

खण्ड A  
SECTION A

निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों का अधिकतम 150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए:

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

1. (a) डेटा संचालित प्रौद्योगिकियों पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता के परिणामस्वरूप डेटा उपनिवेशीकरण और डिजिटल तानाशाही की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो सकती है। इस संदर्भ में उत्पन्न होने वाले विभिन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए और उपचारात्मक उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Too much dependence on data driven technologies can result in data colonisation and digital dictatorship. Discuss the various issues that may arise in this context and suggest remedial measures. (Answer in 150 words)

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Data is termed as the new oil due to its tremendous value.

Due to rise in technological presence in all spheres of human life, data dependence has emerged as a huge challenge.

Issues arising in this context

- (i) Data Theft - Using new technology  
- Eg. AIMS & COWIN data breach

- (ii) Privacy - Breach of Privacy through cyber attacks, Phishing, Ransomware attacks  
- Violate Article 21

(III) Data Colonisation → Exclusive access of sensitive personal data with Big Tech eg. Meta, Twitter.

(IV) Cyber Bullying, Deep fakes, Darknets to misuse data.

### Remedial Steps

(I) Strengthen Data Protection  
- Eg. Digital India Bill

(II) Secure Critical Infrastructure  
- CERT IN

(III) Regulation of Tech firms  
- Eg. IT Rules 2021

(IV) Data Localisation norms.

Thus, steps need to be taken to ensure that benefits of new technology are not misused for prejudicial purposes.

1. (b) हालिया सोशल मीडिया के प्रसार के कारण, प्रभाव उत्पन्न करने वाले लोग समाज में परिवर्तन के महत्वपूर्ण कारक बन गए हैं। उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए। इसके अतिरिक्त, इसमें शामिल नैतिक मुद्दों को भी रेखांकित कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Due to the recent proliferation of social media, influencers have become important agents of change in the society. Discuss with examples. Also, highlight the ethical issues involved. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Social Media has given birth  
to plethora of social platforms  
run by influencers

For eg:- Akash Banerjee "The Deshbhakti"  
Tanmay Bhatt etc.  
Gaur Gopal Das

Pole as Agents of Society

(i) Make an positive impact on  
lives - eg. Gaur Gopal Das  
motivational sessions

(ii) Influence public perception  
eg. Reality check of media by  
Akash Banerjee

(iii) Platform for people, especially

youngsters to put forth their opinion.

### (\*) Ethical Issues involved

- (i) Hypocrisy of some influencers
- (ii) Promoting hatred, enmity and disaffection towards legal institutions.
- (iii) Spreading of fake news, distorted opinions
- (iv) Radicalisation of Youth by fundamentalist elements

Thus, it is imperative for the social media influencers to abide by law and values enshrined in the constitution, and be agents of progress and positive change.

2. (a) पूर्वाग्रह और भेदभाव को जब दूर नहीं किया जाता है तो इनमें संघर्षों को हिंसा में बदलने की क्षमता होती है। उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Prejudice and discrimination when left unaddressed have the potential to turn conflicts into violence. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Prejudice and its associated manifesta-  
-tions such as discrimination  
are social evils that  
perpetuate — Bias  
— stereotypes  
— marginalisation  
of the vulnerable  
— Hatred

Extreme forms of prejudice and  
discrimination often results in  
verbal and physical violence  
and go to the extent of a  
civil war.

### Examples

- (i) Genocide of Jews by Germans under Hitler
- (ii) Violence against people of colour

in America.

- (iii) Cow Vigilantism — killing of minority community individuals due to prejudice.
- (iv) Attacks on Dalits (eg. Rohit Verma, Atiq)

### Way Forward

- (i) Fundamental Duty (Article 51A) to promote spirit of brotherhood transcending religious, linguistic or other distinctions.
- (ii) Social Regeneration — Awareness building, empowerment of the downtrodden.
- (iii) Reconciliation — of differences & accepting them — Tolerance.

Thus, in a diverse and plural nation, there should be no room for prejudice and discrimination, in order to pave way for Egalitarian social order.

2. (b) अहिंसा मूलभूत नैतिक सद्गुणों का उच्चतम स्वरूप है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Non-violence is the highest form of fundamental moral virtue. Comment.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10

Violence in thought, words and deeds is inherently unethical and immoral as per Immanuel Kant, since it can't be justified as one's duty.

Non violence can be considered as highest form of moral virtue because :-

(i) It fosters TRUST and RESPECT between individuals

(ii) Non violence rooted in Gandhian ideology that underpinned India's freedom struggle on Moral & Ethical grounds.

(iii) Promotes Reconciliation  
Eg. South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission

(iv) protects dignity of the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

(v) Engenders Peace and Tranquility, essential components of human development - Nonviolent

(vi) Creates moral force (eg. Non Cooperation movement) on Adversary

Thus Non violence must be embraced by every individual in order to lead an ethical and moral life.

3. (a) हालांकि, 'मी टू मूवमेंट' ने कार्यस्थल पर महिलाओं के यौन उत्पीड़न के संबंध में कुछ असंतोष की ध्वनि पैदा करने में मदद की है, लेकिन यह भारत में कार्य संस्कृति पर स्थायी सकारात्मक प्रभाव उत्पन्न करने में विफल रहा है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Though the 'Me Too Movement' helped in creating some murmur with respect to sexual harassment of women at workplace, it has failed to create a lasting positive impact on the work culture in India. Do you agree? (Answer in 150 words)

10

Sexual Harassment is a blot on liberal, democratic nation that is governed by principles of Equality, Liberty, Dignity in the Constitution.

Despite "me too movement", sexual harassment at workplace continues to plague Indian society :-

(i) Poor Implementation of POSH Act 2013

• As per S.C. and Indian Express investigation, only 8 out of 14 sports federations established Internal Complaints Committee

→ Wrestlers protest in New Delhi

- (ii) Public Apathy
- (iii) Lack of Awareness, <sup>sensitisation</sup> among people about the POSH Act
- (iv) Entrenched Stereotypes and Prejudices in the society.
- (v) Power Asymmetry  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Insecure women} \\ \text{v/s} \\ \text{Powerful} \\ \text{Employers} \end{array} \right.$
- (vi) Institutional weakness  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Ineffectiveness} \\ \text{of NCW} \\ \text{Civil society} \\ \text{activists} \\ \text{Budgetary allocation} \\ \text{for women welfare} \end{array} \right.$

Thus, it is imperative to bring about all encompassing changes in the workplace culture to ~~ensure~~ prevent sexual harassment of women.

3. (b) 2021 भ्रष्टाचार बोध सूचकांक में भारत 180 देशों में 85वें स्थान पर है। इस संदर्भ में, कौटिल्य के अर्थशास्त्र का विशिष्ट उल्लेख करते हुए, भारत में भ्रष्टाचार से निपटने के विभिन्न तरीकों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

India ranks 85th amongst 180 countries in the Corruption Perception Index of 2021. In this context, discuss the various ways to tackle corruption in India, with special reference to Kautilya's Arthashastra. (Answer in 150 words) 10

"Corruption is like a termite that erodes the foundation of administration" - Kautilya.

Despite progress, Corruption continues to be a deep seated challenge in India.

Ways to Tackle Corruption with reference to Arthashastra:-

Kautilya's references	Practical steps
(1) Recruit honest officers, with impeccable integrity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make Recruitment foolproof</li> <li>Ethical testing at the time of Interview.</li> </ul>

(i) Espionage  
to keep  
wight on  
corrupt  
officials

→ Role of CVC,  
Anti corruption bureaus  
→ Encourage citizens to  
Expose Corruption

(iii) Addressing  
OPACITY in  
functioning

→ Transparency through  
RTI Act, voluntary  
disclosures  
→ Leverage Technology  
eg. GIS in Rati Shakti  
to reduce human  
discretion

(iv) Preempt  
local  
loyalties

→ Periodic Transfer of  
officials

(v) Whistleblower  
Protection

→ Notify Whistleblower  
Protection Act 2014

(vi) Promote  
Accountability  
of officials

→ Jan Sunwai  
→ Social media  
→ social audit

These Kautilyan recommendations  
serve as an important guide  
to tackle the menace of corruption.

4. (a) एक नैतिक कार्य संस्कृति न केवल संगठन के लिए सकारात्मक परिणाम उत्पन्न करती है बल्कि कर्मचारियों की प्रगति में भी मदद करती है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

An ethical work culture not only drives positive organisational outcomes but also helps employees thrive. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Work culture refers to values, assumptions, principles that underpin functioning of a workplace.

Ethical work culture is a work culture that has principles of ethics, morality, values such as

Truth, Respect, harmony, Equality, dignity etc. embedded into it.

Ethical work culture drives positive outcomes through :-

- ↳ Fostering sense of belongingness  
eg. The TCS family.
- ↳ Spirit of Unity - Espirits De corps

- ↳ promote Accountability
- ↳ Efficient Decision making
- ↳ Preempt Corruption, Nepotism  
and other unethical practices
- ↳ Grievance Redressal eg. POSH Act

Work culture helps employees thrive

- ↳ Harmonious working
- ↳ Cooperation and spirit  
of belongingness
- ↳ Safety and security of  
vulnerable (eg. women) safeguarded
- ↳ promote Inclusion and Equity

Thus Ethical workplace culture  
is *sin-qua-non* of an effective  
organisation.

4. (b) उन नैतिक सिद्धांतों का उल्लेख कीजिए जिन पर नागरिक चार्टर तैयार किया जाता है। साथ ही, भारत में इसके उद्देश्य और प्रभावशीलता पर भी चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Bring out the ethical principles on which a Citizen's Charter is formulated. Also, discuss its purpose and effectiveness in India. (Answer in 150 words)

10

Citizen Charter is a document outlining standards and Quality of Service delivery and a means to citizens to secure accountability of administration -

Ethical principles of a Citizen's Charter

- ① Accountability - Answerability for decisions taken
- ② Social Contract - Citizen Charter key to ensuring welfare benefits reach the society -
- ③ Empathy - Citizen Charter is grounded in concern for others
- ④ JUSTICE - Non adherence to service standards enables redressal of grievances

⑤ **EQUALITY** - Equal rights to ~~and~~ seek quality of services to all citizens

**PURPOSE** → Responsiveness of Administration  
 ↳ Accountability, Transparency  
 ↳ Good Governance  
 ↳ Builds Public Trust

**Effectiveness**

By and large most of the public departments have introduced their Citizen Charter.

## Benefits - Quality of service delivery, grievance redressal,

However there is scope for improvement as far as its reach to the downtrodden and vulnerable groups.

5. (a) सार्वजनिक जीवन में ईमानदारी (प्रोबिटी) और कुछ नहीं बल्कि निजी जीवन में सत्यनिष्ठा (इंटीग्रिटी) का ही प्रतिबिम्ब है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

Probity in public life is nothing but the reflection of integrity in personal life. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Probity refers to <sup>scrupulous</sup> adherence to moral & ethical values in decision making.

Ethical standards  
+  
Decision making = PROBITY

Probity in Public Life ensures

- ↳ Transparency
- ↳ Accountability
- ↳ Rule of law
- ↳ Speaking TRUTH to Power.

Probity in Public Life is an extension of Integrity in Personal life.

- ↳ Personal values of honesty and integrity reflected in public decisions.

for Eg:- Lal Bahadur Shastri's scrupulous adherence to Integrity in Personal life reflected in his Public life as PM

↳ Standards set in Personal life guide Public Behaviour and attitude

Eg. Honesty, Truth, Non-Violence were standards Gandhi followed in his daily life and were manifested in his public life.

eg

↳ Man of Integrity cannot tolerate violation of Standards, Norms and values. → This leads to zero tolerance to corruption, hence PROBITY

Thus PROBITY<sup>in Public life</sup> is the mirror image of INTEGRITY in personal life.

5. (b) भारत में पुलिस की कार्य संस्कृति को अनिर्णय, अक्षमता और सहानुभूति की कमी के रूप में जाना जाता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संदर्भ में उपचारात्मक उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

The work culture of the police in India is said to be characterised by indecision, inefficiency and lack of empathy. Discuss. Also, suggest remedial measures in this context. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Police is enjoined to uphold  
Rule of Law under the Indian laws.

A professional and efficient Policing  
is SINE-QUA-Non of a country  
governed by Democratic traditions  
and Rule of Law.

The work culture of Police is characterised  
by :-

- ① Indecision
- Bureaucratic Cumbersome procedures
  - Fear of Reprisal from Political matters
  - Low moral compass

- ② Inefficiency
- Lack of Coordination  
btw various state polices and  
central agencies

- Infrastructure deficit
- Low Technology integration
- Excessive Paperwork

③ Lack of Empathy • Rage of Police

- Custodial violence
- Handcuffing in violation of S.C. guidelines -
- Ill Treatment of Transgenders, minorities

### Reforms

- (i) SMART policing - suggested by pm
- (ii) Training <sup>to cultivate</sup> social, moral and emotional values
- (iii) Technology to be leveraged to simplify procedure eg. FIR filing, NATGRID
- (iv) Implement "Prakash Singh" reforms suggested by Supreme Court.

Thus overarching ~~re~~ Police reforms is imperative to foster trust of ordinary citizens and safeguard rights of the deprived to secure JUSTICE.

6. निम्नलिखित में से प्रत्येक उद्धरण का आपके लिए क्या अर्थ है?

What does each of the following quotations mean to you?

(a) "बुद्धिमानी से कार्य करने के लिए बुद्धिमत्ता से अधिक की आवश्यकता होती है।" - फ्योदोर दोस्तोयेव्स्की (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

"It takes something more than intelligence to act intelligently." – Fyodor Dostoyevsky. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Intelligence is a human trait that enables one to solve challenges, navigate difficulties and work smartly.

People with high IQ are known to act intelligently.

But there is something more than intelligence to act intelligently.

↳ Emotional Quotient (EQ)

• Enables one to remain emotionally stable and understand others.

Eg. Jacinda Ardern's Empathetic Leadership.

↳ Spiritual Quotient

- puts moral fetters on an individual

• Indian tradition of "Nishkam Karma" and "Stithpragya" enables one to work selflessly and navigate through challenges.

↳ Moral Values

- An Intelligent person without moral & ethical values may not be successful in life.

Thus a holistic view of intelligence calls for incorporating emotional, spiritual, moral, ethical value dimensions in it.

6. (b) "एक लोकप्रिय सरकार, बिना लोकप्रिय जानकारी के, या इसे प्राप्त करने के साधनों के, एक ढोंग की शुरुआत या एक त्रासदी; या संभवतः दोनों है।" - जेम्स मैडिसन (150 शब्दों में उत्तर)

"A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or perhaps both." - James Madison (Answer in 150 words) 10

Information is the basis for efficient decision making.

"Right to Information is <sup>a</sup> the basic human right and foundation for democratic institutions" - Nelson Mandela

Thus, sans Information, popular government lacks

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Public scrutiny
- Participation of Public
- Freedom of Expression

This leads to Authoritarianism and ~~majoritarian~~ Despotism.

Thus free flow of Information and Right to Information are Touchstones of a vibrant democracy.

Legislatures like RTI Act, schemes such as SOCIAL AUDIT and free press cannot function in absence of access to quality information.

Hence, it is incumbent on authorities to ensure universal access to information subject to safeguards, in order to deepen democracy and protect rights of the marginalised.

6. (c) "चरित्र को अनुनय का लगभग सबसे प्रभावी साधन कहा जा सकता है।" - अरस्तू (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

"Character may almost be called the most effective means of persuasion." - Aristotle (Answer in 150 words) 10

Character defines an individual's identity.

It refers to the  $\rightarrow$  predispositions of a person

values that one stands for

standards that one sets for oneself

outlook to life.

Character can serve as an effective means of persuasion as follows:-

① Man of character practices what he preaches

Eg. Gandhi advocated non-violence after scrupulously adhering to it.

② Person of Character establishes benchmarks and sets an example through his conduct.

— As stated in Bhagwad Gita,

१९ Yadyada Charati Shresthat Devetaro Janah  
Sah Yat Pramanam Kurete Lokasthane २०  
Vartate

— People emulate those who are known to act righteously.

③ Character enables one to touch other's lives and make an impact.

Eg: Lal Bahadur Shastri's simplicity inspired many a leaders

(Sheela Paramam Bhushanam)

Thus, Character is the cornerstone of one's identity and is a major determinant of how one can persuade others to follow something

खण्ड B  
SECTION B

निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों में, प्रस्तुत प्रकरणों का ध्यानपूर्वक अध्ययन कीजिए और उनके आगे आने वाले प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए (लगभग 250 शब्दों में):

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

7. आप एक युवा आई. ए. एस. अधिकारी हैं और हाल ही में एक ऐसे जिले में सब-डिविजनल मजिस्ट्रेट के रूप में पदस्थापित हुए हैं जिसे "खुले में शौच मुक्त" घोषित किया गया है। हालांकि, आपको जानकारी मिलती है कि आपके सब-डिविजन के कुछ गांवों में शौचालयों की उपलब्धता के बावजूद अभी भी खुले में शौच करने की प्रथा जारी है। जिला प्रशासन में आपके सहयोगी इस जानकारी की सत्यता की पुष्टि करते हैं। आप इन गांवों के ग्राम प्रधानों को बुलाते हैं और उनसे कहते हैं कि वे अपने-अपने ग्रामीणों को खुले में शौच न करने के लिए राजी करें। लेकिन, वे इस प्रथा को पूरी तरह से बंद करने में अपनी अनिच्छा और असमर्थता व्यक्त करते हैं, क्योंकि वे कुछ मामलों में स्वयं खुले में शौच करने को सही मानते हैं। आप इस मामले पर जिलाधिकारी से चर्चा करते हैं जो आपको कोई भी आधिकारिक कार्रवाई करने से मना कर देते हैं, क्योंकि इससे जिले को दिया गया 'खुले में शौच मुक्त' का दर्जा वापस लिया जा सकता है।

एक युवा और सक्रिय अधिकारी के रूप में, निम्नलिखित का उत्तर दीजिए:

- (a) घर में शौचालय होने के बाद भी लोग खुले में शौच क्यों करते हैं?  
(b) इस प्रकरण में एक सब-डिविजनल मजिस्ट्रेट के रूप में आपके पास कौन-से विकल्प उपलब्ध हैं? प्रत्येक विकल्प के गुणों और दोषों पर प्रकाश डालिए।  
(c) आप क्या कार्रवाई करेंगे? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

You are a young IAS officer and have recently joined as a Sub-Divisional Magistrate in a district, which has been declared 'open defecation free'. However, you get information that some villages in your sub-division are still continuing the practice of open defecation out of habit despite availability of toilets. Your colleagues in the district administration confirm that the information is true. You call the village headmen of these villages and tell them to persuade their respective villagers to stop open defecation. But, they express their unwillingness and inability to fully stop this practice, as in some cases they themselves consider it healthy to defecate in the open. You discuss this matter with the District Magistrate who forbids you from taking any official action, as this may cause the 'open defecation free' status given to the district to be withdrawn.

As a young and dynamic officer, answer the following:

- (a) Why do people continue to practice open defecation even when they have access to toilets?  
(b) What are the options available to you as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in this case? Highlight the merits and demerits of each option.  
(c) What will be your course of action? (Answer in 250 words)

The case involves <sup>Efficacy of</sup> implementation of public policy on ground. For an administrator, it is essential to ensure that public policies translate into effective action on ground.

The lack of it perturbs the IAS officer.

(A) Reason for continuation of open defecation despite toilets:-

(i) Entrenched <sup>age old</sup> practices

(ii) Lack of awareness about the pitfalls of open defecation

(iii) Convenience preferred over health.

- (iv) Inadequate water availability in some places
- (v) Lack of Gender sensitisation and gender apathy
- (vi) Inadequacy of Education in rural areas.
- (vii) Behavioural change is difficult to install.

(B) Options Available

(I) Go ahead with official action

Merits	Demerits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment &amp; Dedication to service</li> <li>• Probity and Integrity ensured in not claiming <sup>false</sup> ODF status</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODF status may be withdrawn leading to action by politicians</li> <li>• Non compliance with senior's advice may strain relations</li> </ul>

(II) Ignore the trace incidents

PROS	CONS
<p><u>Pros</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>Against</del> Conscience to claim ODF Status without non compliance</li> <li>• Lack of PROBITY and INTEGRITY.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODF Status is preserved</li> <li>• Relations with boss remains <del>Congenia</del> Cordial</li> </ul>

(III) Try to bring about behavioural change through persuasion, Capacity building and sensitisation

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider acceptability</li> <li>• True to conscience</li> <li>• Effective implementation &amp; service delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not result in favourable results in short term.</li> </ul>

### © Course of Action

Option (3) is the right way forward  
as it involves

- ↳ Stakeholder participation
- ↳ gender sensitisation
- ↳ Capacity building
- ↳ harness local communities  
Volunteers
- ↳ Jan Andolan

Thus, for the IAS, it is imperative  
that he/she maintains high  
standards of PROBITY and ensure  
implementation of policies through  
people participation and consensus  
building.

8. आप एक ऐसे जिले के जिलाधिकारी हैं, जो इंजीनियरिंग के साथ-साथ मेडिकल प्रवेश परीक्षाओं के कोचिंग संस्थानों का एक हब है। हाल ही में, लगभग 5 छात्रों ने शैक्षणिक और सामाजिक दबाव के कारण आत्महत्या कर ली है। देश भर से 15-18 वर्ष के आयु वर्ग के अनेक छात्र IIT और AIIMS जैसे प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों में प्रवेश पाने का सपना लेकर जिले में आते हैं। हालांकि, कोचिंग संस्थान व्यवसायिक मानसिकता से कार्य करते हैं और चाहते हैं कि टॉपर्स उनके संस्थान के ही हों ताकि वे और अधिक छात्रों को आकर्षित कर सकें। वे बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने के लिए छात्रों पर बहुत अधिक दबाव बनाते हैं, छात्रों के प्रदर्शन के आधार पर अलग-अलग श्रेणी के बैच बनाने जैसे भेदभावपूर्ण व्यवहार करते हैं। ये छात्र पेइंग गेस्ट के रूप में और अपने परिवारों से दूर हॉस्टल में रहते हैं तथा उनमें से कई प्रतियोगिता के भारी बोझ और उससे जुड़े मानसिक तनाव का सामना करने में सक्षम नहीं होते हैं।

हाल ही में, 5 छात्रों द्वारा की गई आत्महत्या की घटनाओं को राष्ट्रीय मीडिया द्वारा उजागर किया गया है और आपको मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा स्थिति की रिपोर्ट पेश करने तथा मामले में उचित कदम उठाने के लिए कहा गया है। मुख्यमंत्री ने आपको इस मामले को लाइमलाइट से दूर रखने के लिए भी कहा है ताकि कोचिंग संस्थान अपना कारोबार करते रहें और अपने लिए तथा राज्य के लिए राजस्व उत्पन्न करते रहें। जांच करने पर, आपको पता चलता है कि 2-3 सबसे प्रसिद्ध कोचिंग संस्थान सत्तारूढ़ दल के राजनीतिक नेताओं द्वारा चलाए जा रहे हैं। वे छात्रों को लुभाने के लिए बड़े विज्ञापनों का सहारा ले रहे हैं। वे छात्रों पर प्रदर्शन करने के लिए अनुचित दबाव भी बनाते हैं। इसके अलावा, प्रदर्शन बढ़ाने वाली दवाओं का एक अवैध बाजार भी उभर रहा है और यह छात्रों के बीच काफी प्रचलित है।

स्थिति को देखते हुए:

- (a) इसमें शामिल हितधारकों का उल्लेख कीजिए और दिए गए प्रकरण से जुड़े नैतिक मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।
- (b) दी गई स्थिति में, आप क्या कार्रवाई करेंगे?
- (c) छात्रों के बीच आत्महत्या के मामलों में वृद्धि के विभिन्न कारणों पर चर्चा करते हुए, इस मुद्दे के दीर्घकालिक समाधान के लिए उपाय सुझाइए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

You are the District Magistrate of a district, which is the hub of coaching centres for engineering as well as medical entrance exams. Recently, around 5 students have committed suicide owing to academic and social pressure. Students in the age group 15-18 years from across the country come to the district with the dream of getting admission into prestigious institutions like the IITs and AIIMS. However, the coaching institutes are business-minded and want to have toppers from their institute so that they can attract more students. They create a lot of pressure on students to perform, with differential treatment like forming different category of batches depending on students' performance. These students live as Paying Guests and in hostels away from their families and many cannot tackle the huge burden of competition and the associated mental stress.

The recent spate of suicide by 5 students has been highlighted by the national media and you have been asked by the Chief Minister to present a report of the situation and take steps on the matter. The Chief Minister has also asked you to keep the matter away from limelight so that the coaching centres continue with their business and generate revenue for themselves as well as the state. Upon investigation, you find out that 2-3 of the most famous coaching institutions are run by political leaders of the ruling party.

They are involved in false advertisements in order to lure students. They also create undue pressure on the students to perform. Also, there is an emerging black market for performance enhancing drugs, which have become common among the students.

Given the situation:

- Highlight the stakeholders involved and discuss the associated ethical issues in the given case.
- Given the situation, what will be your course of action?
- Discussing the various reasons for increased cases of suicides among students, suggest measures to address the issue in the long-run. (Answer in 250 words)

20

The above case involves challenges pertaining to education policies and political influence ~~and~~ having ethical, moral, social and economic dimensions.

Ⓐ Stakeholders

- ↳ Students
- ↳ Administration
  - ↳ Parents / Guardians
- ↳ Politicians
- ↳ Media houses
- ↳ Society.

## Ethical Issues involved

- ① Reducing Education to an Economic transaction
- ② Coaching Institutes <sup>Exerting</sup> putting pressure on students to perform
  - ↳ Lack of Business ethics
  - ↳ Commerce without morality  
(one of Gandhi's sins)
- ③ Political Influence over Civil servants
  - ↳ affects Public Interest
  - ↳ Antithetical to Sardar Patel's vision of an independent & committed civil service
- ④ Parochial Interest of Politicians to earn Revenue from exploitation of students

⑤ Societal Apathy on the plight of young children.

⑥ Moral Degeneration of Social Values  
- Promotion of Drugs to enhance performance.

⑦ Course of Action

(i) Investigate the reasons of rising suicide by students

(ii) Ensure implementation of rights of children & prevention of discrimination, harassment, pressure

(iii) Hold discussion with Coaching Institute managers and Teachers about the issue.

(iv) Apprise CM about the issue and also the media in order to inspire confidence of other

Students

(v) Hold counselling sessions with students and sensitising them on how to handle peer pressure.

(vi) Report to enforcement authorities about the illegal drug marketing (NDPS Act)

(c) Reasons for rising suicides

(i) Peer Pressure

(ii) Family pressure to perform

(iii) Lack of counselling and guidance

(iv) Ineffective Education system which does not emphasise character building

(v) Apathy of social actors including parents

### Measures to Address the issue

- ① Strengthening Emotional stability of children
- ② Counselling sessions to handle mental health
- ③ Collaborating with motivational speakers (eg. Kumar Vishwas, Gaur Gopal Das)
- ④ Coaching Institutes must ~~not~~ <sup>Reform</sup> and maintain sanctity of education

Thus, Empathetic approach is the need of the hour to ensure challenges of children are heeded to and their rights are protected in order to ensure their moral and emotional well being.

9. आप देश की एक बड़ी इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर कंपनी में प्रोजेक्ट डायरेक्टर के पद पर नियुक्त हैं। उक्त कंपनी को एक राज्य में एक बंदरगाह और उसके आंतरिक इलाकों को विकसित करने की अनुमति मिली है। इस परियोजना का देश के लिए आर्थिक और रणनीतिक महत्व है क्योंकि यह अपने परिचालनों के जरिए, इस क्षेत्र में एक प्रमुख ट्रांसशिपमेंट हब विकसित करेगी और नए व्यवसायों के विकास का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगी तथा रोजगार के अवसर पैदा करेगी।

साथ ही, इस परियोजना का सफल समापन और संचालन कंपनी के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि इसकी कुछ पिछली परियोजनाओं को स्थानीय समुदायों के विरोध के कारण रोक दिया गया था एवं इसमें न केवल कंपनी की प्रतिष्ठा बल्कि महत्वपूर्ण निवेश भी दांव पर लगा हुआ है।

परियोजना के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण निर्धारित नियमों और विनियमों के अनुसार पूरा किया गया है। पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव का आकलन किया गया है और परियोजना को संबंधित अधिकारियों से हरी झंडी मिल गई है। साथ ही, निर्धारित मानदंडों के अनुसार प्रभावित लोगों को पुनर्वास और वैकल्पिक आजीविका के अवसर भी उपलब्ध कराए गए हैं।

हालांकि, एक बार निर्माण शुरू होने के बाद, कुछ किसान समूहों ने इस आधार पर विरोध करना शुरू कर दिया है कि उन्हें पर्याप्त मुआवजा नहीं प्राप्त हुआ और यह परियोजना उनकी आजीविका को नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित करेगी। वे मांग कर रहे हैं कि या तो परियोजना को रोक दिया जाए या उन्हें प्रदान किए गए मुआवजे में और अधिक धनराशि दी जाए तथा उन्हें सुनिश्चित नौकरियां भी मिलें।

इस संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित का उत्तर दीजिए:

- (a) इस प्रकरण में प्रासंगिक हितधारकों और उन्हें प्रभावित करने वाले मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए।  
 (b) दिए गए संदर्भ में, विरोध करने वाले समूहों की मांगों को मानने के गुणों और दोषों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।  
 (c) आप कौन-सी कार्रवाई का अनुसरण करेंगे? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

You are appointed as the Project Director in a large infrastructure company of the country. The company has won the rights to develop a port and its hinterland in a state. The project has economic and strategic significance for the country as it would develop a leading transshipment hub in the region and would lead to higher exports and earnings through its operation, flourishing of new businesses and also create employment opportunities.

Also, the successful completion and operationalization of the project is important for the company as some of its previous projects were halted due to protests by the local communities and not only the reputation of the company but also significant investments are at stake.

The land acquisition for the project has been completed as per the laid down rules and regulations. The Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out and the project has received the go ahead from the concerned authorities. Also, rehabilitation and alternative livelihood opportunities are made available to the affected people as per the laid-down norms.

However, once the construction started, some farmer groups started agitating on the grounds that they have not been adequately compensated and that the project will negatively impact their livelihoods. They are demanding that either the project be halted or the compensation provided to them be increased substantially by way of money and assured jobs.

In this context, answer the following:

- Identify the relevant stakeholders in this case and the issues affecting them.
- Evaluate the merits and demerits of ceding to the demands of the protesting groups, in the given context.
- What course of action will you follow? (Answer in 250 words) 20

The above case involves the classic tradeoff between Development and Environment protection, bearing a bearing on society.

(A) Stakeholders involved :-

- Local communities - violation of Rights  
- displacement
- Industry, Corporates - Investments, Earnings, Employment
- Government Authorities - Compliance of Law
- Environment / Nature

- Ⓑ Evaluation of merits/demerits  
of ceding to demands of  
farmers

### MERITS

- (i) Trust of local communities  
in businesses
- (ii) Prevent displacement and  
impoverishment of communities
- (iii) Prevent negative PR/Public  
perception about the company.
- (iv) Empathy towards the marginalised  
groups (v) Inclusive Growth

### DEMERITS

- (i) Stalls project despite legality  
and compliance with EIA, as also  
alternative livelihood opportunities

(ii) Opportunity cost of halting project very high

- ↳ Loss of export earnings
- ↳ Loss of GDP growth
- ↳ " " Tax Revenues
- ↳ ~~Loss~~ non creation of Employment opportunities

(iii) High compensation & Assured jobs may burden the company.

(iv) Roadblock to development of the country.

### (C) Course of Action

(i) Explain to farmers the value of project and its benefits to larger Economy.

(ii) Agreeing to more compensation in phases, as the development starts.

- (iii) Collaborate with civil society, Nao's to persuade farmers
- (iv) Adopt empathetic approach by promising lucrative opportunities in future-
- (v) If protests ~~are~~ continue, pursue legal recourse.
- (vi) Collaborate with local authorities to build consensus.

Thus a measured approach needs to be adopted which is rooted in <sup>both</sup> societal benefits

and commercial interest.

This calls for ~~compassionate~~ approach, social stewardship and Trusteeship approach to resolving the impasse.

VisionIAS

10. जलवायु परिवर्तन से निपटने के लिए, हरित ऊर्जा को सबसे अच्छे समाधानों में से एक माना जाता है। देश अब कोयले की जगह जलविद्युत, जीवाश्म ईंधन के स्थान पर सौर ऊर्जा, पेट्रोल और डीजल से संचालित कारों की जगह इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों (EVs) को अपना रहे हैं। EVs को एक स्वच्छ, हरित और टिकाऊ विकल्प के रूप में पेश किया जा रहा है। इलेक्ट्रिक कारें बैटरी का उपयोग करती हैं तथा इन बैटरियों के निर्माण हेतु प्रयुक्त लिथियम और कोबाल्ट दुर्लभ धातुएं हैं। बैटरी में कोबाल्ट इसे स्थिर रखता है और इसके सुरक्षित संचालन में मदद करता है। कोबाल्ट का उपयोग लगभग आधी इलेक्ट्रिक कारों में किया जाता है, जो एक बैटरी में लगभग चार से 30 किलोग्राम तक उपयोग होता है।

आप उस जिले के जिलाधिकारी हैं जहां कोबाल्ट प्रचुर मात्रा में पाया जाता है। ऐसी ही एक कोबाल्ट साइट में जाने पर आपको पता चलता है कि खदानों में बच्चों को काम पर रखा गया है और ये बच्चे रोजाना अपने जीवन को संकट में डालकर कार्य करते हैं। वे ऊर्ध्वाधर सुरंगों में प्रवेश करते हैं जो वयस्कों हेतु प्रवेश करने के लिए बहुत संकीर्ण हैं और भट्टी जैसे वातावरण की अमानवीय परिस्थितियों में कोबाल्ट की खुदाई करते हैं। हालांकि, वे केवल कभी-कभी ही फावड़े का उपयोग करते हैं और सामान्यतः अपने हाथों से ही खुदाई करते हैं। उन्हें मास्क, दस्ताने, कार्य हेतु उचित कपड़े नहीं दिए जाते हैं और एक बार में केवल 20 मिनट तक की ही ऑक्सीजन दी जाती है। फिर भी ये छोटे बच्चे घंटों खुदाई करते हैं। कोबाल्ट के पत्थरों को खोदने के पश्चात्, वे उन्हें तोड़ते हैं, उन्हें धोते हैं और फिर उन्हें बेचने के लिए बाजार में ले जाते हैं।

इस संबंध में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

- (a) उपर्युक्त प्रकरण में शामिल नैतिक मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।
- (b) कानूनी और संस्थागत उपायों के बावजूद, भारत में बाल श्रम के जारी रहने के कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए।
- (c) दी गई स्थिति के संदर्भ में, जिले में बाल श्रम की समस्या के समाधान के लिए आप क्या कदम उठाएंगे? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

In order to tackle climate change, green energy is touted as one of the best solutions. Countries are now replacing coal with hydroelectric power, fossil fuels with solar energy, petrol and diesel cars with electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are being pitched as a cleaner, greener and sustainable alternative. Electric cars use batteries, and lithium and cobalt are rare metals that make up these batteries. The cobalt in the battery keeps it stable and allows it to operate safely. Cobalt is used in about half of the electric cars, which is about four to 30 kilograms per battery.

You are the District Magistrate of a district where cobalt is found in abundance. On a visit to one such cobalt site, you find out that children are employed in the mines and these children flirt with death daily. They enter vertical tunnels that are too narrow for adults to enter and dig for cobalt under inhumane conditions in a furnace-like environment. Although, they sometimes use shovels, they typically dig with their bare hands. They are not provided with masks, gloves, work clothes and are only provided with 20 minutes of oxygen at a time. Yet, these young children dig for hours. Upon digging the rock, they crush it, wash it and then take their finds to the market in order to sell them.

In this regard, answer the following questions:

- (a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.
- (b) Despite the legal and institutional measures, discuss the reasons behind the prevalence of child labour in India.
- (c) In context of the given situation, what steps will you take to address the issue of child labour in the district? (Answer in 250 words) 20

The above issue reflects social apathy towards and inhumanity towards children. It points to the

Ugly face of Capitalism and economic growth at the expense of human dignity.

(A) Ethical Issues involved.

(i) Employment of child labour

↳ Violation of Article 24

↳ Abuse of human rights

↳ affront to dignity

(ii) Children are deprived of opportunities to ~~educate~~ access education and childhood.

(III) Abuse of Tender age of children to extract economic gains → Commerce without morality [Gandhian sin]

(IV) Treating children as means to an end — Unethical as per Immanuel Kant

**B** Reasons for Prevalence of Child Labour in India :-

- (i) lax implementation of law on ground.
- (ii) Lack of Awareness among Parents/Guardians — Allow children to work in factories
- (iii) **Poverty** — A major reason for children taking up hazardous

Employment, (especially in slums)

(iv) Institutional weakness

↳ lack of monitoring of  
child labour abuse  
↳ - Understaffed <sup>Child</sup> Welfare  
Commissions

(v) Ineffectiveness of National Commission  
for protection of child rights

(vi) Society is equally responsible  
for not taking up the issue &  
raising voice against it.

(c) Steps to Address the ~~is~~  
above problem

(1) Initiate an enquiry into  
violation of Child Labour  
Prohibition Act 2016

(ii) Steps to Rehabilitate the children engaged in child labour

(iii) Sensitisation and awareness drives in the districts  
↳ To build awareness about the hazards of child labour

(iv) Ensure the children are accorded opportunity to access education

(v) Involve local leaders, NGO's, activists to comprehensively address the menace of child labour

Thus a multi pronged approach needs to be adopted, underpinned by Empathy and Justice in order to tackle child labour and afford opportunities to children

to grow in healthy environment  
in conditions of dignity [Article  
39].

VISION IAS

11. आप एक टेलीविजन रियलिटी शो के निर्माताओं में से एक हैं। यह शो देश में बहुत लोकप्रिय है और समाज के सभी वर्गों एवं विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में इसके दर्शकों की अत्यधिक संख्या है। हालांकि, एक विवाद सामने आया है जिसमें शो के नवीनतम सीजन में, फिल्म उद्योग के एक प्रतियोगी, जिस पर उसके कई सहकर्मियों द्वारा यौन उत्पीड़न का आरोप लगाया गया है, उसको एक प्रतिभागी के रूप में शामिल किया गया है। कई मीडिया कंपनियों ने इसकी रिपोर्ट की है और महिला उत्पीड़न के देश के सबसे हार्ड-प्रोफाइल कथित आरोपी व्यक्तियों में से एक को राष्ट्रीय मंच पर लाने के लिए शो की आलोचना भी की है। वे इसे उन महिलाओं के अपमान के रूप में मानते हैं जिन्होंने अपने उत्पीड़न के मामलों को बहादुरी से प्रकट किया था।

निजी तौर पर आप भी ऐसा ही महसूस करते हैं और आपका मानना है कि ऐसे विवादित व्यक्ति को शो में नहीं शामिल किया जाना चाहिए था। हालांकि, जब आप अन्य निर्माताओं से इसके बारे में बात करते हैं, तो वे मानते हैं कि विवाद शो के लिए अच्छा है, क्योंकि यह मुफ्त में प्रचार करता है। साथ ही, उनका कहना है कि कोई व्यक्ति तब तक दोषी नहीं होता है जब तक कि न्यायालय द्वारा उसे दोषी घोषित न किया गया हो और मीडिया ट्रायल के कारण किसी व्यक्ति के करियर को खराब नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। इसके अतिरिक्त, विचाराधीन व्यक्ति शो के होस्ट के अत्यधिक करीबी है, जो कि देश में एक बेहद लोकप्रिय सार्वजनिक हस्ती है। इस शो को बहुत पसंद किया जाता है और शो की सफलता भी उस पर निर्भर है। कोई भी निर्माता होस्ट को नाराज नहीं करना चाहता है। दी गई स्थिति में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

- इस प्रकरण में शामिल नैतिक मुद्दे कौन-से हैं?
- आपके समक्ष कौन-से विकल्प उपलब्ध हैं और आप क्या कार्रवाई करेंगे?
- ऐसे प्रकरणों में मीडिया द्वारा ट्रायल के सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक प्रभावों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दें)

You are one of the producers of a television reality show. The show is very popular in the country and has a wide viewership among all sections of the society and across various regions. However, a controversy has emerged wherein in the latest season of the show, a contestant from the film industry who has been accused of sexual harassment by many of his co-workers has been accepted as a participant. Several media houses have reported it and have criticized the show for giving a national platform to one of the country's most high-profile alleged perpetrators of female harassment. They term it as a denigration of those women who had bravely spoken up about their harassment.

In a personal capacity, you also feel the same and are of the view that such a controversial person should not have been invited to the show. However, when you talk to other producers about it, they opine that the controversy is good for the show, as it generates free publicity. Also, they say that a person is not guilty unless the court of law declares so and the career of a person should not be sabotaged due to media trial. Moreover, the person in question is very close to the host of the show, who is an extremely popular public figure in the country. The show commands a huge fandom and success of the show is also contingent on him. None of the producers want to antagonize the host.

In the given situation, answer the following questions:

- What are the ethical issues involved in the case?
- What are the options available to you and what will be your course of action?
- Discuss the positive and negative impacts of trial by media in such cases.  
(Answer in 250 words) 20

The above case revolves around Commercial ethics and social values morality and the impact of mass media on general public,

(A) Ethical Issues involved

(i) Subversion of morality by inviting person accused of business crimes

(ii) Lack of Commercial Integrity of Media Houses  $\rightarrow$  Forsake Integrity for Publicity

(iii) Lack of Emotional Quotient  
- mental and emotional trauma of the victims not taken into account

(W) Absence of PROBITY

↳ personal relations between person and host trumping public interest

(V) Perpetuation of Gender stereotypes through inviting sexual offenders

(VI) Gandhian Sin - Commerce without morality

(VII) Lack of moral compass of the media & industry - media ethics

(B) Option 1 :- Status Quo, Allow the Participant

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good relations with host</li> <li>High TRP's and revenue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commerce without morality</li> <li>Perpetuate Gender prejudices</li> <li>Open Advocacy for gender violence</li> </ul>

- violates national interest
- Corrodes social fabric

option 2:- Disallow the contestant

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Media Integrity</li> <li>◦ Ensure PROBITY</li> <li>◦ Voice of conscience upheld</li> <li>◦ Societal values upheld</li> <li>◦ Responsible media - decisions in National &amp; Social interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Adversely affect relations with host</li> <li>◦ Economic Cost</li> <li>◦ Loss of Publicity</li> </ul>

**Option 2** is the right course of action as it upholds constitutional morality, social responsibility, commercial morality, and public interest.

(C) Media Trials refer to the practice of holding an accused guilty through series of sensational & attention seeking news.

## PROS

- Creates an impact in the society
- Media ~~should~~ <sup>entitled</sup> undertake responsible reporting
- Delays ~~and~~ opacity in legal system
- engage wider audience & helps build awareness about such issues

## CONS

- Thwarts judicial process
- Perpetuate bias and stereotypes
- Create false narratives
- victimisation of the accused without evidence

Thus it is incumbent on the media  
to observe Constitutional boundaries  
and maintain propriety as  
a responsible stakeholder of the  
society . .

VisionIAS

12. आप हाल ही में भारत के एक महानगर में जल आपूर्ति और सीवरज बोर्ड के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी के रूप में नियुक्त हुए हैं। हाल ही में, एक ऐसी घटना हुई थी जिसमें दो गरीब लोगों की शहर के एक पॉश मोहल्ले में सीवर की जोखिमपूर्ण सफाई के दौरान मौत हो गई थी, जिसमें शहर के शीर्ष कॉर्पोरेट प्रमुख रहते थे। प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट में पाया गया कि उक्त मोहल्ले के कुछ निवासियों ने स्थानीय शहर प्रशासन की जानकारी के बिना सीवर की सफाई के लिए निजी कर्मचारियों को नियुक्त किया था।

संबंधित निवासियों के साथ-साथ दोनों मृत लोगों को काम पर नियोजित करने वाले निजी ठेकेदार के खिलाफ उनकी लापरवाही के कारण हुई मौत का मामला दर्ज कर लिया गया है। यह शिकायत उस मोहल्ले के निवासियों के लिए एक चौंकाने वाली घटना थी, जिनमें से अधिकांश ने पहले कभी कानूनी कार्यवाई का सामना नहीं किया था।

जांच के दौरान मोहल्ले के लोगों ने शिकायत की कि स्थानीय प्रशासन लंबे समय से सीवरों की सफाई नहीं करा रहा है, जिसके कारण उन्हें निजी कर्मचारियों को काम पर रखना पड़ा। आपको यह भी पता चला है कि नगर प्रशासन में मेंटेनेंस कार्यों को लेकर असमंजस की स्थिति बनी हुई है, जिसका आज तक कोई समाधान नहीं हुआ है। समग्र रूप से नगर प्रशासन भी आवश्यक बुनियादी ढांचे के निर्माण और सीवेज सफाई से संबंधित कार्य करने के लिए सुरक्षात्मक गियर प्रदान करने के लिए धन की कमी का सामना कर रहा है।

दूसरी तरफ, मृतक के परिजनों ने मुआवजे के लिए सरकार पर दबाव बनाना शुरू कर दिया है। साथ ही, मीडिया ने भी इस घटना के लिए नगर प्रशासन की उदासीनता को जिम्मेदार मानते हुए हंगामा किया हुआ है और मोहल्ले के हाई प्रोफाइल निवासियों के खिलाफ दर्ज शिकायतों को वापस लेने के लिए दबाव बना हुआ है।

उपर्युक्त स्थिति के आलोक में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

- संबंधित मुद्दों के साथ प्रकरण में शामिल हितधारकों की पहचान कीजिए।
- दिए गए प्रकरण में आपके समक्ष उपलब्ध विकल्पों का मूल्यांकन कीजिए। आप इनमें से कौन-सा विकल्प चुनेंगे और क्यों?
- भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए आप कौन-से दीर्घकालीन उपाय करेंगे? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दें)

You have recently joined as the Chief Executive Officer of the Water Supply and Sewerage Board in a metropolitan city of India. Recently, there was an incident where two poor people died while undertaking hazardous cleaning of sewers in a posh neighbourhood, housing top corporate honchos of the city. The preliminary report found that a few residents in the said neighbourhood employed private workers to clean the sewers without the knowledge of the local city administration.

A complaint for causing death by negligence has been registered against the concerned residents as well as the private contractor through whom these poor people were employed to carry out the task. The complaint has come as a shock to the residents of the neighbourhood, most of whom never had a brush with the law before.

During the investigation, the residents of the neighbourhood complained that the local administration has not been cleaning sewers for a long time, forcing them to hire private workers. You also come to know that there has been a confusion over the maintenance works in the city administration,

with no resolution till date. The city administration, as a whole, has also been facing a shortage of funds to build the requisite infrastructure and provide protective gears to carry out the sewage cleaning work. *apathy*

In the meantime, the family members of the deceased have started pressurising the government for compensation and there has also been a media blitzkrieg blaming the apathy of the city administration for the incident and pressure to withdraw the complaints registered against the high profile residents of the neighbourhood.

In light of the above situation, answer the following questions:

- Identify the stakeholders involved in the case along with the associated issues.
- Evaluate the options that are available to you in the given case. Which of these options will you choose and why?
- What will be the long-term measures you will take to prevent such an incident from occurring in the future? (Answer in 250 words) 20

The case involves Administrative ~~failure~~ incapacity and reflects the social realities of manual scavenging.

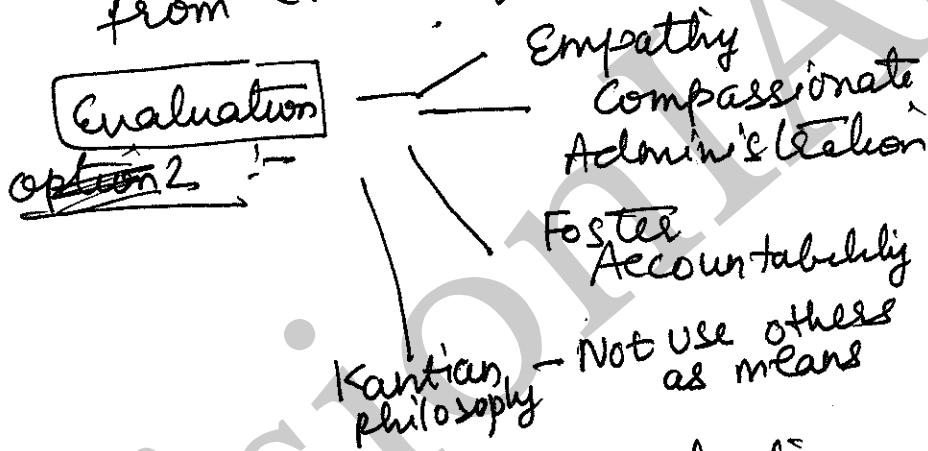
(A)

Stakeholders

- CEO of water supply board  
- Responsibility for sewer maintenance
- Residents of city - Employing local contractor to clean sewers
- Put contractor - Hire poor to clean sewers
- Manual scavengers - Forced to clean in unhygienic conditions.

- (v) Media - Highlighting the issue
- (vi) Society at large

(B) option 1 → Providing compensation to the families of sewer workers from CM relief fund



option 2

Fix Administrative responsibility for cleaning sewers

- Evaluation
- foster Accountability through action against the responsible
  - prevent private contractors from exploiting the vulnerable
  - Ensure Fund availability through schemes such as NAMASTE for mechanisation of sewers

options

evaluation

Withdrawing  
Case  
against  
residents

+

Sensitize  
the  
residents  
to  
first  
contact  
Local  
Administration  
for  
such  
issues

→ Innocent residents must  
not be victimised for  
administrative apathy.

→ Also build Trust of  
citizens in Administration.

Thus a blend of all 3 options  
must be followed in the interest

of → Administrative Accountability

→ Amelioration of suffering  
of Family of deceased

→ Trust of local citizens in  
Administration.

(C) [Long Term measures]

(i) [Institutional Measures]

- ↳ Upkeep of Infrastructure
- ↳ Availability of <sup>Protective</sup> headgear to sewer cleaners
- ↳ Mechanisation of sewers as envisaged under NAMASTE Scheme

(ii) [Rehabilitation] of Manual Scavengers through:-

- ↳ Skill Development
- ↳ Alternative employment opportunities

(iii) [Effective <sup>Efficient</sup> implementation] of Prevention of Employment as Manual Scavenger Act 2013  
- Swift action against private contractors.

- (iv) Sensitisation through collaboration with NGOs to end the scourge of manual scavenging
- (v) Adopting safe sanitation practices & ending open defecation (Swachh Bharat)
- (vi) Behavioural change in the society through outreach programmes

Thus an all encompassing approach rooted in social justice and empathy is the need of the hour to address the challenge of manual scavenging.

VisionIAS