

# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2070)

|                   |              |                     |          |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------|
| Name of Candidate | Sudipa Dutta |                     |          |
| Medium Hindi/Eng. | English      | Registration Number | 1244110  |
| Center            | Online       | Date                | 03-01-23 |

### INDEX TABLE

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

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

### INSTRUCTIONS

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

SECTION - A

1. (a) Differentiating between courage and bravery, discuss why courage is often thought of as the first of all virtues. (150 words) 10

साहस और बहादुरी के मध्य अंतर बताते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए, कि साहस को प्रायः सभी सदगुणों में सर्वप्रमुख क्यों माना जाता है।

Courage can be defined as the inherent quality which allows a person to face an unpleasant and undesirable situation in a ~~no~~ mindful and calm manner.

Bravery, on the other hand, is the display of courage in 'an' unpleasant situation and not in 'all' unpleasant situation.

Differentiation between the two

Courage

- 1) It is innate in a person
- 2) It ~~can~~ <sup>is</sup> applied in all situations
- 3) A courageous person is always brave.
- 4) Eg:- Indian Army is trained to be courageous in every adverse situation. They don't have a choice between being brave or coward

Bravery

- 1) It can be developed
- 2) It ~~can~~ <sup>is</sup> applied in only certain situation.
- 3) A brave person is not always courageous.
- 4) Eg:- We, normal person, in any adverse situation have a choice i.e. to be brave or a coward. We can be brave in a particular situation

- 5) Courage is not act-specific
- and coward in another situation.
- 5) Bravery is act-specific

Virtue is the good quality of character.  
Virtues can be cultivated.

Courage is first of all virtues :-

- 1) Life is full of unpleasant situation. We face these situation with courage. Without courage all other virtues such as goodness, faith, beauty, intelligence makes no sense, if we succumb to adverse situations.
- 2) Our fight and flight response is determined by courage.
- 3) As Gandhiji said, Satyagraha and non-violence as way of life can only be practiced by courageous person.
- 4) ~~But~~ Be it Indira Gandhi (former Prime Minister) or Sam Manekshaw (former Army chief) or Sheikh Mujib (Father of Bangladesh) all of them showed courage which led to the defeat of Pakistan in 1971 war.
- 5) All other virtues in consonance with courage makes a person's life fruitful.

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

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

~~Ethics is the difference~~  
 "Ethics is knowing the difference between what we have, the right to do and what is right to do." — Potter Stewart

Ethics can be developed through various stages of life.

Determinants of ethics are the factors which <sup>helps in</sup> determining the ~~best~~ right or wrong in a situation.

### Determinants of Ethics

#### 1) Social Factors

- Social factors can be defined as the things we come across in our social life.  
 Eg:- school, neighbourhood, peer group etc
- Social factors determines social norms and guides a person towards appropriate behaviour in different social situations
- Social factors allows an individual to survive in society.
- Society preserved its continuity by transmitting its norms from person to person
- Eg:- The quality of respecting elders

whether we are related to him/her or not is an ethical standard propagated by social factors.

### 2) Cultural Factors

- Cultural factors can be defined as the customs & traditions that an individual adopts in his life. Eg :- vegetarianism, cow-worship are customs / culture of Hindus.
- These also determine the ethical standards of a person by prohibiting and simultaneously allowing certain things.
- The concept of right or wrong gets diffused in a society through culture of that place.

### 3) Religious Factors

- Religious factors are moral grounds established by religious institutions.
- Hinduism's 'Vasudhev Kutumbakam', Christianity's 'Love thy neighbour' and Islam's 'prohibition on alcohol' are some of the ethical standards determined by religious factors.
- Religious sanctions come in handy while disseminating ethical behaviour among devotees.
- \* Therefore it can be said that ethics is a multi-dimensional philosophy having its effect in all public lines.

2. (a) Bring out the relevance of the teachings of Gautam Buddha in contemporary times. (150 words) 10

समकालीन समय में गौतम बुद्ध की शिक्षाओं की प्रासंगिकता को वर्णित कीजिए।

Gautam Buddha, founder of the religion of Buddhism, in 500 BC is still relevant in contemporary times through his various teachings and philosophy.

### 1) The concept of desire

- He taught that all sufferings are caused due to desire.
- When we get rid of desire we escape the cycle of birth and rebirth and achieve nirvana.
- In contemporary times the vices of corruption, money-laundering, extortion are the crimes that emerge due to humans' unending desires.
- As Grandhi said "there is enough for everyone's need but not enough for everyone's greed".
- Therefore, Buddha's teachings can still be applied in our daily lives to lead a peaceful life.

### 2) Eight-fold Path

- Buddha propagated the concept of eightfold path as a measure of true living.
- Right knowledge, right conduct,

right action, right meditation are some few of the components of eight-fold path.

- These simple ~~frustration~~ rules can still be followed in modern times as they are easy to imbibe in our daily lives.
- Eg :- code of conduct of civil servants embodies some of the principles of this eight-fold path.

### 3) Middle-Path (madhyam marg)

- Buddha always promoted a middle path between severe austerity and ~~being~~ excess merry.
- He wanted people to live a life that is balanced.
- ~~neither heavy penance~~
- Neither heavy penance nor continuous enjoyment is required to live peacefully.
- This principle can still be applied in our daily lives where people reserve certain special occasions to enjoy and live rest of the days by fulfilling one's earthly duties.

As Gautam Buddha said "Rule your mind or it will rule you", it is necessary to keep his teachings in mind to live a meaningful life even in today's times.

2. (b) If one takes care of the means the end will take care of itself. Discuss. (150 words) 10

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

"Means may be likened to seed, as the seed will be as the tree will become."  
- Mahatma Gandhi

Ends are the result of our actions.

Means take are the method we adopt to perform certain actions.

There are two contrasting philosophy on ~~about~~ the relationship between means and ends.

1) Means not important only ends important

- Propagated by Machiavelli (Italian philosopher of 16th century) and also Kautilya (Political economist of 500 BC India)
- They gave ultimate importance to ends and not means as a wording to them a king should only be focused on the interests of his subjects and not on the ways the interests are fulfilled.
- In modern times, this view was propagated by Vladimir Lenin who said "There is no morals in politics only expedience."

2) Means as much important as ends

- This view was propagated by the

- likes of Mahatma Gandhi, Thomas Paine etc.
- According to them a successful outcome becomes corrupted if the means to achieve it was corrupted.
  - "What we sow is what we reap" comes true in this philosophy.
  - This view says that king should be bound by the limits of ethics while taking any decision.

I ~~do~~ wholly concur with the second view propagated by Mahatma Gandhi. Means has to be as noble as we want the ends to be.

Example :- Rationale given for war on Ukraine by Vladimir Putin is that he wants to alleviate the oppression faced by Russian-speaking minority in Ukraine. ~~but~~ Though his cause is defensible but his means is outright cruel and unethical. Therefore his actions can never be defended in any court of justice.

~~So~~ Therefore, we can conclude that means are the first determinants of our action and ends are just its reflection.

3. (a) Explain the relevance of the following in the context of civil services:  
(150 words) 10

(i) Impersonality

(ii) Anonymity

(iii) Perseverance

(iv) Fairness

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

(i) निर्वैयक्तिकता

(ii) अनामिता

(iii) दृढ़ता

(iv) निष्पक्षता

Civil services also can be defined as the services focused on citizens and public of a country. These services are a part of government services and comes under public services.

(i) Impersonality

- Impersonality is the value of being unbiased towards anyone whether he is known personally or is completely unknown.
- This value is imbibed in civil servants as their code of conduct mandates them to treat everyone equally without any prejudice.
- Conflict of interest severely prohibited in civil services.

(ii) Anonymity

- The value of doing one's job anonymously without any publicity is called anonymity.

A civil servant should only focus on fulfilling his duty without any greed to be recognized for his efforts.

- For example, the recent even in which an IAS officer was removed from his position of Returning Officer (R.O) in Gujarat Assembly elections because he posted this on his Instagram handle.

### (iii) Perseverance

- Perseverance is the quality to be dedicated towards one's work patiently and not be discouraged by failure.
- A famous example comes to mind that is of ISRO's ~~chairman~~ former chairman, S. Somanathan who despite repeated failures was still trying to make Chandrayaan-II a success.
- Therefore this is an important quality to be followed in civil services.

### (iv) Fairness

- The quality of being impartial and doing one's work objectively without any consideration for reward from anyone.
- Civil servants are required to be fair to everyone especially weak, poor, marginalised and vulnerable population.
- This quality is based on Constitutional provision guaranteeing equality of all.

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

(i) Intelligence Quotient and Emotional Quotient

(ii) Attitude and Aptitude

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

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

(ii) अभिवृत्ति और अभिरुचि

(i) Intelligence Quotient

Emotional Quotient

- IQ is the measure of one's intellect.

- EQ is the measure of one's emotional competence.

- IQ is the quality of solving logical problems through cognitive reasoning.

- EQ is the measure of one's ability to see, understand and reflect responsibly to one's emotions and moods and also towards others emotions by showing empathy.

- It can be developed only up to a certain amount.

- It can be developed continuously by being self-aware, practising meditation etc.

\* Example :- Scientist are not always inclined towards public services in most of the cases because high IQ does not always corresponds to high EQ. A high IQ person developed nuclear weapons but a high EQ person understands why proliferation of nuclear weapons

is detrimental to humanity and other living beings.

### (ii) Attitude

- Attitude can be defined as the values or principles that determine our behaviour.
- Attitude develops from when we start listening to our conscience.
- Attitude of a person can be developed on its own.

### Aptitude

- Aptitude is the ability to solve quantifiable problems.
- Aptitude takes time to develop as it needs practice.
- Aptitude of a person can only be developed when someone else is there to guide him/her.

\* Example: - While Sardar Sarovar Dam was proposed to be built on Narmada River, it was the 'aptitude' of engineers, researchers, scientists etc who made it this gigantic task possible. But it was the 'attitude' of civil society activists who protested heart and soul against the building of the dam as it endangered the life and livelihood of thousands of marginalised people. Therefore, Aptitude can make life easier but right attitude can make life better.

4. (a) What do you understand by political neutrality? Explain its significance in public service. (150 words) 10

राजनीतिक तटस्थता से आप क्या समझते हैं? लोक सेवा में इसके महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए।

Political neutrality refers to the act of being unhinged towards any political philosophy and serving every Political Party which is in power according to one's duty outlined in our code of service without any prejudice.

Public service is the service focused on citizens and aimed at fulfilling various welfare services which is the duty of the chosen Government.

Significance of Political Neutrality in public service.

- 1) Providing 'continuity and change' to administration → a politically neutral person is an asset to the administration as he chooses his duty over rewards.
- 2) To curb nepotism and favouritism → It is very important to serve every political party according to one's duty to check nepotism in administrative services.

- Public centered → A pat politically neutral civil servant is to focused solely on the welfare of people without any consideration for his political ideology.
- 4) Curb corruption → If one is infatuated with his political leanings, he may commit crimes just to fit into his political ideology.
- 5) Principle of Separation of Powers → which determines the separate lanes of judiciary, executive and legislature is upheld.
- 6) Avoid conflict of interest → where personal interest comes subordinate to larger public interest.

### Way Forward

Example of former Election Commissioner T N Seshan comes in handy here as he did not let elections to happen till Photo Electoral ID was issued to all eligible voters despite being under heavy political pressure.

Drawing upon his commitment we can gauge on the fact that political neutrality always comes before price to self political philosophy.

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

"Real integrity is doing the right thing knowing that nobody is going to know whether you did it or not."  
- Oprah Winfrey

1) Integrity can be defined as moral uprightness (Oxford dictionary) and the quality of doing right thing in every circumstance.

Honesty, as a concept is very much similar to integrity but is applied when one knows his <sup>truthfulness</sup> honesty is being tested and is not applied in every situation.

2) Integrity is broader than honesty as if one does not follow integrity it leads to crisis of conscience to that person. But honesty is situation specific.

3) If a person is honest in one situation does not mean he/she is always honest, ~~likewise~~ On the contrary, a person with integrity is always honest.

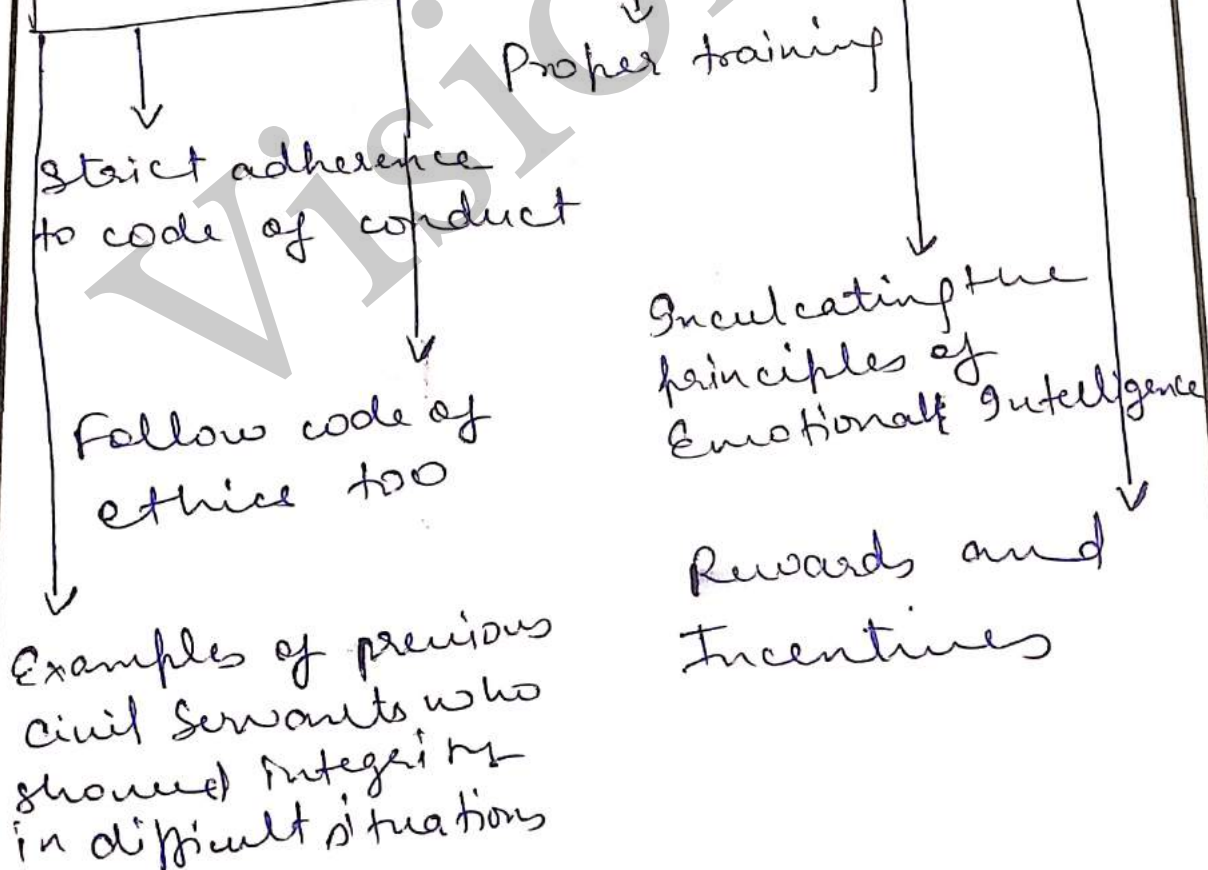
\* Example :- While standing on road during a red light, there can be two

Situations :-

First, there are traffic police officers therefore you do not violate the traffic rules and do not break the red light and drive off. (This is honesty)

Second, there are no traffic police officers and you know that even if you break the signal you won't be penalised as you are not under any surveillance. In spite of this opportunity you decide to follow traffic rules and you do not break red light (This is integrity to do the right thing even when no one is looking).

Ways to inculcate integrity as a value in Civil Services :-



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

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

Probity means integrity, uprightness and honesty.

Probity in governance means the quality of being incorruptible and adhering to the high standards of honesty, integrity, anonymity, perseverance, impartiality etc.

Probity's significance in good Governance

2nd ARC says that, "Apart from the traditional civil services values of efficiency, integrity, accountability and patriotism, it is necessary for civil servants to ~~inculcate~~ inculcate and adopt moral and ethical values of compassion to downtrodden, commitment to public service, probity in public life, respect for human rights."

1) To ensure accountability and transparency → RTI act which mandates the disclosure of government information to public is one of the many ways to achieve good governance through probity.

Empathy towards citizens → A self aware and honest person has high emotional intelligence and can easily build rapport with common people.

- 3) Timely service delivery → Probity in actions causes one to do his/her duty on time.
- 4) High standards of governance → as no illegal means is employed to evade ones duty as probity ensures conscience efforts.
- 5) Ensure compliance with process → laid out actions and principles are followed by an integral person.
- 6) Generates public confidence in Government process → People do not hesitate in going to public servants regarding their problems.  
 Example ⇒ Demonetisation, which wreaked havoc in 2016, could not have been possible if there were ~~public~~ public servant who did not adopt probity in their duty to realise high ideals of governance. Every concern was handled effectively by moral, upright and honest public servants.

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

(150 words) 10

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

"Create all the happiness you are able to create; remove all the misery you are able to remove." — Jeremy Bentham

Utilitarianism is an ethical doctrine pioneered by Jeremy Bentham and J S Mill.

Utilitarianism can be defined as the doctrine which aims at achieving greatest good for greatest number of people.

Significance of Utilitarianism:-

- 1) Helps in making informed choices → civil servants can know that a decision is right if it affects majority of people positively.
- 2) This theory can be easily implemented → policy formulation becomes easy when this principle is kept in mind.
- 3) Centered on humanity → this doctrine aims to increase well-being of humanity.
- 4) Provides universal solution → This theory in a way provides solution to the problem of by keeping majority happiness in ~~recess~~ mind.

5) Morality is not subjective ~~and can be~~ projected from this theory as it shows which moral belief is true & which is false.

### Limitations

- 1) Neglect minority → while keeping in mind benefit of majority, benefit of minority and vulnerable are disregarded.
- 2) Primacy to outcomes and not to the means can promote unethical practices.  
Eg:- Slavery is justified in utilitarian principle as it benefits majority of agrarian economy, but it is morally wrong as it does not respect 'human dignity'.
- 3) Utilitarianism promotes selfishness → strict adherence to these philosophy can make people selfish as people will work to promote self good in the attempt to justify his good as good of majority.
- 4) Consequences of an action are not immediate → therefore it is not possible to gauge on the right or wrong of an action until true result comes out.
- 5) Utilitarianism only promotes black & white contract of morality → There can be a gray area too as when removing encroachments from roadside prior warning can help road side vendors to protect their property rather than demolishing the shops right away.

5. (b) What do you understand by ethical dilemma? Explain with examples, how it can lead to crisis of conscience. (150 words) 10

नैतिक दुविधा से आप क्या समझते हैं? उदाहरण सहित स्पष्ट कीजिए कि यह किस प्रकार अंतःकरण का संकट उत्पन्न कर सकती है।

"Being in the horns of dilemma, neither horn being comfortable."

Ethical dilemma can be defined as the situation proposing two competing set of choice, neither of the choices being appropriate.

Eg:- While going to an interview if a candidate sees an injured person he is plagued by the dilemma of helping the dying person or going to his interview.

- 1) Taking the dying person not totally appropriate as he will miss his interview for which can jeopardise his career.
- 2) Going to interview is not totally appropriate as he would have feelings guilty his entire life to leave a person dying on road.

Crisis of Conscience is the situation where a person's conscience is not satisfied with his action.

Voice of conscience tells us always what we think as right or wrong.

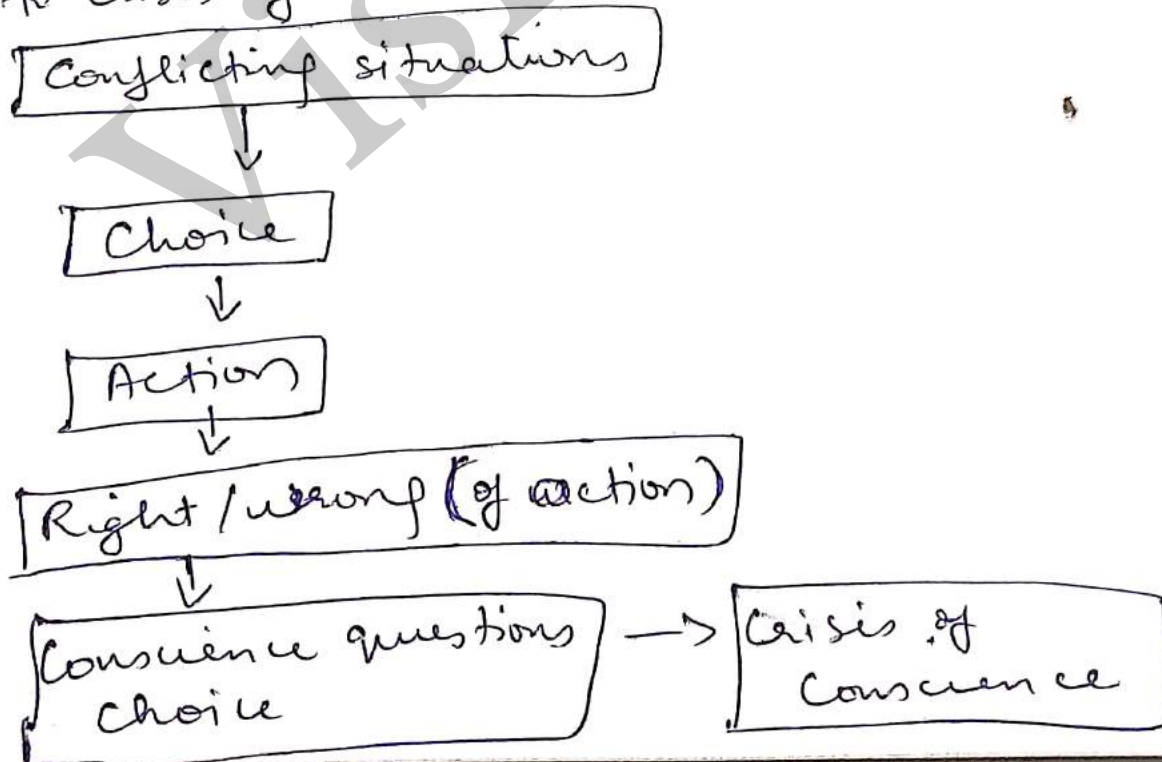
Crisis of conscience occurs when we are doubtful of our actions and are afraid that we have done something wrong.

Example :-

Kevin Carter, a photojournalist, suffered from an intense Crisis of Conscience as he dealt with an ethical dilemma during work and he was doubtful whether he did the right thing.

While on his work trip to Africa, where there was famine, he was prohibited from touching any person & was allowed only to take pictures. So he could not save a dying child. This led to a crisis of conscience which ~~getting~~ caused such extreme guilt that he committed suicide soon after returning despite being acclaimed all over for his photographs.

In this way ethical dilemma can lead to crisis of conscience.



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

(150 words) 10

आचरण संहिता क्या है? यह नीतिपरक आचार संहिता से किस प्रकार भिन्न है?

Code of conduct are rules and regulations that guide the behaviour of an ~~person~~ employee of an organisation or institution.

Code of ethics are generalised rules or ethical standards that define the behaviour of a person in a community, organisation, institution etc.

Code of Co  
Code of Conduct

Code of Ethics

- 1) ~~General guiding~~
- 2) Code of Conduct are specific formal rules.
- 3) It governs actions.
- 4) It is focused on compliance & rules.
- 5) It is generally addressed to & intended to employees only.

- 1) Code of ethics are general guiding principle.
- 2) It governs decision-making.
- 3) It is focused on values & principles.
- 4) It is generally available to public and addressed to anyone with an interest in an institutions activities.

They generally require little judgement on the part of employees.

5) They are wide ranging and non-specific, enabling employees to make independent judgements.

Example :-

Code of Conduct of Civil Servants involves the higher principles of Integrity, Accountability, Dedication to Service, Commitment to welfare of People, Empathy, Compassion, Honesty etc.

where as

Code of Ethics for Civil Servants involve some qualities which are universal even for a common person such as responsiveness, truthfulness, right faith, right belief, purity of heart.

Therefore, it can be concluded that code of ethics is more wider than code of conduct.

Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics together defines the rights, obligations and privileges of a person attached to an institution / organisation.

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

(150 words) 10

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

Nolan Committee also known as the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

This committee was chaired by Lord Nolan and it examined the ~~code~~ standards of conduct of all public office holders.

The seven principles of Nolan Committee are:

it stated the principles that is to be incorporated in the code of conduct of civil servants which are :-

1) Selflessness → holders of public office should not put themselves under any obligation and work solely for public interest.

Eg:- while working for MGNREGA implementation, it is better to keep one's self interest aside and focus on the development of authorized place.

2) Integrity → holders of public office should do the right thing always even when no one is going to know whether he did the right thing or not or even when he will not be rewarded

for his actions. Eg:-

- 3) Objectivity - Holders of public office should take decisions solely on the merits of a ~~fact~~ situation and keep his biases or opinions aside. He must be as rational in his action as he can be. Eg:- E Jaishankar evaluating Ukraine-Russia war on objective bases.
- 4) Accountability - Holders of public office should take responsibility of his actions and should not shy away when he is wrong. Eg:- E Sreedharan taking responsibility of timely completion of Delhi Metro.
- 5) Openness - The works done by public office holders should be open in public domain and should be available for scrutiny by civil society groups.
- 6) Honesty - The holders of public office should be honest in his desires and work for the betterment of society. Eg:- Lal Bahadur Shastri during his daughter's death.
- 7) Leadership - Holders of public office should show high measure of Emotional Intelligence ~~so~~ so that he can lead people through his actions and not pressure. Eg:- Prashant Nair, IAS Kerala who lead 'Collector Bro' Initiative. Again, a lot is still needed to be done to achieve that perfect balance of work ethics through guidance and training.

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

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

In this context, answer the following questions:

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

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

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

इस संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

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

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

### Stakeholders

Public Information Officer (PIO)  
 Other Staff of that department  
 Local Politician  
 Local Community  
 Recruited official  
 Educated unemployed Persons of that region

Ethical Issues

- 1) Politicisation of bureaucracy
- 2) Political Influence
- 3) Maintaining Political Neutrality
- 4) Vested Interests of Politicians
- 5) Opinions getting influenced by politicised situation.

Various Options available to me :-

① ~~Option 1~~

Option 1 :-

Reply appropriately to the petitions filed.

Merit

- 1) Duty to public service
- 2) Commitment to code of conduct

Demerit

- 1) Political influence may increase even more
- 2) Not objective in approach.

Option 2 :-

Warning to the local politician and giving him threat of action.

### Merit

- 1) Maintaining political neutrality
- 2) No influence of politics in smooth functioning of governance

### Demerit

- 1) Politicians may think as threat to their authority.
- 2) Adverse public opinion about administration.

### Option 3 :-

Make senior officials aware of this situation and seek their opinions

### Merit

- 1) Value experience
- 2) Making informed decision

### Demerit

- 1) Time consuming
- 2) May not result into concrete solution

### Option 4 :-

Refuse to provide answers to the RTI application.

### Merit

- 1) Maintaining due process of government outside the purview of politics

### Demerit

- 1) Not legal and not ethical

2) Evasion of duty.

My action :-

- I will take neither of the above actions as a sole measure rather I will take a hybrid solution by :-
- 1) First giving appropriate selections information which is seeked as it is my official duty.
- 2) Call the politicians in my question in my office and discuss my concerns with them and take help of other staff to ~~overcome~~.
- 3) Threat will not work as it will increase their propoganda against ~~state~~ & administration.
- 4) Provide full information of the duly conducted recruitment in the office to the general public to alleviate their fears and to crush the political propoganda once and for all.

Merits

- 1) Commitment to duty
- 2) Follow rules
- 3) Maintain political neutrality
- 4) Public fears sorted

Demerits

- 1) May still be not enough for the public to understand
- 2) Politician may find another cause of agitation.

Long term actions :-

- 1) Awareness campaign in the district about RTI act.
- 2) Involving civil society in disseminating information about penalties against frivolous RTI applications.
- 3) Taking volunteer groups into confidence to act as deterrent to political groups.

VisionIAS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stakeholders :-

- 1) Managing director of Pharmaceutical Company (Me)
- 2) Minister of Health
- 3) OSD
- 4) General Public
- 5) Media

Ethical Dilemma :-

- 1) Crisis of conscience
- 2) Self interest vs Interest of Public
- 3) Losing to Corruption vs Rising above
- 4) Consciousness vs Denial

Given Measures :-

- Q) ~~Follow~~ Follow the advice of the minister and comply with the demands of the OSD.

Merit => I will get my required remuneration though a bit less but sure

=> Avoiding conflict of administration

=> Not exactly aversion to duty.

Demerit => Supporting Corruption

=> No Conscience

=> No Courage of Conviction

File a police complaint against OSD Joe  
Corruption.

Merits ⇒ Standing up to illegal activity.  
⇒ Courage of conviction  
⇒ Loyalty to & my duty

Demerits ⇒ Jeopardise my company  
⇒ Conflict with higher rungs  
of government  
⇒ Media sensitizing the issue  
therefore a threat to the ego  
to the Minister

(c) Tip the media anonymously about the  
issue to build pressure on the Minister.

Merits ⇒ Standing up to illegal activity  
⇒ Dedication to duty  
⇒ Bringing illegal activity to  
the public domain.

Demerits ⇒ Jeopardise my company  
⇒ Unnecessary media havoc  
⇒ Going out of line only to  
prove my point

(a) Leave the allotted tender

Merits ⇒ Easiest option

⇒ Neither conflict with  
ministry nor loss to  
company.

⇒ Safe option

Demerits ⇒ Corruption will prosper as  
tender will go to someone  
else

⇒ Declining one's duty as a  
citizen of this country

⇒ Crisis of Conscience

(b) My Action :-

I will take neither of the options as  
my action & rather will try to  
persuade the ~~group~~ given minister  
in listening to my concerns.

Even then if ~~he~~ he is adamant of  
his position I will take to option (3)

however instead of going anonymous  
I will come out myself as this will  
give concrete evidence to my cause.

Whatever happens I will not comply  
with minister's demand as I cannot  
be a part of a malicious activity

because my conscience will not allow me.

And at last if neither of my actions bears fruit I will leave the allotted fender as the matter will be in public domain and they would themselves determine the further course of action.

Reasons of my rational action :-

- 1) I will first apply the core value of negotiations so that work is completed smoothly and in time bound manner.
- 2) I in this way will avoid crisis of conscience
- 3) I will also show courage of conviction
- 4) I will not bow down to unfair and illegal means.

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

In this context, answer the following:

(a) What are the ethical issues involved in surrogate advertising?

(b) Suggest steps that can be taken to address these type of advertisements in India. (20)

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

इस संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

(a) सरोगेट विज्ञापन में शामिल नैतिक मुद्दे क्या हैं?

(b) भारत में इस प्रकार के विज्ञापनों से निपटने के लिए उठाए जा सकने वाले कदमों का सुझाव दीजिए।

### Stakeholders

- 1) General Public
- 2) Celebrities
- 3) Advertising companies
- 4) Liquor, Tobacco companies
- 5) Media
- 6) Judiciary

(9) Ethical Issues

1) Money vs Ethics

- 2) Economic Interest vs Public Interest
- 3) Freedom of Expression vs Reasonable restrictions
- 4) Freedom of occupation and trade vs Interest of larger society.

(a) Steps that can be taken

Options

~~Complete ban on surrogates~~

(b) Steps that can be taken to prevent surrogate advertisement :-

(a) ~~CBFC~~

- 1) Roping in CBFC to identify those which is promoted in terms of legal substitutes.
- 2) Sensitising programs with celebrities making them aware of the provisions against such advertisements.
- 3) Making Industry bodies comply with the ban by appropriate penalties and fines.
- 4) Ministry of Consumer Affairs to roped in to make consumer awareness

Programs -

- 5) Banning such advertisement in more regular times such as between 6am to 3pm when even the younger population watches this.
- 6) Appropriate fines to be levied on such advertisements.
- 7) ~~Engage civil society for monitoring~~

VISION IAS

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Stakeholders

- 1) District Magistrate (Me)
- 2) Staff of Collectorate
- 3) People of the district and adjoining district
- 4) Local leaders
- 5) Thermal Power Plant Company
- 6) Media

9) Issues :-

- 1) Energy security of the district  
vs  
Sustainable use of resources of district
- 2) Public right to protest  
vs  
Peace and tranquility of society
- 3) Propaganda by local leaders  
vs  
Legitimate ~~Trust~~ work by district officials
- 4) Environmental concerns  
vs  
Larger Public Interest
- 5) Anthropocentrism  
vs  
Ecocentrism

(b) Options that I have :-

1) Option 1 :-

~~Conscience~~  
Allow the thermal power plant to start its operations without taking public opinion into notice.

Merits => Utilitarianism

- Demerits
- ⇒ Electricity problem sorted
  - ⇒ Red. Gross violation of code of conduct
  - ⇒ Public trust reduces in government
  - ⇒ Not taking stakeholders into confidence.

### 2) Option 2 :-

Meeting local leaders and general public opinion generation

- Merits
- ⇒ Stakeholders into account
  - ⇒ Dedication to duty
  - ⇒ Commitment to public welfare

- Demerits
- ⇒ Time-consuming
  - ⇒ Media sensitization of the issue
  - ⇒ Pressure from higher rungs of administration

### 3) Option 3 :-

~~Also~~ Prohibiting the march to take place by engaging local police beforehand.

- Merits
- ⇒ Encroachment on people's right to protest

⇒ Autocratic step

⇒ Mistrust about police among public

- Demerits ⇒ May affect peace and security of the district
- ⇒ May also ~~disturb~~ endanger the collectorate and its staff
- ⇒ Objection with normal work of the collectorate.

### Option 4 :-

Arranging a meeting with the local leaders and the thermal power plant company and dissemination of information regarding the plant and its effect on general public.

- Merits ⇒ Public confidence in administration
- ⇒ Follow rules
- ⇒ Legal measure

- Demerits ⇒ Time-consuming
- ⇒ No result may be arrived at
- ⇒ No ultimate conclusion is also a outcome.

### My Action :-

I will first hand take Option 4 as my course of action but also add a few more steps such as :-

- 1) Engage local police office just in case there is a eruption in some other section of population.
  - 2) Inform the state government about ongoing crisis
  - 3) Talk with Power Plant companies about their Corporate Social Responsibility
  - 4) Talk to the general public myself digitally or through media conference and allenate their fears about the project and tell them about the benefits such as employment, infrastructure building.
- In this way I will be following
- 1) taking stakeholders into conference
  - 2) Maintaining peace
  - 3) For long term solution engaging the State Govt.

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

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

(b) Give some suggestions to address the harmful impact of online gaming on the society. (20)

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

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

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

### Stakeholders

- 1) Parents
- 2) Teenagers
- 3) National Economy
- 4) Human Resource of Country
- 5) General Public

### (a) Social Issues involved

- 1) Desensitizing children toward violence
- 2) Adverse impact on social life of new generation

- 3) Harmful effect on study and education of children.
- 4) Social norms is not followed as children do not participate in society at all
- 5) Breakdowns of social bonds.

### Psychological effects issues

- 1) Harmful effect on cognitive ability development of children
- 2) Makes children more vulnerable to online attacks and grooming
- 3) Not favourable for extracurricular activities as regarded in academics.
- 4) Makes them psychologically more tolerant to violence against animals and women.
- 5) Learning time to parents instruction is regarded futile by children

### (b) Suggestions

- 1) Determining time limit on online gaming → as done in China where video games are allowed for 3 hours in a week.
- 2) Ban on advertisement of online gaming → either on television or

mobile.

- 3) Role of School → to make children understand the harmful effects of online gaming without pressurizing them.
- 4) Role of Society → to be more adjustable to the needs of today's children and not treat them with suspicion.
- 5) Healthy gaming → promotion of healthy online games as is under work by govt through AVCCe committee (committee on online gaming).
- 6) Ban on apps which promote negative video games → such as Blue whale and various tik tok trends endangering children's life.
- 7) Awareness generation among Parents to understand the feelings of their children and not put them under sanctions rather promote healthy gaming environment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Politics in India has not seen its green moment yet because :-

1) Dynasty Politics still prevalent → various political parties still bent on furthering their own children as representatives and not focussing on issues of political concern.

2) Party manifests still redundant → Manifesto of Political Parties focusing more on feelies and less on constructive work with long term & impact.

Influence of caste → still caste based politics is prevalent in India. see  
Vote-bank politics → 'murga daari' elections where voters are tempted by political parties through free meals and free alcohol

Lack of Public Awareness → As people are having made peace with politics being dirty and that they are will never be able to change it.

Materialism > Environmentalism → a long drawn struggle between the two has always resulted into the winning of the former.

Traditional Politics → where regionalism, communalism etc is promoted to gain assembly seats.

I do not agree that people in India are generally apathetic to climate change and environmentally related issue because:-

India is historically known for its nature based living ~~standards~~ → 34% of Indian population is

vegetarian.

Practice of worshipping Trees and animals  
→ as prevalent in most of the  
religions in India (Hinduism,  
Buddhism, Sikhism etc)

3) Examples of environmentalists even  
from rural areas → Harekta  
Hajjaba from Karnataka,  
Tulsi Gowda from Karnataka,  
Sundaram Verma from Rajasthan  
(all were awarded with Padma  
Awards in 2012 for their work in  
forest generation and developing  
sustainable environment).

4) Scheduled Tribes (Right to Forest) Act →  
and Other Forest Dwellers  
Parliamentary legislation also  
recognizing people's connection with  
forest.

5) Civil Society Org & NGOs → Various  
movements in @ Environmental related issues  
like Narmada Bachao Andolan,  
Chipkoo Movement.

(b) Initiatives to bring about change in  
attitude of people towards the issue:

- Even though common people realise the  
importance of environment, there is ~~lack~~  
of still apathy among them as they

- limit it is someone else's problem.
- 1) Mandatory advertisement on television regarding environmental sustainability.
  - 2) Rewards and incentives → as is prevalent in Ambikapur Municipal Corporation where free meal is provided ~~for~~ in exchange of waste.
  - 3) Awareness generation → through schools, media, volunteer groups.
  - 4) More power to civil society groups so that they can mobilise public opinion on the issue.
  - 5) Grout as facilitator → Baa. There were beach cleaning initiative in Kerala for 'Orange Programme', 'Namanani states population', 'solar alliance' with sunlight rich countries.
  - 6) legislations and → various legislations in this regard such as Environment Protection Act, 1986, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to be revamped.
  - 7) Penalties and fines → have imposed on environmental degradation.