

General Studies
Full Length Test
Test - 4 (GS - 4)
Test Code - A21054504

Evaluator Code:
Date of Assignment:
CQ:

NAME: M. Venkatesh Prasad Sagar

Time allowed: 180 Minutes

ADMIN. NO.: 23700030

Email: [redacted] (com)

MOBILE NO.: [redacted]

Submission Date: 13-Aug-2025

Student ID — 21VR31190

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 - 7:00 am

End Time - 10:00 am

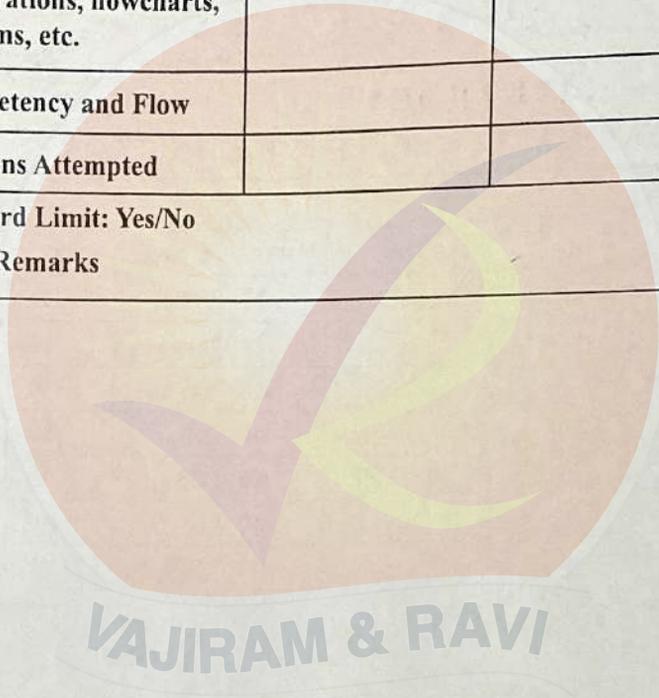
Mode of Examination : Online

Online Offline

Receiving date - 13-Aug-2025

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 				



Needs
Improvement

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



VAJIRAM & RAVI

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



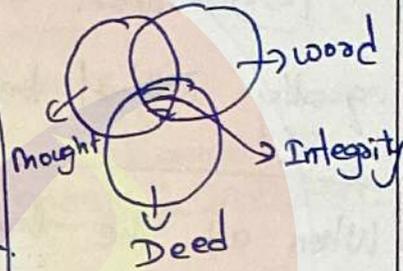
(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

Section A

1. (a) "Integrity in isolation may ensure honesty, but without impartiality and non-partisanship, governance cannot be ethical." Evaluate the interdependence of these foundational values in the context of public service. (10 marks, 150 words)

Integrity is adherence to highest moral standards even when none is watching.

Interdependence of Foundational Values: Integrity, non-partisanship and impartiality



Union of Thought, Wood, Deed.

① Integrity ensures

Commitment to Public Service leading to dedication to public service.

(ex:) Awasish Sraan - Bike Taxi/ambulances for Tribals.

② Without Integrity, impartiality may lead to neutrality alone \Rightarrow Red Tapism.

(ex:) Local rejecting 90% of applications over format incorrectness.

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

③ Without Impartiality and neutrality, Integrity would lead to biased decision making.
(cs) Awarding contracts in infrastructure.

④ One may be impartial yet lack non-partisanship and integrity.

(cs) Support all parties during election equally without being partial to anyone.

When all the three values exist:

leads to → Commitment to constitution morality
→ Problem solving approach
→ Public engagement happens.

Thus, Integrity is the moral compass that drives Justice and fairness through impartiality and non-partisanship.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Students should not write anything inside the box	
Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

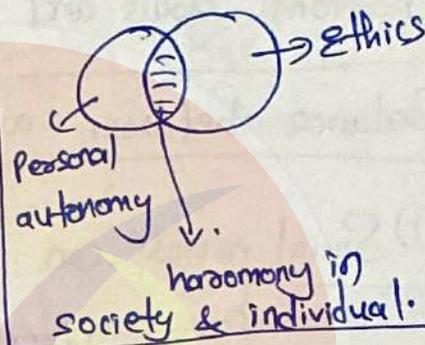
VAJIRAM & RAVI

(b) "The essence of ethics in human actions involves a balance between individual autonomy and societal norms". Examine this statement by exploring how ethical frameworks reconcile personal freedom with social responsibility.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Sigmund Freud, defines ethics as the science of good and evil in human conduct.

Too much of social norms in individual's life leads to:



① Self-alienation due to social control.

② lack of innovation and social change in society. \implies status-quoism in society.

③ Social conflicts due to divergence in individual morality v/s social morality
(ex: Death of Galileo in Europe.)

Too much of individuality without social norms

① Capitalistic culture \implies inequalities in society.
(ex) Global inequality - Thomas Picketty.

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

② Unpredictable Society and lack of cooperation → Social apathy.

(Ex:) By-stander apathy in accidents.

③ lack of Social Capital → no common national goals and progress becomes difficult.

Balance between autonomy v/s social norms

① Social norms can help in:

→ Cooperation in society.

(Ex:) agreement on welfare state.

→ helps tackle radicalisation

(Ex:) Op. Sadbhavana in Kashmir.

② Individual autonomy → innovation & progress in society.

→ individuals can drive.

Social change - Raja Rammohan Roy.

Golden mean of Aristotle becomes a necessity.

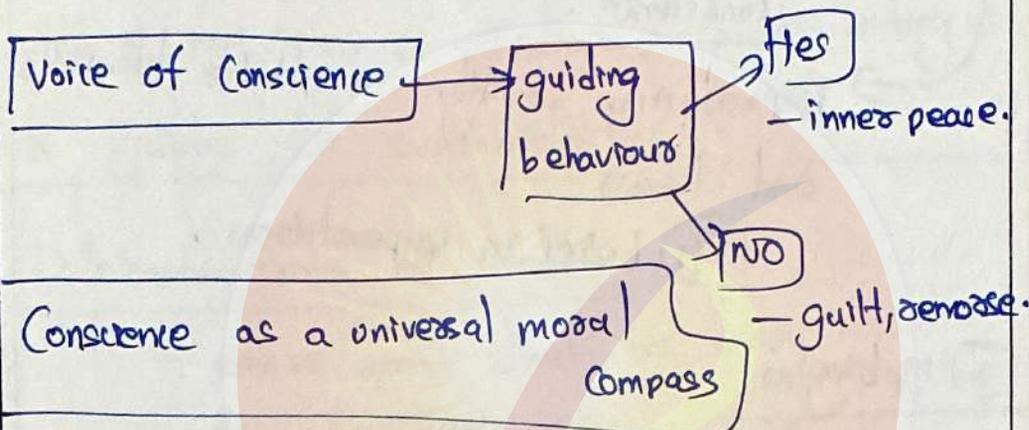
Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

2. (a) Is conscience a universal moral compass, or is it shaped by society and upbringing?
Illustrate with suitable examples.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Conscience is the inner voice of the individual that can act like a moral guide to an individual.



① Inner voice guides behaviour and actions.

(e.g.) Gandhi during Civil disobedience (1930)

② Helps in maximalist approach to Public Interest.

(e.g.) Nelson Mandela and Truth & Reconciliation Commission

③ Voice of Conscience can find resonance in laws and act as universal moral compass

(e.g.) Ambedkar views on social justice.

But this conscience is shaped by:

① Society: → attitude formation.

(ex) reward & punishment for certain actions.

→ Patriarchy in society. corrupting conscience.

→ Reproducing socially acceptable behaviours and labour

(ex) belief in superstitions.

② Upbringing

- Stereotyping affects conscience.

(ex) mark for goals.

- Family values in divergence with secular values taught at schools (ex) caste v/s Fraternity.

Therefore, role of laws, rules, regulations become important along with critical-thinking skills.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(b) How can the ethical principles rooted in ancient Indian philosophy serve as a guide for policymakers and administrators in balancing development with ecological sustainability? (10 marks, 150 words)

Climate change related disasters today, necessitate the need for sustainable development in India. [IPCC 6th report].

Ethical principles of Indian philosophy acting as a guide for sustainability

① lokasangraha of Geeta.

— entire world should be happy including flora & fauna.

② Principles of:

↳ Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — "one Earth — one Family"

↳ Samasta loka Sukinobhavanti.

Treating eco-centrism into development is embedded into these principles for overall common good.

③ Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya — intellectual

integrity to realize the interdependence of man and nature.

④ Buddha's madhyam marg, acts a guide for balance between ~~the~~ development and ecology.

⑤ Jainism - non-violence approach -

eg: || Human-wildlife conflict - kavach in railways to save animals.

⑥ Traditions to worship trees, rivers and safeguard them.

eg: mahakumb mela.

Sri Ramanujacharya has highlighted the importance of this balanced approach in his preachings as early as 12th CE.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction

Suggestions:

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(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) Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.—Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
(10 marks, 150 words)

Dr. BR Ambedkar highlights about the
Buddhist principle of Right mind that
includes Intellectual Competency & orientation
to Public good.

Cultivation of mind → ultimate aim of
human existence.

① Mind controls the 3 senses — to gain
mastery over attitude.

② Mind cultivation → Intellectual aware and
hence will move away from superstitions,
⇒ social evils will be reduced.

(e.g.) Untouchability has no sanction in Vedas.

③ Cultivation of mind is essential for
economic progress (e.g.) Startup & innovation
in IT4.0.

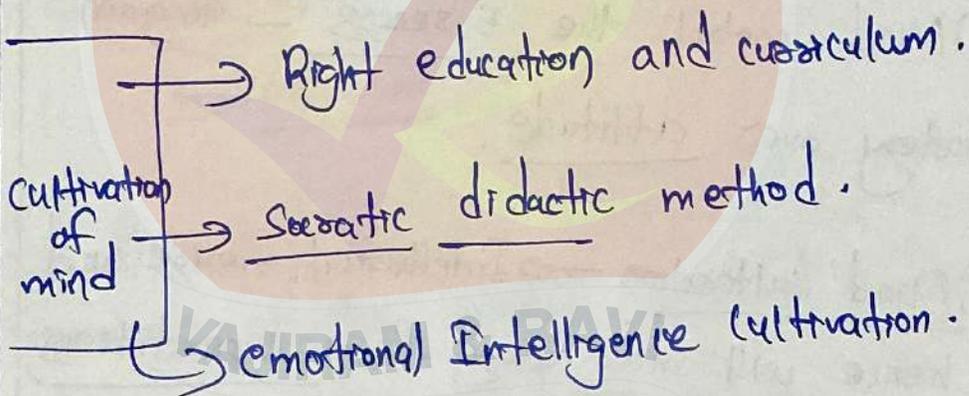
Without Cultivation of mind it would lead to:

a) Band wagoning \Rightarrow democracy fails.

b) head mentality in democracy leads to authoritarian tendencies

c) Rationality in society subsides giving way to social evils.

d) Citizen participation reduces in democracy.



Thus, Ambedkar's words are a necessity for human relevance in today's AI driven world.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

(b) The coward calls the brave man rash, the rash man calls him a coward- Aristotle
(10 marks, 150 words)

Aristotle, greek philosopher points to the perception of moral courage, in humans and how a courageous person views the world. — virtue ethics is the main idea

Coward calls the brave man rash,

Coward

→ escapes from things

→ pessimistic attitude.

→ no intent to solve problems,

↳ stand up for right.

Ex: Pakistan, non-state terrorism in Kashmir.

→ views brave man as rash because

a) moral uprightness attitude

b) strong adherence to courage of conviction

c) positive attitude to solve problems

Ex: Dr. Ambedkar on Caste-discriminations.

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

The rashman (beave) calls him coward

↓ depicts.

a) Taunt & upright attitude to call out injustice.

b) Confronting unfair & cowardice on the face of it.

[Current relevance:]

① Helps in awakening oneself & citizenry toward Public participation in governance.

(e.g.) Operation Sindoor by India on Coward Pakistan

② Moral uprightness → Integrity
→ Probity in individuality

Beaviness is the golden mean of recklessness

& cowardice which must be embraced for Happy life.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

- (c) Beneficence is a duty. He who frequently practices it, and sees his benevolent intentions realized, at length comes really to love him to whom he has done good- Immanuel Kant
(10 marks, 150 words)



(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)



Students should not write anything inside the box

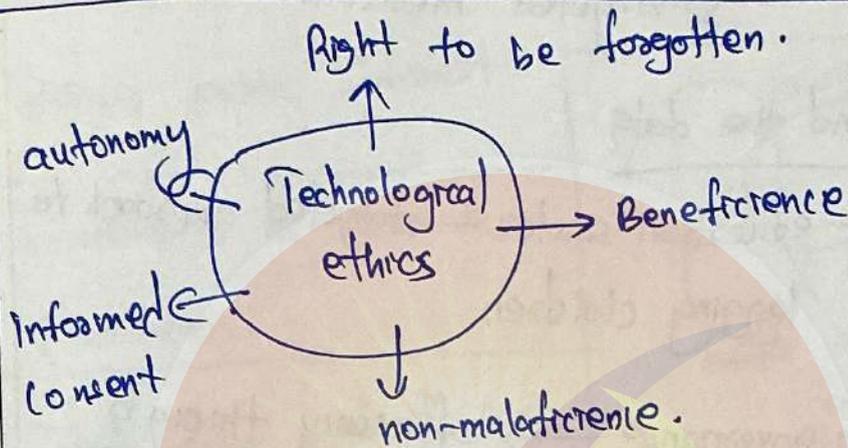
Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(Don't write anything in this part)

(Don't write anything in this part)

4. (a) "Technology is ethically neutral until we apply it." Discuss this statement with reference to the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence and data privacy. (10 marks, 150 words)

Technology is a "double-edged sword" and can be used for benefit (or) harm.



Technology is not neutral! → data privacy issues

① Facial Recognition Technology and biases

(ex!) Blacks as criminals in USA's Police FRITs.

② Misogyny into Technology (AI).

(ex!) New Zealand MP showed a nude picture of herself in parliament. [Privacy violation]

③ Technology led exclusion!

(ex!) PM-modi highlighted - lack of left handed image generation

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

Technology is neutral until we apply it ;

① AI and data can be used for
a) health sector — surveillance of diseases & targeted medicine.

② AI and the data
— education sector — targeted approach to help lagging children

③ AI in governance → efficiency through DBT (₹1) > 3 lac crore savings due to DBT.

④ AI and ensuring border security using predictive analysis.

Due to "double edged sword", principles like UNESCO AI principles & outcomes of AI action summit 2023 can be used for its security

Students should not write anything inside the box

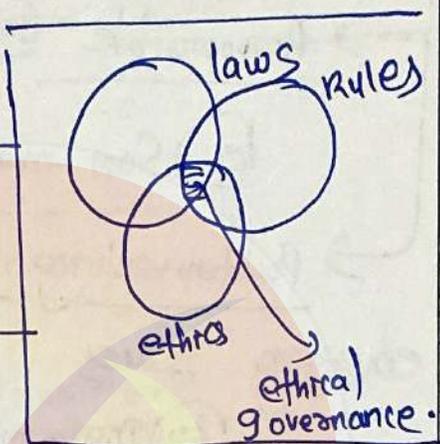
Introduction
Body
Conclusion
Presentation
Marks:

Suggestions:

(b) Rules and procedures are essential for institutional functioning. However, they are not substitutes for ethical leadership and value-based discretion. Justify your answer with examples from public administration. (10 marks, 150 words)

Rules and procedures reduce discretion and streamline the service-delivery in the larger public interest.

Limitations of Rules & Procedures:



① Not every scenario can be covered under rules.

② Easily evaded using legal loopholes & vacuum.
 (ex: tax evasion in India.)

③ minimalist approach to governance; may lead to Red-tapism if emphasised too much.

④ Promotes value neutrality in democratic setup → may lead to apathy & dehumanisation of public service.

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Ethical leadership in Public administration

- Commitment to Public Service.
(ex.) Dr. E. Sreedharan & Delhi Metro.
- Responsible decision making
(ex.) Sam-manekshaw during 1971-1972.
- Problem-solving approach to tackle emerging issues.
(ex.) Dinya mittal (IAS) → drinking water after 40 years.

Value-based discretion

- ① Promotes commitment to constitutional values
- ② Compassionate Policy making - (eg) Forest Rights Act.
- ③ Promotes Community Engagement - Joint Forest management.

Thus, a balance between them is needed. But Rules must not be violated, rather used for Service

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

5. (a) Is it ethically justified for youth to remain apolitical in a democracy if politics determines the moral fabric of society? Critically examine.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Essence of Politics in democracy lies in Public participation and in specific youth who are indeed the future of the nation.

Apolitical youth in democracy,

→ Promotes constitutional commitment instead of ideologically driven

→ Critically analyse politics & can give feedback to improve governance.

(ex) RCN leads protests for women safety.

→ Apolitical youth can help in reducing criminalisation in politics by advocating for release of antecedents & electoral reforms.

→ Apolitical youth → focus on academics and careers contributing for economic growth

Flip side of Apolitical youth

- ① Disinterested in political affairs
(e) not engaged in debates.
- ② Voting by youth is also very low.
- Urban apathy in India.
- ③ Providing feedback & questioning government policies is low → alienation of youth aspirations from development discourse.

Therefore, apolitical youth is not a solution.
Youth must actively participate in politics which can begin right from college level to gain experience. Voting in elections can be the first step to break this apolitical youth and commit to constitution

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(b) Explain three moral dilemmas commonly faced by civil servants. Provide ethical frameworks to resolve them effectively. (10 marks, 150 words)

Moral dilemma is a situation where personal ethics conflict with professional ethics and one has to choose between the two rights.

3-moral dilemmas faced by civil servants

① development v/s ecological conservation.

→ Involves land acquisition, displacement of Tribals, protest and so on.

ethical framework to resolve:

a) Nishkama Karma of Greeta to do it without any fear or favour.

b) Duty ethics of Kant — adherence to professional duty.

c) Amartya Sen — Social Justice to hedge against the negative externalities → compensation
→ Training for employment.

② Transparency in public affairs v/s ~~transparency~~ strategic confidentiality.

- often involves disclosure of information that may lead to additional scrutiny.

ethical frameworks:

a) utilitarian ethics - greatest good for greatest number.

b) using principle of collegiality for deciding upon disclosure.

③ Accountability v/s efficiency

- Documentation, rules, procedures, hindering efficiency.

ethical frameworks:

① citizen-centric governance: involves both documentation (for accountability) & positive minded officers.

② Dedication to Public Service to overcome it.

6. (a) "Sporting fairness and gender inclusivity are often on a collision course." Discuss the ethical dimensions involved in allowing transgender athletes to participate in women's sports. Should fairness outweigh inclusion? (10 marks, 150 words)

The ethical dilemma was depicted in boxing in the 2024 olympics where transgender boxer was allowed to contest in female category.

~~Process to~~

Ethical dimensions allowing transgender ~~athletes~~ to participate in women sports

① Inclusivity and opportunity to display their talent

② Avoiding marginalization and providing social space for realising their potential.

③ Inclusion in male category would be potentially disastrous due to ability mismatch.

④ Self-Actualisation through sports by Transgender.

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

3) Transgenders - act as a role model within community.

6) Principle of social mobility & Justice for them.

Fairness & Inclusion

Yes (In this case)

NO (In this case)

1) Non-inclusion & marginalisation is Injustice
- violates Kant's universality principle.

2) Negates utilitarian principle of greatest good.

a) Ability mismatch and injustice to female.

b) Potential of conversion & using this route to obtain medals violates fairness & inclusion.

There must be a debate & a lasting solution to

Students should not write anything inside the box

binary genders

in sports

Introduction
Body
Conclusion
Presentation
Marks:

Suggestions:

(b) How can Buddhist principles guide public servants in maintaining a balance between personal well-being and professional responsibilities in high-pressure governance environments? (10 marks, 150 words)

Buddhist Principles, Rahul Walpola (monk) argues are fundamental and essential for ethical governance in democracies.

Buddhist Principles in balancing responsibilities and personal well-being:

- ① Madhyam Marg: - no extreme steps.
(ex:) balancing development and ecology.
- ② Right intentions:
(ex:) Dealing in situations of nazalism, radicalism. (personal safety is also threatened).
- ③ Right knowledge: - Intellectual Competence.
(ex:) navigate complexities of impartiality and neutrality when governments change.
- ④ Right conduct: - allows for steering away temptations of corruption (in high-profile cases).

⑤ Proportional response principle.

Ex. Operation Sindoor — no attack on civilian areas.

⑥ Dedication to public service despite criticism and hounding.

Ex. H.C. Gupta case.

⑦ Control over desires and mastery over senses → better public engagement & handling of conflicts & disasters

Ex. Bahasaheb Shinde (Balasore Dm) — train accident.

Thus Buddhist principle can act as a moral compass in ethical dilemma situations.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

Suggestions:

Section B

7. Ravi, a senior IAS officer, is currently serving as the head of the State Health Procurement Division. He is tasked with overseeing the final stages of awarding a high-value government contract for the supply of critical medical equipment to district hospitals. This initiative is part of a public health modernization scheme aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery in underserved areas.

Among the shortlisted bidders is a private firm that has submitted a technically sound and competitively priced proposal. However, it has come to light through a media report that Ravi's daughter is a non-executive board member of this firm. Though she holds no operational or financial responsibilities, her association with the company has raised concerns in the public domain about a potential conflict of interest.

At the same time, Ravi is facing covert pressure from a second bidder, a politically well-connected company with a track record of substandard deliveries and cost overruns in past government contracts. Representatives of this company have informally offered Ravi indirect favours, including the prospect of a lucrative post-retirement consultancy role, should he influence the contract award in their favour.

Ravi is aware that while there is no formal requirement under departmental rules for recusal in this situation, the All India Services Conduct Rules do emphasize the importance of avoiding not just actual impropriety but even the appearance of impropriety. One of Ravi's senior colleagues advises him to proceed with the technically strong bid, arguing that his daughter's role is merely symbolic and that the bid deserves to win on merit.

However, the situation escalates when an anonymous complaint is filed by a junior officer to the Chief Secretary, flagging the potential conflict of interest and the possibility of favoritism. The issue starts gaining media traction, casting doubts on the transparency and impartiality of the procurement process. Ravi now finds himself in a dilemma, torn between his professional duty, personal integrity, and public perception.

- Identify and discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.
- What are the options available to Ravi? Evaluate each with respect to ethical principles such as objectivity, integrity, accountability, and transparency.
- What course of action should Ravi take to uphold both procedural propriety and public trust? Justify your decision using ethical reasoning.
- How should Ravi manage the competing pressures of personal relationships, political influence, and institutional norms without compromising his role as a public servant?

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case pertains to public sector ethics
where Ravi has important duty under
Article 47 (to provide for health) and
follow "code of conduct for IAS".

Ethical Issues involved in the case.

Stakeholders	Ethical Issues
① Ravi	<p>→ potential <u>conflict of Interest</u> as daughter is in bidding firm</p> <p>→ questions on his <u>integrity</u> & <u>impartiality</u> are arising</p>
② Public Health	<p>→ substandard health services goes against <u>Art. 47</u>.</p>
③ Rival Company	<p>→ <u>Bribery</u> & <u>corruption</u> to get <u>contracts</u>.</p> <p>→ violation of duty ethics by substandard equipment supply.</p>
④ Government	<p>→ To win <u>Public Trust</u> in this situation</p>
⑤ Media	<p>→ media total disturbing the process of government bidding.</p> <p>→ affecting the <u>privacy</u> of <u>officers</u>.</p>

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

(b) Options available to Ravi

I. Award the contract to "firm A" (daughter is working) without any further consultation.

merits

Demerits

① good health case to Public [SDG].

① media — blame it as favouritism

② Avoids bribery & corruption offered to him.

② Due process not followed

II Award the contract to rival company.
merit → avoids conflict of Interest
→ bribery & part-retirement benefits.
[Duty ethics violation].

Demerit: → substandard health case.
→ Illegal & may be found out in future

III. Adopt collegiality principle by forming a collegium of high-level officers — take decision accordingly

merits → objectivity in decision making
→ avoids conflict of Interest -

Demerits → media may still see it as a case of favouritism.

(c) Course of action

- ① Form a Collegium of $\left. \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \text{Joint collector} \\ \rightarrow \text{Additional collector} \end{array} \right\} \text{IAS}$
- ② Pen down the potential conflict of Interest
- ③ Transparently, publish minutes of meeting and the reason to choose a company out of both.
- ④ If the company chosen in collegium is that of his daughter, transparently publish all the details in public domain
 - tender amount.
 - expert opinions on machinery
 - collegium's recommendations.

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Justification:

- ① Potential Conflict of Interest & Secura will not solve the problem.
- ② Utilitarian ethics of public health is important \Rightarrow Collegium to decide the best.
- ③ Bribery & Corruption is against Constitution morality & so did not go for company "B" at first instance.

(c) How to manage-

- ① Dedication to public service is the primary thing
- ② Using Emotional Intelligence to navigate complex framework.
- ③ Virtue ethics — utmost Transparency & openness in discussion.
- ④ Impartially analysing the situation for the best

Students should not write anything inside the box delivery to Public.

Introduction
Body
Conclusion
Presentation
Marks:

Suggestions:

8. A border district along the Indo-Pak Line of Control has been devastated by continuous cross-border shelling. Villages lie abandoned, homes destroyed, schools shut indefinitely, and farmlands rendered unusable. The displaced population, children, elderly, and daily-wage families, suffers from deep psychological trauma, loss of livelihood, and absence of basic services.

To respond, the administration has established multiple rehabilitation camps under emergency relief protocols. As the newly appointed District Rehabilitation Commissioner, known for your integrity, you are tasked with leading this effort.

However, you soon discover a distressing reality: Relief distribution is marred by corruption, funds are being siphoned off, and material aid is being diverted to private godowns. Caste-based discrimination in compensation lists is rampant and marginalised communities are systematically excluded. Political interference is growing, local leaders demand selective allocation for their vote banks, threatening to stir unrest if their demands aren't met.

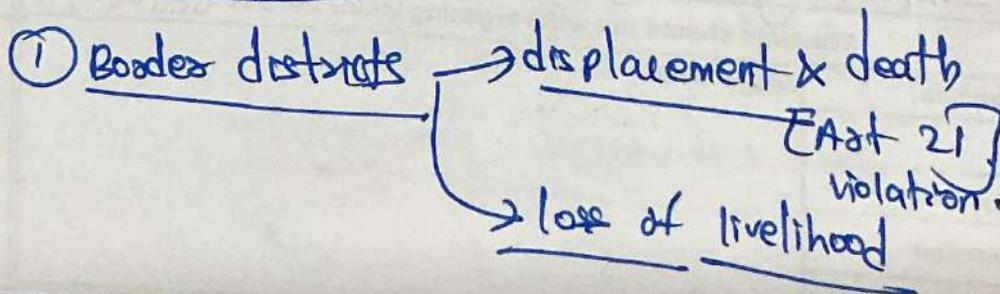
Adding to the challenge, vulnerable groups like landless labourers, orphans, the elderly, and differently-abled persons are invisible in the rehabilitation process. You also find that some field officers are indifferent or even complicit, out of fear or political alignment. Meanwhile, the media focuses only on high-profile narratives, ignoring those suffering silently.

- (a) What are the core ethical issues involved in this situation?
- (b) What should be your immediate course of action to ensure fair and transparent relief distribution?
- (c) How can you tactfully manage political interference while upholding neutrality and inclusivity?
- (d) How can an administrator maintain emotional balance and compassion without compromising institutional discipline?

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case study points out the "systemic issues" in "fair distribution" of government relief and the problems faced by marginalised sections.

Ethical issues



- ② Corruption & misuse of public funds
- ③ Social evils & lack of social Justice in relief distribution [Caste-based discrimination]
- ④ lack of moral courage in bureaucrats
- ⑤ Biasness in media reporting.
- ⑥ Worst affected are marginalised — [No Antyodaya approach].
- ⑦ "Systemic issues" → lack of audit
→ surprise inspection.
→ Technology adoption.
- ⑧ Political favouritism & vote bank politics.

⑥ Immediate course of action

- ① Centralisation of relief material, firstly, & then decentralise it through official channels for distribution.
- ② Adopt technology — drone based surveillance until logistics are properly digitised.

③ Remind officers of duty (impartially)

— motivate in the beginning & start action if continued corruption.

④ Surprise inspection / feedback from vulnerable to ensure the reach of materials.

⑤ use NGOs for relief material distribution [to avoid caste-based discrimination]

(c) managing political interference

① (create a small team of high level officers to ensure supply-chain efficiency,

② Documentation of relief-material and use of Civil Society group, youth volunteers to ensure supply of materials.

③ Engage in duty bound discussions with politicians & impartially & neutrally explain the scenario.

④ Form village committees of all caste & genders to get feedback of village happenings.

⑤ Smaller groups of youth, educated population, women to be formed so that basic health, education & employment can be started until normalcy returns.

④ Emotional balance & compassion without compromising discipline.

① Strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures & protocols.

② Public Interest is the primary goal.

VAJIRAM & RAVI

③ Staunch commitment to constitutional values to steer through tough times

④ Reliance on virtue ethics, knowledge from Gita [Iolasamgraha] & Hogah [samastu kaushalam] - excellence at work.

Successfully handling disaster situations and taking care of [Antyodaya] is essential for [welfare state] obligations. Emotional Intelligence becomes a necessary tool.

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

9. You have recently been appointed as the senior administrative officer overseeing coastal development planning in a remote and ecologically sensitive island region. The area is globally recognized for its marine biodiversity, dense mangrove forests, endangered wildlife, and the presence of indigenous communities that depend on traditional livelihoods closely linked to the land and sea. It is also a haven for rare species of birds and is surrounded by vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine biodiversity. Protected as a biodiversity hotspot, it has long been revered as a sanctuary for conservationists and eco-tourists alike.

A major infrastructure development project has been proposed by a consortium of investors, with support from state authorities. The plan includes a commercial port, luxury tourism infrastructure, and entertainment zones. It is projected to generate significant economic benefits, including employment and increased revenue, and is also being positioned as a strategic asset for maritime trade and national security.

However, environmental experts warn of irreversible ecological damage, including threats to nesting sites, coral reefs, and biodiversity corridors. They argue that the development will irreversibly damage the island's fragile ecosystem.

Furthermore, indigenous communities, including the local Adivasi tribes, express deep concern over the project's impact on their ancestral lands and traditional way of life. They fear that large-scale infrastructure development and an influx of tourists will lead to land grabbing, displacement, and the erosion of their cultural heritage.

Civil society organizations have petitioned for a comprehensive environmental impact assessment and genuine stakeholder consultation. Whereas supporters of the project highlight its strategic importance for India's economic growth and national security. They argue that the project will enhance India's maritime infrastructure, strengthen coastal security, and stimulate trade and investment in the region.

As the officer responsible for coordinating the project's evaluation and recommendations, you are under pressure from political and corporate interests to fast-track approvals. At the same time, you are aware of your duty to uphold constitutional values, protect vulnerable communities, and ensure sustainable governance.

- (a) What are the core ethical dilemmas present in the case?
- (b) Discuss options available to you and give their merits and demerits.
- (c) As a senior public servant assigned to coordinate the project, outline the steps you would take to ensure ethical and evidence-based governance.
- (d) Suggest long-term policy and institutional reforms that could help resolve such conflicts.

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case study resembles that of a major port construction sanctioned in Nicobar Islands (recommended by NITI Aayog) whose potentially development & ecology are at odds.

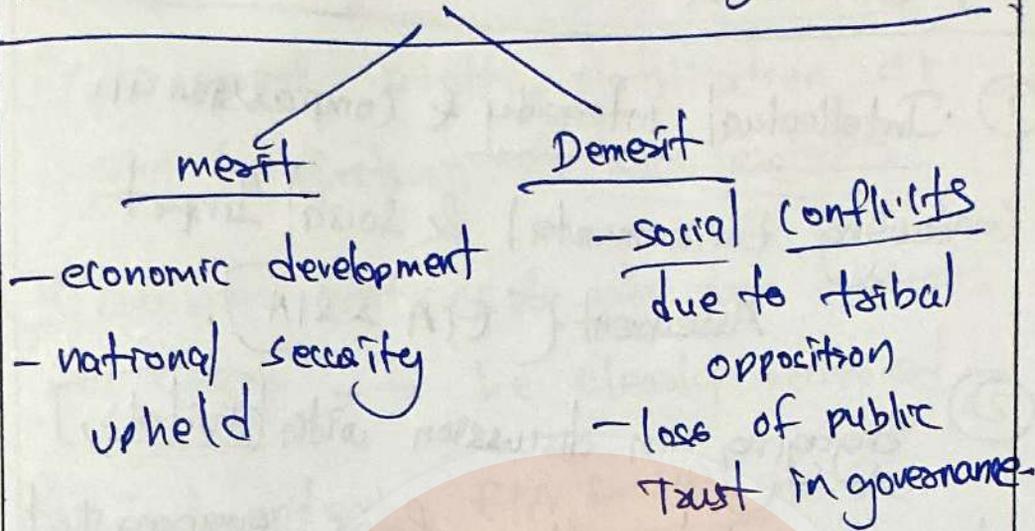
VAJIRAM & RAVI

- (1) ethical dilemmas in the situation
- (2) Justice towards tribals national security objectives
- (3) development and economic growth v/s ecological conservation.
- (3) Duty ethics as a project evaluator v/s ethics of ecology such as eco-centrism, stewardship
- (4) Transparency in project evaluation v/s strategic confidentiality.
- (5) Objectivity in evaluation v/s compassion towards tribals & local communities.

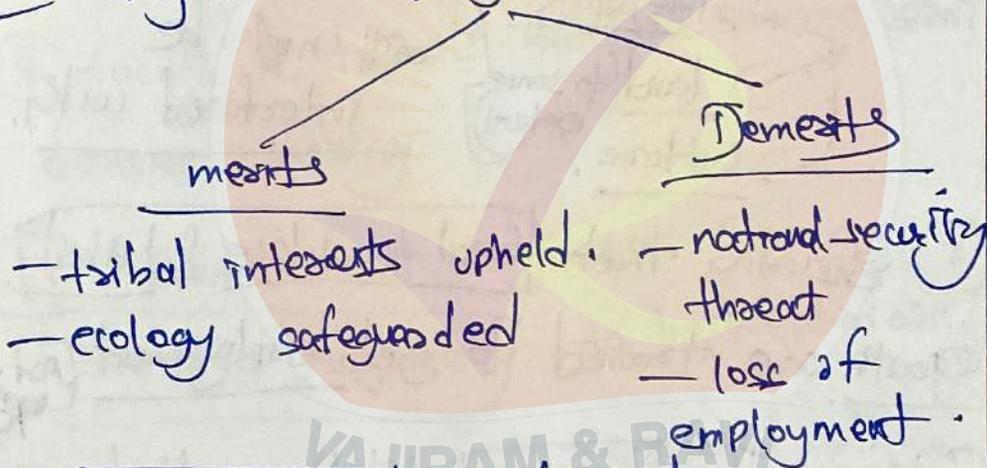
(6) Options available

VAJIRAM & RAVI

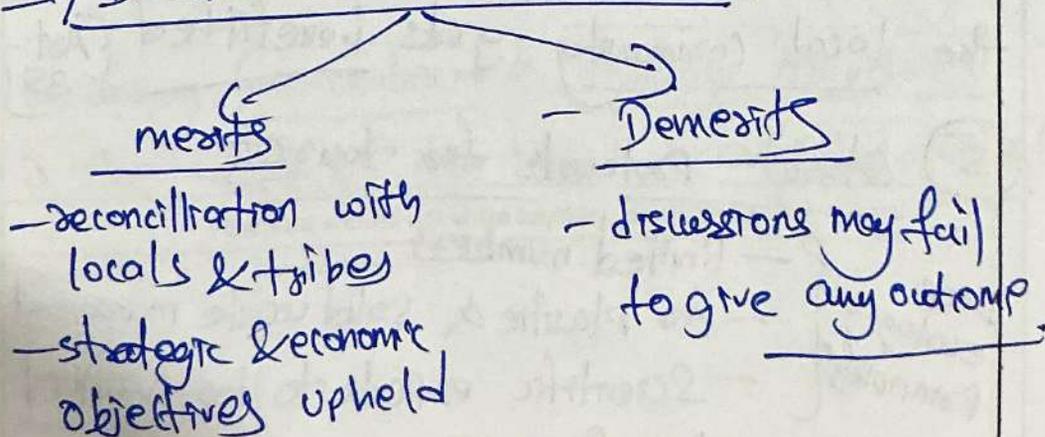
I Hasten up the process to give clearance



II. Reject the project permission



III. Due process to be followed



(C). Ethical & evidence based governance -

①. Intellectual Integrity & Compassion in conducting Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (EIA & SIA).

② Engaging in discussion with Tribals to acknowledge their fears - ensuring that their life style, land (to some extent), culture will not be interfered with.

③ Ensuring that local populace & tribals youth are trained to get employment [Art. 46].

④ Using land-pooling model so that the local community gets benefitted [Art. 38].

⑤ strict protocols for tourists

Deep ecology principles {
- limited numbers
- no plastic & solid waste management
- Scientific experts to be involved in management of ecology

(d) long term institutional reforms

① Transparent gazette notification of aim & objectives of such projects.

② Available locations & why such locations are chosen — to be clearly mentioned.

③ Independent FIA & SIA to be conducted.

④ locals & tribals to be involved in decision making

⑤ Supreme Court judgements such as Samatha Judgement to be kept in mind.

⑥ Training of officers → emotional aptitude
→ Domain competency

Balancing eco-centrism & strategic objectives

is the need of the hour under Article 48-A

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

10. You are a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Your 17-year-old daughter, an intelligent and sensitive student of Class 12, has been an avid follower of popular influencers and motivational speakers. Recently, she became deeply interested in a popular podcast show hosted by a well-known social media figure, Kunal Bhalla. The show claims to champion "free thinking" and covers topics like hustle culture, masculinity, personal transformation, and anti-institutional narratives.

Over time, your daughter's behaviour begins to change. She withdraws from academic interests, begins idolising internet influencers, and adopts rigid opinions about success, failure, and mental health. She starts rejecting family advice, refuses to appear for her board preparatory exams, and argues that "school is irrelevant in the age of free minds." Concerned, you and your spouse try to reason with her, but she accuses you of being "closed-minded."

Matters come to head when you are alerted by your ministry's media monitoring cell about a viral video clip where your daughter is seen giving an interview on a fringe podcast platform, endorsing radical views on education, politics, and civil services. The clip drew public attention because of your designation, and journalists began speculating about a "generational rebellion" within the bureaucracy.

Meanwhile, the influencer, Kunal Bhalla, publicly praises your daughter as "the new voice of youth dissent," but refuses to take accountability for his platform's role in shaping her worldview. Social media is split, some defend her right to free thought, while others accuse such influencers of normalising disrespect for institutions and romanticizing shallow intellectualism. Your colleagues advice silence, but your daughter now wants to drop out of school and intern with a podcast network.

- What are the key ethical issues involved in the way "free thinking" is promoted by influencers on social media, especially for impressionable youth?
- What should be the role of public figures in responding to the misuse or distortion of influential platforms in the name of free expression?
- Suggest a policy framework or guidelines for responsible influencer content aimed at youth without curbing intellectual freedom.

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case pertains to intense socialisation effects of social media on youth. This has been highlighted by Adolescent webseries that portrays the effect of "freethinking" on adults & adolescents.

(a) Ethical issues

- ① Ineffectiveness of family & education in value inculcation in the face of Social media.
- ② lack of Temperance from Social-media influences.
- ③ lack of Critical analysis from youngsters & easily gets persuaded.
- ④ Ethical frameworks & laws, rules, regulations are not kept in pace with social media change.
- ⑤ Promotion of 'free-thinking' without any reasonable restriction.
- ⑥ lack of accountability & responsibility on part of influencers influence on youth.

⑥ Role of Public figures in response:

① Strong, voluntary counter-narrative against "absolute free-thinking".

② "Social Contract Theory", need for democracy and reasonable restrictions must be highlighted.

(ex:) Rajdoot laws in BNS.

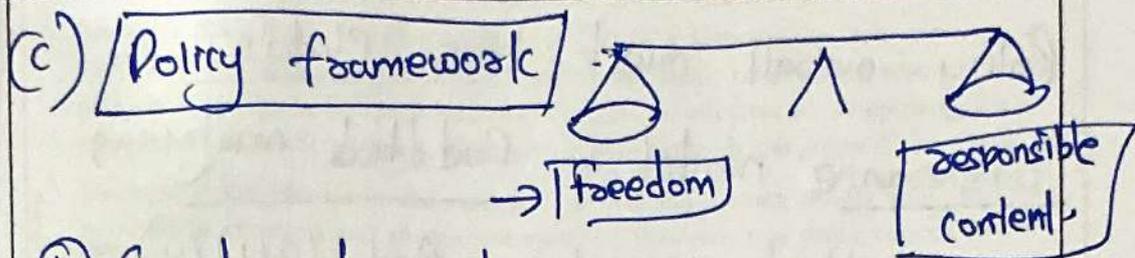
③ Attitudinal changes through cognitive & emotional appeals can be done by public figures to channelise youth energy.

(ex:) "Fit India Campaign" by PM.

④ Public figures as role models

(ex:) Amitabh Bachchan - voting in elections to show his responsibility.

⑤ Clearly Differentiating between "Dissent" & turning Teradicle.



① Social media advisory bodies like, on the lines of 'news associations' can be framed
 ↳ Code of ethics & Code of conduct to be framed.

② Social media platforms → labelling content as promotions, age-label.
 → Removal of communal content.
 (e) Community notes model.

③ Government using its own channels to promote the balance between freedom & responsibility.

(e) Samvidhan Series on Youtube.

④ Policy framework can include, inclusions of lessons at school & college level to use social media responsibly.

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Policy overall must have Plato's
Temperance model & Buddha's madhyam
magga that promotes Art 19(1)(a) and
Responsibility towards nation Art 31A.



VAJIRAM & RAVI

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

11. Raghav is the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of a fast-growing tech company in South Asia that designs and deploys AI systems for public services like education and policing. Recently, the company secured a large government contract to implement facial recognition and predictive analytics systems in public schools and police departments.

The project is significant for the company's growth and is being closely monitored by international investors and government agencies. However, two major concerns have emerged.

First, internal audits show that the AI systems are not adequately trained on local data. They frequently misidentify individuals from tribal and minority backgrounds and unfairly flag behavioral issues among students from these communities. The software also lacks support for vernacular languages and neurodivergent users, raising concerns about exclusion and discrimination.

Second, environmental groups have raised objections to the company's rising carbon footprint due to the expansion of energy-intensive data centers. There has been a 42% increase in emissions over the last two years.

Raghav now faces a serious ethical dilemma: whether to push ahead with deployment to maintain momentum and company interests, or pause and resolve these concerns, knowing it may slow down progress and create internal friction.

- (a) Identify and discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.
- (b) Critically examine the options available to Raghav in this situation.
- (c) Which of the above options should Raghav adopt and why? Justify your answer using principles of ethics and professional responsibility.

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case study points to technology led exclusion, bias, mis-identification of individuals & its expanding carbon footprint affecting vulnerable communities

(a) Ethical dilemmas / issues

Raghav → paralyzing company growth (or).
Constructing AI design that has biasess.

- ② Environment → Carbon footprint of AI & damage by technology.
- ③ Tribals → injustice & violative of Art 21.
- ④ Vulnerable → Tech led exclusion & discrimination [Digital divide].
- ⑤ Government → violates Art 38 - welfare.
→ violates Right to equality - Art 14.

⑥ Options available to Raghav.

I - Go ahead with deployment.

Demerits - false identification & injustice.
- loss of reputation.

Merit - Short-term welfare of the company.

II. Institute energy mix changes

Merits

- eco centric approach.
- Brand value increases

Demerits

- additional cost & profitability of company
- Delay in deployment

↓
loss of competitive advantage.

III. Transparent disclosure of braces &

Merits

→ Public Trust on

institute corrective measures.

company increases

→ **Social licence** to operate.

Demerits

→ counter-view that contract may not be given

→ Internationally, may be rejected

IV. Institute corrective measures without open disclosure and do not deploy until corrected.

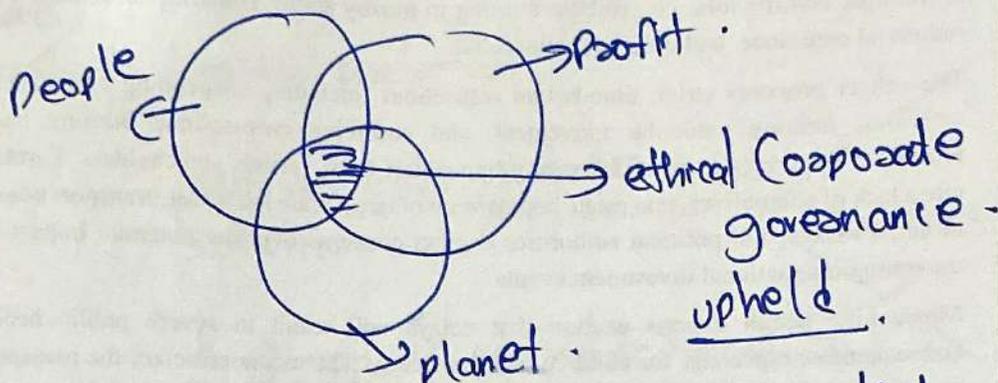
(c) Options to be adopted - Option 4

- ① False identifications are corrected. [social Justice is upheld].
- ② Vernacular language support and neuro-divergent user friendly - [inclusive AI].
- ③ With these corrections, we can go for deployment so that company's profitability is maintained.
- ④ Simultaneously, disclosure about energy intensity & vision & future plan for Renewable Energy can be prepared & executed. [Solar energy - roof top]

Justification: Technological ethics of Beneficence non-maleficence is upheld.

② Environmental ethics of Respect for nature & "polluter pays principle" upheld.

③ Corporate governance principles of



④ ESG governance ensures sustainability of Company.

Thus, Injeti Sainivas committee recommendations can be adopted for balancing corporate Social Responsibility & profitability of a Company.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

12. A senior IAS officer, recently appointed as chairperson of the NCR Clean Air Mission, is tasked with addressing the escalating air pollution crisis in Delhi and neighboring regions, where the Air Quality Index has reached hazardous levels. Scientific assessments point to multiple contributors, i.e., stubble burning in nearby states, construction-related dust, industrial emissions, and diesel vehicle traffic.

The officer proposes strict, time-bound restrictions, including suspending construction activities, limiting vehicular movement, and enforcing crop-residue burning bans. However, these measures attract strong opposition from various stakeholders. Farmers cite a lack of alternatives, real estate bodies warn of large-scale job losses, transport unions threaten strikes, and political authorities express concerns over the potential impact on upcoming international investment events.

Meanwhile, health experts caution that delays will result in severe public health consequences, especially for children and the elderly. The media criticizes the measures as elitist and anti-poor. Caught between conflicting imperatives, i.e., environmental protection, economic livelihood, public health, and political viability, the officer must now make a decision.

- (a) What are the options available to the officer to tackle the situation effectively?
- (b) What core values and principles should guide decision-making in this scenario?
- (c) In such situations, what long-term institutional reforms would you suggest to reconcile environmental protection with developmental imperatives?

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case study points to the issue of Article 48A conflicting with livelihood & economic development. The problem is at the intersection of pollution, livelihood & development.

(a) Options available to tackle the situation

(1) Continue with strict measures of activity ban.

~~measures~~ → pollution under control
~~measures~~ → health protected.

not a viable long-term solution ← ~~Demerits~~

livelihoods affected & resentment from public.

II. Continue the activities & plan for future.

~~measures~~ → livelihoods in the short-term not affected.
~~measures~~ → In future it can be eradicated

Short-term pollution, death ← ~~Demerits~~

III. mix of short-term measures & long-term measures to tackle problem effectively.

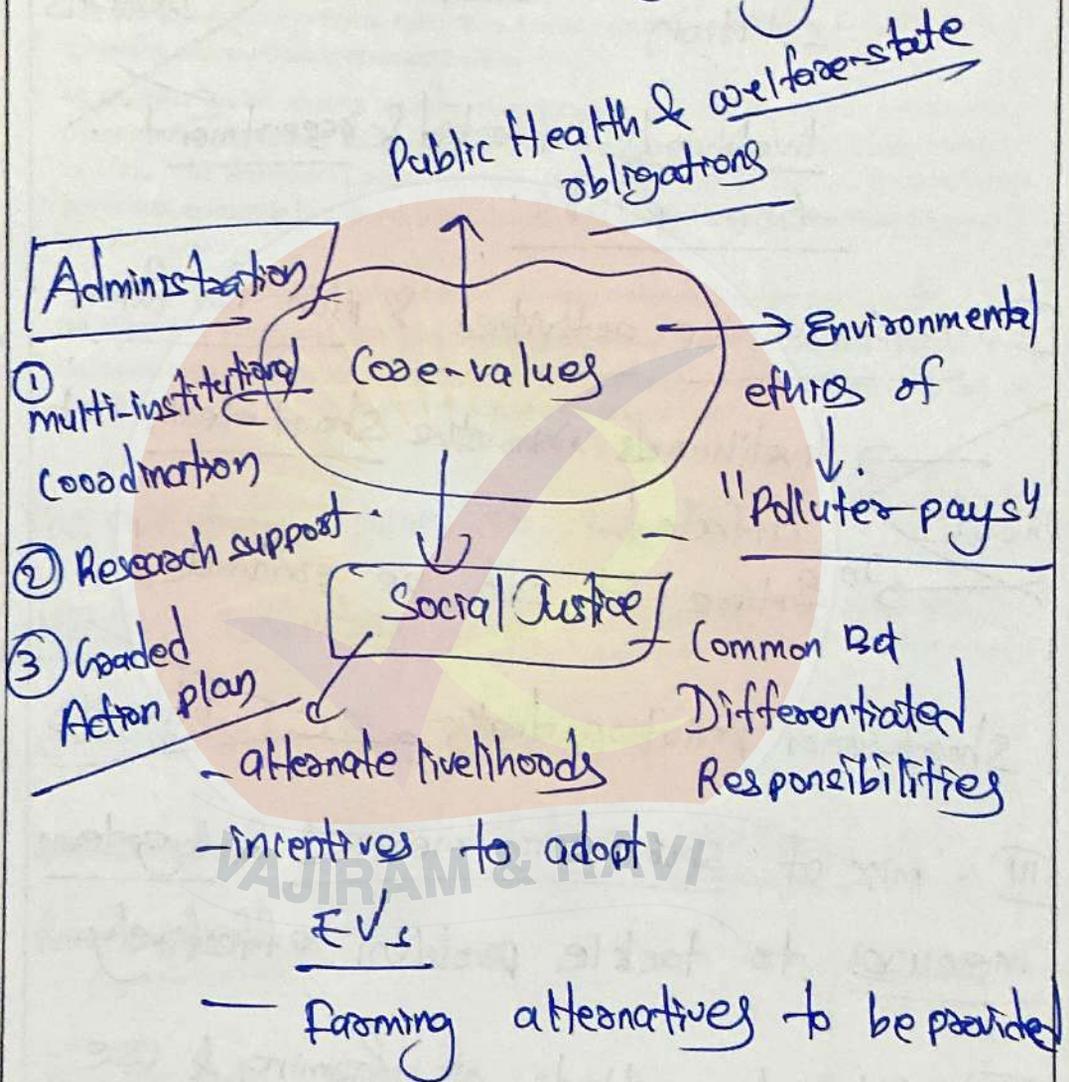
IV. Alternate methods of farming & use of low maturation seeds (+).

5) Construction — restorative measures on pollution

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(e) Time-bound, pre-declared, phasing out of old-vehicles. Can be institutionalised.

(b) Core-values to be guiding



So both short-term & long term-measures must be pushed for.

(b) long-term measures

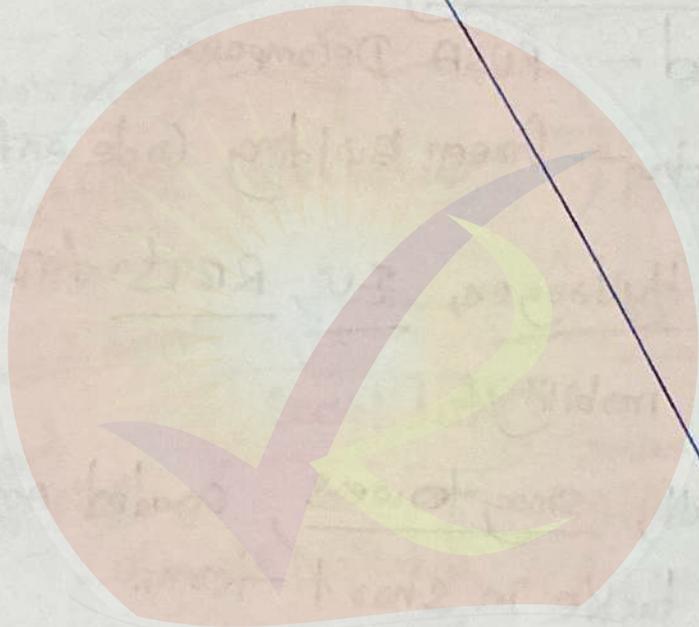
- a) multi-stakeholder body with representatives from farming, construction & civil society groups
- b) Alternative farming practices to be promoted - PUSA Decomposes
- c) Construction - Green Building Code enforced.
- d) Green Hydrogen, EV, RRTS for public mobility.
- e) Overall, smog towers, Graded Action Plan to tackle in short-term.

Justification: Comprehensive approach instead of piece-meal approach to solve problem from multi-dimensional ways.
Utilitarian ethics can be guiding principle

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)



VAJIRAM & RAVI

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(Don't write anything in this part)

Space for Rough Work



VAJIRAM & RAVI

Space for Rough Work



VAJIRAM & RAVI