

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES 2025

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

Evaluator Code:
Date of Assignment:
CQ:

NAME:

THOUSIF ULLA KHAN

Time allowed: 180 Minutes

ADMIN. NO.:

21VR33039

Email:

MOBILE NO.:

Submission
Date:

7 July 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 - 7:30 AM

End Time - 10:40 AM

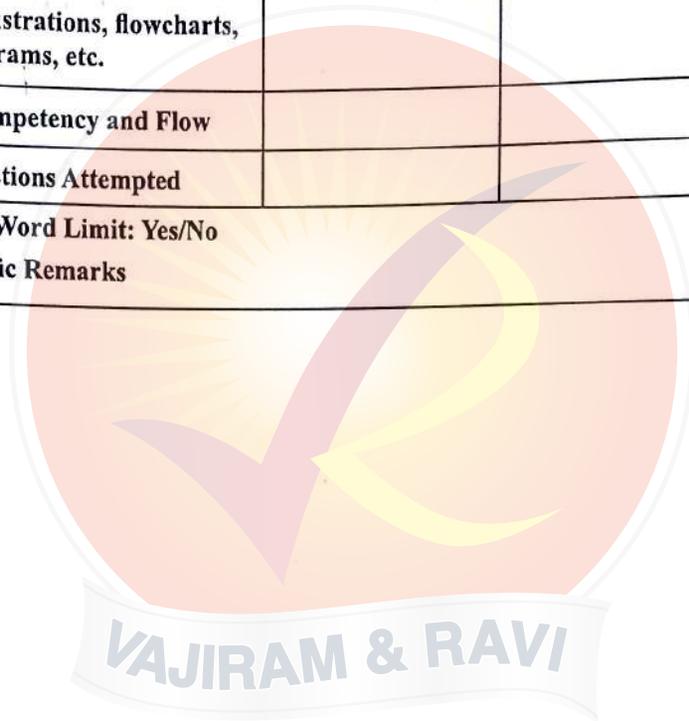
Mode of Examination

Online Offline

Receiving date -

Dispatch date -

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



Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



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

Section A

1. (a) "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 strict adherence to honesty and truthfulness even in the face of adversity.

Interdependence of these foundational values

① Integrity ensures uprightness in character of a civil servant.

eg: Satyendra Dubey exposed irregularities in highway projects, risking his life

② Integrity with impartiality ensures

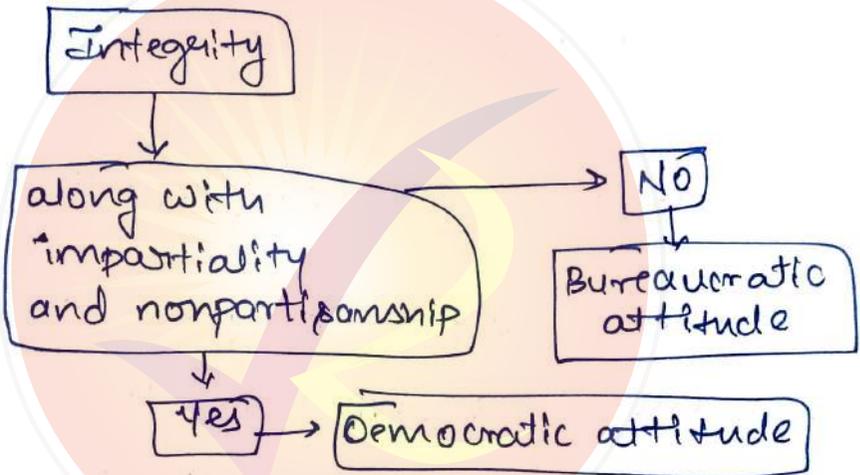
upholding principle of fairness and implementing policies objectively

eg: An impartial and upright civil servant does not discriminate beneficiaries of a welfare scheme.

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② Integrity along with non-partisanship ensures policy continuity without fear or favour.

(eg): IAS Rohini Sindhuri, worked for betterment of health services in Mandya, irrespective of party in power.



Hence above foundational values help civil servants to act in line plato's philosopher king Just and fair.

Students should not write anything inside the box	
Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
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(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)

Ethics is evaluation of human action from the point of view of its rightfulness or wrongfulness, in line with Aristotle's Nachhomechan ethics

Essence of ethics is the core principles that drive ethical behaviour.

Balance between individual autonomy and societal norms

① Ethics is customary morality, shapes & helps individual action in a society

② Moral intuition helps one to distinguish between right and wrong

③ Raja Ram Mohan Roy led fight against Sati to uphold individual autonomy

④ Moral reasoning enables one to stand with just, and ethical cause

eg: Gandhiji withdrew non-cooperation Movement post chauri chaura to ensure nonviolence in society.

4) Ethics helps one to imbibe learning of great leaders in personal life.

eg: Community kitchen by Sikhs during covid → driven by dana (charity)

↳ ensures community well-being.

5) Helps in inculcating mutual interdependence and collaboration to fight social evils.

eg: fosters communitarianism during reverse-migration.

Hence, essence of ethics helps in shaping and strengthening inner resolve and ethical values.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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 an inner-voice which guides an individual towards rational decision making.

Conscience - as universal moral compass

- ① Guides ethical-decisions by bringing inner morals into actions.
- ② Deviation from conscience results in knower-doer split (Dayanand Saraswati) - and thus helps moral compliance.
- ③ Conscience helps one to have positive attitude towards problems.

⇒ Whistleblowing against corrupt practices in an organisation. Conscience steers such action

Conscience - shaped by society & upbringing

① Parents inculcate values and morals in children → can help children to adopt new perspectives.

② School through curricular and extra-curricular activities - fosters values of togetherness, fraternity → shapes conscience along moral lines.

③ Society through friends, religion guides inner-values through sense of group belonging.

~~eg~~: Drinking alcohol is a norm in western countries, while it is prohibited in middle east

Thus, conscience is both absolute & relative, shaped by external factors

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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)

Ethics and its principles from ancient Indian philosophy helps civil servants in practising and imbibing lessons from great leaders.

It helps in balancing development with ecological sustainability in following way:

- ① Kautilya's Arthashastra gives idea of Yogakshema - king (civil servant) should work for welfare of its Subjects (public)
- ② Rigveda's principle of Rita - respecting all forms of life - which includes environment.
(eg): Environment Impact Assessment.
- ③ Sufi ideals like oneness of being - ensures living in harmony with

nature.

(eg) :- sustainable development.

(4) Guru Nanak's idea of ending discrimination helps us to respect tribal form of living.

(eg) :- Forest Rights Act 2006 provides land and community rights to tribal community.

(5) Bhakti principle of communitarianism mobilises community action for environment friendly development

(eg) :- MGNREGA - Constructing checkdams to prevent floods

Thus, Indian philosophical ideals acts as moral compass to further green development.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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. B. R. Ambedkar in above quote stresses on importance of cultivating not only hand and heart but also mind.

Cultivation of mind as ultimate aim of human existence

- ① Inculcates positive values in an individual like selflessness, moral character.
- ② It provides framework for ethical - decision making
- ③ Acts as inner-compass to distinguish between right and wrong
- ④ Imparts broader view of life — and

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instills community values like mutual interdependence

⑤ Helps one to not just be self-centred but have care towards others as well.

Ex: ① Saalumrada Thimmappa displayed selfless action in planting and nurturing trees.

② Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam through blend of knowledge and emotional intelligence was able to contribute to national building and inspire others.

Thus, as Vivekananda said, cultivation of heart, mind and hand helps one to develop upright character.

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

In the above quotation, Aristotle bring contrast between the mindset of a coward and a rash man, to reflect upon their inner values.

Coward calls brave man rash

Coward is the one who is fearful to take bold steps in life.

As a result he is driven by ego and selfish against brave - who expresses moral courage even during adversity. Thus he calls brave to be rash - or the one who has reactive outlook.

eg: Pakistan accuses India (brave) as rash (big brother in South Asia) - while India tries to maintain security of South Asia.

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Rash man calls brave a coward

Rash man is the one who is guided by lack of scientific evidence in action making. He is against competitiveness and usually try to establish an hegemon nature.

Thus accuses brave to be coward because of his reasoned and well-established actions.

Ex: USA accuses India of being protectionist while the USA itself is engaged in trade wars.

Thus it becomes vital for Rash and coward to have scientific and rational outlook of life.

Students should not write anything inside the box

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Suggestions:

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(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)

Beneficence is the act of kindness and doing good for others to alleviate their sufferings.

This quote can be understood chronologically as:

① An individual who is empathetic in outlook, develop strong sense of care for others' wellbeing.

(eg): Oskar Shindler - sold his entire fortune to save 1200 jews.

② A society which practices beneficence incorporates collegiality to help those who are vulnerable.

(eg): Akhaya Patra brings together like minded individuals to pool food to feed others.

③ A beneficent nation alleviates

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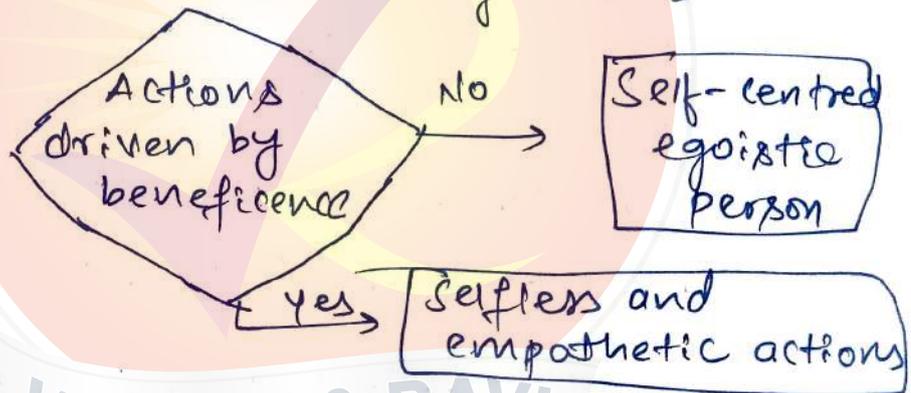
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Sufferings of others through shared historical understanding

eg: India's love for its neighbours despite indifferences. → gives development aid.

④ A leader who is just and selfless helps in uplifting his teammates.

eg: M.S. Dhoni's backing for his team even during losses



Thus, beneficence should be learnt as a core value of human life and ethos.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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"
↓
It is the ultimate equaliser, as it empowers even the most vulnerable; (or) can be used as an exploitative tool.

Positives of AI and data privacy

- ① Transparency in decision making.
- ② wider-reach of positive actions - in line with utilitarianism
- ③ Makes human lives simpler by adopting newer techniques.
- ④ Helps in creativity and innovation to solve ethical issues.

~~eg:~~ ① Bandicoot Robot — used to clean sewers

② Use of AI in repetitive tasks like care economy.

Ethical challenges

① Using data of individuals (as means) for profits (ends) - against Means-ends principles of Kant.

② Social exclusion as vulnerable sections suffer from lack of digital literacy

③ Amplify negative outcomes if treated with negative attitude.

④ Using AI for hacking → is against public ethics. → Ransomware attacks

⑤ Data leak in AIIMS, Delhi.

Thus, the use of AI should be driven by integrity, strong positive value education. A standard operating procedure can act as guide.

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Introduction
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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)

Laws, rules and procedures are enacted by competent authorities and enforced by public servants in public administration.

Essential in institutional functioning

- ① Binds officers to the set of codes and standards.
- ② Prevents deviant behaviours like dereliction of duty.
- ③ Ensures public service delivery and judicious use of public resources.
- ④ Helps one to follow bureaucratic procedures and practices in line with weberian ethics.

~~Text:~~ Rules binds civil servants to the organisational standards → awarding contract to lowest bidder.

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Rules and procedures are not substitute for ethical leadership as:

- ① It deters bureaucratic innovation and creativity.
- ② Ensures bureaucratic attitude but not democratic attitude
- ③ Deters one from exercising administrative discretion to practise 'supererogation' - Going beyond call of duty.
- ④: Helping victims of disaster requires more than just rules and need selflessness and fortitude.

Hence, rules and procedures must be integrated with ethical principles - in action making.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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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)

Apolitical refers to having equal respect and support to all parties, and not endorsing one particular party.

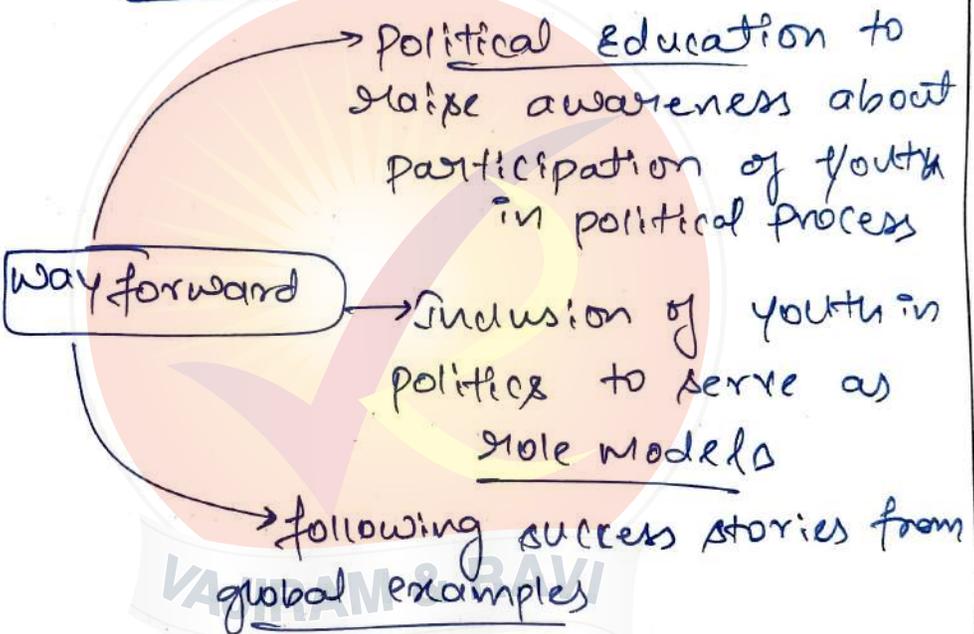
It is NOT ethically justified for youth to remain apolitical in today's dynamic political landscape.

Because of:

- ① Diffused accountability of the government to the public.
- ② May discourage youth to participate in political processes.
- ③ It may lead to stagnation in public service delivery and less scope for improvement.

④ It can give rise to 'free-rider' issue → in the form of appeasement politics

⑤ It can lead to wasteful use of public resources → violating fiscal prudence virtue



eg: Young Prime Minister of Thailand.
Hence, participation of youth is vital for vibrant democracy

Students should not write anything inside the box

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

Moral dilemmas refer to the inner-crisis faced by civil servants in choosing between two or more competent values.

Three moral dilemmas

① Personal responsibility to the family

⊗ professional responsibility to the public office.

(eg): A civil servant works late-night on a project at the cost of personal time.

② upholding integrity ⊗ following plain honesty.

(eg): In a tender process, K1 bidder has poor track record, K2 has good performance history.

following integrity → award to K2
following plain honesty → award to K1

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③ Bureaucratic attitude to follow rules and regulations ~~vs~~ democratic attitude to apply values in decision making.

(eg): Helping a destitute lady who lacks scheme documents but is eligible.

Bureaucratic Attitude — do not favour her

Democratic attitude — help her.

Framework to resolve them

① Code of ethics : need to be delineated and properly codified.

② Legal advice to gain diverse perspective in decision making

③ Delayed action can sometimes help overcome dilemma.

④ Peer support and taking help from seniors.

Hence, above framework can help overcome ethical dilemmas.

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)

Recently an Algerian boxer (transgender) eliminated a female Italian boxer in 2024 Paris Olympic in just 46 seconds.

This has raised debates about inclusion of transgender athletes in women's sports.

Ethical dimensions

- ① Respecting third gender should not violate the principle of fairness.
- ② objective DNA Tests and should explore possibility of 'transgender only' sports as contestants.
- ③ Both the genders (females and trans) are having unique

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(Don't write anything in this part)

and distinct strengths → hence their competition violates Equal protection of law - Article 14

④ foster inclusive sports - spaces by creating respective infrastructure and facilities

Hence, in sports - setting - fairness should be balanced alongside equity and inclusivity.

And no gender should be kept in discrimination at the benefit of other gender.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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(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 of simplicity, four noble-truths and eight-fold path guides public-servants in high-pressure governance environments.

Balancing personal well-being and professional responsibilities

- ① Mindfulness in decision-making and being present in the situation to avoid negative consequences.
- ② using right speech to reach out to the masses to diffuse tense situations.
(eg): using right speech in mob-lynching situation to persuade mobs.
- ③ Peaceful conflict resolution by involving all stakeholders

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④ Guided by love and wisdom to perform meritorious act (kusalkamma)

(eg): Showing compassion for a destitute farmer to avail scheme benefits.

⑤ Shunning greed and anger to avoid demeritorious act (akusalkamma)

(eg): Not favouring a particular interest



Hence Buddhist ideals help civil servants in strengthening moral integrity and professional competence

Students should not write anything inside the box	
Introduction	Suggestions:
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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)

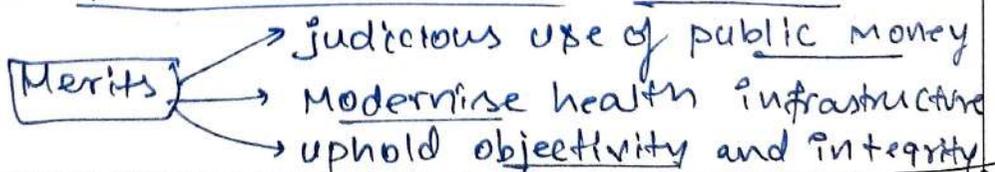
(a) Ethical Issues Involved :

- Responsiveness: Ravi is tasked with finalising awarding tender of procurement.

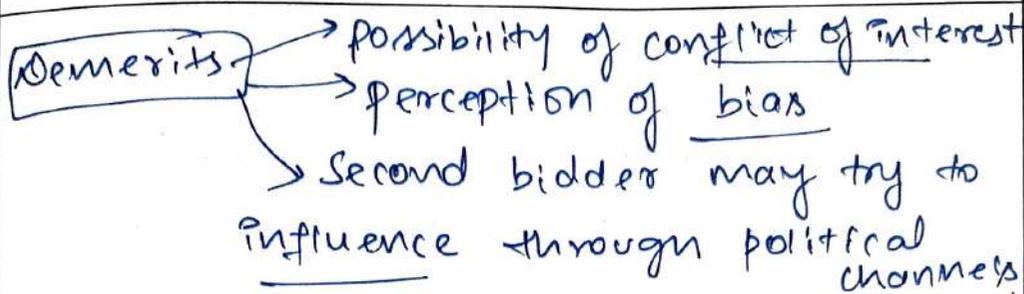
- ② Social justice: the tender would modernise health infrastructure and improve medical care services
- ③ Conflict of interest: as Ravi's daughter is part of Bidding company, which has good track record.
- ④ potential political nexus: Second bidder may deliver substandard results, as it has poor track record.
- ⑤ Corruption: Second bidder offers post-retirement benefits - it may cloud ethical judgement of Ravi.
- ⑥ Openness: Ensuring tender process is transparent to avoid negative public perception

(b) options and evaluation

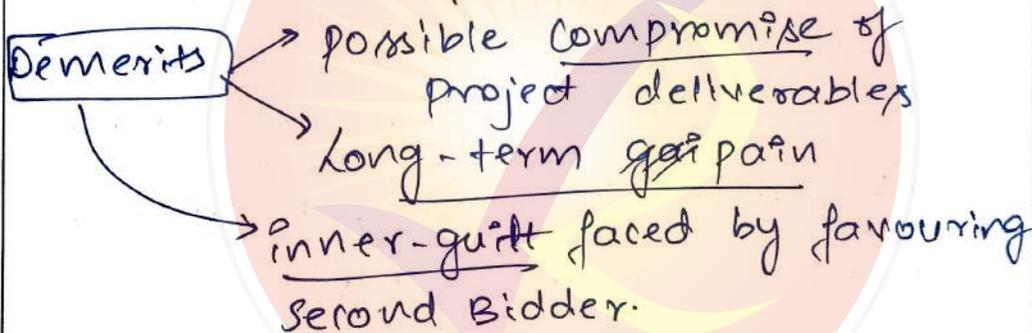
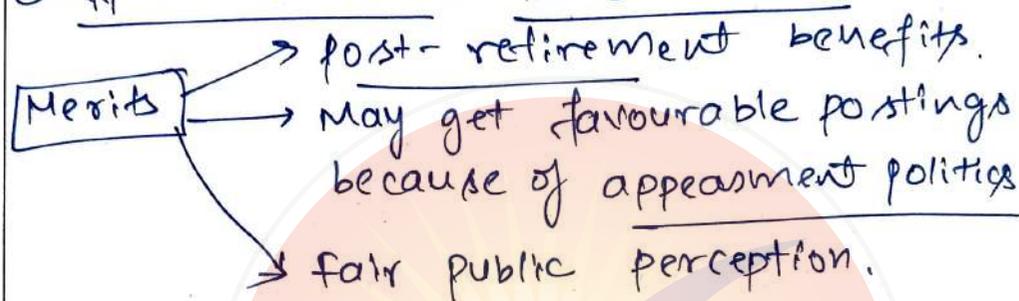
① offer the tender to L1-bidder



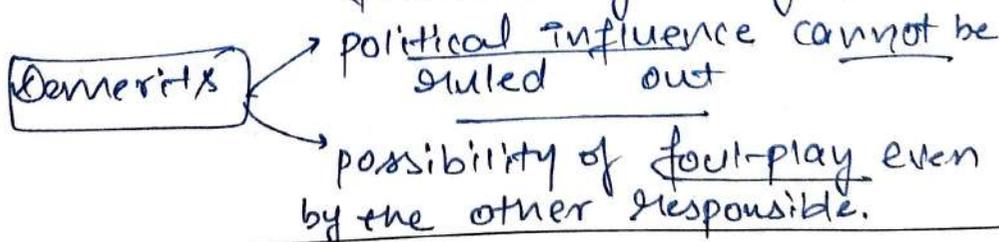
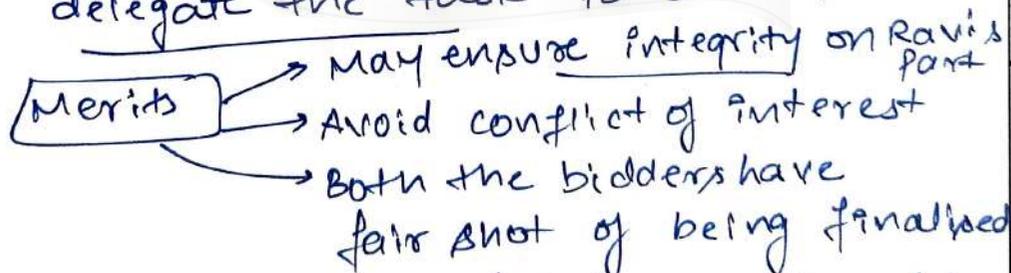
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② offer the tender to L2-Bidder.



③ Recusal from the position and delegate the task to others.



(c) Course of action

To uphold procedural propriety and public trust, Ravi should!

- ① Be transparent and disclose to the public about conflict of interest.
- ② Seek legal advice and help from peers and seniors, → in line with seniority principle of Confucius.
- ③ use discourse ethics to ensure discussion with all stakeholders before awarding tender.
- ④ If L1 bidder has good track record, then Ravi should award contract to L1 - upholding professional integrity.
- ⑤ Avoid political influence by persuading to the politician about not awarding contract to L2 - in public interest.

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(d) Ravi should manage competing pressures in following way

① Duty before self and demonstrating utmost dedication to service - Kantian Ethics

② Demonstrate holistic competence by integrating bureaucratic skills with foundational values.

③ Follow bureaucratic procedures uprightly as said by Weber

④ Use objectivity in rational decision making.

Moreover, Ravi should follow moral reasoning to uphold civil services values in awarding the tender.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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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)

(a) core ethical issues are

- ① Threat to human life and liberty - against Natural Right to life principle of John Locke
- ② Public service delivery is hindered leading to diffused public welfare

- ③ Distress and mental trauma → could deepen health of those affected.
- ④ Social exclusion and caste based discrimination violates Bhakti ideals
- ⑤ Political interference in misusing relief material violates the ideal of politics with principles.
- ⑥ Absence of involvement of those affected in decision making → against stakeholder ethics.
- ⑦ Dereliction of duty by officers to favour political bosses.
- ⑧ Biased media can fuel public anger and divert attention from ground realities.

(b) Immediate course of action

- ① Personally monitor the stationing of relief goods

- ② Involve local leaders in decision-making involving rehabilitation.
- ③ Hold errant officers accountable for derelicting their duty.
- ④ Approach local NGOs and civil groups to ensure last-mile delivery of relief aid.
- ⑤ Issue public notices to avoid negative bias of media and uphold public trust.
- ⑥ Deploy additional resources to ensure continuity of basic services.

(C) Managing political interference while upholding neutrality and inclusivity

- ① Influencing political leaders about their activities and use fear-

Psychosis of growing public distrust to change their attitude.

② Following a whole-of-government approach to avoid political influence.

③ Regularly meet local leaders and gain their trust and confidence → this furthers public accountability of politicians.

④ Appeal to the media to get their fact sheets about ground realities.

⑤ Seek subject matter experts advise to hold political class accountable.
(eg: use of Right to Information, Social audit etc.)

(d) Steps to maintain emotional balance and compassion

- ① using social skills like interdependence to ensure service continuation.
 - ② Motivating my team to nudge their behaviours positively
 - ③ upholding Sufi principle of oneness of being to promote collective strength of all stakeholders.
 - ④ Compassionate care ethics to ensure benefit of all sections (Carol Gilligan)
- Further, there is a need of standard operating procedure to deal with such kind of situations

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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.

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

(20 marks, 250 words)

② Core ethical dilemmas

① Environmental integrity of the biodiverse region ~~(vs)~~ Economic development for its growth

- ② Professional integrity to follow due process (vs) political pressure to fast-track approvals.
- ③ Just means (following due process and taking locals into confidence) for just ends (long-lasting development)
- ④ Procedural democracy to follow rules of awarding project fairly (vs) substantive democracy to consult all stakeholders and those affected.
- ⑤ potential nexus with rising corporate interests in the project

(b) Discussing options

① Granting approval for the projects

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(Don't write anything in this part)

Merits

- Prioritise National Security and Regional Growth
- Local development and jobs
- political appraisal and potential of favourable posting.

Demerits

- Undermines environmental ethics
- Acting along Self-preservation principle of Hobbes.
- long-term environmental damage & local resentment

② Withholding approval to protect local interest.

Merits

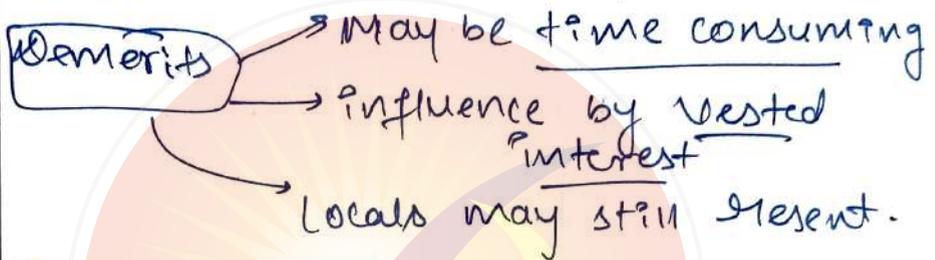
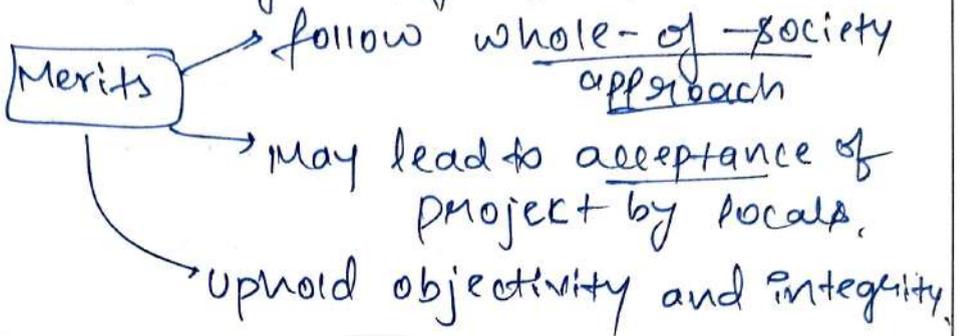
- Respects Rigvedic principle of Rita - protecting all forms of life
- Beneficial to the locals to develop in their own ingenuity.
- uphold environment trusteeship principle

Demerits

- endangers National Security and trade
- It may be transferred and some other may give approval

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② Legal advise and conducting studies before granting approval.



(c) steps I would take

① Order an environmental impact Assessment of the project along with public consultation.

② communicate study findings to the locals to gain their confidence.

③ persuade politicians regarding gaining public trust for long term success of the project.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

- ④ Awareness campaign to educate locals about project benefits
- ⑤ Following Aristotle's Ideal Mean to balance environment with develop-
-ment

④) Longterm policy and institutional reforms

- ① Standard operating procedures regarding granting approval.
- ② Involvement of locals in decision making.
- ③ Green projects to ensure environment sustainability.
- ④ Compensatory afforestation for the lost forest land.

Hence, above steps respect and solve issues of all stakeholders involved.

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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.

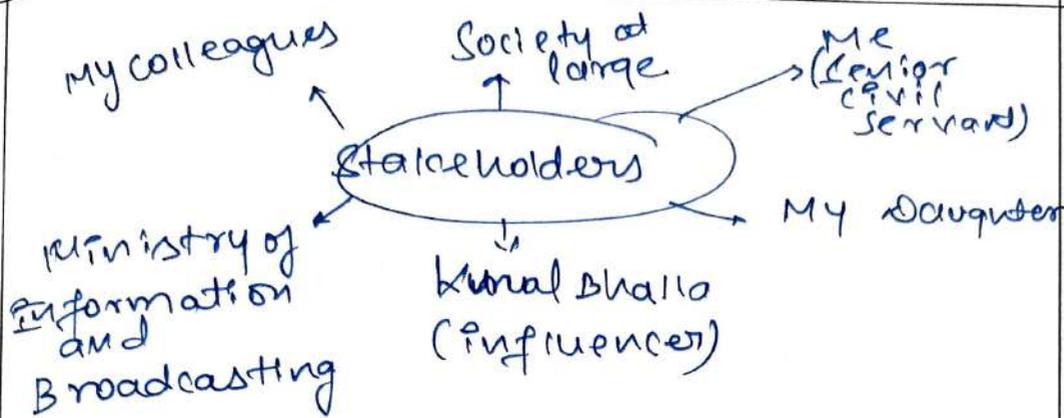
- What are the key ethical issues involved in the way "free thinking" is promoted by influencers on social media, especially for impressionable youth?
- What should be the role of public figures in responding to the misuse or distortion of influential platforms in the name of free expression?
- Suggest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

(20 marks, 250 words)

The given case is about the impact of social media in shaping views in youth. The objective is to balance freedom of expression and opinion, with self-restraint to avoid unethical consequences.

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① Ethical issues

- ① Freedom of speech of 17-year-old to express her opinion.
- ② Right of Social Media Influencer to express his views.
- ③ Balancing free-speech with self-restraint to respect public order (reasonable restriction)
- ④ Responsibility of social media to disseminate right knowledge.
- ⑤ Independent decision making of youth to shape their own opinions
- ⑥ Responsibility of parents to influence behaviour of minors (17 year old)

(b) Role of public figures

- ① Reasonable restrictions on misuse of social media to protect public order.
- ② Right of social media to self-declare about their channel.
→ promotes ethical choices by users
- ③ Use of laws, rules and regulations
(eg): IT Rules 2021 → social media platforms to appoint nodal and grievance redressal officers
- ④ public awareness campaigns to educate youth about free-speech and self-restraint
- ⑤ Withdrawal of safe-harbour clause for erring social media platforms if they disobey rules.

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- ⑥ Monitor funding sources of platforms
- ⑦ Encouraging social Media channels to be transparent in their operations.
- ↳ Making public the details of funds.

(c) policy framework (guidelines to balance responsible influencer content with intellectual freedom)

- ① Code of conduct and code of ethics for social media platforms
- ② Awareness and training to ensure compliance with the code.
- ③ Guidance channels to disseminate changes in policies.
- ④ Accountability of platform owners on the content posted on their channel.

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⑤ Monitoring of operations and funding sources to avoid promotion of vested interests

⑥ Review and feedback to report incidents of breach / excessive expression of freedom

(eg): Recent 'India's Got Talent' controversy.

⑦ Reward and punishment mechanism to promote ethical social media

(eg): Recently Prime Minister awarded best social media influencers.

Thus, social influencers should act in-line with plato's Authentic living, understanding their responsibility towards others.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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.

- Identify and discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.
- Critically examine the options available to Raghav in this situation.
- 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 involves the use of AI systems as a double-edged sword. While its benefits can be manifold, algorithmic biases can deepen prejudices and discrimination.

Stakeholders involved are

- Raghav, CTO of AI Company.

- ② Government - contract for improving policing and school infrastructure
- ③ Society at large
- ④ Foreign countries
- ⑤ public schools and police departments.

⑥ Environment.

(a) Ethical issues involved

① Social discrimination by falsely identifying tribals and minorities → against silchism principle of social justice

② Algorithmic bias can deepen societal cracks.

③ Environmental stewardship principle is threatened with 42% increase in emissions

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④ Privacy of individuals → using them as means for end (data) → against Gandhi's means-ends principles.

⑤ Surveillance can lead to Orwellian state → hindering liberty.

⑥ Options available to Roghan

① push ahead with deployment

Merits

- fast progress of project
- improve service standards in schools and police department
- benefit to his company.

Demerits

- against public ethics of fairness & inclusivity
- prioritising profits over public interest.

② halt the deployment and withdraw from contract

Merits

- Respecting rights of minorities and tribals.
- environment benefit with reduced emissions

Demerits → financial loss to the company
→ against business ethics and organisational rules.
→ short term gain

③ Pause and resolve concerns before deployment.

Merits → follow holistic competence
→ objective decision making by resolving issues
→ respecting rights of vulnerable

Demerits → can consume time
→ may lose contract.

(c) options which Raghav should choose

① Order internal inquiry to resolve ethical concerns.

② pilot projects rather than blanket deployment.

③ use pilot project results to

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(Don't write anything in this part)

decide further deployment.

- ④ Address algorithmic bias by making them inclusive and responsive.
- ⑤ Green energy (solar, wind) to offset environmental damage.
- ⑥ Compensatory afforestation and use of carbon / green credits to address rising emissions

Moreover, Raghav should uphold and balance professional responsibility with moral integrity to ensure long-term success of the project - in line with Socratic ideal man.

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Suggestions:

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.

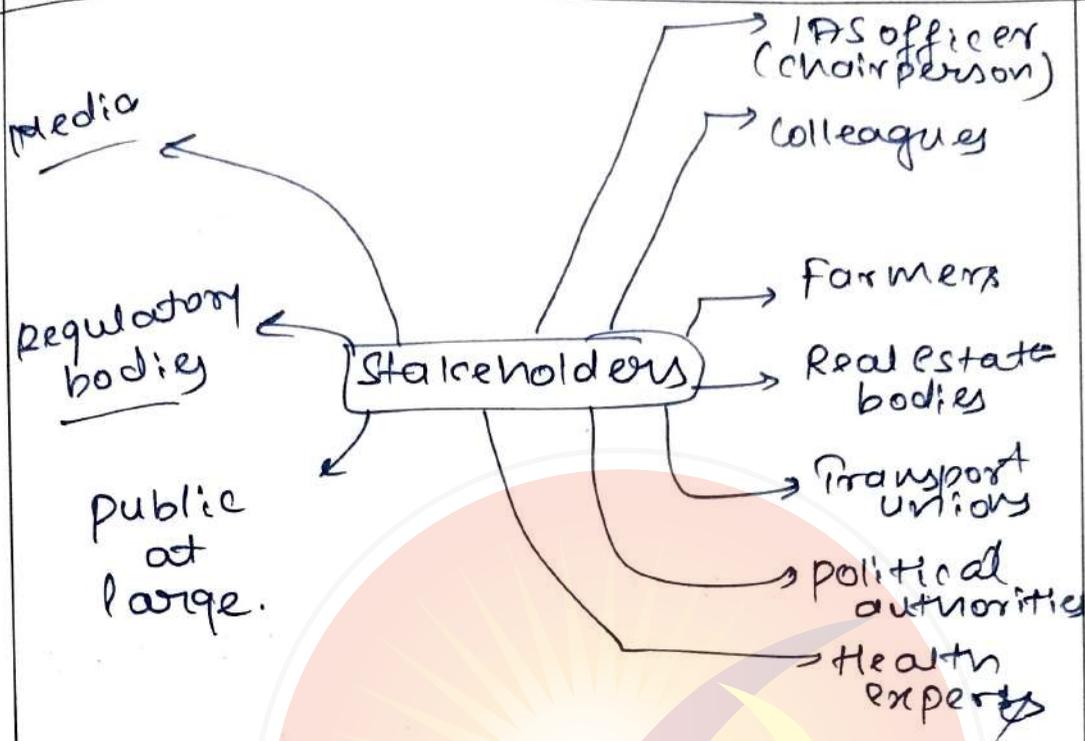
The officer proposes strict, time-bound restrictions, including suspending construction activities, limiting vehicular movement, and enforcing crop-residue burning bans. However, these measures attract strong opposition from various stakeholders. Farmers cite a lack of alternatives, real estate bodies 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.

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

(20 marks, 250 words)

The given case revolves around growing air pollution in Delhi NCR and rising health problems. Objective is to ensure environment and public health while maintaining economic growth objectives.



(a) Options available

① completely ban all developmental activities temporarily to reduce pollution. However, this can bring NCR to stand still, affecting public welfare

② Allow continuation of projects and transport to ensure growth and livelihood. But, this can affect vulnerable group and even cause

long term health issues in youth.

③ Graded action in line with objective criteria and prevailing Pollution levels

Merits	Demerits
① <u>Balanced approach</u> can reduce resentment	① Some sections may still oppose
② <u>Temporarily</u> reduce pollution.	② Economic loss to the city NCR.

b) Core values and principles to ensure decision making rationally

① Fortitude to take action against violators of environmental standards
eg) Not installing sprinklers near construction site.

② Environmental trusteeship to ensure sound health of NCR
→ Right to clean air.

- ③ Collective conscience of society to promote communitarianism for positive action - Durkheim's Ethics
- ④ objective decision making based on set standards and criteria
- ⑤ Duty before self and upholding means for just ends.
- ⑥ Fair distribution of resources (clean environment) in line with Islamic Ethics.

⑦ Long term institutional reforms

① Zoning of NCR to segregate industrial activities from residential sites.

(eg) - special economic zones.

② Technological interventions to reduce pollution
(eg) - direct seeded rice to reduce

Stubble burning

- ③ Ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations
(eg): Adhering to building byelaws
- ④ Persuading decision makers to phase-down polluting vehicles.
- ⑤ Stakeholder in line with Anekantवाद ideal of Jainism to respect concerns of others.

Further, reporting channels and reward-punishment framework can nudge participants towards responsible actions.

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