possible irregularity :-  
eg like vigilance (WC) or Anti-corruption.

(b) Measures to handle situation :-

Option 1 :- Let go if problem & ignore RTI

Merit :- Will ensure departmental support of  
junior & life will be stress free

Demerit :- Abortion of justice & conscience.  
Also action against PIO taken if not  
give info within 15 days.

Option 2 :- Dig deep & provide info on details  
of recruitment.

Merit :- Doing my duty as per my job profile  
(deontology)

Demerit :- Will lose departmental support &  
possible harrasment by peers.

Also possible departmental reputation damage  
& apathy of seniors to my future concerns.

Option 3 :- Request politician to not disgrace  
our department & see if he accepts

Merit :- Save department from action

Demerit - Complete loss of my credibility & duty

as a civil servant. Will fail the public & myself as a honest officer.

Option 4 :- Do duty of giving information & also appraise relevant authorities of possible irregularity in recruitment.

Merit :- Deontology & duty done correctly. Problem of irregularity also addressed

Demerit - Department will go against me & possible case of harassment.

My choice will be Option 4.

It's my duty as a PIO to provide information that is available to any citizen

Objectivity & Impartiality does not discriminate between local politician or any other citizen

By informing relevant authorities, I can increase public confidence in the system & ensure meritocracy.

Regarding departmental backlash, I believe I have sufficient morality & courage to face any difficulty, because I am on the side of truth.

8. You are the managing director of a pharmaceutical company. Your company has won a tender for supply of generic affordable medicines to the state health department. In order to win the tender, you had kept the profit margins very low. However, after winning the tender, you got a call from the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Health Minister for a 2% cut in the total purchase of goods. You tried to meet the Health Minister in this respect, but he also hinted at doing the job as per the instructions of the OSD. You cannot refuse to go ahead with the tender because of the risk of losing your 5% security deposit. Further, the firm can be blacklisted for not fulfilling the obligations of the approved tender.

Some of the options to deal with the situation are given below. Evaluate the merits and demerits of each of these options.

- Follow the advice of the minister and comply with the demands of the OSD.
- File a police complaint against the OSD for corruption.
- Tip the media anonymously about the issue to build pressure on the concerned Minister.
- Leave the allotted tender.

Also, not limiting to the options given above, suggest the course of action you will take, giving appropriate reasons. (20)

आप एक फार्मास्युटिकल कंपनी के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर हैं। आपकी कंपनी ने राज्य के स्वास्थ्य विभाग को सस्ती जेनेरिक दवाओं की आपूर्ति के लिए एक टेंडर जीता है। टेंडर जीतने के लिए आपने प्रॉफिट मार्जिन बहुत कम रखा था। हालांकि, टेंडर जीतने के बाद सामान की कुल खरीद में 2% हिस्से के लिए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री के ऑफिसर ऑन स्पेशल ड्यूटी (OSD) की ओर से आपके पास एक फोन आया है। आपने इस संबंध में स्वास्थ्य मंत्री से मिलने का प्रयास किया, लेकिन उन्होंने OSD के निर्देशानुसार आपको काम करने का संकेत दिया। आप अपनी 5% जमानत राशि खोने के जोखिम के कारण इस टेंडर के साथ आगे बढ़ने से मना नहीं कर सकते हैं। इसके अलावा, अनुमोदित टेंडर के दायित्वों को पूरा नहीं करने के लिए फर्म को काली सूची में भी डाला जा सकता है।

इस स्थिति से निपटने के कुछ विकल्प नीचे दिए गए हैं। इनमें से प्रत्येक विकल्प के गुणों एवं दोषों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

- मंत्री की सलाह मानेंगे और OSD की मांगों का पालन करेंगे।
- भ्रष्टाचार के लिए OSD के विरुद्ध पुलिस के पास शिकायत दर्ज करेंगे।
- संबंधित मंत्री पर दबाव बनाने के लिए इस मुद्दे के बारे में गुमनाम रूप से मीडिया को सूचना देंगे।
- आवंटित टेंडर को छोड़ देंगे।

साथ ही, ऊपर दिए गए विकल्पों तक सीमित रहे बिना, उपयुक्त कारण बताते हुए आपके द्वारा की जाने वाली कार्रवाई का सुझाव दीजिए।

Stake holders :-

- (1) Me - Company
- (2) O&D & Health Minister
- (3) Taxpayers money
- (4) Company shareholders

(A) Follow demands of O&D

Merits :- This would lead to smooth fulfilment of tender, & prevent company from getting blacklisted.

Also, could get into the good books of the Health Minister who would give more opportunities for future tenders.

I could also personally profit from asking for favours as a result of this new found bon-homie between the company & health minister.

Demerits :- All possible merits of this case are totally unethical. & should be avoided at all circumstances.

Taxpayers money would be wasted in corruption & its completely against principles of accountability & responsibility.

Shareholders of my company will get lesser returns as profit margins will further fall.

Quality of medicines could be compromised as a result of lower money available & hence general public could also suffer lose self perception of honesty & corrupt minister could use me in future for blackmail or doing more misdeeds.

(b) file police complaint

Merits:- Save myself & the system from possible case of corruption. Uphold value of ethics  
 Highlight the situation & cause possible sacking of health minister & OSD.  
 Ensure quality product supplied to state & reinforce confidence of businessmen in the transparency & fairness of the tender process.

Demerits :-

Possible that OSD could be blamed by Health Minister & he alone could be dismissed even though he wasn't main culprit.

Chances that police might not take action against powerful minister & blame me instead.

I could lose 5% of deposit money if the minister decides to frame me in an act of vengeance.

Company image & stockholders money at risk if company gets negative perception because of my actions.

Resulting fiasco could result in company ~~loss~~  
tender being kept on hold - delay in providing public goods (medicines).

(c) Leave tender

Merit :- Saved from ethical dilemma.  
Save shareholders & taxpayers money

Demerits :-

possible to lose 5% of security deposit & get blacklisted from future tenders

Affect company reputation.

Raise questions of why company left tender. - could lead to media trial.

Politician may ensure company does not get future chances of doing any business with state for non-collusion with them.

### Best option

I feel that as a company that has decided to provide essential medicines it is our duty to provide public with good quality medicines (no compromise here)

A detailed FIR must be filed against the corrupt & possible recording of OSD must be taken while he asks for money.  
(Burden of proof).

Public & Shareholder confidence must be maintained & a strong vocal stance must be taken as company manager in line with company values & ethics of corporate governance.

Resistant harassment & blackmail must be dealt with a strong mind & courageous heart.

9. The promotion of harmful products like liquor, tobacco, etc. through mass media and advertisements have been banned in India. However, many companies are roping in big celebrities to promote these harmful products and brands through surrogate advertisement. In the disguise of another product, surrogate advertising is used to promote regulated products, like cigarettes and alcohol, There have been many debates on this issue, particularly in recent times, with many arguing that such advertisements should be banned altogether.

In this context, answer the following:

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in surrogate advertising?  
 (b) Suggest steps that can be taken to address these type of advertisements in India.  
 (20)

भारत में मास मीडिया और विज्ञापनों के माध्यम से हानिकारक उत्पादों जैसे कि शराब, तंबाकू आदि के प्रचार पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया है। हालांकि, कई कंपनियां सरोगेट (छद्म) विज्ञापन के जरिए इन हानिकारक उत्पादों और ब्रांड्स का प्रचार करने के लिए बड़ी हस्तियों को शामिल कर रही हैं। एक अन्य उत्पाद की आड़ में, सिगरेट और शराब जैसे विनियमित उत्पादों का प्रचार करने के लिए सरोगेट विज्ञापन का उपयोग किया जाता है। इस मुद्दे पर कई बहसें हुई हैं, विशेष रूप से हाल के दिनों में कई लोगों का तर्क है कि ऐसे विज्ञापनों को पूरी तरह से प्रतिबंधित कर दिया जाना चाहिए।

इस संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

- (a) सरोगेट विज्ञापन में शामिल नैतिक मुद्दे क्या हैं?  
 (b) भारत में इस प्रकार के विज्ञापनों से निपटने के लिए उठाए जा सकने वाले कदमों का सुझाव दीजिए।

(a) Ethical Issues in Surrogate Advertisement

(1) Issue of promoting consumerism & Capitalistic goals over public welfare

- profit motive should not over look the harm done to the health

of people. eg Opium Wars of China  
 Youth destroyed for capitalism

(2) Freedom of trade & profession of  
cigarettee & alcohol manufacturers  
over public interest :-

Art 19 allows freedom of trade &  
occupation with restrictions - public health  
& morality are some of them.

(3) Individual choice to use these  
substances over states imperative to  
prevent their use.

— Article 47 of DPSP asks state to  
prevent use of alcohol & intoxicants.

(4) Celebrity responsibility as role models  
& public figures

→ Celebrities are public figures that  
influence & inspire youth.

moral imperative to not participate  
eg Sachin Tendulkar denies working in such  
ads

(5) Surrogate advertisement against principle of transparency - publicity of harmful product in a harmless way - problem of misrepresentation of product.

(b) Steps to address problem :-

(1) Ensure these advertisements are accompanied with accurate & gruesome images of use of cigarettes etc eg image of cancer growth  
↳ serve as powerful deterrents to using such harmful products.

(2) High taxes on surrogate advertisement

↳ pigouvian taxes - discourage advertisement of harmful products

Also regulations can be made that such ads not broadcasted on certain children & family oriented channels & at certain time of the day (odd hours) → restrict news on such ads.

(3) Campaigns & rope in other role models - question celebrities participating in surrogate advertisement on their responsibility.

(eg) #NahaMuktBharat & other active efforts with the help of civil society organisations

(4) Ensure the formulation of a code of conduct of media houses

involved in the broadcasting of such surrogate advertisements.

- ensure regulatory compliance & adherence to such code.

- (5) Form a committee for an independent inquiry into the nature & impact of such surrogate ads - with data & proof further action can be objectively taken whether to completely ban or restrict such surrogate advertisement.

10. You are a young officer who has recently been posted as the District Magistrate in a district where power cuts are a regular phenomenon. A thermal power plant is proposed in your district, which has the potential to not only meet the energy demand of yours but also that of neighbouring districts, and also provide employment opportunities for the people of your district. However, a few people from the district are protesting against it because of the concerns of displacement and the potential pollution issue that the project may lead to. It is brought to your notice that prominent local leaders have mobilized a large crowd and are planning to march towards the Collectorate. You have also received information that the crowd may turn violent due to the presence of miscreants. In the context of this situation, address the following:

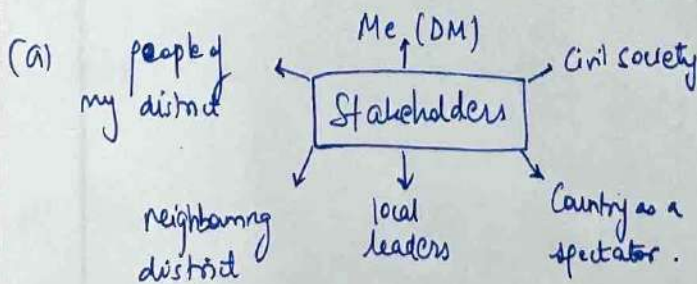
(a) Identify the stakeholders and highlight the issues involved in the above case.

(b) State the measures that you would take as the District Magistrate. (20)

आप एक युवा अधिकारी हैं जिन्हें हाल ही में एक ऐसे जिले में जिला मजिस्ट्रेट के रूप में तैनात किया गया है जहां बिजली कटौती एक नियमित घटना है। आपके जिले में एक ताप विद्युत संयंत्र प्रस्तावित है, जिस संयंत्र में न केवल आपके जिले की बल्कि पड़ोसी जिलों की ऊर्जा संबंधी मांग को पूरा करने की क्षमता है, और यह आपके जिले के लोगों के लिए रोजगार के अवसर भी प्रदान करेगा। हालांकि, जिले के कुछ लोग विस्थापन की चिंताओं और परियोजना के कारण संभावित प्रदूषण के मुद्दे के चलते इसका विरोध कर रहे हैं। आपके संज्ञान में लाया गया है कि प्रमुख स्थानीय नेताओं ने भारी संख्या में भीड़ जुटाई है और कलेक्ट्रेट की ओर मार्च करने की योजना बना रहे हैं। आपको यह भी जानकारी मिली है कि उपद्रवियों की मौजूदगी से भीड़ हिंसक हो सकती है। इस स्थिति के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित मुद्दों को संबोधित कीजिए:

(a) उपर्युक्त प्रकरण से संबंधित हितधारकों की पहचान कीजिए और इसमें शामिल मुद्दों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

(b) जिला मजिस्ट्रेट के रूप में आप जो उपाय करेंगे, उनका उल्लेख कीजिए।



### Issues involved

(1) Immediate issue of violence possible & possible loss of life & property in

the process towards march at collaborate.  
Also will make poor condition for discussion  
& negotiation if violence takes place.

- (2) Issue of ~~social~~ pollution & degrading quality of health of people in my district.
- (3) Issue of need for people to access steady source of electricity amid growing power cuts. & this includes people of neighbouring districts.
- (4) Issue of concerns of possible displacement of people due to construction of power plant & the need to make provisions for their rehabilitation.
- (5) Issue of building public trust with govt when local leaders & miscreants are inciting violence against state i.e. trust deficit.

(6) possible issue of pressure ~~on~~ me to carry out government mandate to get powerplant built & at the same time ensure participatory & conciliatory approach towards all stakeholders.

(7) Issue of possible collusion of civil society (NGOs) with non-state actors to cause miscarriage of construction. They might have incited microcriminals eg US-India civil nuclear deal similar thing happened.

(b) Measures to be taken as DM

(i) Ensure armed police prevent the mob from causing harm to innocent citizens.

(2) Use a conciliatory approach to engage local leaders to a dialogue & promise mutually acceptable outcomes of things taken in a peaceful manner.

(3) Educate & bring out employment benefits, electricity, scope for industry to the people & local leaders.

Alay fears of displacement by formulating a rehabilitation plan including all stakeholders

(4) Ensure inquiry into possible obstacles to project via police & ensure miscreants are identified & action taken against them.

(5) Ensure people, local leaders & helpful civil society organisations are an active part of development process in terms of labour, jobs at power plant etc locals preferred.

(5) fears of pollution must be addressed  
& adequate Environment Impact  
Assessment & mitigation efforts  
must be taken according to  
the provisions of law.

(6) Equipment & tools necessary in case  
of emergency & plan of action (POA)  
must be clear & ready.

11. Today, digital games and gameful interactions with a digital dimension are rapidly becoming pervasive in society. It is a highly engaging pastime and also a vehicle for acquiring knowledge and/or modifying attitudes and behaviours at various levels, whether by explicit intention or otherwise. Online games' increasingly important role in society brings about ethical implications that cannot be ignored, and have sometimes been the object of heated public and academic debate.

(a) Discuss the various social and psychological issues involved in online gaming.

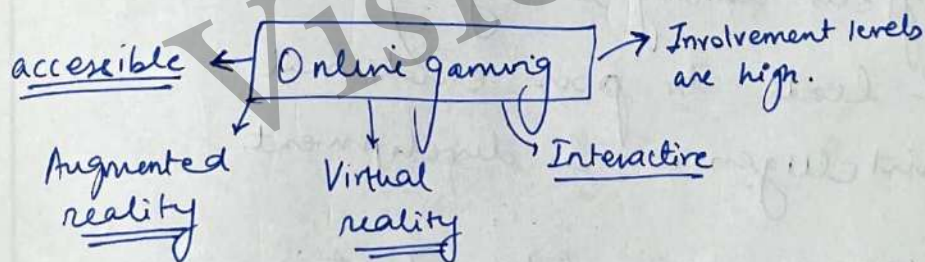
(b) Give some suggestions to address the harmful impact of online gaming on the society.

(20)

वर्तमान समय में, डिजिटल आयाम के साथ डिजिटल गेम्स और गेमफुल इंटरैक्शन समाज में तेजी से फैलते जा रहे हैं। यह अत्यधिक आकर्षक मनोरंजन है तथा ज्ञान प्राप्त करने और/या विभिन्न स्तरों पर अभिवृत्ति एवं व्यवहार को संशोधित करने के लिए एक माध्यम भी हैं, चाहे स्पष्ट इरादे से या अन्यथा। समाज में ऑनलाइन गेम की तेजी से महत्वपूर्ण होती भूमिका नैतिक निहितार्थ प्रस्तुत करती है, जिसकी उपेक्षा नहीं की जा सकती है और कभी-कभी यह गंभीर सार्वजनिक एवं अकादमिक बहस का विषय भी रहा है।

(a) ऑनलाइन गेमिंग में शामिल विभिन्न सामाजिक और मनोवैज्ञानिक मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(b) समाज पर ऑनलाइन गेमिंग के हानिकारक प्रभाव से निपटने के लिए कुछ सुझाव दीजिए।



Online games are abundant due to recent developments in digital revolution & IR 4.0. Accessibility to devices have further expedited the pervasive impacts of online gaming on children & adults.

(A) Social & psychological Issues

→ Social reclusion observed due to overdoing of online gaming

Loss in ability to communicate with peers due to addiction to online gaming.

→ Using gaming as an escape mechanism to cope with stress & anxiety.

Affects ability to self regulate emotions & leads to poor emotional intelligence & development.

→ Violent games like shooting games cause anger management issues.

Also influence young children to take to gun fascination

eg Recent USA school shootings were by children that played violent video games

→ Exposure to unregulated explicit content on online chatrooms & games lead to a deterioration in morals of young children.

→ Video game chatrooms online are known places for terror cells to recruit & influence young children.

→ long gaming hours alienate the gamer from nature, animals & prevent self reflection as person has no time to regulate & self reflect on oneself.

## b) Suggestions to address harmful impact

- Regulate online gaming platforms with strict age norms & hold platforms responsible for the content they host.
- Ensure data privacy of users so no harmful activities like identity theft, cyber bullying & stalking takes place.
- Create awareness & address parents, teachers etc about the ill effects of gaming too much.
- Involve students & children in activities that are outdoor of NEP 2020 compulsory "10 bagless" days to connect with labour, nature etc.

→ Use online games in a positive manner  
of online chess, online educational tools  
with games inbuilt to make process  
more interactive etc.

VisionIAS

12. Climate change and environmental degradation have caused havoc globally. It has repercussions on the life and livelihood of each and every individual on the planet. Despite its huge impact, climate change and environmental conservation have not become an electoral issue in India. Globally, green parties are making strides, albeit gradually. In countries like Netherlands, Sweden and Australia, they have begun to make a mark in electoral politics. In India, however, there is no such development.

(a) In your view, why has politics in India not seen it's 'green moment' yet?

(b) Do you think people in India are generally apathetic to climate change and environment related issues? Suggest some initiatives to bring about a change in the attitude of the people towards the issue. (20)

जलवायु परिवर्तन और पर्यावरण निम्नीकरण ने विश्व स्तर पर व्यापक विनाश किया है। इस ग्रह पर प्रत्येक व्यक्ति के जीवन और आजीविका पर इसका प्रभाव है। इसके व्यापक प्रभाव के बावजूद, जलवायु परिवर्तन और पर्यावरण संरक्षण भारत में चुनावी मुद्दा नहीं बने हैं। विश्व स्तर पर, ग्रीन पार्टियां धीरे-धीरे आगे बढ़ रही हैं। नीदरलैंड, स्वीडन और ऑस्ट्रेलिया जैसे देशों में उन्होंने चुनावी राजनीति में अपनी पहचान बनानी शुरू कर दी है। हालांकि, भारत में अभी ऐसा कोई विकास नहीं हुआ है।

(a) आपके विचार में, अभी तक भारत की राजनीति में "ग्रीन मोमेंट" क्यों नहीं देखा गया है?

(b) क्या आपको लगता है कि भारत में लोग जलवायु परिवर्तन और पर्यावरण संबंधी मुद्दों के प्रति सामान्यतः उदासीन हैं? इस मुद्दे के प्रति लोगों के दृष्टिकोण में बदलाव लाने के लिए कुछ पहलों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Climate change & environmental degradation have been talk for quite some time especially with the conclusion of recent COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh in hopes for global cooperation on this issue.

India has contributed via its LT-LEDS & Panchsaran principles which are NDC's to commitment for reduction in emissions &

uptake of green energy in India.

(a)

Politics takes up electoral issues that are first demanded by the people.

People need to ask for, mobilize & use pressure groups on the government to create enough public & social consciousness towards environmental & climate efforts as electoral mandate.

Other factors like, low level of social awareness, education, poverty get in the way of the "green movement" as other things which are more important of jobs, food, education take its place.

According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs we will get our "green movement" once we successfully secure basic needs & minimum requirements of our citizens.

Then people will demand steps towards better sources of energy, more efforts on climate action.

PM's LIFE is a step in that direction to create a cooperative people based "green movement" using 72 easy to perform 'green' actions

It's a lifestyle change than help as a trigger point for India's green movement.

Thus, public support, education & efforts of civil society can ensure India works towards a greener society with the help of a green movement.

6) people are not apathetic but unaware about the issue in most cases.

eg Bishnoi Tribes are tree lovers & natural conservationists despite any education needed.

Hence, India's public awareness needs to be aroused for green climate action & adoption of eco-friendly plans of action.

Initiatives to bring about change in attitude

→ LIFE mission by PM. can inspire minimal action & work to create awareness among people towards more eco friendly lifestyle choices.

→ FAME scheme & other initiatives to encourage public adoption of er vehicles

- public support to green projects  
of National Hydrogen mission  
& National Bioethanol project
- Encourage car pooling & cycling to  
work similar to Scandinavian  
Countries model
- Other initiatives like PM PRANAM  
organic farming, Zero budget natural  
farming etc can work to reduce  
emissions from agriculture
- Urban areas can practice novel  
techniques like Miyawaki afforestation  
eg Hyderabad has longest urban forest.

Hence, we need to involve people to  
save the planet & in the process  
save themselves from climate  
disasters as was seen in recent past in  
Kedarnath, Joshimath etc.