



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 760)

Name of Candidate	ANAND KUMAR SHARMA -		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	11009
Center	Old Rajinder Nagar -	Date	1/10/16

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	
5(a)	10	
5(b)	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	20	
10	20	
11	20	
12	20	
13	20	
14	20	

Total Marks Obtained:

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are FOURTEEN questions printed in ENGLISH.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. 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.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Answer the following questions is not more than 150 words each.

1. (a) Celebrities are paid huge amounts by companies for endorsing products that at times turn out to be harmful for the consumers. Examine the ethical dimensions involved in such instances. 10

Ans In the recent times, there has been debate over the quality of products endorsed by the celebrities especially in the recent light of Maggie Controversy. This needs a look at the issue from ethical dimensions as well.

The celebrities are paid for endorsements and they advertise for them which is a kind of deal benefiting ~~the~~ both the ~~per~~ person. So a question arises shall they verify the quality of the products or not ?? Is it their moral duty

to do so??

The celebrities are the role model for the society in many cases. People follow them and tends to imitate them. They help in building opinion and image of the society. Therefore, it is their moral duty to verify the products they are endorsing. Most of the times customers use the products due to their endorsement. It is true that it is solely not their fault and customer shall use their wisdom as well. But being the role model of society it is their categorical imperative to offer their followers quality products.

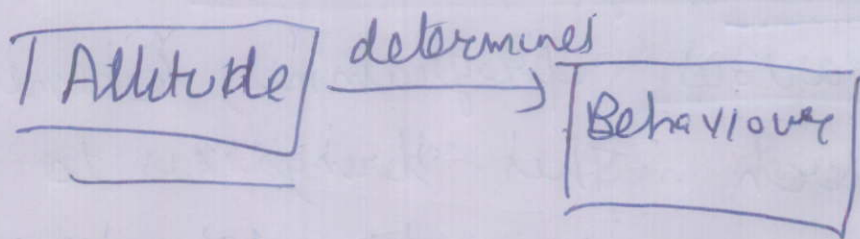
1. (b) Lack of cleanliness in urban areas despite schemes such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan point to difficulties faced in bringing about attitudinal and behavioural changes. Discuss. 10

Ans 'If you will not clean your backyard,  
your Swaraj will be stinking'  
- Ma kaatma Gandhi

Even today more than  
~~half~~ half ~~of~~ the country  
(52%) defecates in open despite  
of various programmes, schemes  
for such. This brings us to  
the the discussion whether is  
it really the lack of infrastructure  
or attitudinal problem:

Our society has locki-  
sided attitude towards cleanliness  
which has been the sole cause  
of ~~our~~ the failure of such  
a programme despite of legal,  
and other measures available.

My friend used to throw on ~~dustbin~~ roads and I asked him the reason, then he said "cleaner/sweeper will clean it tomorrow". This highlights the attitude of our society and attitude determines behaviour.



Hence, the need is to bring change in mindset through education, information, communication and behaviour change communication. There is a need for ~~social~~ social awakening of social conscience which is difficult but not impossible.

2. (a) Issues around economic inclusion are not just about income gaps, there are many dimensions of moral and ethical choices as well. Discuss. 10

Ans Economic inclusion is not just about income gaps but other social, ethical and moral issues prevalent in society.

It is not just about bringing all people at same income level which may seem to be easy but deals with deeper ethical issues.

These are issues of social justice of bringing the dalits, women and other groups a same status and respect they deserve, which is not possible just by income equality but by awakening of moral conscience of people. It is due

to lack of morality and ethics which causes discrimination and atrocities.

There is another issue of equitable distribution or equal distribution?? Shall talent be given more preference or not?? What about the inequalities created over thousand years of social system in form of Caste, Gender inequalities?? Will income <sup>equality</sup> gap be able to fulfill that gap?? Will that be able to give the dignity and pride as well as equality which vulnerable sections of society deserve. These are the some of the complex issues in economic inclusion.

2. (b) Socially and economically marginalized women are used to make a profit, often at the cost of their own health and reproductive autonomy, in the name of commercial surrogacy. Discuss the ethical issues associated with commercial surrogacy in India. Should commercial surrogacy be completely banned? 10

Ans Surrogacy or "rent a womb".

Industry forms a 500 million dollar industry and it has several ethical issues involved with it -

Issues related to mother -

- (1) It leads to exploitation of women and example of Patriarchal mindset.
- (2) Ethical issue of right to reproductive rights of women as human right.
- (3) It is the body of a woman to decide what she wants.
- (4) Issue of right to live (as lack of employment and poverty) undermines it or ~~is~~ exploitation.

of women.

Issues related to ~~the~~ child -

- (1) Issue of citizenship of child if he is abandoned by parents -
- (2) What if he faces a identity crisis and wants to know about biological mother in some cases

Commercial surrogacy leads to exploitation of women and poses danger to her health and mental level. Hence, any & such practices which feeds upon the poverty of a woman and her poor social status shall be banned as ~~practised~~ done in many countries of world - like U.S., U.K. and so on.

3. (a) While discussing the ethical issues that journalists face on a regular basis, examine the causes of increased sensationalism in news media in recent times.

10

Ans. Journalism has seen a paradigm shift now in recent times. Journalist faces a ~~wide~~ various range of ethical issues from balancing of public welfare <sup>vs</sup> ~~to~~ personal growth. They deal with issues where they have to decide between objectivity, non-partisanship for upholding public interest or political partisanship T.R.P. based news for sensationalism.

Due to increasing competition and wide range of challenges journalist faces

for their survival and growth:  
Sensationalism provides them  
TRP and viewers which  
helps them in making profit  
and their survival:

Nowdays, quality of  
news is judged by number of  
viewers and TRP and not the  
content of the news forcing  
the news channel to opt for  
sensationalism. However, it is  
the categorical imperative of  
journalists to not to resort  
to such things as they are  
the fourth pillar of democracy.  
and shall act in objective manner.

3. (b) What are the various sources through which humans can judge the correctness of their actions? In the context of public life discuss how these sources are important in offering a clear and practical guidance. 10

Ans. There are various sources which can help him judge the correctness of their actions -

- ① Inner conscience → if it allows  
(Morality) him to be  
right and at peace.
- ② Social conscience of society → If actions  
(Ethics) justify the society conscience.  
This may be wrong at time.
- ③ Utilitarian approach →  
(Deontological)  
If action causes greater welfare of  
greater number. (end matters)
- ④ Kantian approach → Action shall  
be just in itself if means  
are important not end.
- ⑤ Gandhian approach → Both

means and ends are important

- ⑥ Virtue
- ⑦ Religious philosophies like - Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism
- ⑧ Charvaka, Hedonism and so on.

Since, humans are tend to be good these principles acts a guiding star for the civil servants to work on that path. They also act as anchors of ship to held them whenever there is storm (moral crisis). Thus, these sources help them to follow a path and work towards welfare of people through multiple paths.

4. (a) Should a person resort to leaking of information in case of wrongs done in the organization? Does it cause a conflict of interest between the personal, organizational and societal spheres? Discuss with examples. 10

Ans 4 Leaking of information from organisation raises a question on the organisational structure and against the ethical practices. Confidence and trust binds the organisation which may be broken by leaking of information. However, it shall be the last resort after exhausting all institutional methods and only in greater public interest.

Leaking of information certainly causes a conflict of interest between personal, organisation and social spheres.

as leaking might benefit the individual but may harm the ~~set~~ organisation or benefit the society if leaked in public interest -

For example →

There is a massive corruption in an organisation and you are being pressured to be silent. Leaking the information will benefit you morally, it may harm/erode the reputation of organisation and may benefit the society largely or vice versa can happen.

4. (b) Competition, it is argued, spurs the best of performance, however, can it also instigate cheating and unethical behaviour? Discuss with adequate examples.

10

Ans Competition puts pressure on the participants to put best performance in order to survive. As competition is based on principle of "survival of the fittest", thus it gets the best performance from participants.

However, in order of loosing or getting out of the race, it may invite cheating and unethical behaviour to for survival. It poses a threat to his survival so persons opt for illegal or unethical practices to win or sustain.

For example -

- ① Recently, Ola and Uber cab companies were involved in fake booking of cabs by other companies in order to cause harm to each other in the competition.
- ② Alleged conspiracy of drug consumption and mixing by someone in drinks of wrestler Nar Singh Yadav to cause harm to him in competition.
- ③ Doping activities by athletes.

Thus, pressure to perform in sustain may instigate participants to resort to illegal practices and unethical behaviour.

5. (a) "A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but by his inaction, and in either case he is justly accountable to them for the injury". Explain the statement giving one example each from personal and public life.

10

Ans. As it is said "society is not harmed by action of bad people but by silence of good people". This holds true that not only action but inaction can also harm others when he is at position which have significant impact. It is his moral obligation to do so and thus he is accountable in both the cases.

Personal life example → As a Doctor it was my duty to explain harm effects of multiple pregnancies to the patient and I failed to do so with one patient who

later ~~for~~ faced complications. Thus it was my inaction which harmed them.

Public life → As a D.M if he funds corruption takes place in the organisation and he takes no action against the culprit. Though he is not involved in corruption but his inaction may have disastrous impact ~~that~~ like failure of project or loss to public exchequer. Thus in both case he is accountable to others for his evil.

5. (b) "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."  
What does this quotation mean to you? Explain with an example. 10

Ans "Sheelam Param Bhushmam"

Character is the greatest virtue. A person who has been integrity, virtue, beauty in his character will have more success, happiness and respect in life.

However, a person who values privileges more than his principles will might have momentarily gain for that time but eventually will lose both in long run due to lack of integrity. Privileges may remain for sometime but

Principles will last long.

For example → Mr. Raju of Satyam  
Scandal valued  
privileges of wealth more  
 which provided him momentary  
 benefit but later on he  
 lost both his privileges  
 and principles.

However, Mahatma Gandhi  
 valued principles more and  
 led a simple, virtuous life  
 and he is valued now  
 everywhere in the world  
 and as "Father of Nation".

6. Instances of atrocities against dalits despite stringent legal measures point to the fact that the problem is not one of legality only but a matter of entrenched social prejudices and attitude. In this context suggest some effective measures to address the issue holistically. 10

Ans

"A society's progress is measured by how well it is able to take care of most vulnerable sections".

Caste discrimination is a social evil deeply rooted in our society since Vedic era.

There have been various provisions from constitutional, legal, institutional but however, recent example of Dalit rally in Una and beating of Dalits shows the prevalence of this among the society.

Caste issue is more of social attitude issue and shall be dealt with two pronged strategy - legal change and

## Social Change -

- ① Strong legal framework and effective implementation with - zero tolerance to atrocities
- ② Proper investigation and timely delivery of justice to bring faith among dalits
- ③ Social awareness among the citizens by use of media, and society
- ④ Education and awareness of campaigns by political leaders, role models, celebrities
- ⑤ Empowerment and assertion of identity of Dalits & effective grievance redressal mechanism
- ⑥ Sensitisation of police forces and ~~and~~ administration
- ⑦ Confidence building measures among dalits and other caste

7. What do you mean by 'anonymity in the civil services'? Explain why anonymity and neutrality are considered as important traits for civil servants. 10

Ans 7 Anonymity in civil services means to work without recognition of the doer i.e. Credit of the work goes to political leadership and not the civil servants.

For example → Skill India Scheme might be drafted by a civil servant but credit goes to skill development minister. This states the anonymity of civil servants.

Anonymity is essential to prevent a conflict between the executive and legislature as legislature represents the will of the people and have their mandate. Political leadership is

accountable to public and not executive. Therefore anonymity saves as well as help in effective functioning of civil services.

Neutrality means to act without any prejudices or bias and not favouring any group, party. Neutrality is foundational value of civil servant as it helps in objective, honest, rational decision making without any external or internal influence. India has diverse culture, polity and religions, so in order to have greater welfare of greater number, neutrality is sine-qua-non.

8. Prescription of dresscode for women not only violates their liberty but also reflects outdated views on gender relations as well as proper conduct.  
Comment.

10

Ans. "Yatra Naryastu Pujante, Ramante  
tatra Devta".

God resides where women are worshipped. However, such is not the case in our society which is highly patriarchal and biased against women.

'Constitution provides for equality of everyone but our society tends to violate the liberties, equalities and freedom of women. There have been many cases where prominent leaders are seen stating that "girls shall not

wear jeans, skirts". This highlight the mindset of considering women as inferior to men.

Every human being is equal and has fundamental right to decide what he/she shall wear. Dress code for anyone is a private affair and not of the society to decide. Dresscode prescription for women

shows our patriarchal, regressive minded where women are considered inferior to men. And men is considered as the decision makers. We shall not forget that it is the women who gives birth to men and not vice-versa.

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

9. You are DM of a very poor district in the hinterland of India. It has come to your notice that manual scavenging is widely prevalent in the district even though the new law prohibits manual scavenging in any form. Upon enquiry, you have found that the number of manual scavengers has been reported to be very low, however, hundreds of dry latrines in the district depict a different picture. You have also noticed two more important trends: first, most of the manual scavengers are Dalits, and second, in many of the cases they themselves go to the houses and request the owners to clean their toilets manually, as it would provide monetary benefits. The entire district administration has been criticized by the media and there is political pressure on you to manipulate the data in a way that it shows less number of manual scavengers in the district. Based on the given information answer the following:

1. Identify the ethical issues associated with manual scavenging.
2. List the options available to you in the given case. Evaluate the merits and demerits of each.
3. Discuss some feasible steps that you can take to control this serious problem.

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Ans 9. Manual scavenging depicts the worst of discrimination and is against the dignity of human values. The case study deals with prevailing social evil in the society and poverty in the country.

1) Manual scavenging encompasses these ethical issues -

(a) Issue of social discrimination of certain caste involved in such practice

- b) Issue of notion of purity and pollution prevalent in society where work is allotted to some caste as they are considered impure
- c) Issue of human dignity and basic human rights
- d) Issue of poverty and unemployment forcing people to work in such situations

2) options available are

(a) To do as said by higher authorities and manipulate the data.

Pros → 1) It will maintain my reputation with the higher authorities

2) It will prevent the administration from media shame and public shame.

Cons: (1) It is against the foundation values of integrity, objectivity, honesty, empathy and compassion towards weaker sections of the society.

(2) It will ignore the underlying cause and issue of manual scavenging leading to worsening of the situation of Dalits there.

(b) Prepare a true report based on evidences and ground analysis with true facts and figures.

Pros: (1) This is true character of a public servant upholding public service values and public welfare as sacrosanct.

(2) This will highlight the cause and draw attention of the government towards them leading to welfare of people there.

- Cont.
- 1) This may have effect on the personal reputation and career of the civil servant.
  - 2) This may cause furthermore public shame and media criticism of the administration.

3) Since issue here deals with social attitude and lack of employment opportunities. The feasible options are.

a) Strengthening the sanitary infrastructure using the existing schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and CSR activities of companies.

b) Making use of schemes like <sup>MNRGA,</sup> Skill India, NRLM, NULM to provide them with skills and livelihood so that they don't opt for such work.

- (c) Information, Education and Communi-  
-cation to spread awareness  
among the society about legal  
framework and social evils of  
Manual scavenging -
- (d) ~~to~~ Effective implementation of  
laws related to manual  
scavenging such as manual scavenging  
prohibition law.
- (e) Involvement of civil societies,  
media, local leaders to  
create awareness and behaviour  
change communication -
- (f) Effective grievance redressal  
system.

10. You are SP of a district where the use of drugs is prevalent, especially among the youth. The neighbouring districts are also suffering from the same problem. There is a huge hue and cry in the national media about the drug issue and the government and political parties are pressurising the police and district administration to act on the issue. A big deal of drugs is busted by the police in your area and all the culprits have been arrested. However, even before you reach your office, a minister from the ruling party of the state calls and asks you to release few of the culprits. You have long suspected the role of many senior leaders in this drug menace of the state. You have also been informed by your juniors that a few officers who dared to act against people involved in drug dealings were transferred or suspended on wrong charges earlier.

1. Identify the options available to you.

2. Evaluate the pros and cons of each of your options.

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Ans 10. Drug menace has caused a serious problem in many parts of countries. Such as Punjab. Involvement of ministers makes the problem complex. The issue here deals with public welfare versus personal sacrifice and values like integrity, aptitude, honesty of a public servant. The options available are-

(1) To do as minister says and leave some culprits.

Pros - (a) This will save the reputation of public servant with the minister.

(b) It will save him from personal loss of transfer or suspension.

Cons (a) This is against the values of public servant of integrity and aptitude, honesty.

(b) This will further aggravate the problem and spread the menace of the drugs.

(2) To inform the minister about their role in drug problems and their crime and not to leave them -

Pros (1) This holds the public service values of objectivity, integrity and public welfare.

(2) This will help in bringing the crackdown of the drug.

Pr = blem in the country / district

Cons-1) This will harm the personal reputation and career prospects of the civil servant.

(3) Inform all your higher authorities, prepare a evidence based cases and charges of the culprits and their role in drug problem and explain them about your actions.

Pros-1) This will solve the problem and save him from the pressure of minister

(2) Minister might get angry and harm him.

(4) Involve the media and  
expose the case.

Press → This might put pressure  
on ministers and govern-  
ment to act.

Cons → This against the code of  
conduct of public servant  
of going to media without  
informing the higher authorities

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(इस जगह में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. You are the manager of a small hotel which maintains high standards of ethics in dealing with its customers. One day a person comes to your hotel and enquires about booking a room at your hotel. However, due to peak season, all rooms were already booked and hence the staff politely informed him about the unavailability. The person, however, was adamant and took this as a personal insult and started misbehaving with the staff present at the counter. Citing his political connection he also threatened the staff of severe consequences. Next day the person lodged a frivolous complaint with the police under the stringent SC/ST act. In his complaint he accused you and your staff of insulting him deliberately on the basis of his caste. He insisted further that he was denied a room at your hotel due to the caste he belongs to.
1. What are the options available to you?
  2. Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons.

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Ans: work culture is essential for effective functioning of an organisation. Similarly, customer satisfaction is paramount but however some use it as a tool to harass the service providers. The issue deals with sensitive topic of caste discrimination. The options available are -

(1) To go to police and file a complaint against him for his behaviour.

Pros → This will put pressure on him ~~to~~ and create deterrence in his mind

Cons → He may get further angry and use his political connections

(2) To deny the charges as frivolous and accuse him of mischievous reporting

Pros → This might bring a makeover of your image

Con → It is lack of sincerity in approach

(3) To issue an official statement on behalf of the hotel stating the facts of the incidence as well request the police to do an independent and

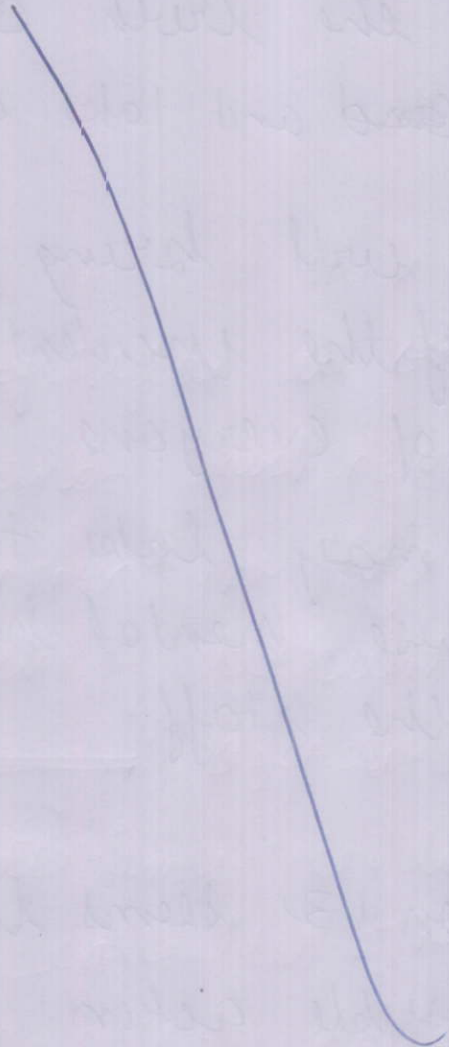
unbiased enquiry of the incidence to find out the truth of the case ~~and~~ and take action according to it.

Pros - This will bring the facts of the incident in front of everyone.

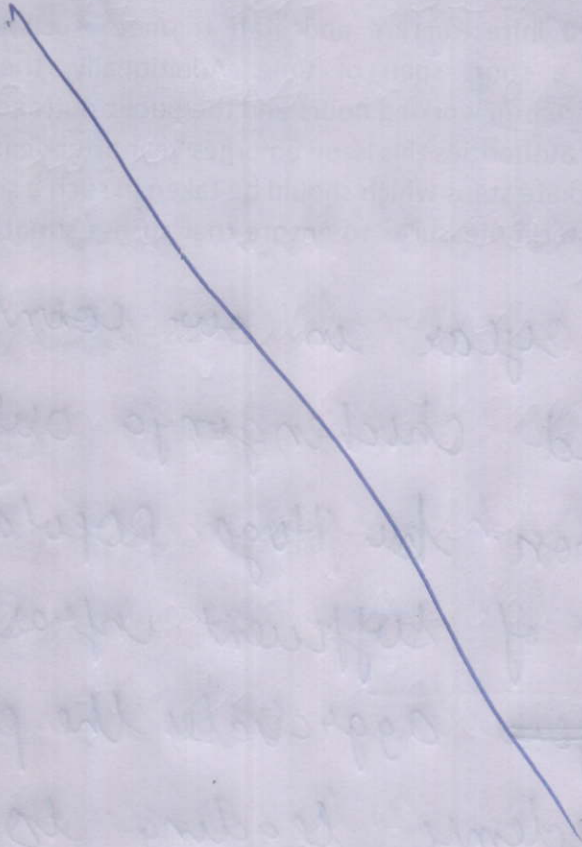
Cons - This may take time and cause mental harassment for the staff.

Option (3) seems to be the best possible action as it will follow the rule of law and have independent enquiry to find the truth and finally punishment to either of the culprits based on evidence and enquiry report.

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12. You are the Health Secretary in a state where there is an outbreak of dengue and chikungunya diseases. There have been reports of negligent attitude of some private hospitals in the city. Also, the public hospitals do not have the required infrastructure and staff to meet such increased number of cases in a short span of time. Additionally, the staff is demoralised by the increased working hours and the public outrage. Despite the efforts of the local authorities this issue emerges year after year.

1. What are the immediate steps which should be taken in such a situation?
2. Suggest some long term measures to ensure that such a situation is not repeated.

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Ans 12: Every year in our country dengue and chikungunya outbreaks are common due to huge population and lack of sufficient infrastructure. ~~It~~ ~~exaggerates~~ aggravates the problem of the epidemic, leading to massive casualties. The following situation needs following steps

- (i) Call up a meeting of head of all the hospitals in the city to assess the situation
- (ii) Assure the public of support and active role of government to deal with this problem.

- 3) Form an independent enquiry committee to look at incidences and reports of negligence.
- 4) ~~to~~ Assess the resources available and form a plan to deal with the problem.
- 5) Form a separate fever ward in every hospital and primary health care centres to deal with such patients and active surveillance - once.
- 6) Involve the mco, civil society and media ~~to~~ for intense fogging and anti mosquito measures.
- 7) If possible hire some contractual staff to decrease the workload or mobilise the staff from places where there is less workload.
- 8) Involve volunteers and members of civil society to help.

(9) Talk to staff and motivate them and encourage them for work.

(10) Make use of media, social media to create awareness about Do's and Don'ts of during such epidemics

For example - Campaigns like

don't collect water

- Use anti pesticides etc.
- avoid use of aspirin for fever.

(11) Effective grievance redressal and helpline numbers.

(12) Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the plan.

(2) Long term measures are needed to prevent recurrence of such problems -)

This shall follow dual strategy of active surveillance, ~~and~~ anti mosquitoes along with behaviour change communication

(a) Form a set of guidelines to deal with such epidemics in future.

(b) Timely and continuous fogging in the breeding season with the help of MCD.

(c) Strengthening the health infrastructure to deal with such epidemics.

(d) Make use of media, civil society, NGO, social media

to create awareness and  
information, education of citizens  
along with behaviour change  
communication to prevent  
the spread and growth of  
mosquitoes.

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13. As a Forest Officer, you are receiving increasing complaints of certain animals ruining the farms and causing damage to crops. This is creating an undue financial burden for the farmers who are in deep distress because of the uncontrolled damage. Consequently, the farmers are demanding you to put forward a request for culling of animals. You are an animal lover and against culling of animals. You had made efforts to control the menace but the population of animals has increased beyond the managing capacity.
1. What are the options available to you? Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons.
  2. Also suggest some long term measures to ensure that such a situation is not repeated.

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Ans Conflict between human and animal survival is an old conflict. The situation here deals with dilemma of animal protection and survival of farmers -)

(1) options available are -

(a) To explain the farmer that animals are essential for biodiversity and hence shall not be killed and we shall look for some other options :-

Pros This will prevent the animals from being cullled

which is our fundamental duty to preserve them and directive principle as well.

Cons:- 1) This may cause more harm to farmers and invite their anger, dissatisfaction.

(2) This might affect the livelihood of farmers.

(b) Form an independent committee to enquire and to do a ground level assessment of the situation looking at the causes of such conflict and damage caused to farmers. It shall also look for options available other than culling and provide unbiased

Observations - ~~Pen~~

Pros → 1) This will provide the  
~~the~~ a real assessment of  
the situation

2) This might benefit the  
farmer

Cons → 1) This might cause culling  
of the animals

The best way is to ~~not~~  
go with the observations of  
report of committee and if possible  
look for alternatives such as  
sterilization of animals. However,  
if it still does not may impact  
on the conflict, send a report  
to for culling of animals. This will  
keep the human welfare at  
supreme and even our Honourable

Supreme Court recently suggested the same in case of unavoidable human-animal conflict.

- (2) Long term measures shall be to avoid such conflicts -
- (a) Proper demarcation of areas of human interference and non-interference.
  - (b) Avoid encroachment of human into forest land.
  - (c) Spread awareness about the essentials of biodiversity and animals.
  - (d) Strict implementation of forest laws.
  - (e) Similarly, avoid overpopulation.

of animals, if needed go for sterilisation to prevent harm to human and crops.

if Behaviour Change Communication of farmers to opt for measures like fencing of farm fields and so on.

14. Dr. A.K. Singh, a professor of medicine, is a prominent cardiologist. His personal financial investments include significant stock holdings in three publicly traded biotechnology firms. He is approached by one of these firms to be a lead investigator in a therapeutic trial of a novel agent for preventing tissue damage from myocardial infarction (MI). This will be a randomized double-blinded, placebo-controlled clinical trial (neither patient nor physician will know whether the drug under investigation or a placebo is being used in a given patient). Dr. Singh is quite familiar with the preliminary animal and cell biology work in the area and believes that there is an excellent chance that this new drug will result in a significant improvement in survival and reduce damage to the heart muscle. He even thinks this novel agent may reduce the risk of heart failure and irregular beats. Dr. Singh's group is one of the few cardiology groups fully prepared to carry out this investigation, which is why he was contacted. He cares for a large number of patients with MI and believes that he could enroll numerous patients efficiently. The drug will only be available to his patients if his group participates in the trial. The company is offering Rs. 25 lakh for each patient enrolled. As a lead investigator, he will become much better known and will likely experience an increase in referrals if the trial succeeds.
1. Is Dr. Singh's participation in this study appropriate? Justify your position.
  2. Does Dr. Singh have a conflict of interest? If so, what is the nature of the conflict? How could it be mitigated.
  3. How would the nature of the conflict of interest be different had he not already owned stock, but instead had been offered stock as a form of compensation for conducting the study?

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Ans. Conflict of interest causes

Partisanship and non-objectivity in decision making. The issue here deals with public-welfare and personal welfare of Company and Dr. Singh.

- 1) No, Dr. Singh's participation is not justified as it involves

Conflict of interest which is that if company benefits, his personal investments will increase which will cause non-objectivity and partisanship in his decision making. This might have significant impact on the public welfare which might be jeopardized at the cost of ~~the~~ personal welfare of the firm and Dr. Singh.

(2) Yes, certainly Dr. Singh have a conflict of interest. Here there is a issue which deals with public welfare but however ~~the~~ the company ~~is~~ which is involved in this research is the one which has substantial financial

investment of Dr. Singh. If company benefits that will benefit Mr. Singh also. This conflict of interest will mask the decision making of Dr. Singh and can have devastating effects.

The conflict of interest can be mitigated by -

- (1) Instead of taking Dr. Singh some other group with equal capabilities shall be considered
- (2) Dr. Singh may either sell or withdraw his investments from the company.

(3) In the former situation his investment were already there so the success of the study will determine the amount of benefit he is going to have and this thought will undermine the objectivity of his decision making and he may take decision which is not true.

However, in the second case since he does not own the investment and hence there is ~~only~~<sup>no</sup> prejudice or biases in his mind but only such thing which says that the amount of ownership depends upon the success of the project. This might motivate him to work for

effective results as there is  
no prejudice or biases but  
genuine compensation for his  
hard work.