

प्रश्न संख्या  
(Question No.)

# U.P.S.C.

(इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें)  
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TEST CODE - 2906

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CENTRE - ONLINE

DATE - 28/7/2024

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A1)a) Socialisation of child in the family also comes with the threat of ingraining prejudices present in the family inside the child eg.  
Patriarchy

Role of formal education in counteracting prejudices

i) universal ideas like honesty, integrity are basis of formal education.

ii) Interaction with other kids refines one's ideas.

iii) Knowledge is imparted by a teacher with training in the subject.

iv) Reward and punishment, regular evaluations, etc ingrain the knowledge inside the children.

v) Co education institutions can sensitise children towards gender issues eg: menstruation.

vi) Higher education are highly advanced promoting rationalism eg: Physical sciences.

## Merits of home education

i) Personalized attention to the needs of child. Each can have different pace of learning.

ii) Familiar examples in teaching eg: vernacular education.

Formal education can work best if found on a strong value base since childhood.

A1) b) Whistleblowing is the act of highlighting  
wrongdoings in an organisation to  
concerned authorities eg: Edward Snowden

## Ethical implications of whistleblowing

- i) Right to information for the  
citizens eg: Criminal antecedents  
of legislators
- ii) Right to privacy for the institutions  
is also important though.
- iii) Accountability of institution  
towards citizens.
- iv) Promotes transparency by voluntary  
disclosure of data eg: RTI
- v) Right to life of whistleblower  
gets threatened.
- vi) Promotes responsibility towards  
society & environment eg: BSR  
framework

## Developing culture of whistleblowing

- i) Legal protection to whistleblower  
eg: Protection of Whistleblower Act
- ii) Freely available data eg: RTI Act
- iii) Not disclosing the identity of the whistleblower
- iv) Internal grievance committees to ensure responsible whistleblowing
- v) Independent Ombudsman / Lokpal  
when ~~the~~ internal committee fails

whistleblowing is important to impart fear in minds of wrongdoers that someone is watching like me. Panopticon.

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A2) a) Civil services in India are governed by specific conduct rules like All India Service Conduct Rules 1968

## Features of Conduct Rules

- i) Honesty - civil servants cannot take expensive gifts to ensure honesty.
- ii) Objectivity - they should not favour family members but take decisions on merit.
- iii) Transparency - must voluntarily disclose data & be open to scrutiny.
- iv) Accountability - must be answerable for their actions.
- v) Non Partisanship - cannot explicitly support any political party.
- vi) Cannot criticise government policies publicly.
- vii) Must adhere to constitutional values.

The conduct rules have

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ensured the ~~steel~~ 'steel frame' remains robust. However there are few issues

- i) Rampant corruption by few civil servants.
- ii) Favouritism in job selection eg: alleged Pooja Khosla case
- iii) RTI Act has seen rise in pendencies
- iv) Civil servants joining political parties immediately after retirement without cool off period
- v) Social media stunts and anti government stand by few civil servants.

To ensure the steel frame doesn't rust, it is important to increase penalties under the rules.

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A2) b) Right to information has been included as a fundamental right under Indian Constitution under Article 19. It is the most important right for accountability of the government.

Key principles guiding information flow

- i) Easy availability - It shouldn't be protected arbitrarily
- ii) Accessibility - It should be accessible to general public.
- iii) Easy procedure - Procedure for procurement of data shouldn't be very complex.
- iv) Readability - data should make sense & not be vague.
- v) Also in vernaculars - for easier comprehension by locals.
- vi) Timely availability - It shouldn't

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happen that it takes so long  
that it is no more relevant (3days)

vii) Nodal person should always be  
present for data provision.

viii) Grievance Redressal body if info-  
-mation is not provided in  
time eg: CIC

ix) voluntary disclosed by the  
authority as well.

x) Punitive measures should be  
available if discrepancy found  
in information.

Right to information becomes  
more so important when data is  
the new oil.

A3)a) The laws of natural world are not always applicable to the laws of social world. Natural world is much more predictable than social world.

Yet there are few values that are universal & not relative on cultures —

- i) Honesty is appreciated in all settings eg: not stealing money.
- ii) Compassion is the soul of all religions eg: Dana in Hinduism.
- iii) Truthfulness is desirable by all communities.
- iv) Equality in some aspect is a universal value. Though people may differ on 'Equality of what?'
- v) Liberty is the foundation of human development.

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However, there are ethics that are also relative on cultures and settings -

i) Western culture is materialist while Eastern is spiritualistic

ii) West is individualistic while East is communitarian.

iii) Business ethics is for businessmen & may not be applicable to all.

iv) Killing other is a sin but not for a soldier.

v) Defending criminal is crime but not for a lawyer.

Thus ethics are both universal & situational. Some values transcend time & space.

A3) 6)

Law is often called the collective conscience of the society with legal backing and punitive remedy.

In fact no law however good would not work if it doesn't adheres to the conscience of society it is sewing.

Law being conscience of society

i) Right to life as life is considered precious by society.

ii) Environment Protection Act came when conscience of society grew eg: Stockholm summit.

iii) Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act came after Vishakha guidelines by Supreme Court.

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iv) People's demand for information  
& Ombudsman led to enactment  
of RTI Act & Lokpal Act.

v) Forest Rights Act was enacted  
in sync with tribal values.

However, law may not  
always reflect collective  
conscience of society -

i) Stringent provisions of Public  
Safety Act, Sedition etc brought  
by the British.

ii) Section 377 of IPC was  
against society's values of  
equal human dignity to  
transgenders

Law is the codification  
of society's values but also  
must reform & be reformed  
with change.

A3) c) Greatness is a goal desired by human beings. Will to power is a strong force in humanity (Friedrich Nietzsche).

However, we seldom know how to achieve greatness. One way is to follow what great people have done - like Humility.

## Significance of humility in life

- i) Makes one sensitive towards ~~the~~ others especially vulnerable sections
- ii) Makes one compassionate by putting one in other's shoes.
- iii) Humbleness comes naturally with humility
- iv) Allows one to think critically

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& multidimensionally and not just for one's own profit.

Examples of humility making people great

i) Mahatma Gandhi led a life of minimal wants.

ii) APJ Abdul Kalam sat on floor during a public debate.

iii) Sachin Tendulkar walked out despite being given not out.

iv) Ratan Tata donated money during 26/11 attack to victims.

All these examples show that humility makes one learn to live in harmony & cooperation with others.

AA) a) Emotional Intelligence is the ability to identity, label and manouvre one's thoughts to the advantage of oneself & others.

Emotional Intelligence being an inherent quality

- i) Upbringing plays a huge role in it.
- ii) Financial position, schooling received etc shape it.
- iii) Family values are key to Emotional intelligence.

Yet it can be learnt over time as—

- i) Intelligence is dependent on practise. (Neuroplasticity)
- ii) Similarly EI is dependent on using it regularly.
- iii) Emotional Intelligence comes with social setting & not with bookish.

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Knowledge, thus can be acquired.

ways to acquire EI

i) Meditation is proven to improve cognitive & emotional skills

ii) Sports & other community activities.

iii) Reading too helps in improving EI.

iv) Practising truthfulness as done by Mahatma Gandhi helps one better understand ethical dilemmas.

Emotional intelligence is even more important than just intelligence as an unethical genius would make only a better terrorist.

AA)6)

Attitude is the pre disposition towards objects with a degree of likelihood or non likelihood. Attitude is the lens through which one looks at the world.

## Determinants of Attitude

- i) Family values are primary determinant  
eg: we learn both cooperation & patriarchy in family.
- ii) School & colleagues shape our ideas towards things eg: Most students take PCM due to peer pressure
- iii) Media has become equally important in age of digitalisation eg: woke culture in youth.
- iv) Political parties shape our attitudes eg: revival of Hinduism

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- Attitude is hard to modify  
but can be done by persuasion —
- i) Establishing common ground between speaker & listener.
  - ii) Good oratory skills helps
  - iii) Substantiation with data & facts
  - iv) Simple but appealing language like slogans 'Sabka Saath sabka Vikas'
  - v) Social proofing from other societies  
eg: Women PM in New Zealand
  - vi) Tangible targets eg: Swachh Bharat Mission targets.
  - vii) Scarcity model, creating panic  
eg: to curb vaccine hesitancy declaring them to be in short supply
- Attitude decides ~~out~~ our actions  
& thus must always be refined.

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AB) a) There are two great wars going on at the moment - Russia - Ukraine war and Israel Hamas war, both wrecking havoc on humanity.

Can war be ethical

1) Yes

- i) If fought for right cause eg: India's war for national independence
- ii) If openly declared & fought with war ethics eg: Mahabharat war.
- iii) If proportional damage to cause eg: discriminate between civilians & army.
- iv) If offers compromise if opposition submits.
- v) If fought by the right authority & not extra state actors like terrorists.

2) No

In context of current wars there are few issues that make them not fully ethical

i) Indiscriminate killing by Israel

ii) Attacking civilians through space & drones

iii) Reports of women harassment coming out

iv) Not ready to compromise but adamant on full annihilation  
eg: Israel

v) Not using available platforms for solutions eg: blocking UNSC

vi) Hamas attack was carried out by non state actors & took hostage of Israeli civilians

War is no solution to peace. "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind (Gandhi)"

A5) b) Kautilya is the greatest Indian philosopher on statecraft. He led Chandragupta Maurya to throne by his wisdom.

Significance of Arthashastra for today's leaders

- i) Swice of citizens is the responsibility of the king. eg: welfare state concept.
- ii) In the fight among state, the might of lion prevails. Thus developing hard power is important.
- iii) Immediate neighbour is an enemy state (Mandala Sidhantha). Eg: China & Pakistan for India.
- iv) A state is run by seven elements (Saptang theory). Thus wholesome approach is required in form of Council of Ministers.

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Diplomats, torts, cities, army,  
intelligence, population and allies  
besides the king -

v) Political ethics are different  
from general ethics. Thus  
leaders need to be politically  
correct & not generally correct

⊗ though all philosophies  
of Kautilya may not be  
relevant today -

i) Caste specific punishment  
for crimes.

ii) Artha being superior to  
Dharma, kama & Moksha.

Kautilya shows the  
realist side of politics. It  
needs to be complimented with  
Buddha's idealism.

Ab) a) Corporate governance encompasses the processes, relationships and management of corporate issues. India is home to 100 plus unicorns & thus corporate governance is vital.

## Issues in startups in India

- i) Materialism - purely profit motive
- ii) Consumerism promotion eg: unnecessary product flooding
- iii) Disregard for environment eg: greenwashing
- iv) Non representative boards of start ups.
- v) Unethical advertisement of products claiming fake benefits.
- vi) Moonlighting by the employees.
- vii) Sensationalism by social media startups.

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## Measures to address them

i) Corporate Social Responsibility after few years of profit.

ii) ~~ESG~~ ESG - BSR after getting listed on stocks.

iii) Third party evaluation of green credentials.

iv) Mandatory independent board members & women representation  
(Uday Kotak Committee)

v) Penalties for fake advertising.  
Consumer protection bodies to randomly check items from markets

vi) Digital media ethics rules

Corporate governance would become very important as India is going to see many more start ups in next few decades.

A6) b) Probity is proven integrity having the ability of being incorruptible. It is the basis of public trust on which the legitimacy of state hinges.

Relationship b/w probity & public trust

- i) Makes state's laws legitimate.
- ii) Thus prevents revolution against the state.
- iii) Ensures compliance of the laws if people find them ethical.
- iv) Leads to Governmentality.
- v) Reduces corruption in society.

Lack of probity can erode public trust

- i) People become disobedient to laws.
- ii) Leads to moral hazard.  
Normalisation of corruption.

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iii) Starts acting as a necessary  
grease to eradicate the adminis-  
-trative cholesterol.

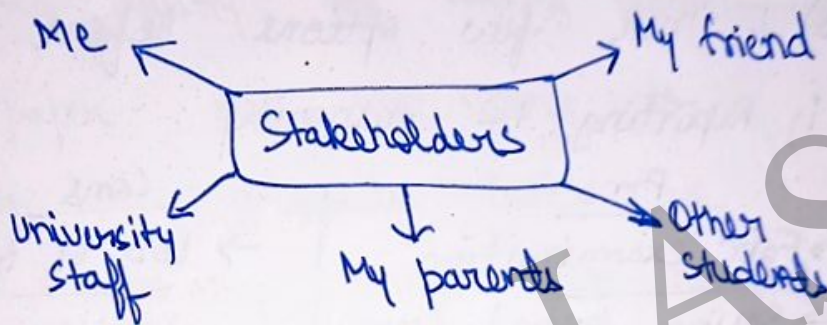
iv) Emboldens criminals as they  
don't have fear of punishment.

v) Increases petty crime rates eg:  
~~Traffic~~ → Traffic police

vi) Criminalisation of politics leads  
to law breakers becoming  
law makers.

Probity can be imparted  
in civil servants by regular  
mid career training and  
shifting to role based services  
than rule based services.

A7) The case study pertains to following one's Dharma despite knowing that there are no punishment involved if we don't follow it.



a) The reasons for refraining from cheating despite no affect on other students are -

- i) Categorical imperative of being honest in all situation.
- ii) Fair examination assessment for myself and other students.
- iii) Risk of moral hazard of cheating in future as well.
- iv) Rightful placement, according to my abilities & not inflated.

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v) Do on to others as you want them to do to you. I won't feel good if someone else pass through cheating

b) I have few options before me

i) Reporting to authority

Pros

→ Fair examination

→ Saving friend from punitive action if caught

Cons

→ Loss of friendship possible

ii) Not report to authority

Pros

→ Let friend pass the exam

→ Reduce burden of resetting the paper

Cons

→ Unfair exam conducted

→ Friend may become used to cheating

I will report to the authorities

because -

i) It is in interest of all of us.

ii) It would ensure good sportsmanship of playing by the rules.

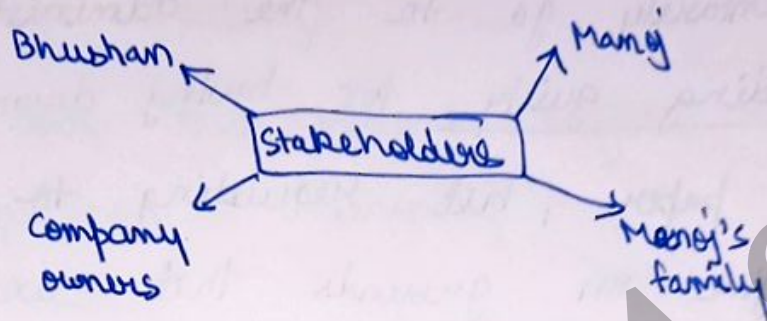
iii) Fair assessment of everybody would be given

I would ensure that we voluntarily go to the administration pleading guilty for having downloaded the paper, but requesting to forgive on grounds that we didn't actually cheat but reported it before hand.

A non level playing field can make me topper in the class but would leave me much behind in the race of humanity

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A) The case study pertains to being honest despite not being directly related to the fraud.



a) The ethical dilemmas faced by Bhushan are -

i) Transparency in service v/s privacy for friend.

ii) Duty towards company v/s duty towards friend

iii) Manoj's family has no fault but may suffer if Manoj is caught.

iv) Corporate ethics being compromised for the sake of personal gains

v) Loss of trust of the company on its employees.

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b) options available to Bhushan are

i) Report to the company of Manoj's actions

## Pros

- Put Manoj to justice
- Improve my chances of promotion
- Improve company's finances

## Cons

- loss of friendship possible
- Manoj's family suffer

ii) Don't report at all

## Pros

- Manoj is safe
- No big loss to company

## Cons

- I may be demoted if fraud found.
- Risk of moral hazard.

iii) warn Manoj and ask him to repay the money gradually.

## Pros

- Manoj made aware of his misdeeds

## Cons

- Company kept in dark of the fraud.

→ Company gets its  
money back

I would prefer the third  
option as it ensures that both  
parties do not lose out &  
minimal loss to company's finances.

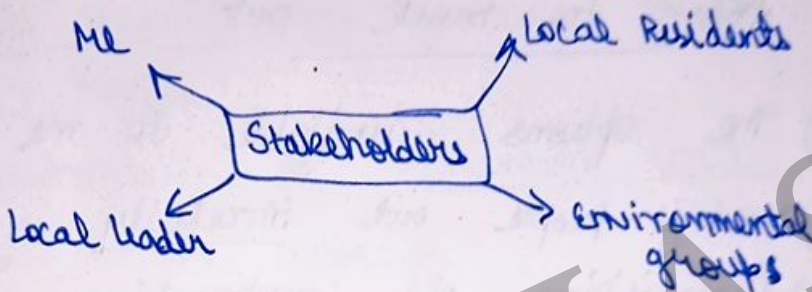
However, I would —

i) lend Money to repay the  
money being a friend.

ii) May tell the company when  
the matter has been fully  
resolved.

It is not about the  
small amount of money that  
Money took but about the  
principle of being honest in  
all situations.

A9) The above case pertains to finding a suitable balance between economic development and ecological sustainability.



Q) The ethical issues involved in the case are —

i) Right to property vs ecological sustainability.

ii) Local residents may lose jobs but if they don't move, they may lose life.

iii) Managing pressure from environmental groups & local leader.

iv) Banning & demolishing unplanned

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construction v/s principle of resource efficiency.

a) Making people aware about environmental loss v/s coercing them to move out

b) The options available to me are

i) Moving people out forcefully

ii) Demolishing old construction

iii) Taking no action & let people choose their own fate

The course of action in the above case could be -

i) Persuading people to move to a safer place

ii) If they don't listen, then forcefully evicting them.

iii) Giving alternate job opportunities in new place.

iv) Compensation & new accommodation

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for the displaced communities -

v) Remolition of old construction &  
barring new construction in the  
region.

vi) soil stabilisation exercise in the  
region.

vii) Construction of retaining walls  
to reduce damage.

viii) Allowing environmental ~~group~~  
groups to study the site  
& offer advice.

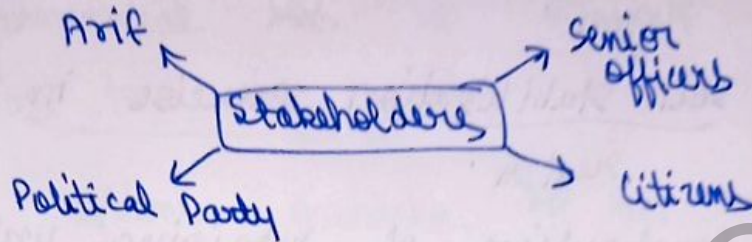
ix) Drone surveillance of any illegal  
construction in the nearby areas.

Natural disaster become  
a man made calamity if  
preparedness is compromised.

Right to life precedes Right  
to livelihood.

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A10) The above case study pertains to dealing with political pressure while being upright in your service.



- a) The ethical issues involved in the case are -
- i) Right to information to citizens v/s official privacy.
  - ii) Being upright in your assessment v/s Bowing down to your seniors.
  - iii) Government accountability v/s electoral calculus.
  - iv) Resource efficiency v/s discretion of government to misuse it.
  - v) Public exchequer being used for political purposes.

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b) Options available to Arif are

i) Report the case to media & police

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
→ <u>Government accountability.</u>	→ <u>Job loss</u>
→ <u>Resource efficiency.</u>	→ <u>Life threats</u>

ii) Listen to his seniors

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
→ Reward from party possible	→ <u>Honesty compromised</u>
	→ <u>Public fund misused</u>

iii) Resign from the job

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
→ <u>Not participating in the crime</u>	→ <u>Religabation of duty</u>
	→ <u>Crime remains present.</u>

I would follow the first course of action as -

i) Government accountability is the edifice of democracy

ii) Public exchequer being used for political purposes compromises

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level playing field in elections

iii) Media light would give me enough protection to save my life.

iv) Funds would reach the more needy person in future.

c) To address problem of politicization of bureaucracy

i) Civil services Board, State Security Commission for promotions, transfers, etc (Malimath Committee)

ii) Minimum 6 month cool off period after retirement.

iii) No further appointment after holding certain offices like CEC, CAG, etc

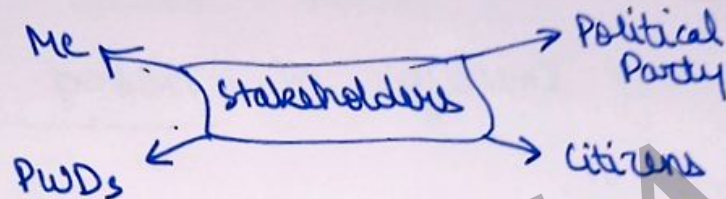
iv) Independent secretariat & funding sources for offices.

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India is seeing increasing cases of civil servants joining politics after retirement. There is a need to bring a code on this.

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All) The above case pertains to rightful service delivery even when political & electoral calculus necessitates early completion of project.



a) Ethical issues faced by me are-

i) Right to life for patients vs Right to timely service.

ii) Timely completion vs just completion.

iii) Electoral calculus of party vs Duty of public service.

iv) Resource efficiency vs extra money on reconstruction.

v) Personal ethics vs Obedience to seniors.

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b) Options available to me are  
i) Proceeding forward with the building

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
→ <u>Reward</u> from political party	→ <u>Loss</u> of life if it collapses
→ <u>NO</u> extra expenditure	→ <u>Poor</u> service delivery
→ <u>Timely</u> completion	→ <u>Injustice</u> to electors

ii) Highlighting the case to concerned authority or CVC or Lokpal

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
→ <u>Accountability</u> of government ensured	→ <u>Threat</u> to life
→ <u>People</u> saved from disaster	→ <u>Reconstruction</u> expenses.
→ <u>Rightful</u> use of public money	

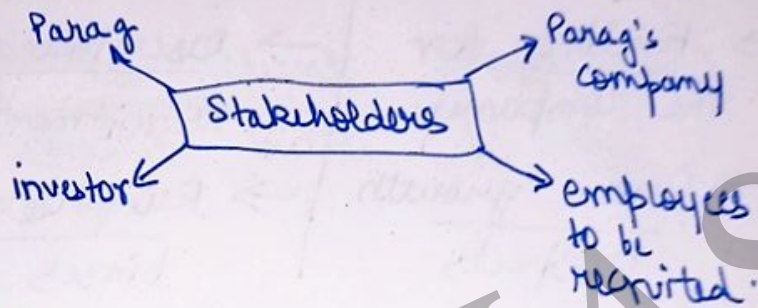
iii) Highlighting the case in media

<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>
→ <u>Accountability</u> of government.	→ Government <u>not</u> given chance to <u>rectify</u>
→ <u>Safety</u> of life due to public gaze	→ <u>Unnecessary</u> sensationalisation

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- c) I would choose the second option because
- i) It is according to rule of law and most procedurally correct option.
- ii) It gives government a chance to rectify & even realise its folly.
- iii) It protects citizens from disaster without any fault of their own.
- iv) It brings transparency in public service delivery.
- v) It would act as a deterrence for future such projects.
- Politics without ethics is a sin. Electoral calculus cannot refute the right to life for citizens.

A12) The above case study pertains to transparent product delivery even if it compromises the growth potential for the company & you.



a) Ethical concerns involved in the case are —

i) company's loyalty v/s Honest confession of app's biases.

ii) Career growth prospects v/s personal ethics.

iii) Fairness in recruitment process v/s funding for the company.

iv) Effort to remove discrimination v/s reinforcing the biases.

v) Transparent advertisement of app v/s

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## Relegation of duty towards candidates

b) Options available to Parag

i) Sell the app to client

### Pros

→ Funding for the company

→ Career growth prospects

### Cons

→ Discrimination in recruitments

→ Reinforcement of biases

ii) Not sell the app at all

### ~~Cons~~ Cons

→ Loss of funding

→ Demotion possible

→ Job loss possible

### ~~Pros~~ Pros

→ Justice upheld

→ Fair recruitment

→ Fair advertising

iii) Sell the app with a disclaimer of inherent biases & promise to rectify it.

### Pros

→ Scrutiny of app along with its usage

### Cons

→ May lose funding

→ Rectification may not be possible

→ Ethical product  
selling

in short run  
→ Reputation / Job loss  
possible

c) The course of action for Parag  
should be -

i) Letting the client know of  
the inherent biases in the  
app.

ii) Allow usage of app with a  
humane touch i.e. not fully  
rely on it

iii) Try to rectify the biases by  
several testing.

iv) Reserve certain seats for candidates  
from less privileged / discriminated  
against categories.

AI is fast evolving but  
also has many biases. "Humans are  
slow, sloppy, ethical; Machines are  
fast, accurate but stupid"