

## VAJIRAM &amp; RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES - 2025

## GENERAL STUDIES

FULL LENGTH TEST

TEST - 8 (GS - 4)

Test Code - A21054508

Evaluator Code:

Date of Assignment:

CQ:

NAME:

Shiksha Pathak

Time allowed: 180 Minutes

ADMIN. NO.:

23700015

Email:

MOBILE NO.:

Submission  
Date:

8 Aug 2025

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 -

2:00 PM

End Time -

5:03 PM

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"> <li>• Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No</li> <li>• Subject-Specific Remarks</li> </ul>				

**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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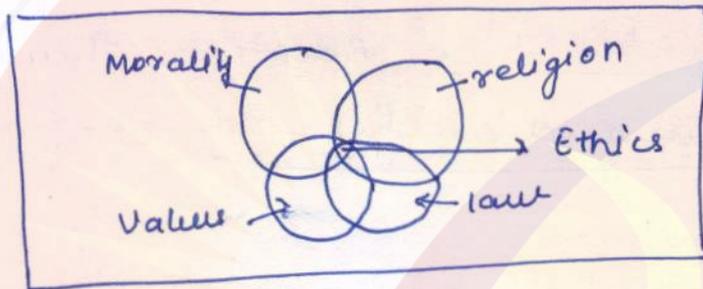


(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

## Section A

1. (a) Ethics is not morality, nor is it religion, law, or values, but it overlaps with all of them. Explain with relevant examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ethics set of standards imposed by society on an individual. It reflects an ideal behaviour in that society. It overlaps with,



### Morality

It is individual notion of righteousness.

- (1) Ethics can align with morality  
(e.g) Individual beliefs in family values and arranged marriage aligns with India's tradition.

- (2) When its not align it creates dissonance (e.g) Individual belief in equality but caste system duties in India.

### Religion

③ ethics can be derived from religion  
(e.g.) → Non-violence or Ahimsa from Buddhism  
→ Charity from teachings of Guru Nanak.

## Laws

④ sometimes ethics get institutionalised through law (e.g.) Ethics of Care reflected in Maintenance of Parents act, Adoption through Hindu Guardianship act etc

## Values

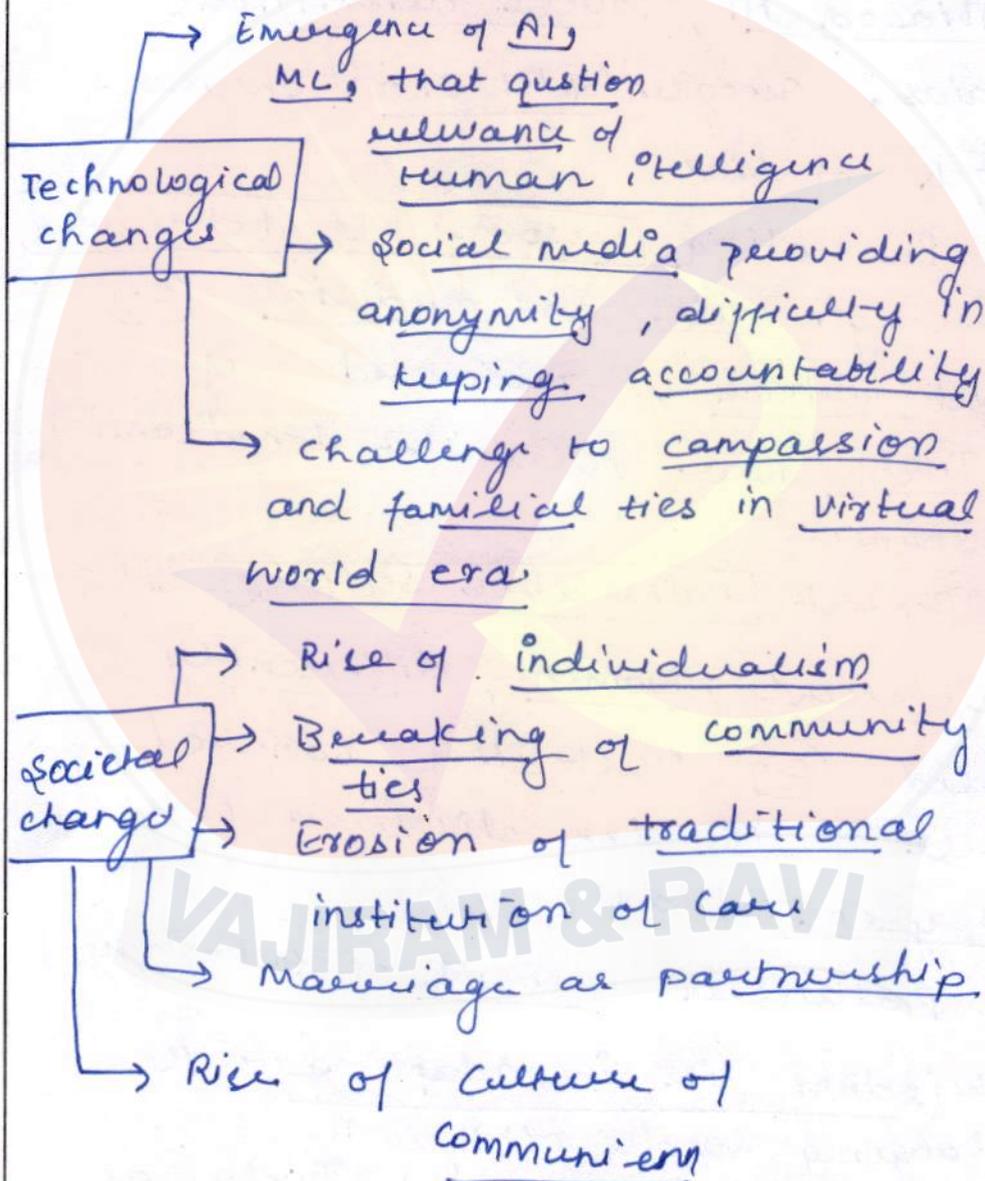
⑤ Ethics can also convey the highest standards of behaviour (values) (e.g.) value of honesty, perseverance, prudence and justice (Aristotle virtue ethics)

Thus, ethics has multiple sources and various channels, that it overlaps.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(b) "Moral principles are often challenged by evolving technological and societal changes. How should ethical decision-makers adapt to new realities while ensuring justice and integrity?" (10 marks, 150 words)

Moral Principles reflects the social consciousness of certain time and space, Societal changes challenges the continuation of these principles



## Ways to adapt to new realities

- ① Equal access to all irrespective of economic status (e.g) In India only 45% have access to internet.
- ② Ethical use prevent unethical technological information (e.g) Promote unbiased AI, tackle algorithmic bias. Google 'fair AI 360' ensures lack of bias.
- ③ Promoting responsible behaviour through rules and guidelines (e.g) Net neutrality promoted by TARAI new rules for broadcasting service.
- ④ Protect vulnerable sections like adolescents, women, differently abled (e.g) Australia banned use of AI for children below 16 years of age.
- ⑤ Balanced growth of technology.  
"Wisdom lies in adapting to the changing modes of time"  
Thirukural

2. (a) The family is often the first school of values, but it may also become a breeding ground for biases, stereotypes and hierarchical attitudes. Critically evaluate the dual role of family in value inculcation in a society. (10 marks, 150 words)

“ Integrity at homes determines the strength of Nation ”  
- Confucius

Family provides first exposure of values to child. Yet has dual role.

### School of Values

- ① Respect and obedience to elders is taught since early ages
- ② Value of honesty and truthfulness  
(e.g) Parents scolding child for lying.
- ③ Compassion for fellow being through siblings dynamics.
- ④ Empathy for others pain. When a member gets ill.
- ⑤ Altruism and charity is taught at home (e.g) elder siblings sharing food with younger ones and taking care of grandparents

As breeding grounds for bias hierarchy, stereotypes

- ① Family transfers their intergenerational beliefs to children (e.g) hatred for Pakistan
- ② Promote stereotypical behaviours like women doing household works. On an average women spend 299<sup>min</sup> days of unpaid work while men 97 min/day. (Time use survey)
- ③ Reinforces biases in children minds (e.g) caste system - leading to continuation of social evil
- ④ Promote ' culture of compliance ' to authority even when they are wrong.
- ⑤ suppresses individualism.

However, apart from family, school, society and state also plays the role in shaping children.

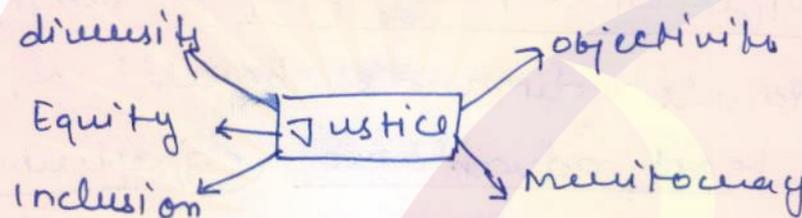
" It takes a village to raise the child " 99

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(b) Some argue that promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) may come at the cost of meritocracy and objectivity. How can public institutions balance these ethical considerations? (10 marks, 150 words)

<sup>66</sup> "In everyday decisions we come across values equally relevant and ends equally ultimate"  
- Isaiah Berlin.

We need to balance the various values of diversity, equity, inclusion with secular elements of meritocracy and objectivity.



Balancing can be done in following ways

② Comparative assessment by Amartya Sen. We need to see which value beings more justice (e.g) while dealing with welfare issues equity is important, while in administrative operation (lateral entry) merit is necessary.

② Utilitarian approach, we need to promote the happiness of highest numbers first (eg) objectivity overlooked individual diversity when lockdown was imposed during COVID19.

③ Human dignity in alignment with Kantian ethics (eg) Providing chair for disabled in Metro

④ Difference principle of John Rawls demands benefit of the least advantaged (eg) affirmative action for socially and educational backward (Aunties) in Indian constitution.

⑤ Context based decision making. (eg) If a nation has large scale inequality, inclusive growth must be prioritised.

"Values are anchors that guide the soul", one must know which is relevant for the human being.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

3. What does the quote mean to you?

(a) "Glory lies in the attempt to reach one's goal and not in reaching it."-Gandhi.

(10 marks, 150 words)

The quote shows the significance of making an effort irrespective of its outcome. It gives value to 'action'.

## Implication

- ① significance of Means over end, following a rightful means and process is more important.  
e.g. Nishkama kama, detachment of work from ends (Mahabharat)
- ② The value of Pursuit than the goal. Life is long journey and most of the time its the Path or our attempt (e.g.)  
Though 1857 struggle failed in achieving independence yet it laid the foundation.
- ③ Promoting simple living differ from modern possessive consumerism

Where more than possession  
the attempt to reach matters.

④ Reflects the necessity to understand  
that nothing is final, thus its  
important to focus on effort  
that recognition at the end.

⑤ Motivation to never limit  
oneself to one end but  
continue the struggle or the  
pursuit of well-being for all

(e.g) step jobs falling 98  
time before making

Apple.

In the present context,  
it implies, we must not get  
disillusioned by well created  
climactic movements of someone

lines and crave for the  
'final' when the 'process'

engulfs our life and  
enriches it.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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(b) "No man should tolerate injustice, whether it be against himself or against another." - Jyotiba Phule  
(10 marks, 150 words)

The quote conveys the message to be just for all and have Courage to rebel against the injustice.

This statement implies that a just harmonious society can only be developed if justice is available to all and those <sup>who</sup> are <sup>not</sup> treated bad are equally outraged as those who are treated wrong.

Degradation of society happens when some people choose to remain silent (e.g) killing of six million jews by Nazi, as the Christians chose to remain silent.

In civil services, it shows that Courage of conviction is essential to

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to fight for oneself and for the public (e.g) Sarjeev Chaturvedi, Satendranath Dubey, Ashok Khumka.

'speaking up' and taking action is more important as 'inaction' also leads to same injustice (e.g) S.C Gupta, though man of integrity, yet he was imprisoned in coal scam as he failed to 'act' in public interest.

Thus,

"Thou may be a victim,  
thou may be a perpetrator  
but should never be  
a bystander"

Yehuda Bauer

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(c) "Work is worship, but laughter is life. Anyone who takes life too seriously must prepare himself for a miserable existence. Anyone who greets joys and sorrows with equal facility can really get the best of life." Sardar Patel.

(10 marks, 150 words)

The quote conveys the importance of living a 'balanced' life and not investing too much in one aspect of life.

When we take life too seriously

① Result-oriented mindset, often focus on the outcome, a positive result makes him excessively joyous but negative dumps them into spiral of sadness.

② lack of emotional intelligence, we need to regulate and manage all emotions, seriousness will make us ever worrying and rigid

(e.g) a child studying 12 hours may deprive himself of social skills

③ Sensitivity to bad events like a bad result, fight or

event will demotivate us and send us in the voyage of overthinking (e.g) overthinking on getting low marks.

Need for balance

(4) Attitude of acceptance of whatever comes is important (e.g) Raja Ravi Chandra was ready to work as gate keeper.

(5) Adaptable to changing times. A happy moment and sad moment do not define our personality.

(6) Willing to enjoy and improve than achieve or perish.

“Tell yourself today, whether be a storm or pleasant breeze, take every touch with ease”

Rabindra Nath Tagore

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

4. (a) How does the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 seek to restore the ethical and holistic purpose of education beyond mere employability? Reflect on the ethical significance of this shift. (10 marks, 150 words)

National education policy 2020 is based on five pillars of equity, inclusivity, accountability, equality and innovation.

It takes a shift and focuses beyond mere employability

② Holistic development of student it promotes Panchkosh tradition of India that promote cognitive, moral, intellectual, physical and emotional development

③ Promotes critical thinking, enables understanding (e.g) Bal Varikas in KVs, teachers, children through Play before they enter school.

③ Primacy to students well-being Provision of no-bag day

④ Broadens child's thinking and engage them in craft in line with Gandian Nai Talim (eg) Cutting, mentored and internship from subject and industry experts.

⑤ Promotes inclusivity and flexibility by allowing multiple exit and entry at higher education benefiting the women in particular.

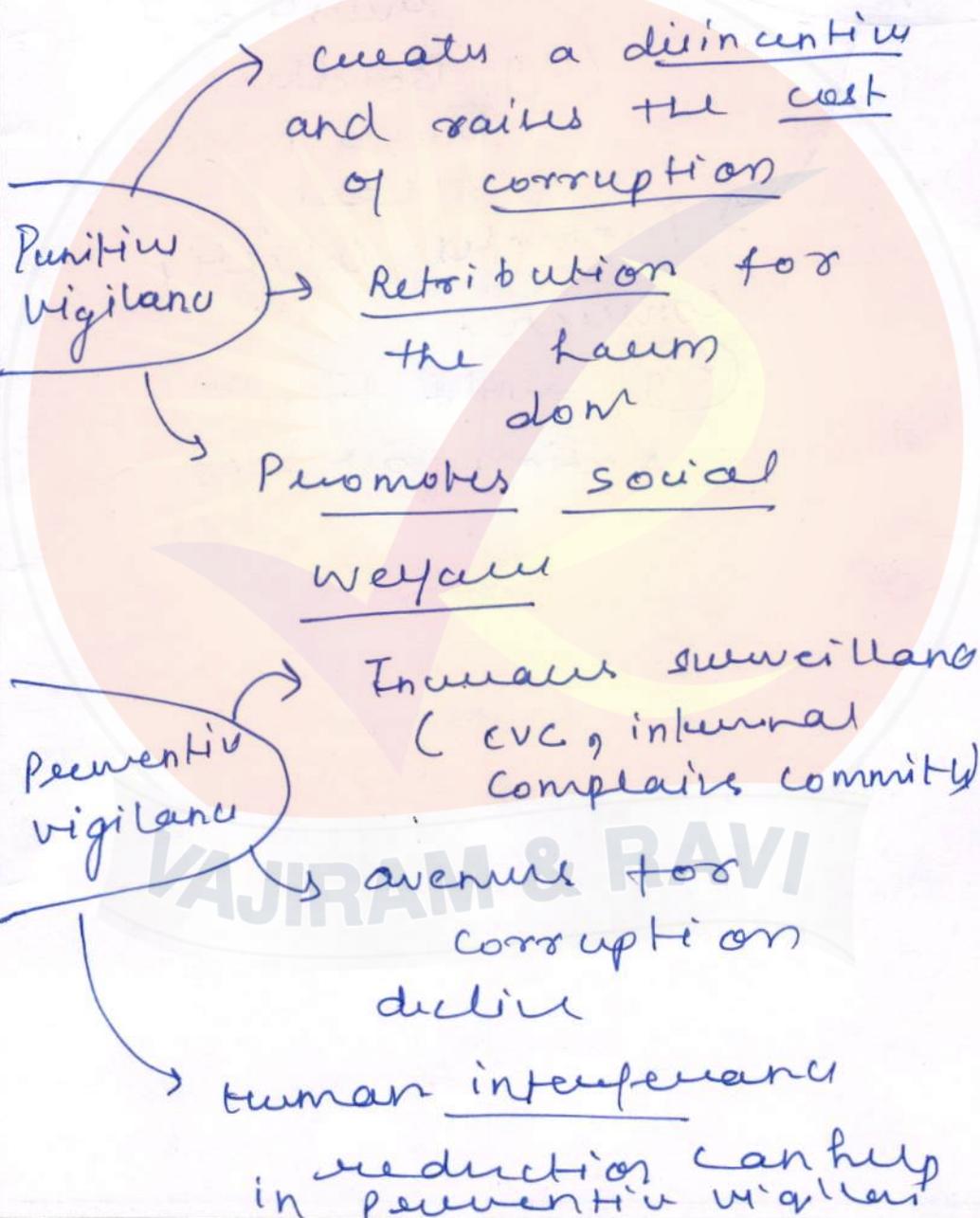
Thus, NEP-2020 has been rooted in idea of making education a life-long learning process.

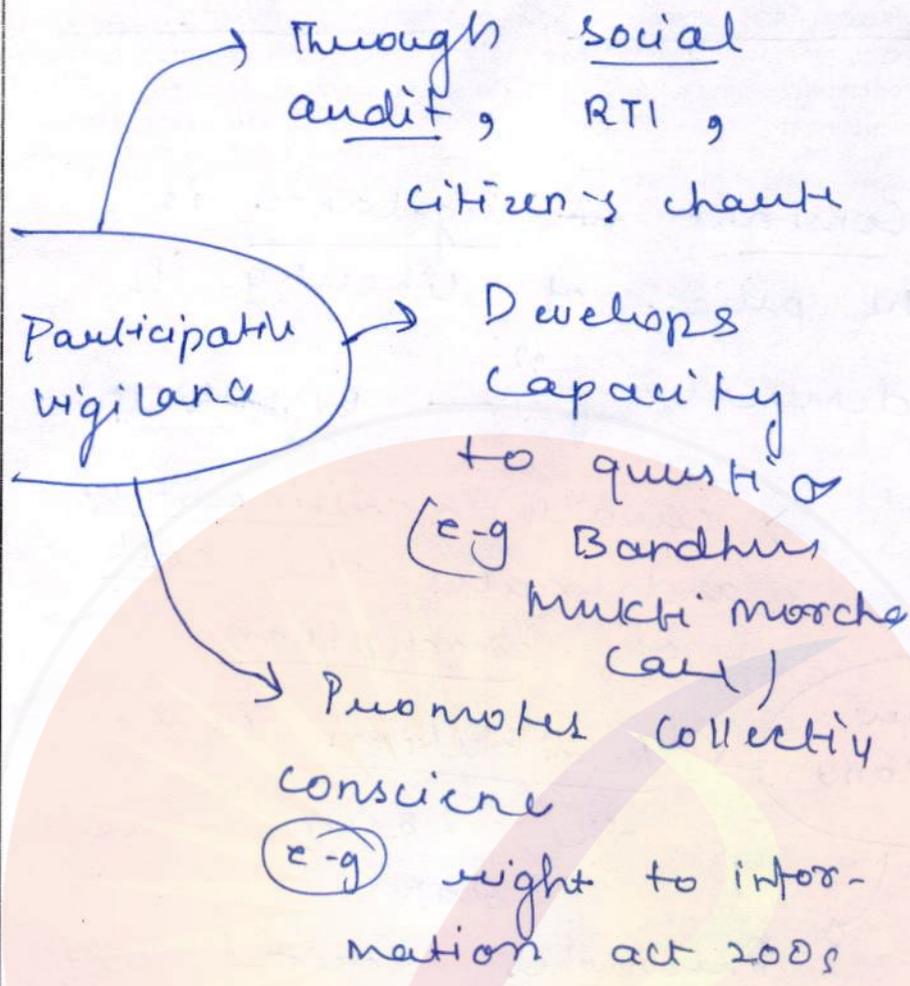
Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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(b) Punitive vigilance deters corruption, preventive vigilance reduces opportunities for corruption while participative vigilance fosters a culture of transparency and accountability, eliminating the root cause of corruption. Critically examine this statement with relevant examples (10 marks, 150 words)

"Constant vigilance is the price of liberty in democracy" — W. Phillips





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Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

5. (a) "The separation of private and public ethics is not only difficult but may also be counterproductive." Do you agree with this view? Justify your stance with logical arguments and examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ethics refers to set of standards that determines ideal behaviour. Public and private ethics are always separated.

Reason for separation

① Purpose is different, Public deals with Public welfare while private individual well-being (e.g) Police man on duty vs Police man off-duty.

② Discretion to persons to self-regarding action that does not harm others. (Harm Principle of J.S. Mill) Promote autonomy.

Need for unity of Public and Private ethics

③ There is no clear boundary. Feminist call for Personal is political to highlight the issue of women.

④ When Private ethics contradict public ethics crimes take place (eg) killing someone as revenge for their wrong doing.

⑤ Harmony is essential for personal growth.

Thus, "an ideal human can be an ideal citizen"<sup>99</sup>

- Plato

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(b) Ethical competence is as essential as technical competence in public service. Examine the statement with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ethical and technical competence both are essential to ensure work with ethics (Gandhi) in public services.

Technical competence without ethical competence

(1) Dehumanises governance.

(e.g.) denying ration to girl due to lack of ID card, who later die

(2) Unresponsive tick-box mentality in service

delivery (e.g.) a minor rape victim die in AIM due to procedural complacency delay

③ Promotes Corruption  
(e.g) Pooja singhal  
Case.

With ethical computers

④ Compassion at  
governance (e.g)  
'fund your city' project  
by Smita Sabanna.

⑤ Integrity and  
primacy of transparency  
(e.g) E-shudhanu  
the 'metro man'

Thus, Both leads  
to sustainability and  
well-being oriented

governance

6. (a) A well-developed conscience is the foundation of ethical governance." Discuss with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

60 In the matter of conscience, majority has no role"  
— Mahatma Gandhi.

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Conscience as foundation

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of ethical governance  
↳ counter political pressure (e.g)

Ashok Kherkar

↳ help in whistle blowing (e.g) Edward

Snowden

↳ managing influence

(e.g) young officers not getting influence by

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by Power politics  
↳ Acts as anchor when  
the rules are vague

Challenge → conscience may  
support stereotypes  
(e.g) officer  
supporting  
hooligans in  
Nehru's room

↳ may support  
embedded conditioning  
(e.g) woman commissioner  
chairman criticising  
Shant deuss et c

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Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(b) Is it ethically defensible to pursue global prestige through space missions while everyday injustices like hunger or women's safety remain unresolved? Discuss the role of ethical governance in managing such trade-offs.

(10 marks, 150 words)

While space missions are essential for global prestige, they also provide public services

(1) location services to farmers & fishermen

(e-g) Navic

(2) monitor crop production

(e-g) Fasal bi'ma

uses such services

(3) provide <sup>weather</sup> ~~weather~~ forecast to

(Don't write anything in this part)

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cultivation

(4) help women send  
this live location  
to families.

This trade-off  
can be achieved  
by balancing such  
social benefits will  
need for restitution

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Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

## Section B

7. Priya, an assistant accounts manager at a city-based private educational trust that runs several low-fee schools for underprivileged children, has always been known for her integrity and diligence. One day, she learns that her close colleague and friend, Arjun, a sincere employee and a widower struggling to raise his two young daughters alone, has been facing a harrowing situation. Arjun's younger child was diagnosed with a severe brain condition requiring urgent surgery costing nearly Rs. 70 lakh. With no health insurance, little savings, and no family support to fall back on, Arjun was on the verge of losing hope. Priya wanted to help, but her own financial situation, with elderly dependent parents and modest savings, left her helpless and burdened with guilt for not being able to stand by her friend in his time of dire need.

A few weeks later, when Priya visits Arjun to check on his situation, she is relieved to see his child recovering well. In a quiet conversation, Arjun reveals that their senior administrator, Mr. Kulkarni, known for his kind but discreet ways, had quietly arranged Rs. 70 lakh from an old scholarship fund that had been lying unused for years. He did so on the condition that Arjun would repay the sum slowly through deductions from his salary, without anyone else finding out. Grateful but uneasy, Arjun confides that Mr. Kulkarni has helped other staff members in similar personal emergencies in the past, using small dormant funds without formal approvals, to prevent suffering and distress among the staff who often have no safety net.

A few days later, while finalizing quarterly accounts, Priya overhears a conversation in the accounts office that an external audit of all scholarship and welfare funds is scheduled for next month. She realizes that this means the unauthorized diversions might come to light. Priya deeply sympathizes with Arjun's situation and admires Mr. Kulkarni's humane intentions, but she also knows that misusing designated funds, however noble the cause, violates trust, policy, and legal norms. If discovered, it could lead to severe consequences for Mr. Kulkarni, jeopardize the trust's reputation, and even risk the schools' funding.

- (a) Identify the key ethical dilemmas faced by Priya in this situation.  
(b) Discuss the ethical dimensions of Mr. Kulkarni's actions. Do you think his conduct can be justified? Give reasons for your answer.  
(b) What are the options available to Priya at this point? Analyze the merits and demerits of each option. (20 marks, 250 words)

“ Means and ends are the two sides of the same coin. Whatever an inspiring end can be it can never justify illegal means ”

The case study highlights the issue of diversion of dormant fund 'meant' for underprivileged section being diverted as Compassion to needy employers'

- ① Key ethical dilemmas for Priya
- ② Compassion Vs Rules, Rules demands exposing the diversion while Compassion for Arjun demands silence.
- ③ Short-term convenience Vs long term consequence, a current diversion for right end may <sup>used to</sup> be justified a future diversion for bad end
- ④ Rights Vs Needs underprivileged children have right over the funds allocated in their name while Arjun had Compelling necessity.

(A) Professional ethics vs Personal bonds professional ethics demand disclosure if she has the knowledge while personal bond require loyalty and not betray trust of Arjun.

(B) Kulkarni's action can be analysed in following manner.

(1) Legal dimension

↳ It is illegal diversion of funds that do harm.

↳ Violate the public welfare function of charitable institution

↳ Violate the trust of those who provide funding in the name of children

(2) Ethical dimension

Justifiable

↳ As it was in response to

his compassion for Rajan and other employees

↳ They will repay the money gradually

↳ The money was anyway remaining idle, thus putting it into use is ethical.

Not justified

↳ Sets up wrong precedence, this event can be used to justify future corruption

↳ Kantian Categorical imperative demands that an action to be ethical, needs universal application

↳ An external audit will lead to consequences for the employees and goodwill of the organisation will decline, impacting the future of children dependent on it

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(E) options available

(I) As an assistant account manager forge the document to hide any diversion.

### Merit

- saves organisational reputation
- Protects arjun & employe
- Promotes compassion

### Demerit

- harms profession at ethic
- sets bad precedent
- harms children rights

(II) Show the accounts as it is and let the external auditor determine.

### merit

- legally right
- Professional integrity

### Demerit

- consequence for Arjun & other employe
- or bad image of the organisation

(III) Show the diversion but reveal complete information about the condition of employe and recommends an apology and immedi- at repayment of money. It is ethically right and legally relevant.

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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8. Rajesh is a dedicated and upright IAS officer who has recently been posted as the Commissioner of a major city's Municipal Corporation after serving diligently in various assignments for over a decade. This is his fifth transfer in four years, mostly due to his refusal to bend rules for influential people. His colleagues admire his integrity, discipline, and commitment to public service.

The mayor of the city, a senior leader of the ruling party, holds significant power over the corporation's functioning. Rajesh soon learns about several dubious tenders and large-scale irregularities in awarding contracts for the city's solid waste management project. He notices that payments have been hastily cleared to companies with questionable credentials, despite glaring deficiencies in their work.

One day, a senior councillor belonging to a rival political party approaches Rajesh and shares a set of audio recordings and internal emails that purportedly show the mayor asking for kickbacks from contractors in exchange for lucrative garbage collection contracts. Rajesh also recalls the same contractors' payments being pushed through under the mayor's orders, bypassing due process.

When Rajesh asks the Councillor why he doesn't bring this evidence to the media or the anti-corruption bureau himself, the Councillor shrugs it off, hinting that his hands are tied politically but Rajesh can "earn a hero's image" by blowing the whistle. He subtly promises that if his party comes to power in the upcoming municipal elections, Rajesh's loyalty will be rewarded with an important posting and career security.

Meanwhile, local media has started sniffing around the irregularities, and Rajesh's silence could make him appear complicit. His own staff is divided; some urge him to maintain the status quo for personal safety, while a few junior officers privately want him to act boldly and clean up the system. Adding to his dilemma, Rajesh's elderly parents are dependent on him, and another sudden transfer could make their care difficult.

- (a) Identify the key ethical dilemmas faced by Rajesh in this situation.
  - (b) What are the options available to Rajesh to deal with the situation? Evaluate each option with its merits and demerits.
  - (c) In the context of this case, discuss the ethical challenges of whistleblowing for public servants in India.
  - (d) What institutional reforms can strengthen ethical conduct and protect honest officers?
- (20 marks, 250 words)

*66* "Courage is not absence of fear but triumph over it"  
- Nelson Mandela

(A) Ethical dilemmas faced by Rajesh

(1) Personal safety vs Professional ethics his repeated transfers has destabilised his and his parents life while professional ethics demands whistleblowing.

(2) Public service motive vs Perception of Neutrality his disclosure of information may lead to media perception of his affiliation with rival party.

(3) Procedural integrity vs long term consequences It is essential to have fair procedure for contract allocation yet its compliance will lead to public disorder.

(B) options available

(1) Stay silent and protect his job and parents safety

<p><u>Merit</u></p> <p>→ harms professional integrity</p> <p>→ media portraying him as <u>complicit</u></p>	}	<p><u>Demerit</u></p> <p>→ Professional Stability</p> <p>→ short term Public order</p>
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(II) Contact the Mayor and convey his inconveniences regarding the manner contract is allocated. If he refuses to hear, gather the evidences under his own means and submit it to state vigilance commission

<p><u>Merit</u></p> <p>→ Intact Professional ethics</p> <p>→ Pseudoclinical integrity</p> <p>→ Public welfare</p>	}	<p><u>Demerit</u></p> <p>→ may get transfer</p> <p>→ Suffering to the elderly Patients</p>
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(III) Publish the recording given by councillor in media

<p><u>Merit</u></p> <p>→ Being irregularities</p>	}	<p><u>Demerit</u></p> <p>→ Impact <u>neutrality</u></p>
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in public glass  
→ Promotes accountability of Mayor

→ may get disfavoured from Mayor's Party  
→ Public upsurge

(C) Whistleblowing, having been given legal protection yet it suffers from challenges

Legal issues

① Anonymous complains are not allowed

② If complain found out to be frivolous, the complainant suffers.

③ no operationalisation of whistleblowing act 2013.

Ethical challenges

④ Job safety, (e.g) Ashok Khemka has been transferred now three 40 times

⑤ Life and livelihood, death of whistleblower is common (e.g)

Satyendra Nath Dubey

- ⑥ Threat to family life
- ⑦ Institutional reforms
- ⑧ Strengthening anti-corruption agencies  
lok pal → CIC  
          → CBI  
          → CVC
- ⑨ Operationalising whistleblowing act 2013
- ⑩ Incentivising officers bringing out the irregularities
- ⑪ Protection and Safety of whistleblower
- ⑫ Constitution of Civil Service Commission like United Kingdom to monitor ethical conduct
- ⑬ make permanent executive independent of Political interference (Prakash Singh Judgement)

"A true leader is known not when he is in position of comfort but when he is in position of crisis"

Introduction	
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Conclusion	
Presentation	
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## VAJIRAM & RAVI

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9. Neha, an IAS officer, is serving as the District Magistrate (DM) of a bustling metropolitan district. Among her wide-ranging responsibilities, she also oversees the functioning of the Municipal Sanitation Department, which employs hundreds of sanitation workers, drivers, and daily wage laborers responsible for keeping the city clean and waste-free.

One morning, a disturbing case landed on Neha's desk. Rajiv, a municipal garbage truck driver, died following a violent street altercation while on duty. On that day, Rajiv was driving his garbage collection truck through a crowded market street. He got into a heated argument with a street vendor who had encroached upon the road, obstructing the truck's passage. Eyewitness reports and CCTV footage revealed that Rajiv, known for his short temper, started the verbal abuse, which escalated into a physical fight. Despite bystanders trying to intervene, the scuffle turned bloody. Both Rajiv and the vendor were hospitalized with serious injuries. Rajiv succumbed to a head injury later that night, while the vendor survived.

A police investigation and the Municipal Sanitation Department's inquiry confirmed that Rajiv's death resulted from his own misconduct and violent behavior while on duty. A post-mortem report further revealed that Rajiv had consumed alcohol while on duty and was under the influence at the time of the altercation, which is a clear violation of service rules that strictly prohibit drinking during work hours, especially for drivers operating municipal vehicles.

According to the department's standing rules, extra ex-gratia compensation and family employment are given only in cases of death caused by workplace accidents or occupational hazards, not deaths resulting from personal fights, gross misconduct, or negligence such as working under the influence of alcohol.

However, Rajiv's death left behind a dependent family: his elderly parents, his wife, and two children, one in college, the other in high school. His wife and children, shattered by his sudden death, argue that Rajiv died during duty hours and the family must not be punished for his mistake. The Sanitation Workers' Union has taken up the issue aggressively, demanding the same full ex-gratia compensation that is given to other drivers who die on duty, plus a permanent government job for Rajiv's elder son.

When the department refused, citing the clear rule violation, the union declared an indefinite strike, bringing garbage collection to a standstill. The strike has now entered its tenth day, and the city's streets are overflowing with waste, creating serious health and public order concerns. Neha is under pressure to resolve the crisis while balancing legal norms, humanitarian concerns, and public interest.

- (a) Evaluate each option with its merits and demerits available to Neha.
- (b) If you were in Neha's position, what decision would you take? Justify your decision with appropriate ethical reasoning and principles.
- (c) What steps can Neha take to prevent similar incidents and ethical conflicts in the future in the Municipal Sanitation Department?

(20 marks, 250 words)

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

"Humans are sentient and rational Beings" Descartes

- (a) Options available are
- (I) In line with police investigation refuse to give compensation

## Merit

- ↳ Procedural integrity
- ↳ Prevent drink and drive behaviour

## De-merit

- ↳ Suffering to Rajiv's family
- ↳ continued strike

- (II) Bring force and pressure on the union to stop strike

## Merit

- ↳ Resumption of garbage collection
- ↳ Procedural integrity

## De-merit

- ↳ Unresponsive governance
- ↳ can lead to further chaos

- (III) converse with union and arrive at mutually agreed solution.

## Merit

- ↳ resumption of waste collection
- ↳ Compassionate governance.

## Demerit

- ↳ might give in to Union demands
- ↳ Promote drink & drug

④ # My action would be guided

by Aristotelian middle path  
and utilitarian ethics

↳ I will converse with the Union

↳ Try to make them understand using Persuasive leadership about the bad consequences of piling up garbage and health consequences. make them resume the garbage collection work.

↳ Receive at middle path that involves appeasement

Compensation to Rajiv's family in compassion to the service he provided.

ethical reasoning

- ↳ There is need to think for happiness of larger number and need for resumption of work
- ↳ Compassion towards the family is needed to build trust in government

(c) Steps taken

Structural

- ↳ Implement strict rules for road transportation among workers
- ↳ Proper monitoring of worker conduct through

monitoring cell

Non-structured

↳ Promote long-term Maha-  
mukta campaign in the city

↳ Generate awareness around healthy and safe driving

↳ Include counselling for  
workers as overburdened  
and stressed often make  
them short temper and  
vulnerable to addiction

“ Law can not be administered  
without justice and justice  
can not be implemented  
without compassion ”

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

10. Aarav was a young man in his early twenties, working as a promising IAS officer recently posted in a prominent district. His family, well-respected and influential in their community, arranged his marriage to Priya, a bright and educated young woman from a nearby town. The marriage was celebrated lavishly, with local leaders, senior bureaucrats, and influential people attending the grand ceremony. To the outside world, Aarav and Priya seemed like an ideal couple.

However, behind closed doors, Aarav's parents soon began demanding additional dowry shortly after the wedding. Despite their respectable social standing and Aarav's prestigious position in government service, they were never satisfied with what Priya's family had given at the time of marriage. They repeatedly reminded Priya of the 'promised gifts' that they claimed were incomplete: a new car, more gold jewelry, and financial help to buy an upscale apartment in the city.

Aarav, caught between his duty as a husband and his deep-seated conditioning to obey and please his parents, often tried to mediate but rarely stood up firmly for Priya. He rationalized that as an officer entrusted with maintaining law and order in society, he should avoid any scandal that could tarnish his family's reputation and his own career prospects. He was raised to believe that family honor and parental wishes were paramount.

Meanwhile, Priya bore the brunt of daily taunts, subtle threats, and constant emotional harassment. Her mother-in-law would belittle her for "bringing shame" to their family by not fulfilling her family's so-called promises. Whenever Priya's parents visited, they were met with humiliation and veiled threats about sending Priya back if they did not arrange more money.

Fearing for their daughter's marriage and social standing, Priya's father sold part of his ancestral land to provide additional cash and jewelry. But the demands never stopped. Aarav, though fully aware of the injustice and the fact that dowry harassment was illegal under Indian law chose silence over confrontation, convincing himself that confronting his parents would shatter family harmony and invite public shame.

As the pressure mounted, Priya's mental health deteriorated. She grew withdrawn and anxious, confiding in her parents about the relentless harassment but begging them not to take any legal action. She feared social stigma, public scandal, and the impact it might have on Aarav's reputation and career. Aarav, meanwhile, continued to live with the moral conflict between his role as an upholder of the law and his inability to protect his own wife from a crime happening within his own household.

- (a) Discuss the ethical dilemmas faced by Aarav in this scenario.
- (b) Suggest institutional and social mechanisms that can prevent dowry harassment cases like this and support victims who fear social stigma if they take legal action.
- (c) Examine how social conditioning and family honor often influence ethical decision-making in Indian families.

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case study highlights the conflict between the traditional values, obedience to Parents and the need for Progress and justice.

(d) Ethical dilemmas

(1) Professional stability vs Personal ethics if he shows compassion with wife, the highlights of dowry may tarnish his image

(2) Upbringing vs Conscience his upbringing has made him believe in evil and see evil yet he feels unsettled in conscience

(3) Husband vs Son he has to choose between a obedient son and responsible

husband.

① Institutional mechanism

② Dowry act, that penalises taking dowry, or even giving dowry

③ Domestic violence act 2008, prevent mental, physical and emotional harassment of spouse.

④ women helpline number

Social mechanism

⑤ women one-stop-center that support victims of violence.

⑥ Mission Shakti has sub-schemes projects

Sambharya and Samantya  
that empowers women

(6) self-help-group, financial supports victims and provide skill training

(7) NGOs like 'Sakhi' work to prevent dowry case and generate awareness.

(8) Indian families often promotes - culture of compliance and ingrained behaviours, that are difficult to break away.

↳ family honour is given primacy over

individual liberty and expression.

↳ son - meta Preference,  
Caste system all these are given priority even in high profile families,

↳ Even education can not modify this conditioning that numbs an individual towards pain of his own wife.

There is need of deep and comprehensive campaign to break this conditioning.

"We cannot have gender equality unless we have couple's equity"  
- Claudia Goldin

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

11. After an unexpected breach in a major dam upstream, the district of Neelgram has been hit by sudden flooding, which not only damaged standing crops but also contaminated most local water sources with silt and debris. Ananya, a young Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) recently transferred to Neelgram, has ordered emergency measures to ration and purify the remaining potable water and clamp down on illegal extraction of groundwater to ensure enough safe water for drinking and health camps. However, when her enforcement teams start sealing unauthorized borewells on farmland to prevent further depletion, a large group of distressed farmers storms her office, accusing her of double standards for ignoring the big bottled water companies and luxury housing societies on the town's outskirts that continue tapping deep aquifers around the clock under old permits allegedly renewed through bribes. The farmers claim they are being pushed to ruin just to keep swimming pools full and bottled water businesses profitable. Meanwhile, local hotels warn that shutting their supply will lead to layoffs of hundreds of daily-wage workers already reeling from the flood damage. Political leaders privately pressurize Ananya to avoid any action that might anger influential industrialists and real estate developers. To complicate matters further, she discovers some lower-rung officials have been pocketing hush money to overlook illegal borewells. With rural families queuing up for clean water tankers and local schools forced to close due to unsafe drinking water, Ananya must now grapple with the ethical dilemma of conserving critical water reserves, enforcing rules impartially, protecting poor farmers' livelihoods, resisting powerful vested interests, ensuring continued employment for daily-wage workers, and upholding public trust in the administration during a fragile recovery phase.

- (a) Identify and discuss the major ethical dilemmas faced by Ananya.
- (b) Briefly describe major laws or policies enacted by the Government of India to ensure sustainable water management.
- (c) Suggest a balanced course of action that Ananya can adopt to ensure equitable water distribution, prevent misuse of groundwater, protect vulnerable livelihoods, and restore public trust. **(20 marks, 250 words)**

“ Human safety is highest of all laws ”  
- Cicero .

## (a) Ethical dilemmas

① Procedural integrity vs Compassion she needs to clamp down unauthorised ~~boom~~ but this will hurt farmer's livelihood

② Short-term convenience vs long term consequence  
Allowing the unauthorised boom will result in further future call of flash flood.

③ Political duties vs Social welfare There is need to keep the industrialist accountable for water exploitation

## ⑥ Major Laws

- ↳ water act 1974
- ↳ environment protection act - 1986
- ↳ civil liability act

## Policies

- ↳ National water use Policy 2017
- ↳ water use policy

## Schemes

- ↳ watershed development mission
- ↳ Jal Jeevan Mission
- ↳ National mission for clean Ganga
- ↳ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

(c) Ananya's course of action must be guided by utilitarian principles discounted by  Gandhian Talisman of protecting the most marginalised

Course of action

↳ I will Persuade the firm to allow the closure for time being as flood is devastating

↳ Arrange portable drinking water tanks to the

villages

- ↳ Constituted a task force to investigate cause of water exploitation by big industrialist
- ↳ In long run promote sustainable water use and implement employment schemes (MGNREGS, NREGS, etc.) to promote livelihood security.
- ↳ In the happiness of people lies the happiness of king - Kautilya

Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(Don't write anything in this part)

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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12. Ritika Verma, the director of a reputed heritage conservation NGO that has spent over a decade protecting ancient monuments and ecologically sensitive cultural landscapes in the semi-arid region of Rajasthan.

Recently, the state government has unveiled a major Solar Energy Park Project spanning nearly 5,000 hectares of largely barren but historically significant desert land dotted with ancient stepwells (Baolis), medieval Caravanserai ruins, and sacred groves that are home to several endangered desert flora and fauna.

The project is expected to make the state a leader in renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions significantly, and provide green electricity to millions, aligning with India's national renewable energy goals and global climate commitments. It will also create thousands of direct and indirect jobs for local villagers, many of whom struggle with seasonal migration and poverty.

However, the proposed solar farm will require flattening sand dunes, restricting grazing land for pastoral communities, and potentially disturbing fragile micro-habitats that support unique desert biodiversity. Local communities are divided, some want the project for jobs and development, while others fear it will disrupt their traditional livelihoods, cultural heritage sites, and spiritual groves that hold deep cultural significance.

Adding to Ritika's dilemma, her NGO recently received significant donations from an international renewable energy foundation, the same foundation that has invested heavily in the Solar Park project. Her board expects her to balance environmental stewardship with a progressive stance on green energy. Meanwhile, local activists accuse the NGO of hypocrisy if it supports the project and betrayal if it opposes clean energy goals.

- (a) Identify and briefly discuss the key ethical issues involved in this case.
- (b) What options are available to Ritika? Critically analyze each option.
- (c) Suggest a course of action that Ritika should take in this situation. Justify your answer with suitable ethical principles and values.

(20 marks, 250 words)

“ Real development  
promote respect for  
both planet and  
people ”  
Ban ki' moon

- (1) Ethical issue
- (2) Environmental conservation
- (3) Protection of indigenous communities, their unique way of life
- (4) Employment and welfare of locals
- (5) Just energy transition
- (6) Conflict of interest for Ritika
- (7) Option analysis
- (8) Do not raise voice and accept the fund
- (9) Raise voice, support the local masses in their fight

(ii) Persuade the minister to accept the development of solar park.

Course of action

- ↳ Action should be guided by welfare of public and environmental ethics.
- ↳ Not accept the funding as it will lead to conflict of interest.
- ↳ Scientifically investigate the project and location.

(Don't write anything in this part)

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

and see if middle  
path can be followed  
that cause  
development with  
conservation  
(e.g) Eastern periphery  
expressway.

VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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Introduction	
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

# Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work



VAJIRAM & RAVI