



VISION IAS

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2716)

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Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	1430179
Center	Online	Date	8/7

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	
3(c)	10	
4(a)	10	
4(b)	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:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWELVE** 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.

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended

Strongly Recommended

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Punjab & Sind Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

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

All the Best

SECTION - A

Answer the following questions in not more than 150 words each:

1. (a)

The consequences of ethical actions are shaped by the intent behind them, but good intentions may lead to unintended harm. Examine this statement with suitable examples. Is it correct to decide rightness or wrongness of an act by looking at the intention of the person who carries it out? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Deontological ethics decide the morality of the action based on the intent and means, whereby 'end' itself becomes ethical. However, it can create unintended harm:-

- Uncertainty of outcome
 - (Eg) deployment of IPKF in Sri Lanka for peace created animosity and condemnation
- Poor planning and execution
 - (Eg) Electoral Bond scheme to reduce black money
 - reduced transparency (RTI)
 - allowed corporate funding by shell companies
- Against Categorical Imperative
 - (Eg) Robinhood stole from rich for poor but created 'law & order' problem (not supported by Kant)

• Affirmative action for equality

(eg) multigenerational reservation creates
elites within Reserved community (Rohini
Commission)

Role of intention in ethicality of action

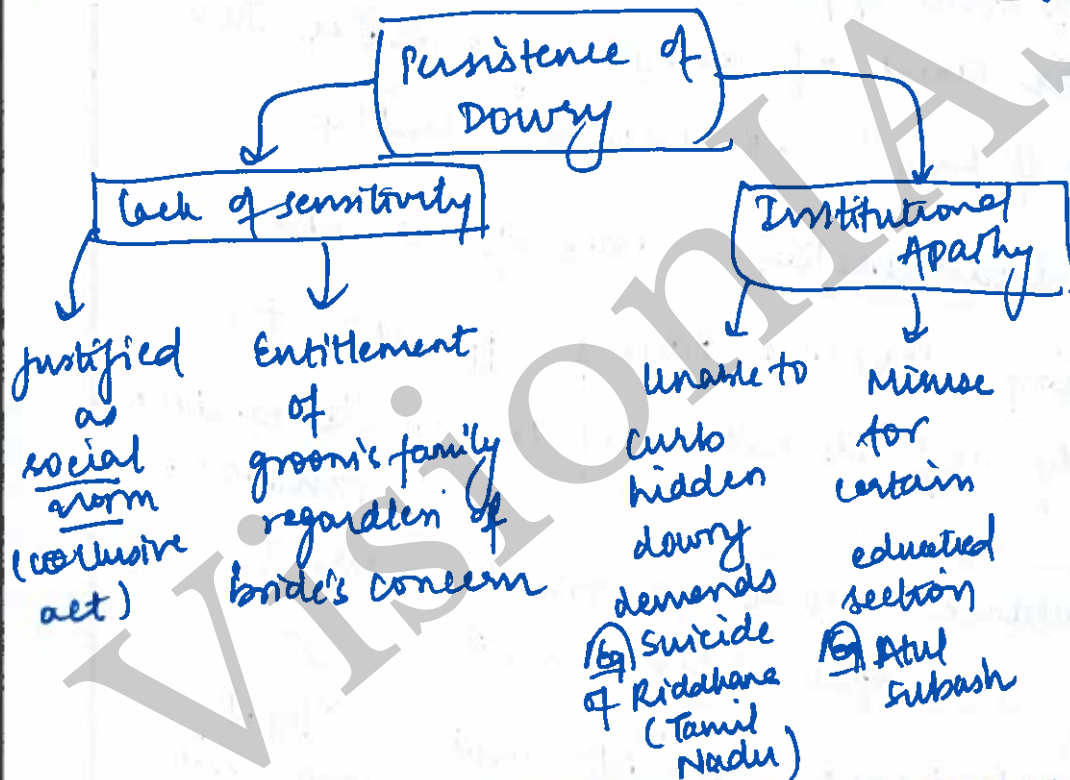
<u>Correct</u>	<u>Not correct</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by <u>virtue ethics</u> - (Aristotle's morality of action by doer's virtue) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed by '<u>consequential ethics</u>' - 'ends justify means' (Machiavelli)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Inaction</u> will lead to <u>no result</u>, but <u>failure</u> will provide <u>lesson</u> (eg) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will <u>display public's support</u> (eg) RTI on civil servant-reforms with good intention but caused public inconvenience (Demonetisation) 2016)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For <u>self promotion</u> (eg) influencers in Instagram) • Or for <u>awareness of people</u> (eg) Abhinav youtube channel) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • larger repercussions like global impact (eg) Hiroshima Bombing by USA to stop war

The role of intentions in rightness / wrongness depends on context, but along with intent clarity on means and forecasting desirable end is necessary for holistic ethicality

1. (b)

The persistence of dowry in Indian society reflects deeper issues of lack of sensitivity as well as institutional apathy. Discuss how ethical transformation is more important than mere legal enforcement in such cases. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The prevalence of dowry has transformed to 'gift giving' and 'informal demands' (for the daughter's convenience) despite Dowry Prohibition Act reflects ineffectiveness of law in social change.



Ethical transformation as more important than legal enforcement

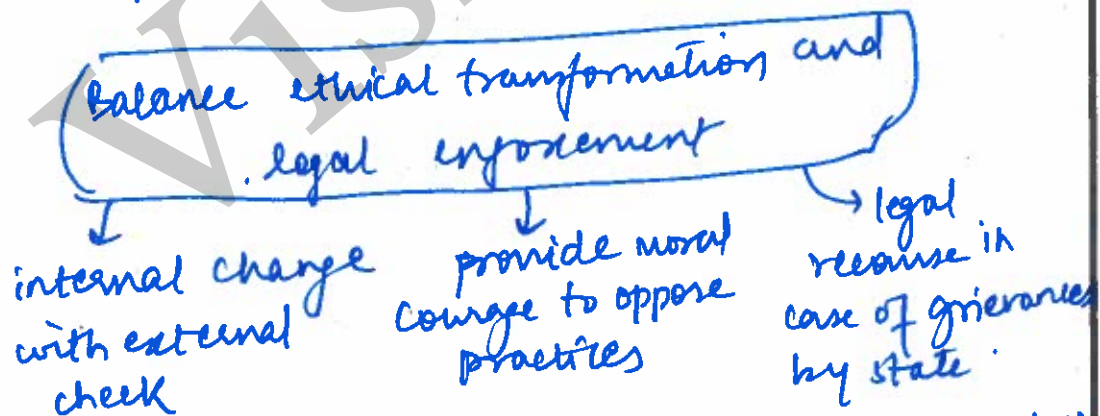
• Socialisation by family - Asking 'dowry' or accepting it as wrong should be taught since childhood as an uncompromising value.

• Education: Awareness and character
- building for desired practices by teachers
, curriculum and peers.

• Training conscience - By introspection
and self-awareness. Reading about role
models who opposed it.

"The court of conscience is higher than
court of law" - Mahatma Gandhi

• Social Sanction - Fear of societal
sanction develops norms applicable to
society (eg) alienation of dowry demanding
families.



The ethical transformation allows developing
attitude towards negative practices while
legal enforcement strengthens ability to eliminate
them.

2. (a)

Probity in governance is not just about laws, but about ethical leadership. Discuss this statement in the context of challenges faced by public officials in high-stakes situations.
(Answer in 150 words) 10

Probity in governance is essentially demonstration of ethics in public life, by holding one self to highest standard beyond what is legally required.

Probity of governance and ethical leadership

- Individual integrity - visible in public life (eg) Manik Sarkar - simplest CM in India (Tripura)
- Dedication to public service
(eg) Prashant Nair's Operation Sulemani to promote donations to poorer section
- Transformational leadership
By promoting ethical work culture and ecosystem (eg) APJ Abdul Kalam in IAS & DRDO
- Application of innovation for public interest

eg) Surendrasingh Solanki in solar lamp
project - made women green entrepreneurs

- Balance culture and environment

eg) chocolate Ganesha visarjan in milk
by Harijandar Singh Kukreja (IAS)

Challenges Faced by Civil Servants in
High Stake Situation

- Emotional Intelligence in Crisis

eg) controlling communal riots during
festivals (West Bengal)

- Calmness during Disaster Management

eg) Rajendra Bhadur preordered oxygen
cylinders expecting COVID19 second wave

- Public backlash on decision for public

eg) Demolition drive of illegal encroachment

- undertaking strict actions like 'lathi
charge'
in case of protests (violent)

Thus, probity in governance should be
developed by training, self-learning and rules
(ethics of civil service to maintain self control
during crisis and support people).

2. (b)

Ethical governance is not merely about avoiding wrongdoing, it is about proactively fostering an environment where ethical conduct is the norm. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Ethical governance involves inclusion of ethical values of integrity, tolerance, impartiality and non partisanship with objectivity in governance.

Ethical Governance not merely avoiding wrong doing

- Avoiding wrong doing promotes 'minimalistic governance' based on non-negligence only
- Create a lethargic work culture - Eg file shifting despite no bribery
- ~~creates~~ Avoidance of wrongdoing but non performance of duty creates 'Bureaucratic Apathy' and violates public trust.
- Opposes innovation, dilutes social capital and can create stagnancy.

Ethical Governance follow ethical as
room

- Promotes 'probity in governance' - Beneficial governance - going beyond minimal expectations
 (eg) E. Sreedharan (Metroman) - highest quality
 - Foster transparency and accountability
 (eg) RTI applications and CPGRAMS portal
 - Improve standards and quality of service delivery (eg) umang portal for e-governance
 - Optimal utilization of public funds
 (eg) social audit in MGNREGS
 - creating ethical workculture
 (eg) continuous innovation and learning
 (eg) mission Karmayog
- Thus, ethical governance upholds the 'Suottam Model' where ethical conduct is internalised in civil servants through practices & values

3. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?
- (a) "You may never know what results come of your actions. But if you do nothing, there will be no result." - Mahatma Gandhi (Answer in 150 words) 10

Mahatma Gandhi rightly points out the significance of undertaking actions, despite doubts and concerns as it leads to a learning opportunity.

He had famously said "Cost of doing ~~nothing~~ ^{wrong} is less than cost of doing nothing".

It is a famous story where David, a lean-weak shephard decided to face Goliath, a strong giant in order to save his community. He was not sure of his success, but he took action because victory was uncertain but not impossible.

Further, it helps in learning significance of failure. Edison said "he learned thousand ways not to make bulb".

It inculcates hope and optimism and emotional resilience to undertake any obstacles.

It strengthens courage, as seen in Ahrom's victory against mighty Mughals in Battle of Sarajhat. They knew if they do nothing, they'll be annihilated and conquered, yet they took effort to restore their independence.

In realm of foreign policy, inaction of big powers against Gaza's manmade famine has been criticised. If they exercise diplomacy, they could save the innocent civilians.

Alongside, climate inaction in Paris Agreement will increase temperature by 1.5°C and 2°C by end of century. Some effort will reduce its extreme impact.

However, in some cases doing nothing is justified like India's strategic autonomy and push for peace and negotiation. But generally actions taken will give experience and pathway to future.

3. (b)

"Man is the master weaver both of the inner garment of character and the outer garment of circumstance." - James Allen (Answer in 150 words) 10

The quote represents the interconnectivity of character and circumstances with the actions of a person, where one is responsible for both.

When Hitler encouraged 'Night of Broken Glass' against Jews, he himself had created circumstance for his downfall. Alongside consistent racism and confirmation for Aryan theory shaped his character.

In contrast, Lal Bahadur Shastri through his morality shaped his character of integrity and achieved position of a well-respected PM through people-centric reform like 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'.

Societal character and circumstances are shaped by its people. The prevalence of Apartheid in South Africa by the white

Africans led to degraded moral character and international condemnation & sanctions were imposed).

The character of Nelson Mandela and his supporters, through peaceful protests created situation for international support and creation of Apartheid free South Africa.

In life of civil servant, the quote holds value in terms of integrity, tolerance and perseverance. TM Seshan displayed strength of character for reforms in election and earned nationwide respect.

However, along with person's responsibility, society and prevalent time also decides morality and circumstance. eg ethicality of casteism in 10th century AD and present time.

Nevertheless, 'man is maker of his destiny' and should be empowered to guide it.

3. (c)

"The virtuous man is he who chooses the mean between excess and deficiency." - Aristotle (Answer in 150 words) 10

The 'Golden Mean' of Aristotle supports a balance between the extremities of values (eg) Courage is balance of recklessness and cowardice.

A virtuous man is the one who knows the harmonious limit on such values.

(eg) Buddha's Madhyam Marg - where he supported middle path between indulgence and asceticism for fulfilling life.

This is so because - It allows a person to maintain emotional and mental resilience, both in crisis and happiness.

(eg) Birbal's lesson to Akbar - 'This shall too pass'

It is beneficial for societal order - where ensuring social capital and peace among members is important. (eg) Extreme socialism

Caused corruption and poverty, while extreme capitalism causes inequality.

It also ensures graduated response in times of crisis. Just war theory supports 'war as last resort' and should not annihilate enemy. Ex Operation Sindoor

by India on Pakistan's terrorism (sponsored)

Alongside, it focuses on balance of 'empathy and objectivity' of civil servant so they undertake public interest but enforce rule of law. Ex a civil servant creating

exception for starving child without ration card

However, sometimes deficiency is justified like 'minimalist lifestyle to support

environment conservation. Excess in terms of humanitarianism Ex amnesty to refugees.

The practice of golden mean will allow a fulfilling life & pursuit of goals in best possible way.

4. (a)

In an age of hyper-digital activity and constant online presence, discuss the need for developing Digital Emotional Intelligence (DEI) among individuals, especially public servants. (Answer in 150 words) 10

with around 500 million internet users in world (Nokia Report) and ubiquity of social media, digital emotional intelligence is significant for mental health of individuals.

Digital Emotional Intelligence

Ability to understand the emotions of self and other with respect to digital interactions.

Need for DEI in individuals

- Differentiate between real and reel life
- High end lifestyle of influencers creating comparison among people
- Self-esteem associated to social

Parameters

- likes and shares creating anxiety among youth.
- Striving for perfectionism (eg) Beauty

filters in photos

- Cyber bullying and fake news
- DEI helps in differentiating 'fake news' with vested interest.

Appose cyberbullying and understanding it as 'reflection of other not self'

Need for DEI for public servant

- Tolerate criticism in social media
- eg) District collector bullied for slapping truck driver for violent protests
- Optimum use of social media
- Able to respond and accept the complaints and feedback gracefully eg) My Gov App
 - uphold fundamental value of anonymity

should not do self-promotion (as arbiter of justice)

 - Display non-partisanship and impartiality

eg) refraining from impulsive posts eg) Karnataka women IAS

The DEI will help individuals and public servants to maximise benefits of social media and reduce its negativity

4. (b)

In the context of climate change, how can value-based persuasion be more effective than rule-based enforcement in changing public behaviour? (Answer in 150 words) 10

With the increasing risk of climate change (1.5°C rise by 2100), focus on individual centric efforts through persuasion has increased.

Value-Based persuasion more effective than Rule-Based Enforcement

- value based persuasion focuses on 'Bottom up approach', where individual is driving change.

(eg) mission life by India

- values are enduring, thus help in building attitude of a person

(eg) values of Bishnoi community, led Amrita Bishnoi to protect forest

- Creates incentive to preserve their interests. (eg) water shortage in Sydney led to water saving initiatives by people.

- Role models enhance cooperation of people. Eq Greta Thunberg's Fridays For future movement

- Value Based Persuasion drives social change by people. Eq Youth in Portugal filed climate litigation against Govt.

Role of Rule Based Persuasion

- Creates a legal Framework - ensures abidance by fear and obedience.

- Rules are codified norms accepted by people, thus 'code of conduct for people'. Eq Ban of single use Plastic by India

- Creates a vigilance mechanism

Enforces social and legal morality
Eq State Pollution Control Board.

Thus, both rule based and Value based persuasion is important so to create a holistic approach for 'sustainable world'

5. (a)

A company is only as ethical as the decisions it makes when it's under pressure. In light of this statement, discuss the ethical dilemmas faced by organizations during economic downturns. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Bhagwad Gita preaches the morality is decided at times of crisis, similarly, a company's character is decided by its actions in hard times.

eg companies (Tata, Infosys) providing support to employees in COVID19.

Ethical dilemma of Companies in Economic Downturn

- Profit vs Welfare
 - Fulfill obligations to shareholders with profit.
 - or investment on employees' welfare
- Cost-cutting vs Trust
 - Layoffs to reduce cost of operation
 - eg Google during downturn in 2011
 - Maintain trust of employees - ask them to take low salaries temporarily.

- Quality of product/service vs

Quantity

→ Maintain higher quality, low volume
or higher quantity with degraded service

Impact customer's trust (Eg Zomato 10 minute
Delivery)

- Corporate Governance vs Immediate gratification

→ Corporate Governance → invites criticism
in short term, pays in long term.

Immediate Gratification by ^{creative} accounting
will hurt trust in long term.

(Eg Satyam Scam.)

- CSR initiatives vs Exploitation
↓
Duty to society even
at hard times (Eg Greenwashing)

Such ethical dilemma should be
resolved by 'Triple Bottom Approach', priority
to human welfare over money and societal
good.

'A company that earned nothing but money,
earned nothing in reality' - Henry Ford.

5. (b)

Discuss the ethical implications of war-induced displacement of refugees. How should countries balance national interest with their moral responsibility towards refugees?
(Answer in 150 words) 10

The recent cases of displacement of Rohingyas (Myanmar), Palestine Arabs (Israel, Egypt) and Chin Community create concern about war-induced crisis for refugees

Ethical Implications for War induced Displacement of refugees

• Individual

1. Mental Health concerns - Post Traumatic

Disorders, loss of loved one's.

2. Create scenario of radicalism

"Terrorist are not made in religious organisations but refugee camps"

• Society

1. Create local-refugee conflict

(eg) Bangladeshi refugees and Indians

2. Competition for resources - scarcity and drive prejudice.

- Nation

1. National Security - (Eg) Tehreek-e-Taliban in Pakistan

- Globally cause 'loss of nationality', forcible deportation (Eg UK to Rwanda) and separation of families.

Balance National Interest and Refugees by Govt

- Follow legal code - (Eg) Refugee Convention of 1951 and 1967

- Uphold Categorical Imperative - universality of human as end

- Counseling and social facilities to refugees
 - Deal with mental stress
 - reduce chances of radicalisation
 - intercommunity contact for solidarity

- Ethical intervention → (Eg) India in Bangladesh liberation 1971 for people's welfare

The powerful and host nations have responsibility to uphold humanitarianism and encourage value of 'Vandev Kutumbakam'

6. (a)

What teachings of Vardhaman Mahavira are most relevant today and why? Discuss.
(Answer in 150 words)

10

Vardhaman Mahavira introduced doctrine of Jainism which survives till today to guide people towards moral righteousness.

Teachings of Mahavira	Relevance of Teaching Today
<p>(1) <u>Triratna</u> Sanyak Gyan (Right Knowledge)</p>	<p>Person must <u>pursue education and knowledge</u> to be aware and productive human capital. <u>ethical education for morality</u> (eg. NEP 2020)</p>
<p><u>Sanyak Darshan</u> (Right view)</p>	<p>Should develop fair and moral view for society avoid <u>corruption</u>, using <u>people as means</u> for self interest (eg. judicial independence)</p>
<p><u>Sanyak Charitra</u> (Right character)</p>	<p>Develop good character respect everyone and be ethical (eg. Dalai Lama.)</p>

Teaching	Relevance
<u>Panch Mahavrat</u> i) <u>Ahimsa</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give up war and conflict • (Eg) communal peace among communities • Vegetarianism - Animal rights, environment protection
ii) <u>Satya</u>	<p>Speak truth.</p> <p>Avoid Fake news, paid news</p> <p>(Eg) Fact check units, Peer based fact checking (Facebook)</p>
iii) <u>Aparigraha</u> (no property)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimalistic lifestyle • Avoid land based dispute among people, states, countries
iii) <u>Asteya</u>	<p>Do not steal (Eg) bribery by civil servants.</p> <p>embezzlement - Nitav Modi case</p>
iii) <u>Parahmashya</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid indulgence. • Gender rights (Eg) women based violence
<u>Anekavade</u>	<p>Tolerance among all utens</p> <p>(Eg) Freedom of speech (A-G)</p>

Thus, Jain doctrine supports deherement of 'Karvarya' even in 21st century if world follows

6. (b)

Dedication to public service forms one of the foundational values for a civil servant. Discuss how it goes beyond professional duty. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Dedication to public service refers to internal motivation to uphold public interest and spirit to selflessly serve society for its betterment.

Dedication to public service as foundational value of civil servant

self-motivation even in
obstacles

(Eg) Ravi Teja (IAS) at field during flood relief operations

perseverance for improvement
(Eg) P.S. Appu to save civil services culture

Emotional value to one's
duty

Goes Beyond Professional Duty

• Do not seek compensation for the public service or recognition.

(Eg) S. Sankaran for supporting 'Sajai' Karamchhari movement, people installed his statue

• Innovation for balancing public interest and governance. (Eg) Cafe Able

by Sandeep Mandhuri → employed physically challenged -

- Public mobilisation for Good

cause (eg) S. Somavanshi installed AC from his office at malnutrition centre, inspire people to donate Rs 5 lakh

- Develop emotional resilience despite

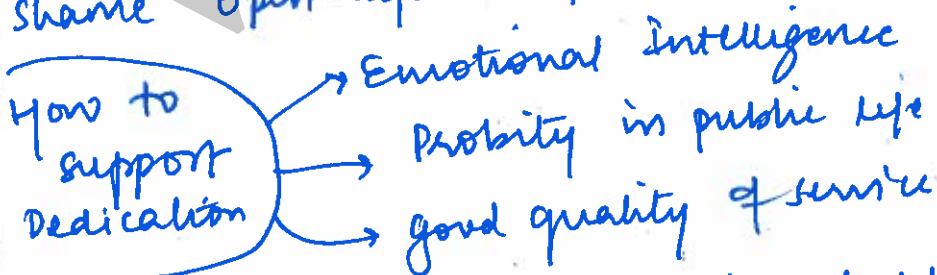
failures (eg) Ashok Khemka, transferred 66 times

- Moral fortitude to uphold integrity

(eg) HR Khanna gave minority judgement in ADM Jabalpur case

- Use power to empower

(eg) Malbika Khatri mobilised children to shame open defecation (LAS)



The 'dedication to service' upholds Kautilyan idea of paternalistic kingship where the power is used for benefit of people.

SECTION B

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

7.

Siddharth, a 13-year-old school student, has been arrested for the fatal stabbing of his classmate Saumya after a series of bullying incidents at school and on social media. Investigations reveal that Siddharth was the target of a sustained cyberbullying campaign, including derogatory remarks and the circulation of his private images without consent.

Further inquiry reveals that Siddharth was under immense peer pressure and was handed a weapon by his classmates, who believed he would only use it to scare Saumya. Siddharth's emotional distress had gone unnoticed by both his parents and school authorities. The community is now sharply divided. While some blame the school's failure to intervene, others blame the role of digital platforms, and poor parenting.

Siddharth's parents express regret for not noticing signs of emotional breakdown and possible online radicalization. The incident has triggered a wider debate on the ethical responsibilities of schools, parents, digital platforms, and the justice system when dealing with children and social media.

(a) Discuss the key ethical issues involved in this case.

(b) Analyze the role of peers in influencing adolescent decision-making.

(c) Discuss the evolving nature of responsibilities of parents and schools in helping adolescents deal with situations of emotional distress. (Answer in 250 words) 20

The case deals with impact on children of cyberbullying and lack of support from institutions.

(a) Key ethical issues

• Discrimination: Bullying as form subjugation of weaker sections

violates Rawls theory of justice, 4-14

• Absentee Parenting — lack of attention on child over his distress.

• Failure of school institution - important socialising agent, failed to protect children emotionally & physically.

• Constitutional Morality - violation of DPSP about protection of children (Article 28) and Article 19 Right to privacy

• Digital ethics - normalisation of cyberbullying, lack of action from digital platforms

• Increased in depression and rage in children

(b) Role of Peers in adolescent decision making

• Conformity - with prevalent trends

(eg) popular student bullying joined by others

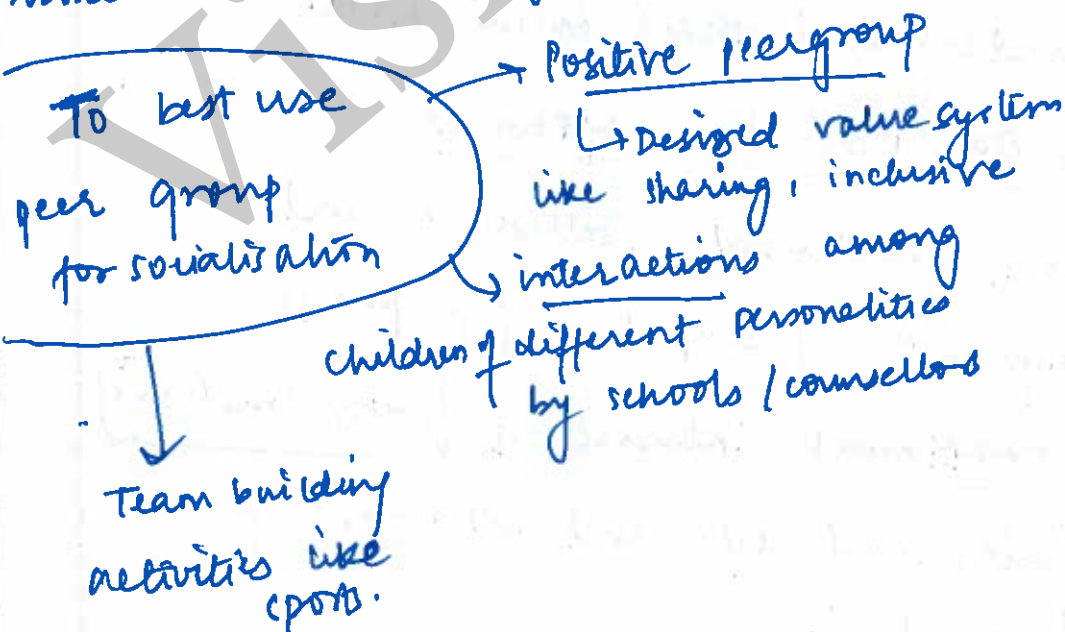
• Role Model - action of model student is copied by other student

• Cognitive Dissonance - inability to conform causes self esteem issues and low self confidence; ~~is~~ isolation from peers

• Value Development - More horizontal power status than teachers and parents

- learn about sharing concerns
- Emotional discussions
- Guidance about facing common challenges

• Peer Pressure - Participation in some whole challenge



(c) Evolving nature of responsibilities
for child's emotion distress
of Parents

1) Democratic Parenting

→ Inclusion in child's life with
active interest (eg) activities in school

→ Aware of any behavioral change
and signs of distress

→ oversight over the content of social
media usage for responsible access

2) Interaction with child's peer group
to understand their social world

3) Role Model in openness about
concern, emotional intelligence and
development of empathy for peers

4) Continual interaction (with teachers)
to understand life and behavior of
child in school.

→ Teachers / School

1. Create safe space for emotional outlet of children. (eg) Hire guidance counsellors

2. Role Modelling - Teachers to display empathy and social skills for student to share concerns about bullying, discrimination

3. Value Based Education - supporting value learning through role play, team activities for desirable attributes

4. Curriculum - promoting peer-based support system, acceptance of differences, tolerance

5. Seminars and Programmes - to create awareness about harms of social media and effects of cyberbullying

The scourge of bullying at physical or virtual level needs medicine of empathy and support for creating a supportive system.

8. You are the District Collector of Malinar, a coastal district in Kerala. The Government of India has recently implemented a nationwide ban on bottom trawling under the Marine Fisheries (Regulation & Management) Rules, 2024, citing serious ecological damage caused by the practice.

However, in Malinar district, a majority of the traditional fishing community has relied solely on bottom trawling for decades. Most fishermen possess only trawling boats and lack the training or resources to transition to alternative practices. The situation has intensified ahead of the upcoming United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) "Oceans for Tomorrow" Conference, to be hosted in Kochi. The central government wants to showcase strict enforcement and marine conservation achievements. You receive a formal directive from the State Secretariat to take strict legal action, including seizure of boats and arrests, against fishermen found violating the ban.

Simultaneously, a confidential note warns you that any negative media attention or footage of illegal trawling from your district could "embarrass the state" and jeopardize national image at the global forum.

Local tensions rise as environmental NGOs begin posting satellite-based evidence of illegal trawling. Fishermen's cooperatives are protesting, arguing that they have no alternative source of income, and any seizure of boats will push hundreds into destitution. They threaten to block access to the district harbour and dump fish waste outside government offices if strict enforcement continues.

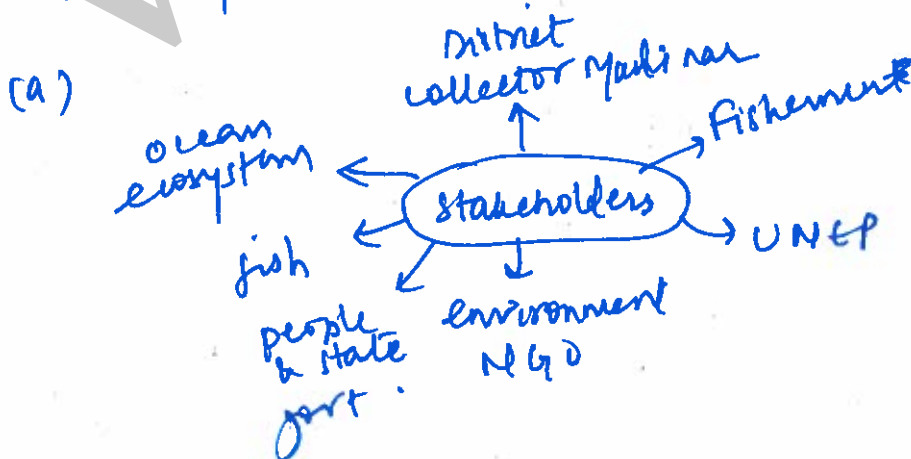
(a) Who are the principal stakeholders in this case? Analyse their perspectives and conflicting interests.

(b) As the District Collector, what are the various options available to you to address the situation? Evaluate the merits and demerits of each option.

(c) What course of action would you take and why? Justify your decision. (Answer in 250 words)

20

The environmental initiatives like ban on bottom trawling have multidimensional effect, on fishermen and administration.



• District collector - 1) Need to fulfil
duty as directive of state says 'ban on
bottom trawling

2) Social contract with people - uphold
interest of fishermen

• Fishermen - 1) concern about loss of
livelihood

2) Imposition of state without any
supportive measure

• State Govt and Authorities - 1) Uphold
international commitment to UNEP

2) Means to transition to fishermen
not provided → dilution of democracy

3. Risk of international defamation with
videos.

• Environment NGD - Focused on one
sided view of 'ban', not its impact on people

• Ocean and fisheries - Degradation and
future exhausting potential of exhaustion.

(b) Options Available to District collector

1. Use force on fishermen

Merit

i. Resolve immediate
problem of 'embarrassing'
state'

ii. Ensure smooth
event progress

Demerit

i. invite criticism
of state's autocracy

ii. Fuel further
protests and
disorder

iii. violate trust
of people

2. Digital restriction and seek removal

of photos

Merit

- save prestige of
state and immediate
resolution of problem

Demerit

• Abuse of power
under Telecom Act,
IT rules

• Violate Article 19
Freedom of speech

3. Joint meeting of Environment NGO and fishermen

Merit

• Exchange of idea

Demerit

• cause deadlock
and confront

and harmonious
solution to ban
bottom trawling
with 'just transition'

Demerit
Delay decision
making

(c) Course of Action

- Seek cooperation with fishermen
following Socrates - a person does not
do unethical task knowingly

Give awareness about harmful
effects and future destruction of
ecosystem with bottom trawling

- Seek support from state for subsidy
and training in ecologically sustainable
fishery method.

Ask fishermen to enroll into state
schemes promoting diversification

- Promote 'compensation' to farmers

for their losses on ban on bottom

trawling

Include environment NGOs for develop-
-ment of ecological fisheries.

• At present - request both environment
NGO and fishermen to cooperate as
antagonism will do no

- cause loss of prestige of India

- legal actions against both

Why - • Harmonious solution will
support long term collaboration

• Both parties are right and justified.

State instead of 'topdown measure', needs to
develop inclusive approach catering to all
parties.

Thus, environmental reforms require
a bottom up approach and just transition
for long lasting and sustainable solution

9.

You are a senior researcher at a prominent cosmetic company, responsible for overseeing the testing phase of a new anti-aging product.

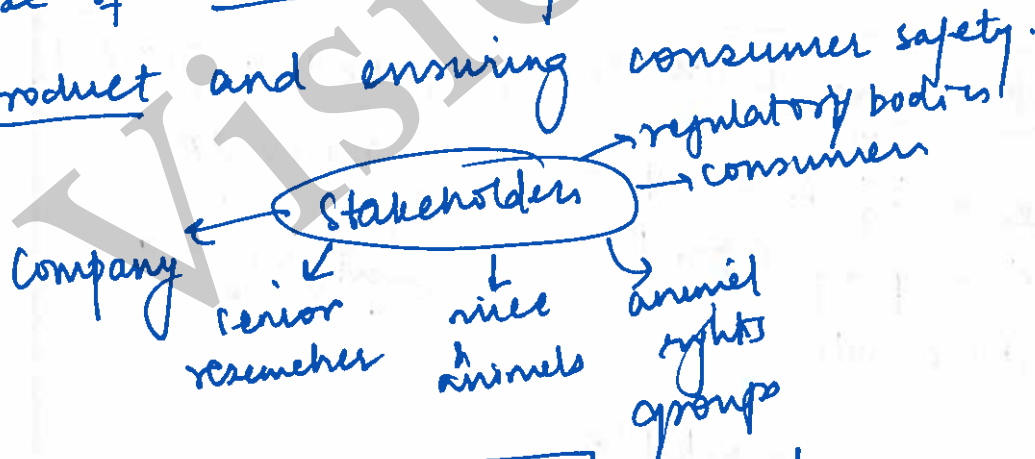
The company proposes using mice to assess the safety and efficacy of the product. However, there is growing public concern over animal testing, particularly from animal rights groups, which argue that using animals for cosmetic testing is both cruel and unnecessary. Further, regulatory bodies have established strict procedures that cosmetic companies must follow to ensure safety for consumers.

You, being a proponent of ethical practices, are conflicted between meeting the company's market deadlines and adhering to your personal beliefs regarding animal rights. You are also bound by the stringent procedures established by regulatory bodies. However, the company is facing year-on-year losses due to intense competition. An internal marketing study reveals increasing demand for anti-aging products and test on mice is the fastest method to achieve reliable results.

Although the company has guidelines for humane treatment of animals, you feel uneasy about the ethical implications of using animals, especially given the availability of alternative testing methods like in-vitro testing and 3D human skin models.

- (a) What are the key ethical dilemmas you face in using animals for cosmetic research?
- (b) What are the options available to you in this scenario? Which option should you choose and why?
- (c) What measures can you propose to reduce the reliance on animal testing in the company's future research? (Answer in 250 words) 20

The case deals with dilemma about use of animal testing for cosmetic product and ensuring



⊙ Ethical dilemma faced

Utilitarianism
↓
good quality product to consumers

vs Categorical imperative
↓
Harming animals is wrong in all cases

- **Deontology** vs **Teleology**

Means of achieving objective (animal testing) as unethical vs End product as adhering to consumer safety
- **Personal belief** vs **Professional duty**

empathy to mice being tested vs Integrity to uphold company's interest
- **Anthropocentrism** vs **Psiocentrism**

use of nature (including animals) for humans utility vs Animals have right, can't be encroached by humans
- **Economy of process** vs **Effective process**

mice testing is cheaper for company → profit for shareholders vs Attempts processes available but costlier &

b) Options Available

- (i) **Undertake mice testing** vs **Dement**

Ment vs **Dement**

• faster results vs Inner dissonance with personal values

Merit

- Profit for loss making company

- Backlash from animal activists
- possible sanctions by govt

(2) Use alternative methodMerit

- Save from personal crisis of conscience
- uphold animal rights
- change in testing ecosystem

Demerit

- Delays and cost might hurt company
- might replace as senior researcher for someone flexible

(3) ResignMerit

- Release from the whole debate and saved from nonadherence to ethics

Demerit

- Does not resolve the structural issue of animal testing
- Appears as cowardice

Course of Action and Why

- Principled Pragmatism - Refuse animal testing, it doesnot adhere to personal value system and caused harm to animals.

- Following 'Atmanah Pratikulani Pareshan na Shcharet' - (Do not do unto others what you may not do unto yourself)
Animal testing is inhumane and oppose it

- Urge company to invest in newer technologies that are more humane.
will provide social capital for being humanitarian; long term brand equity with consumers

Ensure long term sustainability

- In case of reputal, should resign and

Report to the authorities to promote good practices in industry.

(c) Measures to reduce use of animal testing.

→ Human trials: Based on consent and transparency for effectiveness and side-effects

→ Technological advancements Eg 3D skin and invitro testing. will provide detachment with process and effective & faster results

→ Invest in virtual simulations to predict results of products through AI and deep learning

The practice of animal testing can be phase out due to presence of technological alternatives and awareness of the negative impact it has on animals.

10. Mohit is the Deputy Commissioner of a prominent industrial district in India. The largest industrial unit in this district is a steel making public sector undertaking which was established three decades ago.

During the establishment of the PSU, large number of families were displaced and in return they were promised jobs in this unit. Subsequently, a large group of displaced youth was also trained under the PSU's apprenticeship programme.

While the PSU had assured them jobs after completing apprenticeship training, most trained individuals remained unemployed, with many now over 45 years old and unable to find jobs elsewhere. For nine years, the unemployed individuals have been demanding permanent employment but to no avail.

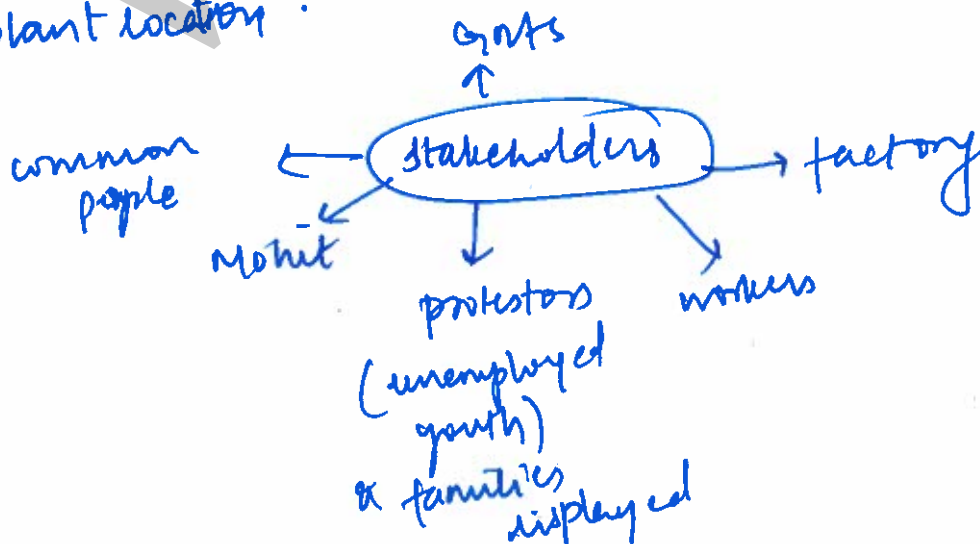
Finally, they resorted to protests outside the establishment. The protesters blocked the main gate, obstructing employee movement and disrupting operations. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) resorted to a lathi charge to disperse the crowd, resulting in the death of a 23-year-old protester. The protests escalated, with demonstrators damaging a canal supplying water to the plant.

The steel plant is a thermo-sensitive facility with highly sensitive gas pipelines, and any leak could pose a serious threat to public safety. Further, with the blockade continuing for over 18 hours, nearly 5,000 employees remain trapped inside without access to food and water, significantly impacting plant operations.

Mohit needs to placate the protestors as they are threatening to go on a prolonged protest. At the same time, the plant should be kept operational to prevent any critical industrial and public safety risk.

- (a) What are the ethical dilemmas that Mohit faces?
 (b) Discuss all the options available to Mohit as the Deputy Commissioner.
 (c) What course of action should Mohit take given the critical nature of the situation?
 (Answer in 250 words) 20

Mohit, a deputy commissioner faces challenge of protestors at a risky steel plant location.



an ethical dilemma faced by Mohit

• Safety of plant workers

(Threat to life)

vs interests of protestors

(genuine grievance)

• violation of social contract

vs Economy of operation

(public sector) plant promised job but did not

Damage and destruction will cause harm to PSU & govt

• Use of force

vs

Weak sovereignty

on protestors - threatens trust with public

in case of inaction

• Means

vs

End

Protestors causing in convenience to people

to make govt listen to their grievances

(b) Options Available to Mohit

1. Use of force to disperse protestors

Ment

- Immediate resolution of problem
- utilitarian - saving people inside factory and public disaster averted

Dement

- Poor, social trust state seen as autocratic & oppressive
- Inner dissonance

2. Negotiate with protestorsMent

- Come to harmonious solution and amicable resolution
- Save from inner dissonance & use of force

Dement

- Delay and may risk life of workers inside
- Deadlock

3. Advice of superiorMent

- Guidance based on precedents

Dement

- May support direct use of force

4. Ask company for immediate relief to protestors

Merit

- Step towards resolution of issue
- Protestors rights upheld

Demerit

- Negative precedent about holding state at gunpoint to extract demand

(c) Course of Action

1. Principled Pragmatism :
- Support the company to offer some relief to protestors
 - By providing employment
 - Monetary compensation for loss
 - Ask govt to provide support the economic and employment aspirations of protestors
 - Public commitment to protestors

to ensure resolution of their
concern if they stand back for now

2. Systemic Changes. Address issue
of unemployment in the region (root
cause of conflict)

- Start training and upskilling programmes
for employment in emerging sectors

- Attract private enterprise and
investment for local creation of job

3. Both short term measure and
long term measure would ensure
addressing the employment problem in
the region.

Mohit as district collector needs to
balance concerns of company, govt and
people and ensure comprehensive growth.

11. You have recently been appointed as the Chief Secretary of a state. Soon after, you receive multiple reports highlighting instances of unprofessional conduct by several civil servants, including officers of the All India Services. These include publicly displaying political allegiance at government functions, engaging in culturally inappropriate gestures such as touching political leaders' feet, and posting controversial or sensitive opinions on social media platforms that could be interpreted as partisan and breach of civil service norms.

These actions have triggered criticism from the public and media, raising concerns about the erosion of the neutrality, integrity, and discipline expected of public servants. You believe that these actions, if left unchecked, could damage the credibility of the administration and the trust reposed in it by the people.

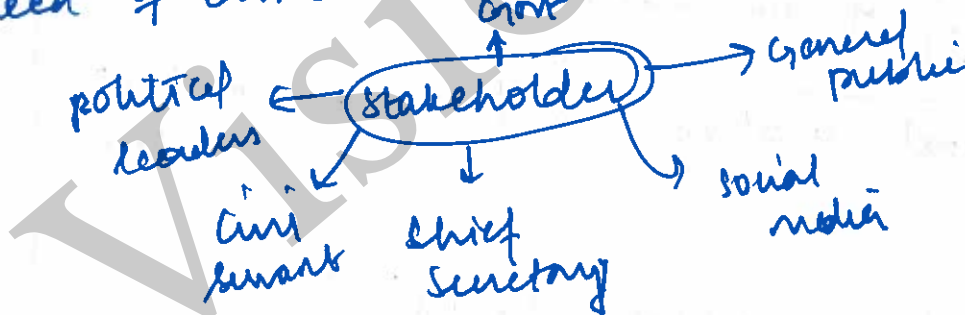
You now face the challenge of taking corrective measures to ensure that such incidents are not repeated, while also maintaining morale within the services and avoiding overly harsh or demotivating actions.

(a) What are the ethical concerns in this case?

(b) As the Chief Secretary, what steps should you take to address the situation?

(c) How can a balance be maintained between respecting personal freedom and upholding professional standards of civil servants? (Answer in 250 words) 20

The case highlights issue of erosion of neutrality, integrity and discipline and need of corrective measures.



(a) Ethical concerns.

- Violation of impartiality and non-partisanship (eg) Touching politicians feet

- Against Weberian Bureaucracy - of distant and objective nature
- Breaks 'social contract' by civil servants with public - unable to uphold public interest & trust
- Violates 'Rawls Theory of justice' - dilution of veil of ignorance by showing support to politicians
- Spoils image of Bureaucracy - against probity of governance
- Legal violation - civil services Conduct Rules

(b) Step to address the issue

1) Issue 'Code of Ethics' - Maximum standards to be upheld by the civil servants at public platform.

(2) Update 'code of conduct' - enforceable
if foundational values of civil service
violated - bring penalty and sanction

(3) Training and Seminars - on
ethical conduct through 'Mission
Kamrayogi' in iGOT platform

(4) Use of public social media for
citizen grievance not self promotion.

Issue detailed guidelines how a
civil servant must use social media
(5) Punishment for posting polarising
messages, along with sensitisation of
upholding neutrality as essential in
bureaucracy.

(c) Maintain balance between personal freedom and professional standards of services

1) Regulate use of public social media - public account should be used only for governance purpose

2) Reiterate role of bureaucracy as policy implementer - avoid self promotion for 'doing one's job'

3) Advise 'equal' distance from political parties and showing political allegiance shall be punished as per Conduct Rules.

4) Article 34 allows limited ~~personal~~ fundamental rights, it can be extended to civil servants for adherence

The civil services is 'steel frame'
of India and acts diluting its trust
should be checked, first by discouragement
and clarification with punishment at
last resort.

12. You are the newly appointed Superintendent of Police (SP) of Puri district, Odisha, brought in after a tragic stampede during the recent Rath Yatra festival that claimed three lives and injured over fifty devotees. An official inquiry cited serious lapses in crowd control, poor coordination among police units, and the controversial prioritization of VIP access over the safety of ordinary devotees as contributing factors.

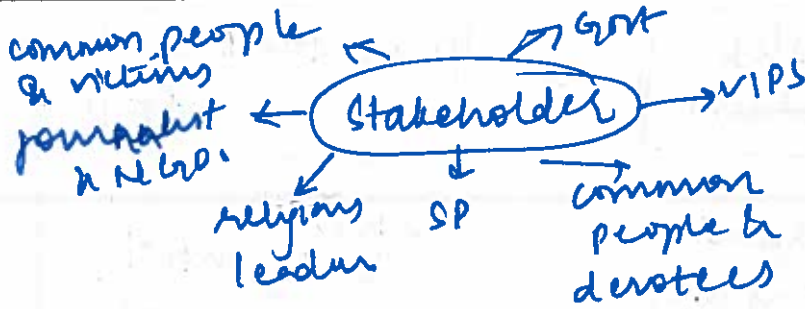
With three more major rituals of the Rath Yatra scheduled over the next week, and a turnout expected to cross 10 lakh devotees, you are tasked with ensuring foolproof security and achieving zero casualties. As you prepare the revised plan for crowd management, you are faced with a new challenge: a senior cabinet minister's office sends a firm message requesting unrestricted VIP access for several high-profile guests, citing their contributions to temple development. The minister emphasizes that these guests must be given safe, fast-track access to the rituals—particularly during peak hours—for "security and protocol reasons." You are discreetly informed that failure to comply may reflect poorly on your "team spirit" and "coordination."

However, in coordination meetings, your technical team strongly recommends a complete ban on VIP movement as well as restricted public access during peak hours. Your technical team reiterates that strict movement controls and complete exclusion of VIP corridors during peak hours are essential to prevent another tragedy. Even a group of local journalists and civil society activists approach you to acknowledge institutional lapses earlier and ban all elite access in solidarity with the victims' families, failing which, they threaten to make public compelling evidence that police personnel ignored crowd warnings during the stampede.

Moreover, there is also discomfort among religious leaders of the area regarding heavy restrictions, fearing it may disturb centuries-old ritual sanctity. You must now take a final decision that could either uphold the principle of equity and public safety or preserve traditional hierarchies and personal rapport with the political leadership.

- What are the ethical dilemmas that you face?
- What are the options available to you to cope with this situation?
- Which of the options, do you think, would be the most appropriate for you to adopt and why?
- What systemic reforms would you suggest for the long-term resolution of such challenges in managing large religious gatherings, particularly concerning VIP access as well as public safety? (Answer in 250 words) 20

As an SP in Odisha during Rath Yatra, there is need to balance demand of VIP, religious leaders and common people's interest in this case



(a) Ethical dilemmas

- **Personal interest** vs **Public Safety**

↓ vs ↓

Poor performance if not given VIP access vs Threat of stampede
- **Safety of devotees** vs **Ritual sanctity**

↓ vs ↓

enforcing restriction in movement vs Harsh religious sentiments
- **Comfort of elites** vs **Sentiments of victims family**

↓ vs ↓

Debates 'Equality principle' (A-14) vs
- **Transparency** vs **Trust over police personnels**

↓ vs ↓

Restricting evidence of negligence by police personnels of accident vs Discourage to demotivate personnels

• **Poor disaster preparedness**
 ↓
 unable to handle crowd in first ritual

vs

uncertainty of events
 ↓
 lapses in crowd control, VIP access, poor coordination

(b) Options available

- allow VIP access → Merit → cabinet ministers appeased
 → Demerit → stampede risks highlighted by technical team
- Regulated access to both VIP & devotees → Merit → please religious leaders, equal access
 → Demerit → threat of stampede
- Ban all elite access → Merit → reduce threat of stampede, protect from victim's family's threat
 → Demerit → anger of cabinet minister

(c) Most appropriate option

- Ensure regulated entry of all devotees through timeslot and ticketing. Limit crowding and threat of stampede while keeping traditions of regions lively alive.
- NO VIP access - cause of last stampede. Thus avoid in next ritual to ensure safety of devotees regardless of worth of cabinet minister.
- Acknowledge failure of institutional measure - 1) reduce risk of blackmail of civil service
2) enforce transparency and accountability in bureaucracy.

3) Despite public backlash, will ensure public trust as capability to accept fault and take corrective measure

4) Provision of compensation to victims family.

(d) ~~that~~, a religious event with large crowd requires proper crowd control measures

- Proper planning of entry & exit
- use of technology like drones, CCTV to track crowd movement (e.g. Mumbai, Kerala)
- placement of personnel at critical points
- Regular communication with crowd to maintain order and decongest
- Partitions to create lines rather than haphazard crowd accumulation

The religious events should have well defined policy of crowd control measure to reduce loss.