

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT MAINS TEST SERIES 2025

GENERAL STUDIES

Test - 24 (GS 4 - FLT - 4)

Test Code - VR114554

Evaluator Code:

Date of Assignment:

CQ:

NAME:

DHEERAJ

Time allowed: 180 Minutes

ADMIN. NO.:

1 5 8 3 1 5 3

Email:

MOBILE NO.:

Submission

Date:

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

There are **TWELVE** questions printed in **ENGLISH**. All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1 a)	/10	Q4 a)	/10	Q8	/20
b)	/10	b)	/10	Q9	/20
Q2 a)	/10	Q5 a)	/10	Q10	/20
b)	/10	b)	/10	Q11	/20
Q3 a)	/10	Q6 a)	/10	Q12	/20
b)	/10	b)	/10	Total :	/250
c)	/10	Q7	/20		

Instructions:-

- Legible Scanning:** Exercise due diligence in scanning your scripts for clear legibility
- Submissions** marred by poor scanning, notably those with illegible sections or blackened pages due to improper scanning, risk being excluded from the evaluation process.
- Non-Adherence Consequences:** Failure to comply with the aforementioned instructions may lead to the disqualification of your submission.

For Student Only

Start Time - 0900 hr

End Time -

1200 hr.

Mode of Examination

Online Offline

Receiving date -

Dispatch date -

Parameters		Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding				
Contextual Clarity				
Structure	Introduction			
	Body			
	Conclusion			
Meeting the Demand of the Questions				
Value Addition- Use of examples, case studies, Current Affairs Linkage, data etc.				
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.				
Language Competency and Flow				
No. of Questions Attempted				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No Subject-Specific Remarks 				

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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

Section A

1. (a) Which are the key foundational values necessary for civil servants to ensure good governance in India? Justify your answer. (10 marks, 150 words)

The Civil services are like the fourth lion in the national emblem, not visible, but key to nation's functioning. (P.N. Modi)

Key foundational value for civil services

As per the Nolan Committee, the following are key foundational values →

- ①. Selflessness: an attitude of detached altruism, eg: As Parmaswarajyer (Tamil Nadu)
- ②. Integrity: congruence in karma, vada, manasa, eg: As Durgashastri Nigpal via mining mafia.
- ③. Objectivity: ability to judge situation on merit, eg: TN Seshan v/d electoral corruption

(Don't write anything in this part)

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- ④ Accountability: institutional mechanism to uphold answerability, responsibility
eg: LokSatta App (MP)
- ⑤ Openness: transparent conduct, keeping public informed. eg: RTI mechanism.
- ⑥ Honesty: being truthful to public and oneself.
eg: AAs Kenya Zuriyo → Manipul & Governance.
- ⑦ Leadership: ability to direct energy of team towards one goal. eg: Mr Amitabh Kant led digital revolution.

These qualities will ensure that the civil services direct their abhyas and vairagya [practise and resolve] to spirit of sewa [service].

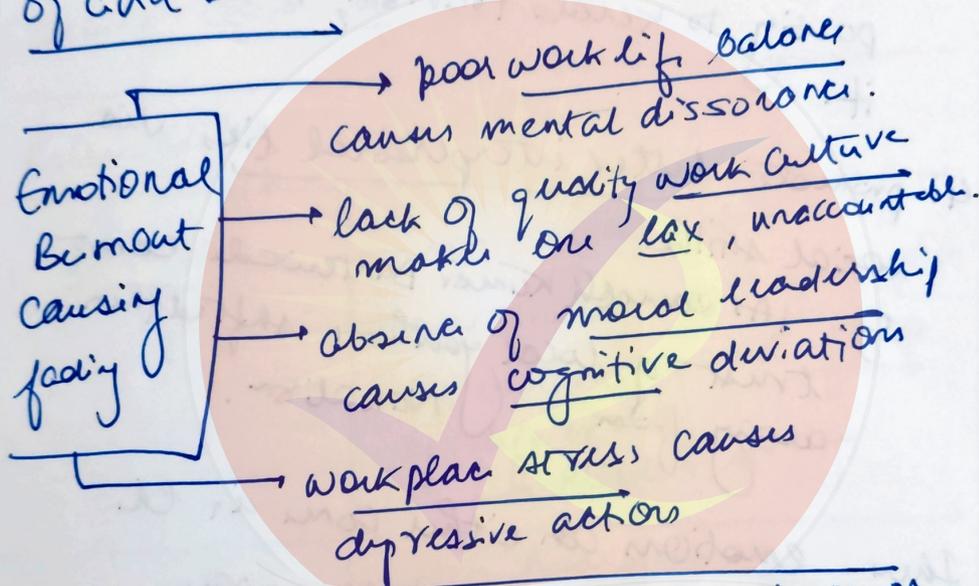
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Introduction	Suggestions:
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(b) Ethical fading in bureaucracies often results from emotional burnout. How can EI frameworks revive dedication to public service and moral accountability?

(10 marks, 150 words)

Ethical fading refers to the slow and gradual erosion of a civil servant's ability to uphold the fundamental values of civil services.



Importance of Emotional intelligence framework

Emotional intelligence refers to the ability of an individual to manage their emotions well. It can help via

- 1) Creating self awareness via SWOT analysis
eg: ~~HR~~ Ravi Kapoor resigned to guide youth.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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2. promote internal locus of control,
eg: Shaktikant Das did not budge to
inflationary pressure → but Governor award.

3. intrinsic motivation develops energy to
do dedicated work.

eg: Anitabh Kant sent on punishment
posting to Kerala tourism, revolutionized
it.

4. promote better interpersonal ties via
social skills.

eg: IAS Suresh Kumar Dantewade earned
trust of local youth → shifted them
away from Naxalism.

Thus, emotions can either come in the
way, or take on on the way.

— Navis Mazure.

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Introduction
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Suggestions:

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2. (a) In the context of rising consumerism, discuss the relevance of Jain and Buddhist ethics in promoting sustainable living and contributing to a more equitable world?
(10 marks, 150 words)

"I consume, therefore I am." This is the new philosophy as per which humanity is consuming products and commodities, causing "commodification" of everything.

Relevance of Jain ethics

1. ahimsa

- non violent action
- sustainable meat consumption
- no violence against flora
eg: deforestation
↳ REDD + strategies

2. aparigraha

- non hoarding of material wealth
- fuel equitable redistribution
- eg: Give up subsidy scheme for LPG

3. samva
asteya

- non stealing
- promote equal pay for equal work.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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- eg: Oxfam: top 1% own 40% wealth

Edwards of Buddhist ethics

1. Ashrangik maarga - samyakt givis

- right livelihood that does not harm others.
- "Madhyamik path" balancing conservation & consumption
eg: lab grown meat.

2. Atmadipo Bhanah

- being self aware, measuring one's carbon footprint, social impact assessments and take mitigation steps.

3. Manatta or Penana

- stand against injustice and inequality
- eg: Bhudan movement

These philosophies promote "LiFe" - lifestyle for environment & antyodony.

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Suggestions:

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(b) Differentiate 'ethical egoism' from 'altruism' with suitable examples.
(10 marks, 150 words)

ethical egoism was first propounded by Hobbes, who argued, that all men were function of their passions and maximized their interests.



It leads to

- Ⓐ. State of nature: constant power / interest struggle, eg: international order right now → 60+ wars..
- Ⓑ. interpersonal rivalry: Seeking to maximize interest at cost of others eg: thieves v/c victims.
- Ⓒ. lack of cooperation against will.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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eg: not all countries fighting terrorism equally.

However, altruism recognizes that all humans are essentially one and rational, and thus, disinterested assistance is in need without any expectations for paybacks.

It promotes

① harmony at all

levels: eg: ASEAN states → cooperate
no war

② Sustainable development: not depleting future resources

③ Fraternity / Sarvodaya [Gandhi]: helping the downtrodden, eg: CSR funds.



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Introduction
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Suggestions:

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(Don't write anything in this part)

3. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context

(a) The challenge of modernity is to live without illusions and without becoming disillusioned — Antonio Gramsci. (10 marks, 150 words)

This quote by Gramsci talks about a 'post-truth' society, in which the line between truth and false have faded, and a person is unable to see the 'satya' objectively.

Thus, Gramsci recommends, that the biggest challenge in modernity would be to stay away from one's inherent prejudices, and see thing objectively.

Relevance in present context

1. Political Relevance: the advent of fake news, dupfake cause mistrust between people and leaders.

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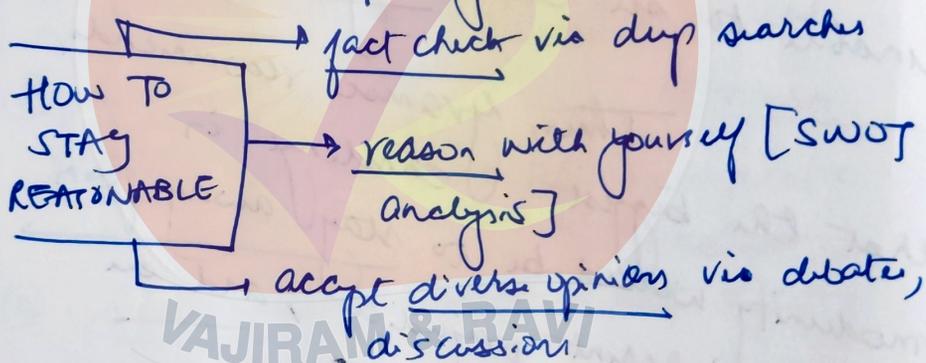
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eg: PM Modi's dupakes in elections.

2. Social Ruwane: the consequence of getting disillusioned may trigger violence.

eg: Udaipur riots.

3. Individual Ruwane: post truth fails to develop self awareness, fight internal bias, eg: social media → echo chamber
positive reinforcement of thoughts.



The truth is the mightiest of all,
— but needs efforts to feel, see and experience.

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(Don't write anything in this part)

(b) "Just as a well-trimmed lamp sheds steady light, so does a well-controlled mind shed peace and happiness." – Buddhaghosa (10 marks, 150 words)

This quote by Buddhaghosa posits, that a person who has complete sovereignty over their internal locus of control is the one who feels real peace and happiness.

For instance, not even thousand arguments against war could shield Ajune from cognitive dissonance, but, he felt content only when he controlled his emotions and fought the dhammayuddha.

Well controlled mind shed peace & happiness

1. controls one's desires and minimizes them.

eg: Buddha during meditation.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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2. provides individual ability to reason during turmoil.

eg: Op Vindoor → Indian forces maintained calm and readiness.

3. keeps anger and greed away, eg: MS Dhoni never lost calm on field.

4. promotes energetic action in the right direction.

eg: Armstrong Race → did not get bogged down by lack of funds → crowd funded project.

→ delayed gratification exercise.

How to control mind

→ mindfulness and meditation

→ following moral exemplars like Buddha.

"Life of content, is life of happiness."

— Jivan

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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(c) "Truth is by nature self-evident. As soon as you remove the cobwebs of ignorance that surround it, it shines clear." - Mahatma Gandhi

(10 marks, 150 words)

This quote by Gandhiji posits, that the "satya" can be found by any person, however, they must do away with their ignorance to find it.

For instance, all humans desire peace and happiness. However, the ignorant prejudices like shallow national interests drive us to wars, with each other, thus hiding the truth of human one-ness [Advaita].

COBWEBS OF IGNORANCE

1. self interestedness and egoism prevent human cooperation, violence [onghar] [unity of being].
2. the belief in violence as a tool

(Don't write anything in this part)

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make us violate Kantian deontology
than regularising evil. eg: 60000 people
dead in Gaza.

3. materialism is seen as source of
fulfillment leading to conspicuous
consumption

eg: ChatGPT → 300T CO₂ emissions.

Removing ignorances → finding the truth by dialectic
[SOCRATIC METHOD]
→ Adherence to objectivity i.e.,
facts, facts and fact [Carton].
→ follow tolerance against all
thought → [J.S. Mill]

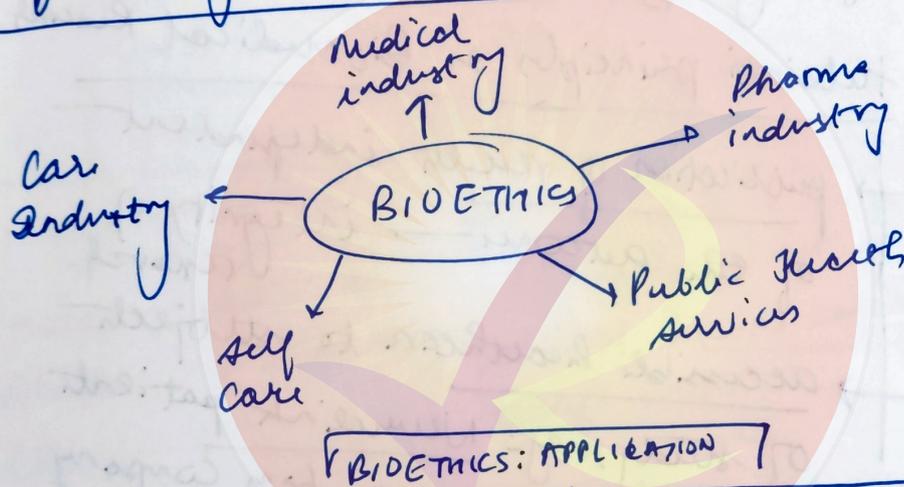
Therefore, the truth can emerge from
anywhere. We must adhere to
"sarva Bhavantu Sukhinch" to see
it objectively.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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4. (a) What do you understand by the term "Bioethics"? Explain some contributions made by Bioethics in the field of medicine. (10 marks, 150 words)

Bioethics refers to the field of study, that examines the interaction between norm, values with principles of biology, medical sciences etc.



Contributions of Bioethics

1. Hippocrates gave the principle of non-maleficence, i.e., Do no harm

eg: Doctors cannot refuse treatment to patient.

2. Beauchamp and Childress's five principles
2.1 non-maleficence.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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2.2 Autonomy : patient may refuse treatment

2.3 Dignity : the patient's privacy should not be violated.

2.4 Continued Care : all patients deserve end to end healthcare

eg: Ayushman → Continuum of Care.
Bhorat

3. Helsinki principles on Biomedical Research

→ publication of results independent of the outcome → integrity of research

→ accessible healthcare to subjects of study. eg: NeuroLink patients receive free treatment from company

In India, bioethics are upheld by the ICMR, that upholds Art'd 47: Good health as state endeavour.

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Suggestions:

(b) Compare Kantian ethics and Utilitarianism. Which approach is more suitable in public administration according to you? (10 marks, 150 words)

Ethics is a science that empowers us to examine an issue in a non prejudiced fashion, and guide our behaviours in a dignified manner.

Kantian Ethics

Utilitarianism

1. deontological: means must be ethical, as well as the result.

1. consequentialism: the ends must be ethical, means employed don't matter.

2. Categorical imperative: your behaviour must be guided by respect for others rights.

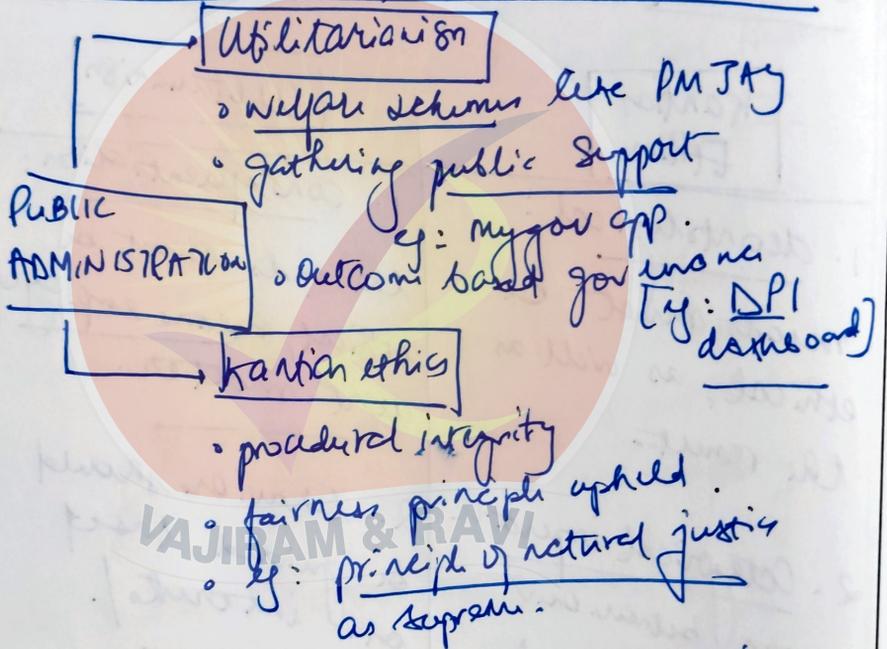
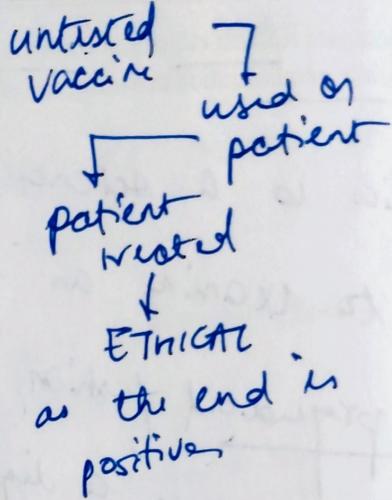
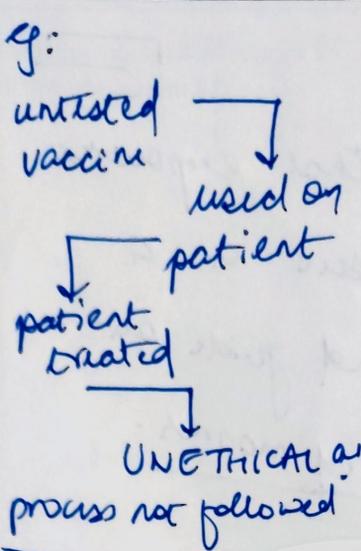
2. behavior should be guided based on interests / utility.

3. Kingdom of ends: do as you want others to do to you.

3. follow greatest happiness principle maximizing the happiness of society to maximum number.

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Therefore, both utilitarianism and kantian ethics are key to governance as case to case basis.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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5. (a) Can a unified media regulation balance creative freedom and ethical standards? Give your perception in this regard with due justification.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Art 19 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression although with certain reasonable restrictions like public order, security of state etc.

Unified Media Regulation

1. apply consistency of treatment [justice as fairness]
 - ↳ end the TRP based system
2. promote standardized news channels
 - ↳ easier to find lapses.
 - e.g: TRT → Turkish state media → anti India bias.
3. streamline the regulatory cholesterol, allows media to innovate, expand.
 - e.g: Firstpost → 18+ languages.
- ¶ However, it can be counterproductive as well.

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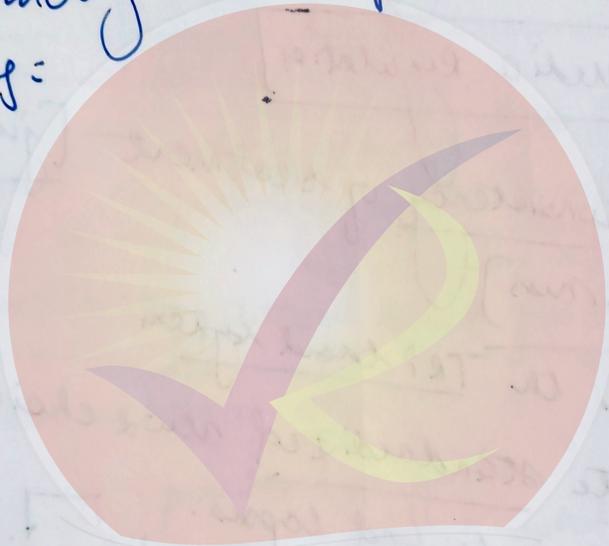
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1. Chilling effect on free speech may cause self censorship

eg: Pegasus case, Emergency [1975] → ban on newspapers

2. prevent creative innovation by over-burdening with compliance.

eg:



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Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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(Don't write anything in this part)

(b) "A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business." In the light of this statement, evaluate the importance of integrating ethical values into corporate governance practices. (10 marks, 150 words)

'Businesses must move away from merely earning profit to serve the conditions they work for.' - Ratan Tata

Integrating ethical values : importance

1. helps promote individual employee's motivation in company
 eg: Tata Taj Hotel → saved people in 26/11 attack.
2. promote interorganizational quality work culture, employee satisfaction.
 eg: Costco (USA) → higher wages → more efficiency noted.
3. build brand image, consumer trust
 eg: TATA, Microsoft.
4. incentivizes standardization in public service delivery.
 eg: Amazon web services.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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5. following sustainability norms
eg: Infosys → 100% carbon neutral.
6. good governance prevent corruption,
relies on meritocracy.
eg: SpaceX → hiring only via merit
basis — overlook NASA

Missed ethical values : disastrous

1. fuel labour unrest, eg: Bombay
Millhands Union strike.
2. destroy brand image, eg: Nike
sweat shops in Bangladesh.
3. long term survivability declines by
corruption
eg: Sahara scam.

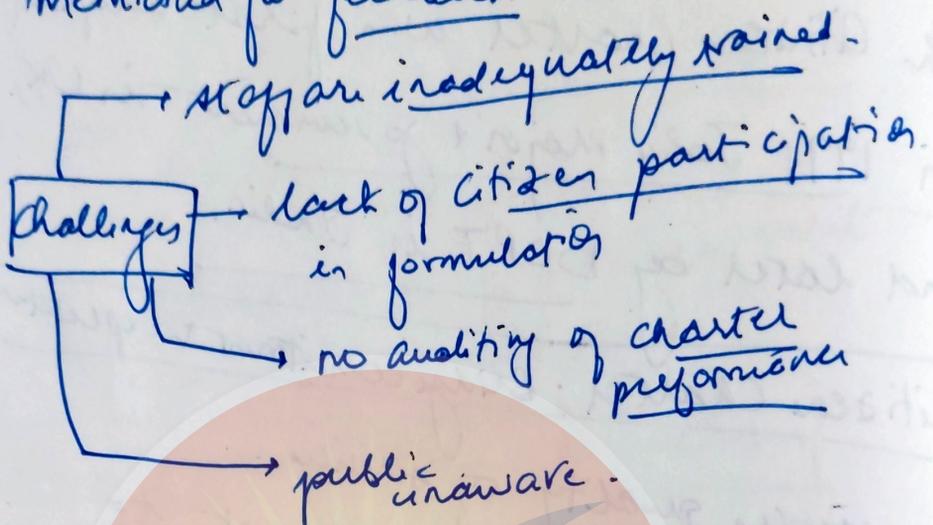
Therefore, in order to ensure corporate
ethics, UN Business Compact — shows the
light.

"Commerce with out morality is a sin"
— an
Gandhi.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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↳ contact details of single point contact mentioned for feedback.



Way forward by DPT Handbook

1. External third party review of charter implementation, KPI framework
2. Charter Mark scheme: award department with efficient service delivery
3. Annual charter reviews with consensus from civil society.
4. digital awareness campaigns
"Service to people is service to god."
- Vivekananda

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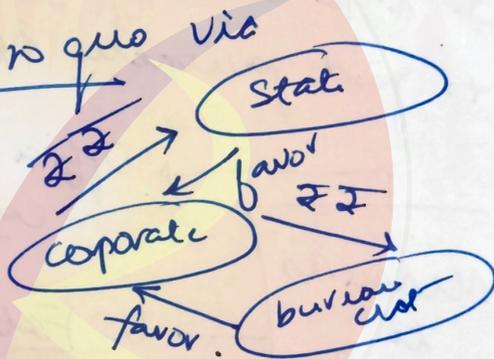
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(b) Corporate lobbying in policy-making often creates ethical concerns in government institutions. Examine the role of impartiality and non-partisanship in such scenarios. Suggest measures to strengthen probity in governance using lessons from great reformers. (10 marks, 150 words)

As per Robert Dahl, the state has become "polyarchy" with corporate groups having excessive powers over governmental decision.

Ethical concerns: corporate lobbying

1. establishes quid pro quo via collusive corruption.



2. work on profit motive, and thus ignores "antiquities" i.e., benefit of poor.

eg: Bank correspondent scheme failed as banks don't function in rural areas.

3. may lead to crony capitalism
eg: Elon Musk in Trump cabinet.

4. growth of alternative policy centres may cause social anarchy

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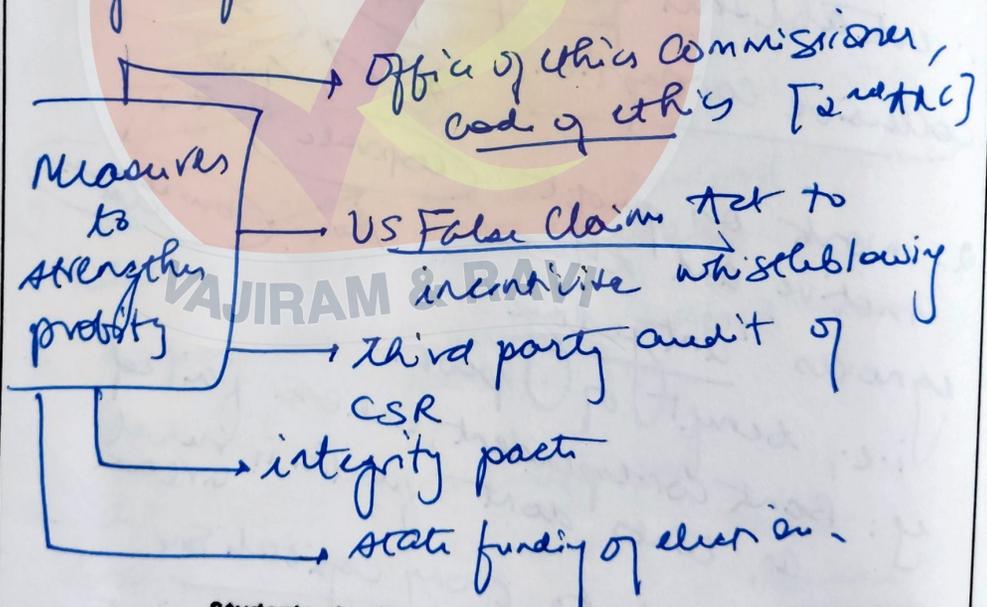
eg: anarcho capitalism model.

5. Corporates are unaccountable, and thus violate democracy.

eg: Pegasus Case.

Role of impartiality and non partisanship

1. improve public trust
2. continuity in policies.
3. triple chain of accountability is intact.
4. good governance based on merit



Students should not write anything inside the box

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Section B

7. You are serving as an Additional Secretary in a state where mining is a crucial source of revenue for the exchequer. To regulate mining activities, the state government has introduced a transparent auction-based system for sand mining in riverine areas, aiming to curb illegal operations and enhance revenue collection.

However, an MP from a mining-affected constituency of the state raises concerns in Parliament, alleging that illegal mining continues unchecked, with contractors operating beyond permissible limits, using heavy machinery at night, and causing severe environmental degradation. He highlights issues such as groundwater depletion, destruction of river ecosystems, rising road accidents due to overloaded trucks, and corruption in the auction process, questioning the government's enforcement mechanisms and regulatory integrity.

Following the MP's allegations, the state government faces increased public and media scrutiny. The Mining Minister instructs you to prepare a fact-based response addressing the concerns raised. You collected all the facts about the mining activity in the state and prepared a video response on the matter, rebutting the accusations of the MP as baseless. You support your argument using data on enhanced revenue collection from mining, strict enforcement measures, and penalties imposed on violators.

However, the situation takes a critical turn when locals in the area threaten to stage a protest and stop mining operations. The MP's accusation triggers a demand for a judicial inquiry by environmental activists. To reassure the public, you upload this video on social media, dismissing the MP's claims as politically motivated.

- (a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.
- (b) Evaluate the merits and demerits of releasing a video statement on social media to counter the MP's allegations.
- (c) What measures would you adopt to ensure both regulatory credibility and environmentally sustainable mining practices while addressing public and political concerns? (20 marks, 250 words)

P.T.O.

The Supreme Court and the NGT, both have banned illegal mining operations to protect environment, go regulatory chapered, corporate apathy assures its continuance.

Ethical Issues involved

1. Political Remarks by the MP erode public trust in governance
2. Illegal mining violates statist duty under the Public Trust Doctrine [Vellore Citizens Forum Case]
3. Unsustainable mining operations may cause environmental degradation → violates precautionary principle
4. Corruption in government ranks imply poor work culture, ethical degradation in the employees.

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(Don't write anything in this part)

5. Corporate greed has caused irreversible ecological damage, loss of life → ECOCIDE

6. bureaucratic impartiality is under stress in minister v/s MP debate.

7. public protests may disrupt public services → poor service delivery.

Merits, Demerits of video or social media:-

1. wider reach and accessibility, will ensure mass awareness
eg: PM Mom ki Baat.

2. promote transparency with the citizens → dhorns as civil servant.
eg: RTI → democratic deepening.

3. hold the bureaucracy accountable to the people directly and not politician
↳ improve public trust.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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4. Citizen feedback mechanism may help improve service delivery
eg: CoGrams, InfraSnapshot (Assam) App

Demerits

1. Video may be doctored to cause misconception, eg: digital arrests.
2. Digital divide may cause lack of awareness amongst some sections.
NFTRIS-5 → women have less access.
3. violation of impersonal bureaucracy and bureaucratic autonomy [eg: Ashish Singh suspended].
Rectified bureaucracy

Measures to adopt.

1. Environmental and social impact assessment by third party auditing teams.

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2. Release the EIA, SIA Report for public, allow comments, counter them individually.

3- inviting NGO, media to visit mining operations to ensure 100% legality of operations.

4- best take news via social media unit [eg: Telangana polic SMU]

5. involving local community, indigenous knowledge systems to preserve natural ecosystem. eg: DZunsa system of skim → community vigilance model.

Development must be sustainable, for it is the peace policy of future.
— Antonio Gutierrez.

Students should not write anything inside the box

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8. You are the District Magistrate of a coastal district known for its vibrant coral ecosystem, which attracts thousands of domestic and international tourists annually. Like every year, this year also thousands of tourists have come to the district. The district also houses a strategic naval base and several foreign-funded infrastructure projects. The economic significance of the region is immense, as it contributes to tourism, maritime trade, and regional security.

One afternoon, a massive earthquake measuring 8.2 on the Richter scale strikes the region, causing widespread devastation. Buildings collapse, roads crack open, and bridges connecting remote villages are rendered unusable. The disaster leaves thousands injured and homeless. Communication lines are disrupted, hospitals are overwhelmed, and emergency supplies are rapidly depleting. The district administration, under your leadership, swiftly mobilizes rescue operations, deploying disaster relief teams and calling for additional reinforcements from neighboring districts and the central government.

As you struggle with logistical challenges, another crisis emerges. The meteorological department issues a high-alert warning about a possible tsunami, expected to make landfall within hours. Evacuations must be organized immediately to minimize casualties.

Amidst this turmoil, you receive multiple urgent calls from various foreign embassies seeking the safe evacuation of their nationals, including tourists, investors, and researchers stranded across different parts of the district. Adding to the complexity, your assistant informs you about a confidential directive from the Department of Foreign Affairs, suggesting that priority be given to the evacuation of citizens from a particular country due to an ongoing high-stakes free trade negotiation that could significantly boost national economic interests.

Furthermore, local fishermen's associations are demanding immediate attention as many of their members are missing at sea. Some claim that foreign rescue missions must not be prioritized over local rescue efforts, as this is their homeland and their livelihoods are at stake. A few activists accuse the administration of favoritism, questioning why wealthy foreign nationals should be prioritized over marginalized coastal communities.

- What are the ethical dilemmas faced by you in the above situation?
- What are the possible courses of action available to you in this situation?
- Which course of action would be the most appropriate, and why?

(20 marks, 250 words)

The above case study presents a clash of priorities similar to what IAS Battarai Shinde faced while responding to Odisha Train Accident. The Multi Agency Response must be fair, quick and effective.

A. Ethical Dilemmas

1. National interest v/a social welfare - to protect foreign nationals or local communities.
2. multiple emerging crises v/a citizens rights - to protest against the state action.
3. prioritizing the welfare of all equally - important parts of society.
4. efficient utilization of resources v/a quick evaluation of all.
5. bureaucratic accountability v/a dilemma to service of the people.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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6. objectivity in prioritization v/s impartiality in rescue efforts
 7. discretionary power to evacuate v/s order from foreign affairs ministry.
-
-



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9. With the rapid growth of the digital ecosystem, there is high competition in the advancement of artificial intelligence. There is a rise in AI-powered tools being used from the creation of content to pictures and short videos. This output of the AI systems is only possible when they are trained using a vast available dataset.

However, lately various authors, artists, news agencies, etc have accused these AI companies of training these AI tools by exploiting their copyrighted materials without obtaining their permission or properly compensating them. They have also filed legal cases against them arguing that use of copyrighted data from the internet without authorization constitutes copyright infringement by these companies.

In the meantime, a post has gone viral on social media where an AI tool has been used to remove the watermark from a copyrighted image. The tool can then also be used for adding a new watermark of a different company which did not contribute anything in creation of the image.

AI companies claim to be doing public good by utilizing the copyrighted material and argue that it allows the AI models to be used by the public for the creation of original content based on the learnings from the old content. They demand that AI outputs should be given copyright protection too.

The original creators and media questioned the originality of the creations by AI models arguing these creations are not original but derived from them. They also claim that legal protection is given to human made content and not the machine made one. Adding to the controversy, users used AI to create images mocking the director of a prominent AI company. These images were released intentionally with the logo of the AI company to trick people into believing that they were originally released by the AI company itself.

- (a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.
- (b) Do you think the use of AI-generated outputs based on copyrighted material without consent violates the moral rights of original creators? Justify your answer
- (c) As a conscientious and ethically aware individual, what measures would you propose to strike a balance between the advancement of AI innovation and the protection of the rights of original human creators?

20 marks, 250 words)

AI is not only shaping our jobs and employment, but also our behaviour, choices and values. — Yuvraj Karari

This case of copyright conflict involves various ethical implications, and thus would require delicate balancing of multi-stakeholder rights.

Ethical Issues

1. Copyright violation are against the rule of law.
2. AI companies are not earning via "sweat of thy brow" (Gandhiji)
3. "data colonization": the AI company is stealing data from original content developers.

4. violation of Kantian deontology: earning profits via wrong means.

5) An innovation violates Buddhist principle of samma dithi [right knowledge] by irresponsible innovation.

6). content creators have violated J.S. Mill's utilitarianism → not allowing greatest good of all.

7). content creators have violated the CEO's privacy [Puttaswamy Judgement] (Right to life)

B. AI Output - violation of moral rights:-

YES

NO

→ original idea belongs to the content creator.

→ the video/content has exclusive use

→ knowledge should be ideally free.

→ that developers have also put in value additions.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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right with
creator under law.

→ their labour is
used to create
the content.

→ no royalty has
been paid for
their labour.

→ AI is promoting
"maximum happiness"
via accessible
innovation.

→ the content creator,
can also benefit by
AI in long run.

C. Measures to balance:

1. creation of Data Bank, Content banks,
provide access to AI developers on
the basis of nominal fee and
royalty to original content creator.

eg: Bharat AI Kosh.

2. strengthen copyright law, disallow
watermark tampering, hijacked - it
as infringement.

3. develop cyber forensic team to ensure AI is not misusing the data of content creators

4. regular audit of AI ~~data~~ training data to avoid poisoning, hallucination.

5. mandating AI output to be linked with original source, eg: perplexity AI mentions source of original data.

6. National AUGC Missiles, Content Creator protection fund was recommended by APURVA CHANDRA TASK FORCE

In the 21st century, AI should write the code of humanity.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction
Body
Conclusion
Presentation
Marks:

Suggestions:

(Don't write anything in this part)

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10. As a senior journalist at a well-known, national newspaper, Mrs. X has built a reputation for her integrity, investigative acumen, and unwavering commitment to journalistic ethics. Over the years, her fearless reporting has earned you multiple accolades from the newspaper's director, further solidifying your influence within the organization.

During a recent salary revision cycle, Mrs X. received an average pay raise. Though it didn't fully meet her expectations, she accepted it as part of the profession's realities. However, the next day, a junior female journalist approached her in distress. She confided that she had discovered her male colleague, who had joined at the same time and held the same role had received a significantly higher salary increment. Her concern wasn't just personal; she revealed that other female journalists had also been given disproportionately lower raises compared to their male counterparts.

"Alarmed, Mrs. X decided to investigate the matter further and uncover the root of the problem. Through informal discussions with colleagues, she gathered information and evidence on the pay structure. The findings revealed a systemic pattern of gender-based wage disparity where women were consistently paid less than men for the same roles and responsibilities."

Determined to address the injustice, Mrs. X arranged a meeting with the Director of the newspaper. She presented her findings, expecting a constructive discussion on rectifying the disparity. However, the Director's dismissed the issue and subtly warned that pushing the matter further could have "unintended consequences." Then, he hinted that the position of Chief Journalist, the highest editorial role in the newsroom, was about to be filled, and she was the frontrunner. He suggested if she let the matter go, then she can get the said position.

- Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.
- Evaluate the options available for Mrs. X to take in such a situation.
- According to you, what additional measures can be taken to bridge the gender pay gap in India?

(20 marks, 250 words)

As per the ILO, there is a nearly 18-20% pay gap between male and female employees in India, that violates "Equal Remuneration Act" and ILO convention 100.

Ⓐ. Ethical Issues involved

1. "satya" or truth is being mishandled by the Director.
2. Kartavya' of ~~the~~ Mrs X as journalist is clashing with her future career growth.
3. gender pay gap reflects patr. archal mindset breeding inequality.
4. Mrs X is also acting as the leader of all women in society. Her voice can make long term difference.
5. the male colleagues are charged of bystander apathy.
6. the Director is violating the Buddhist principle of samma kamma (right conduct) by offering promotion.

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(B). Options Available, evaluation

1. stay silent, take promotion.

Merit	Demerit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ violates ensure <u>career growth</u>→ <u>loyalty to company</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ violate <u>dharma</u> as journalist.→ <u>poor leadership</u> by Mux.→ absence of <u>conscience</u> of conviction.

2. speak up against the matter, take it to the CEO.

Merit	Demerit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ following the <u>rule of law</u> ↓ <u>equal pay for equal work</u>→ deterrence against <u>future discrimination</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ <u>seniors</u> might be involved in it→ vitiate work environment→ <u>organizational misrepute</u>.

3. Take no action, resign, join better company

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Merit	Demerit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → ensure her career protected → better pay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → reflects bystander apathy and <u>bonding</u> of evil [normalized discrimination] → sets up poor example for the juniors

4. Accept the situation as it is, move on

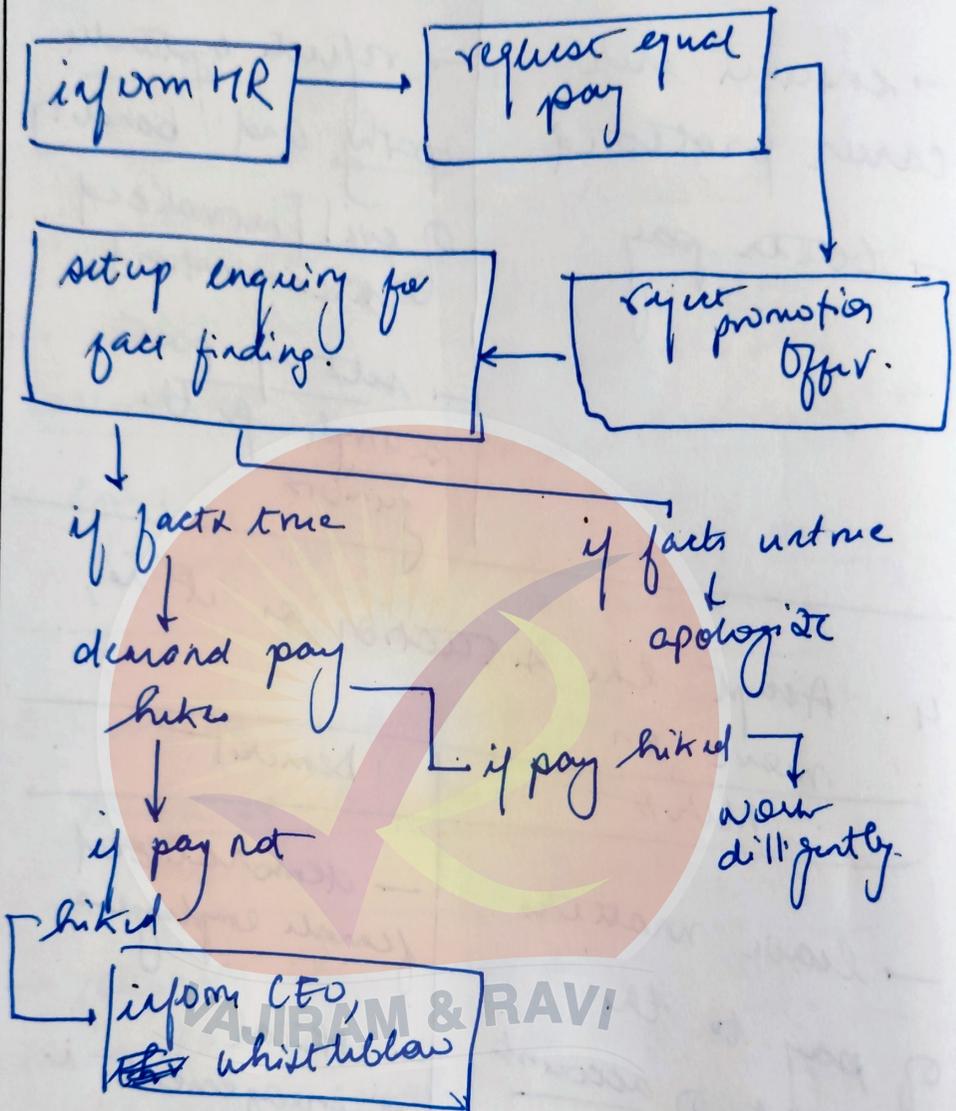
Merit	Demerit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → leave matters of pay to the specialists of <u>accounts</u> department. → utmost loyalty to the company and directors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → demoralized female employees → ethical disengagement is violation of <u>one's</u> duty → acceptance towards <u>differentiated</u> equality.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

Course of Action



The CESAW must guide employers towards ensuring equal workplace opportunity.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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(Don't write anything in this part)

11. You are the district magistrate of a socio-economically backward district where different social groups have historically coexisted peacefully. In recent years, government efforts have led to improvements in education, employment, and overall development of the region. One day, you receive a formal complaint from a marginalized group in a village, alleging that they have been denied entry into the village temple for generations by a socially dominant group. They seek your intervention to ensure equal access to religious spaces.

Upon conducting an inquiry, the Block Development Officer (BDO) confirms the allegations, reporting that a previous attempt by the marginalized group to enter the temple during a festival led to violent tensions, requiring police intervention. In retaliation, the dominant group imposed an economic and social boycott, refusing to engage in trade or provide essential services to the marginalized community, worsening their economic hardship.

As you deliberate on the course of action, religious leaders come to meet you and argue that temple entry is governed by tradition, warning that government intervention could set a controversial precedent for interference in religious practices. The socially dominant group seek local politicians intervention and threatens dire consequences for you and your family.

Political leaders caution against taking action that may alienate a major vote bank, hinting at potential career repercussions. You take the matter to your seniors, who advise you to compromise on the situation, given the probability of violent escalation. The members of the marginalized group emphasize that failing to act firmly would amount to neglecting constitutional duties and reinforcing systemic discrimination.

- (a) Discuss the ethical issue involved in the case.
(b) Critically examine the options available to you as district magistrate. What option will you adopt and why?

(20 marks, 250 words)

The UDHR declares that all humans are born equal, yet widespread discriminations exist reflecting social faultline. This can pose a challenge for the balancing of right of the marginalized with that of dominant community.

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Ⓐ. Ethical Issues involved

1. violation of constitution: Article 15, 16, 17 talk about Right to equality
2. trampling upon human rights of the marginalized by stopping service exchanges, social boycott.
3. violating the right to religion of the marginalized under Article 25 of Constitution.
4. presence of hierarchy in mentality of the upper class.
5. politicians violating ethical principles termed as Vain by Gandhiji
6. seniors violating their 'dharma' or oath of office by inaction.
7. banality of evil: acceptance of social

frissures as normal by the politicians and seniors.

2. economic boycott violates Upadhyaya's vision of "Antyodaya" - welfare of the down-trodden.

B-Options, Evaluation

1. take police with me, forced temple entry, criminal charges against violators.

Merits	Demerits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - deterrence effect. - uphold rule of <u>law</u> - protect <u>right</u> of marginalized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vitiate socio political environment - may escalate into <u>violence</u>. - not workable in <u>long term</u>.

2. Ask the marginalized to attend different temple, take no action

Merit	Demerit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ keep environment calm, composed→ career progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ violate my <u>dharma</u> as administrator→ moral <u>dissidence</u> & guilt.→ violation of the marginalized's rights

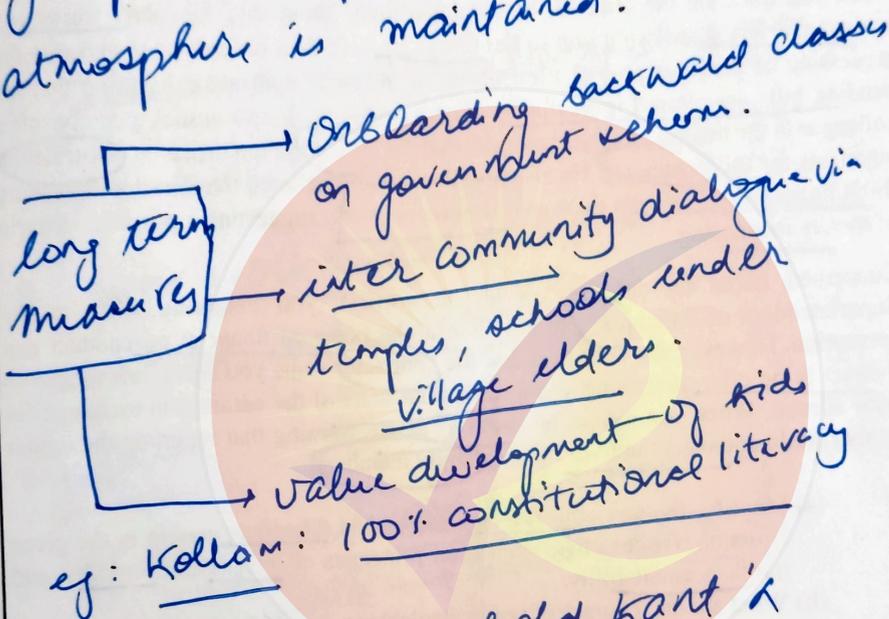
3. adopt consensus based path to start "temple entry movement"

Merit.	Demerit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ acceptance of measures by <u>all</u> sections.→ <u>peaceful</u> secure environment.→ long term ending of <u>discrimination</u>.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ <u>time</u> consuming process→ may require <u>extensive dialogue</u>.

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(Don't write anything in this part)

I will adopt the third path i.e. the path of consensus based temple entry to ensure that right of all groups are respected, and peaceful atmosphere is maintained.



Therefore, I will uphold Kant's maxim of

"Every individual as an end in himself/herself."

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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Marks:	

12. You have recently been posted as the Chief Engineer in the Department of public works under a state government, responsible for overseeing tender allocations and project execution. The department plays a crucial role in infrastructure development, issuing tenders for large-scale projects, including bridges, highways, and public buildings.

One day, a well-connected contractor approaches you, demanding favorable allocation of a tender for the construction of a high-value bridge project to his company. Your staff discreetly informs you that this contractor has strong ties with the Director of the department, the local MP and key district administrative officials, making him an influential player in government contracts.

When you question the Director of the department about this, he subtly warns you against interfering, advising you to "let things be." He then orders you to expedite the processing of previous project files related to the same contractor, ensuring that his pending bills are cleared immediately. Suspecting something unusual, you consult a colleague in the finance unit, who confides that the Director often insists on fast-tracking payments for this contractor. He also reveals that he overheard the Director discussing illicit financial transactions through a Hawala network, suggesting a possible scenario of money laundering.

Concerned about the integrity of the department, you discreetly write to the Superintendent of Police (SP) to alert him about potential financial misconduct and corruption. However, the very next day, the contractor visits you again, this time with a direct bribe offer, promising you a substantial share of the earnings in exchange for your silence. When you refuse, he issues a threat warning that reporting the matter further could endanger the lives of your family members.

- Identify the key ethical issues and ethical dilemmas present in the given situation. Discuss their impact on principles of integrity, impartiality, and public accountability.
- What are the courses of action available to you as the Chief Engineer (CE) in this scenario? Evaluate their merits and demerits. Which course of action will you choose and why?
- How can different stakeholders like the government officials, anti-corruption agencies, civil society, media, and the judiciary ensure transparency and accountability in government contracts? Explain.

(20 marks, 250 words)

The above case involves the issue of corruption in building public infrastructure, that has long term implication on life and livelihood of

people I serve. Thus, it requires tactically sound conduct to uproot corruption and deliver efficient public services.

(R) Ethical Issues

1. Collusive corruption between contractors, MPs & Directors.

2. poor work culture that breeds favoritism and silence - spiral in Officials.

3. threat to life and livelihood of the people we serve → violate Article 21
(Right to life)

4. public finance getting compromised → erode public trust.

5. fast tracking of files, hawala → breach of accountability.

6. Hawala Network → Case of organized crime

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7. preferential treatment → violate equality principle.

Course of Action, evaluation

1. to pass the file as per Director's order, accept the bribe.

Merit	Demerit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → economic gains → safety of family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → violation of dharma as administrator → economics without morality = sin (Gandhi) → sheer absence of courage.

2. do not pass file, complain to the CVC, present evidence

Merit	Demerit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → uphold rule of law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → threat to life and career

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(Don't write anything in this part)

→ ensure transparency in public finances

→ deterrence against corruption

→ other officials may be involved.

2. take no action, get a transfer

Murt

Dament

→ save self from difficult decision

→ ethical disengagement is root of injustice

→ acceptance towards corruption

→ emboldened contractors → poor infra.

I will adopt the third option since it enables me to uphold the Rajdharm principle of Kautilya, i.e., ensuring security [Rashtriya] and

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

welfare [welfare] of the jans [citizens].

C. Transparency in contracts:-

1. social audits like MGNREGS.
2. bringing finances under RTI with no exemptions.
3. integrity pacts between government and contractor.
4. digitization like the Jayra Snapshot app of Assam to flag poor infra-
5. upholding value for money principle via outcome based budgeting, good selection of contractor, via open bids.

"Kashom Moolo Dandeh"

Treasury is root of administration, and hence must be preserved.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	