

## 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:

THOUSIF ULLA KHAN

Time allowed: 180 Minutes

ADMIN. NO.:

2 1 V R 3 3 0 3 9

Email:

MOBILE NO.:

Submission  
Date:

10 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 - 9:00 AM

End Time - 12:20 PM

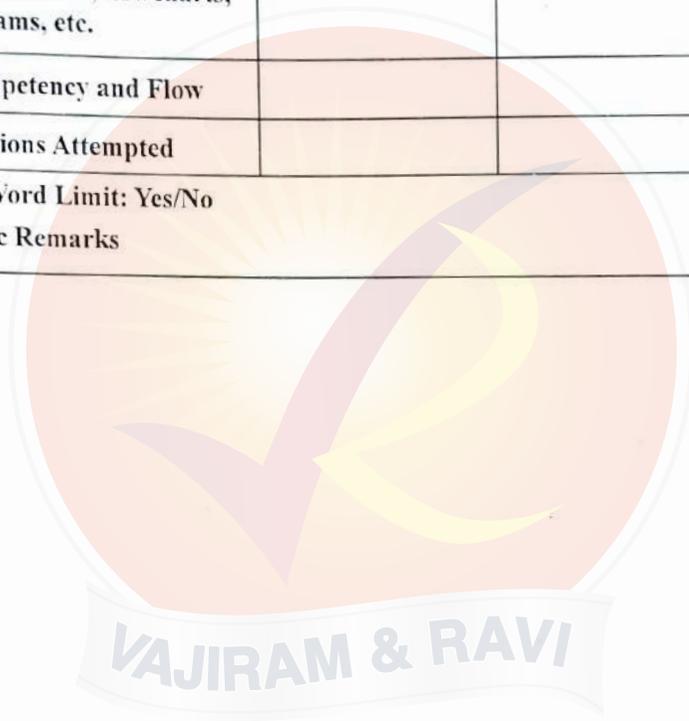
Mode of Examination Online

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> |              |      |         |                   |



## 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) 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)

Morality, religion, law and values are determinants of ethics and shapes ethical decision making.

As per Nicomachean ethics, ethics is study of ideal human character and its purpose is to determine moral principles that govern human behaviour.

### Morality

① Morals shape individual experiences and guides actions.

(eg) Raja Ram Mohan Roy was guided by morals to fight against social ills.

### Religion

① Religion shapes individual's ethics and guides behaviour.

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

(eg): Alcohol ban in Saudi Arabia

## Law

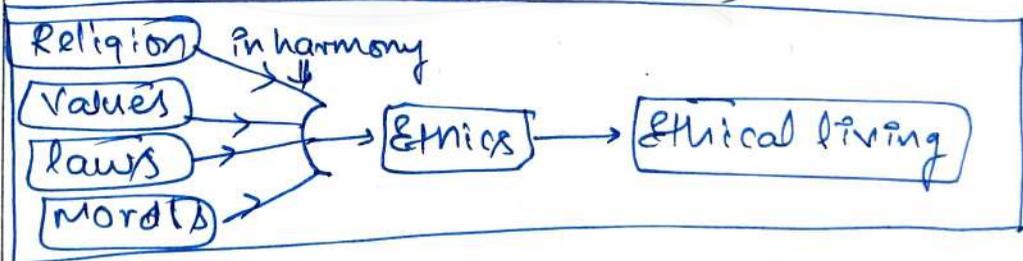
③ Law sets minimum standard of human behaviour while ethics sets the maximum standard

(eg): Law against theft acts as deterrent  
⇒ ethical society like that of Scandinavian country's → lack of robbery cases

## Values

④ Strong and positive value education fosters ethical discipline.

(eg): Schools teaching tolerance through extra curricular activities (as per Shankar Dayal Sharma)



Thus, above factors influence individual's behaviour in a society and promotes ethical living.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

(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 are personal values and ideals which guides individual behaviour in a society.

Evolving technological forces (like ~~like~~ social media, internet etc) and societal changes (growing individualism, competition etc) has influenced moral principles.

Ethical decision makers should ensure following while upholding justice and integrity.

① Adopt vital dynamism as suggested by Radhakrishnan, to shape our perception of evolving morals.

(eg) Operation Sulaiman by IAF Prashant Naik → used social media to clean lake

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

② Cultivate tolerance and fairness in conduct to ensure "justice is not only done but must also seem to be done"

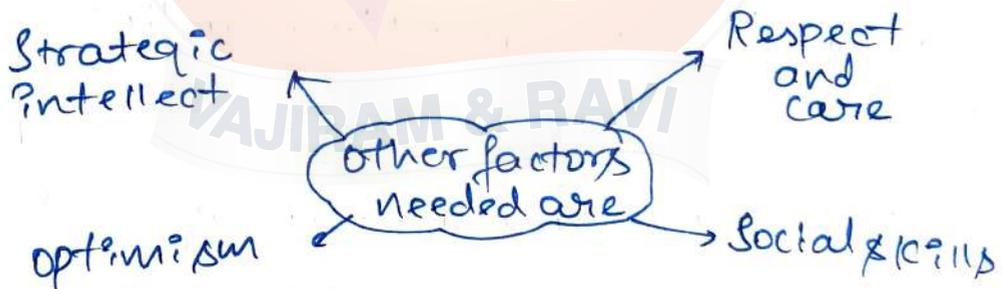
eg: Supreme court directed government to pay education fees of a student

③ Strengthen solidarity and mutual-cooperation

eg: Community forestry activities.

④ Promote ethical altruism so that decisions are empathetic.

eg: People's road in Manipur.



Further, following the traits of Kierkegaard's authentic man can help navigate through socio-technological forces and uphold integrity and justice.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

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)

According to Pestalozzi, family is the first school and mother is the first teacher of a child.

## First school of values

- ① Parents teach their child the value of love and care through nurturing
- ② Child learns from father:
  - ↳ a) hardwork and stress-management
  - ↳ b) Respecting elders
  - ↳ c) sees him as a role model.
- ③ Mother teaches child:
  - ↳ a) love and compassion towards others
  - ↳ b) active listening and communication to overcome problems
- ④ eg: → Thomas Edison's mother.  
→ Nancy Hanks (Abraham Lincoln's mother)

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

believed in Abraham's potential.

On the other hand, family also become place for negative values as

- ① Constant criticism and comparison instills bias in the mind of child.  
eg:- comparing marks.
- ② Indifferent attitude towards servants and maids can fuel stereotypes  
eg:- scolding servants.
- ③ over pampering a child makes his abilities less effective.
- ④ Desire for social capillarity through unfair means can create hierarchical attitudes eg:- encouraging class differences within family unit.

Thus, it's vital for parents to realize their primary role in value development of a child, as said by Sadhguru.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 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)

As per Kenneth Kennaghan, all public institutions should work purely on merit basis.

However it does not take into account differing capabilities and opportunities across diverse social segments, which is needed for substantive justice and equality.

Balancing these ethical considerations

① while Kant's categorical imperative calls for absolute impartiality, John Rawls's difference principles allows relative impartiality to ensure true justice.

②: 4% and 5% reservation for specially abled divyangjan in employment and education respectively.

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

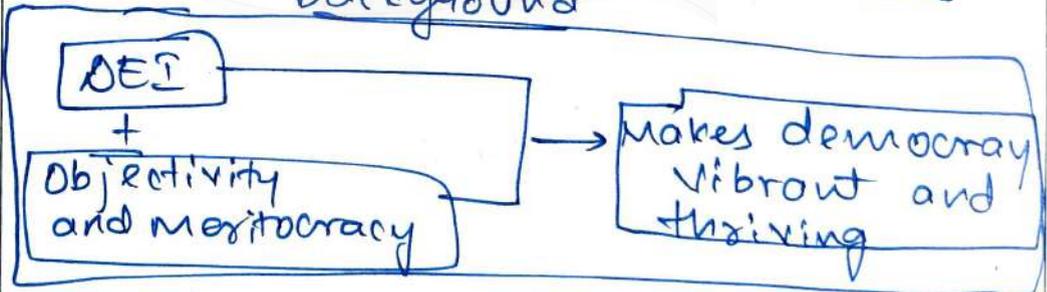
② Diversity brings diverse perspectives  
 ↳ it makes laws and policies more inclusive and equitable

eg: PM - Swanidhi to support street vendors and hawkers.

③ Pure meritocracy and objectivity defeats social justice → which is core principle of our constitution.

④ Equitable representation considers relative deprivations one faces, which limit their capabilities (Amartya Sen's ethics)

eg: children from rural vs urban background



Hence, balancing both is essential to ensure good governance and promote justice.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 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 words of Gandhi resonates the importance of rightful means to realise an end, whereas means employed define the true glory.

Means are important because

- ① As per Islamic ethics, an act is unethical if means adopted are wrong, even if outcomes are positive.
- ② Without focusing on right attempt, the acts thus produced are short-lived  
eg: Insider trading to gain competitive edge in stock market.
- ③ It enables adherence to one's dharma, in line with Kautilya's teachings  
eg: public consultations held by civil servants

before finalising any decision,  
like environment impact assess-  
ment

④ It reflects the character of the doer and prevents knower-doer split

eg: Gandhiji's satyagraha despite challenges.

Focusing only on goal may lead to:

① Means-ends disharmony and shortlived results.

② Acting in self-interest and outcome is less beneficial for others.

eg: Hard war

③ professional and holistic incompetence  
eg: Misuse of corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds.

Thus, following teachings of our great leaders like Gurunank, Kabir Das etc can help in ensuring balance between means and ends.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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

The above quote of Jyotiba Phule is true in its entirety. As injustice anywhere is threat to justice everywhere.

As per Harold, justice is constant and steadfast determination to give everyone their rightful share.

~~Tolerating~~ Injustice against himself would lead to

① Suppression of inner-character and resilience.

② It would create prejudices in the mind against the oppressor.

"Prejudice and anger is gateway to hell"  
- Gandhi ji.

③ It makes one less aware of

his own strengths and weaknesses

④ inhibits socialisation which is important for value education.

(eg): Sri Lanka tolerated china's debt trap diplomacy and lost Hambantota port

## Consequences of tolerating injustices against another

① As Martin Luther said "Most of Earth's miseries are not due to oppressors, but because those who witnessed it and remained silent"

② It inhibits one's moral credentials

③ Jeopardises interdependence and mutual cooperation

"as → Good of one is contained in good of all"

(eg): Canada's silence over growing Khalistani attacks on Indians in Canada ⇒ strained bilateral ties

Therefore, justice should be valued through prudence and courage, as said by Plato in his cardinal virtues.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

(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)

Sardar Patel in above quote holds that along with work, socialisation and extra-curriculars are important to ensure productivity with mental Bliss.

Taking life too seriously can lead to:

① Moral attrition - where one's moral values degenerate over time.

eg: Suicide bombers focuses only on achieving success without respecting lives of others.

② May guarantee success, but short-lived eg: fragmented response for climate action

③ In line with sakam karma of Buddhism, where sole focus is reaching objective without care for means adopted.

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

eg: Sama Bin Laden, Oppenheimer  
(Operation Manhattan)

Greeting joys and sorrows with equal facility leads to

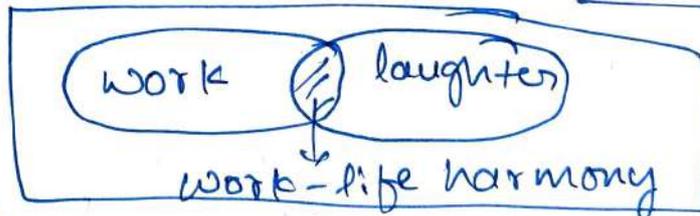
① Lack of mental stress and enhances decision making ability.

eg: overcoming obstacles while drafting EIA plan.

② It raises one's self-esteem and self-worth → where focus is on 'self' as well as "world"

③ It enhances productivity and fosters confidence.

eg: Disaster relief operations → team addresses obstacles with positive attitude



"Developing, "strong emotional intelligence is reason for 80% of job success" Daniel Goleman.

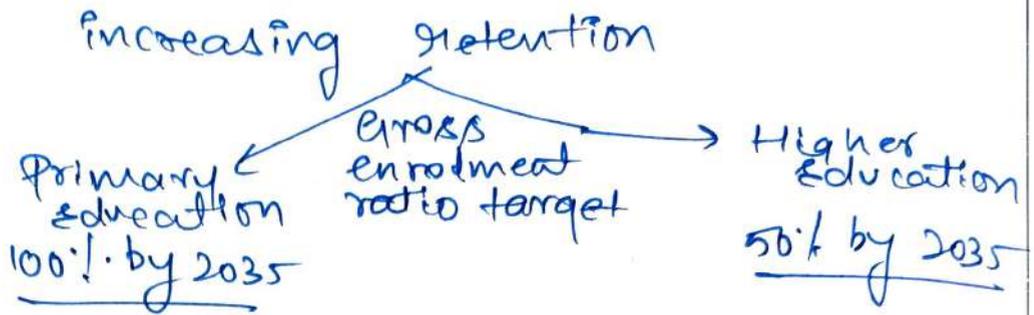
|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

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)

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 seeks to make education accessible, affordable, accountable and equitable, with focus on quality at every stage.

It restores ethical and holistic purpose of education as

- ① Move beyond rote-learning to activity and evidence-based learning  
↳ It fosters critical inquiry
- ② Make education gender inclusive  
eg: Gender Inclusion Fund.
- ③ Emphasises on vocational training, which is vital for nation development as per Gandhiji.
- ④ Makes education sustainable by



## Ethical Significance of this shift

- ① It leads to character building which is important for nation building.  
 (e.g.) - in line with discipline and values of Japanese students.
- ② It ensures vital dynamism and cognitive development of children.
- ③ Emphasises moral development and value-based education (in line with MM Prahlada's recommendation)



Thus, NEP 2020 seeks to realise the vision that the children of today are the future of tomorrow

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

- (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)

According to Transparency International, corruption is an act of commission or omission where power is abused for private gain.

Punitive vigilance → deters corruptions

- ① Prevention of Corruption Act: creates punitive provisions for those indulging in corruption.
- ② Fear of law guides actions to avoid corruption.  
e.g.: Kolopal, Kolca yuktā
- ③ chances of suspension and dismissal  
⇒ However, punitive vigilance sets minimum standards, and remains effective only when law is present.  
→ It does not change attitude against corruption.

## Preventive vigilance

① fareless tax assessment reduces physical interaction and demand for bribes

② whistleblowers and social activists

acts as deterrence and reduce opportunities

eg: IES Satyendra Dubey → exposed irregularities in highway projects

## Participative Vigilance

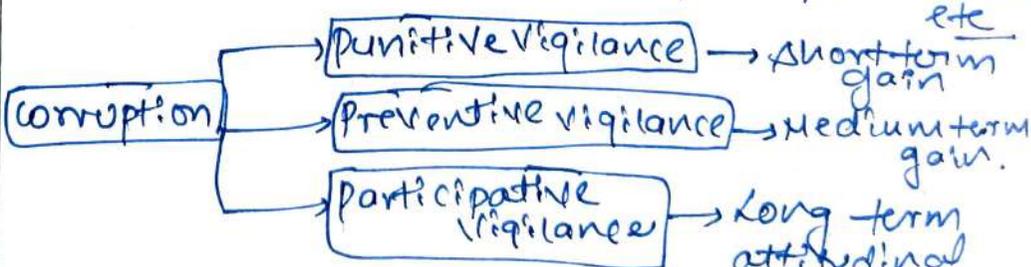
① where citizens and other stakeholders seek accountability

eg: RTI, PIL

↳ RTI exposed corruptions in coal scam

② Technology creates transparent processes

eg: Government e-marketplace, e-tenders etc



Hence, need is to foster active particip-ation of citizens through discourse ethics.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 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 governs human conduct in all spheres. Private Ethics deals with personal moral values whereas public ethics relate to official duty.

While these two overlap in reality, separation can be harmful and impractical.

Why separation is difficult?

- ① Because ethics in public life is grounded in ethics of private life.

(eg) ÷ Gandhiji's steadfast commitment to satyagraha

- ② universal values as per Kant's categorical Imperative - it exists in fluence in both public and private sphere

(eg) ÷ compassion, respect for elders

- ③ Compelling situations make separation of the two difficult.
- ④: disaster relief → and commitment to save the victims.

Why separation can be counterproductive?

- ① May lead to hypocrisy, where there is incongruence between what one feels and what one acts.
- ② lead to knower-doer split and cognitive dissonance
- ④: an officer may not disclose underlying <sup>personal</sup> interests in official conduct.
- ③ It weakens moral courage and impact ethical decision-making
- Hence integrating private and public ethics fosters trust, reduces moral conflict and promotes value-based ethical governance.

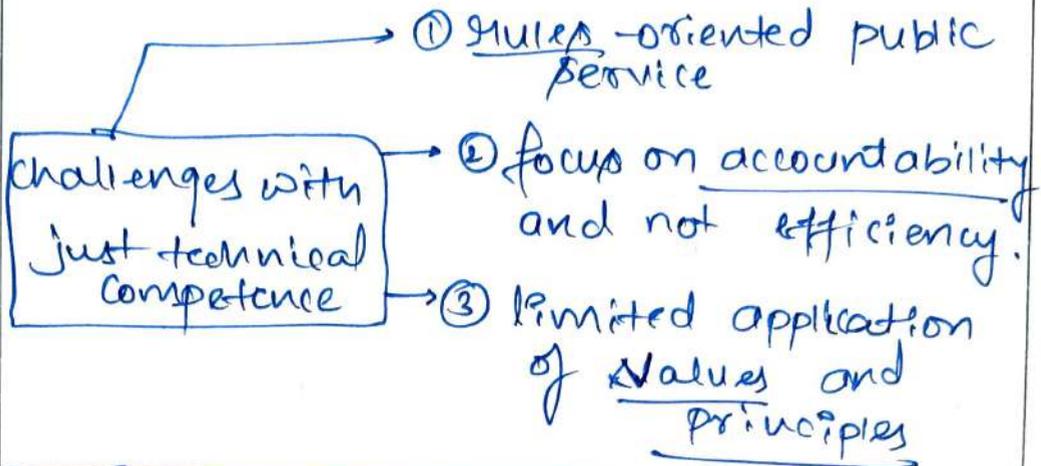
|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

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

Ethical competence and technical competence provides an evaluative framework for discharge of public duties.

Technical competence ensures:

- ① understanding of bureaucratic procedures and rules, as per Weber.  
eg:- Implementing scheme on ground.
- ② It provides skills and expertise to analyse decisions.  
eg:- IAS Rohini Sindhuri devised mobile health vans in Mandya
- ③ It brings into action once intelligence quotient in problem solving.
- ④ promotes bureaucratic attitude



Hence ethical competence is needed as

$$1) \text{ Technical Competence} + \text{Ethical Competence} = \text{Holistic Competence}$$

①: Varun Jain (IFS) reclaimed ~600 acres of encroached land using holistic competency.

2) It promotes democratic attitude

3) It motivates officers to go beyond call of duty

②: Helping a destitute farmer access scheme benefits.

Moreover, holistically competent officers makes bureaucracy humanistic and uphold social justice!

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

Conscience is inner-belief and morals which gives a person ethical sense of right and wrong.

Conscience acts as inner-moral compass in ethical governance

Conscience is the foundation of ethical governance as

① Conscience enables one to differentiate between what is their right to do (vs) what is the right thing to do.

eg: Panchayat reforms in Kashipur by IAS Fauzia Tarannum.

② It encourages officers to go beyond call of duty  
eg: risking life to expose irregularities

③ Conscience creates a culture of

collegiality and team spirit.

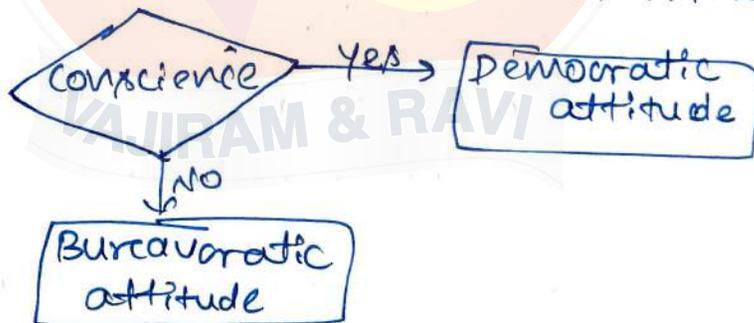
eg: Success of door-to-door voting during 18th Lok Sabha → for elders

4 Conscience ensures the governance framework is adaptive to public aspirations

eg: public opinion on Bills.

5 Helps uphold substantive equality and distributive justice.

eg: IAS Harshika Singh → efforts to make her district 100% literate.



Conscience brings to the fore the inner-values and principles in decision making.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 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)

India is criticised for undertaking space exploration missions while mill. of our population are under-nourished (Global Hunger Index 2024)

And as per reports, ~65% of women in India face some form of domestic violence.

Role of ethical governance in managing the trade-offs

① Ethical governance helps in using space missions for common good.

eg:- weather forecasting for agriculture

② SRPs both as an integral part of development.

eg:- creation of jobs by private space companies.

③ Helps in rationing budgetary allocations equitably.

eg:- Gender Budget

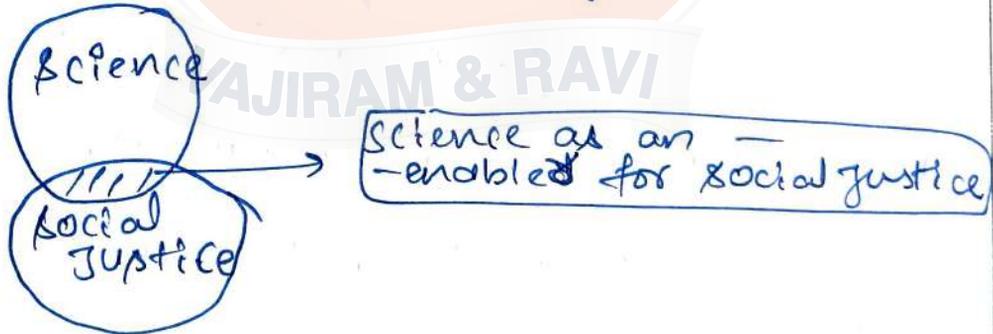
④ Helps in realising the vision "science of today is the technology of tomorrow"

eg:- Digital Banking has ensured financial inclusion

→ >52% of bank holders in pm-Jan Shakti Yojana

⑤ Technology blurs caste, class and gender distinctions.

eg:- positive effects of #MeToo movement



India should balance both using pragmatism and demonstrating fiscal prudence.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 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.

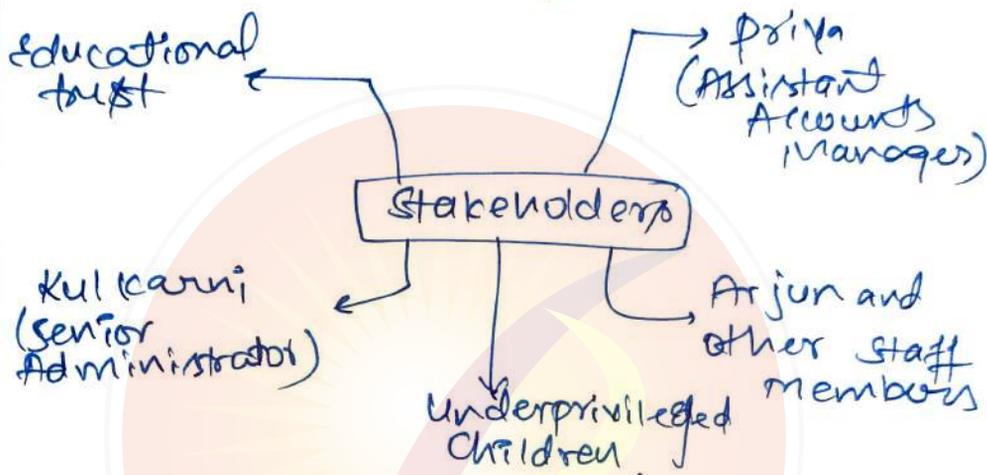
A few days later, while finalizing quarterly accounts, Priya overhears a conversation in the accounts office that an external audit of all scholarship and welfare funds is scheduled for next month. She realizes that this means the unauthorized diversions might come to light. Priya deeply sympathizes 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)

The given case study deals with misuse of funds meant for scholarship to help vulnerable

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

employees with challenging situations.  
The objective of audit is to uphold accountability of kulcarini, while ensuring transparency in funds usage.



(a) Ethical dilemmas faced by Priya

① Responsibility to the organisation

⊗ responsibility and loyalty to friend Arjun

② Personal consequences by helping

Arjun ⊗ aggravate Arjun's suffering if do not help.

③ Ensuring adherence to the organisation

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

ethics (vs) collude with Kulkarni and not expose wrongdoings.

④ Maintain integrity and transparency in audit process (vs) consider humane intentions of Kulkarni.

⑤ furthering trust's objective to educate children (vs) misuse funds to save few colleagues.

b) ethical dimensions of Kulkarni's actions

① Acted in line with doctrine of double effect, whose intentions were good and bad outcomes was not intended.

② Violated means-ends relation of Gandhiji  
↳ wrongful means to help colleagues.

③ Endangers the trust of public reposed on the institution.

④ sacrificed utilitarian ethics (larger good of students) for rights based ethics.

of several colleagues.

- ⑤ Violation of administrative discretion for personal interest.
- ⑥ Misuse of trust funds could jeopardise functioning of the School

According to me, Kulkarni's action was not justified in line of broader organisational ethics because of:

- ↳ ① violation of business ethics
- ② creates slippery-slope of funds misuse
- ③ sets bad precedent
- ④ Misuse of authority is a form of corruption.

Options available to Priya and Evaluation

- ① Collude with Kulkarni and confide with the wrongdoing
- Merits → helps alleviate colleagues' Problems.

(Don't write anything in this part)

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

(Don't write anything in this part)

→ professional growth by respecting senior's decision.

**Demerits** → acting in self-preservation of Hobbes  
 → violates social justice, as the funds was meant for scholarship.

② Persuade Kulkarni to be transparent in audit process

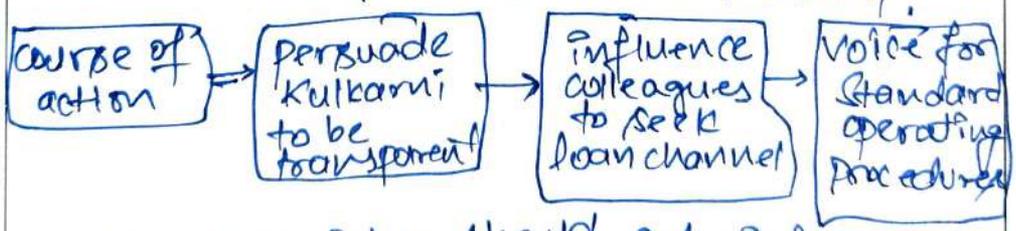
**Merits** → upholds organisation ethics  
 → transparent and accountable action (Kusal kamma)

**Demerits** → may face organisational ostracisation  
 → glass-ceiling and growth hindered.

③ escalate matter to seniors

**Merits** → follows hierarchy principles of Confucius  
 → may prevent misuse of funds

**Demerits** → organisational inertia  
 → slow decision making.



Further, Priya should act inline with Socratic ideal man and demonstrate responsibility and accountability in her duty.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| roduction   |  |
| udy         |  |
| onclusion   |  |
| resentation |  |
| arks:       |  |

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.

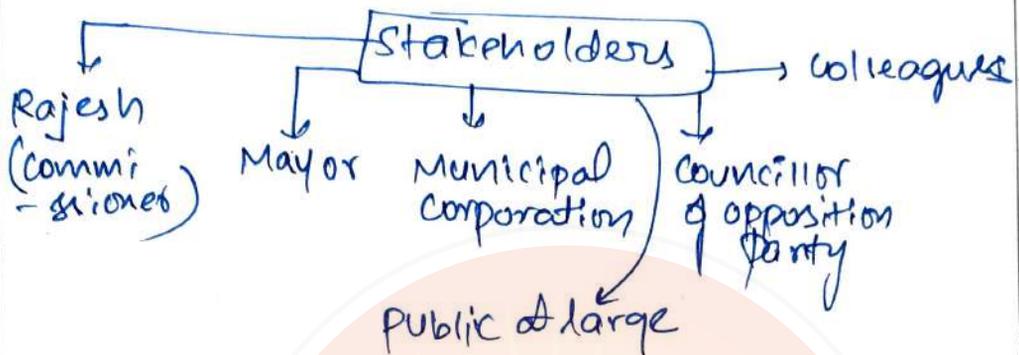
Meanwhile, local media has started sniffing around the irregularities, and Rajesh's silence could make him appear complicit. His own staff is divided: some urge him to maintain the status quo for personal safety, while a few junior officers privately want him to act boldly and clean up the system. Adding 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)

The case study revolves around political nexus and undue interference in bureaucratic processes

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

leading to self-serving bias and prioritising personal gains over public interests



(a) Key ethical dilemmas faced by Rajesh

- ① upholding public interest and investigate allegations vs act in self-interest to save job and posting.
- ② objectivity of <sup>the</sup> claim vs ensuring that audio is not morphed.
- ③ Balancing the interests of divided loyalty of staff and colleagues.  
Use attitude forecasting
- ④ efficiency of public works vs personal interests of the mayor.

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

⑤ Maintaining impartial and non-partisan investigation vs relying on the evidences by the councillor.

## (b) Options and evaluation

① Maintain status quo and benefit from corruption

Merits

- Stable posting
- possibility of promotion
- monetary gains

Demerits

- against inner-conscience
- violates public trust
- dereliction of duty → is also corruption

② Take action against the Mayor

Merits

- good posting if rival party comes to power
- uphold rule of law

Demerits

- allegations not verified
- acting based on half-truth / facts violates loyalty of Rajesh to the Mayor (political senior)

③ conduct an impartial inquiry to validate the allegations

Merits → follow bureaucratic wisdom  
→ objective and transparent option

Demerits → possible retaliation by the ~~Mayor~~ Mayor  
→ transfer possibility.

④ ethical challenges of whistleblowing for public servants

① Balancing public interest with confidentiality

② Misuse of facts by opposition for political gains

③ personal consequences in the form of threats and loss of life.

④ Lack of protection (on ground) offered to whistle blowers.

⑤ Maintaining official secrets and upholding right to information of public.

- ⑥ Lack of support by colleagues may weaken the claim.
- ⑦ ensuring impartial and transparent investigation.
- ⑧ Institutional reforms to strengthen ethical conduct and protect honest officers
- ① Standard operating procedures for finalising vendors (eg: Government e-Market place)
- ② Objective criteria for releasing funds  
(eg: certification by the public.)
- ③ Responsibility of contractors clearly listed out.
- ④ Implement whistleblower protection Act
- ⑤ maintain anonymity of whistleblower
- ⑥ fast track courts for disposing whistleblowers' cases

Moreover, Rajesh should act in line with Kierkegaard's Authentic Living upholding inner values and pursue institutional reforms with integrity

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

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.

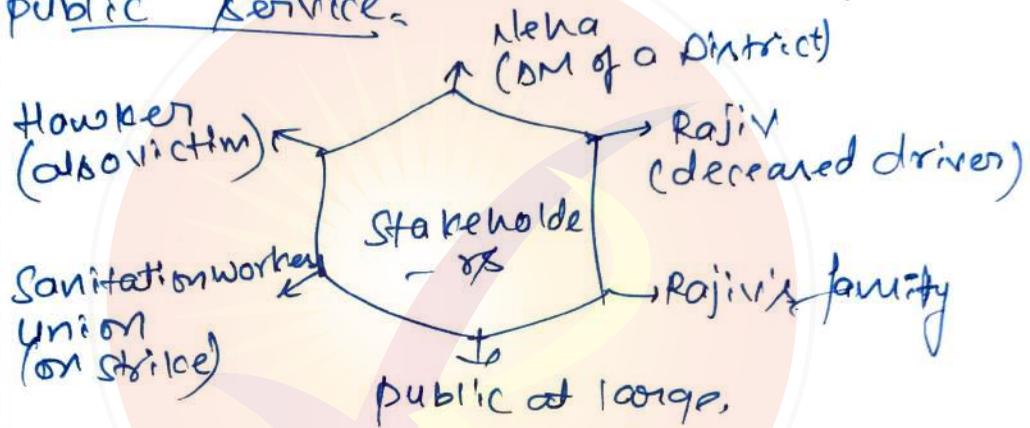
When the department refused, citing the clear rule violation, the union declared an indefinite strike, bringing garbage collection to a standstill. The strike has now entered its tenth day, and the city's streets are overflowing with waste, creating serious health and public order concerns. Neha is under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

The given case is about death of a truck driver (of his own misconduct) and disruption of sanitation services in city causing health issues. Neha's objective is to diffuse the strike amicably and ensure continuity of public service.



## (a) option and evaluation

① Grant full compensation and job to the family member

- Merits**
- ① ~~against~~ Strike diffused
  - ② family benefits from monetary support
  - ③ ensure continuity of public service delivery

- Demerits**
- ④ against compensation stales

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

→ ② Sets a wrong precedent - as the driver was drunk on duty

② Deny <sup>extra</sup> compensation and warn union of strict action

**Merits**

- in line with organisation public interests ~~ethics~~
- uphold rule of law
- against endorsing unethical drivers' conduct.

**Demerits**

- socio-economic vulnerability of the family
- possibility of continuation of strike

③ Order an inquiry to objectively decide the compensation

**Merits**

- follows discourse ethics
- family interests not completely neglected.
- objective and merit-based decision.

**Demerit**

- strike may still continue
- delayed process
- public outcry due to mounting waste in the city.

## (b) Decision and ethical reasoning

- ① I would have met union leader and family → to understand their concerns. → inline with syadvadd principle of Jainism
- ② persuaded union to diffuse strike by appealing to their emotions (cognitive component of attitude)
- ③ use fear appeal if union do not abide by orders (→ inline with extended parallel process model of Attitude change)
- ④ Give job to Rajiv's wife as the kids are still younger → based on humanitarian ethics and ethics of care (Carol Gilligan)
- ⑤ immediately ensure city's waste is cleaned by deploying additional resources → inline with democratic attitude

## ① Steps to prevent similar incidents

- ① Standard operating procedures with objective criteria to decide compensation.
- ② Ethical training of drivers to value public interest.
- ③ Breathalyser test to check whether drivers are under influence of alcohol.
- ④ Dedicated time slots for movement of sanitation trucks  
(eg: during non-peak hours)
- ⑤ Regular inspection and audits of waste handling process.

Moreover, to make our cities clean, need is to promote social proofing and appeal by authority figures to bring attitudinal change among all stakeholders.

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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)

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

The given case is about unlawful dowry demand by Aarav's parent which is illegal under Dowry Prohibition Act 1961.



## (a) Ethical dilemmas faced by Aarav

- ① inner-conscience to not accept dowry  
(vs) parents already accepted some dowry
- ② uphold rule of law by rejecting dowry (vs) obedient to parents and upholding family sentiments.
- ③ ensuring family's credibility and honour (vs) fear of Priya's parents reporting matter to the authorities.

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

④ Contrasting and exclusive duties as husband ~~(vs)~~ son; - as wife and mother are mutually disagreeing, over dowry issue.

⑤ <sup>Existing</sup> Mental health of Priya ~~(vs)~~ demand of dowry by parents as social status

⑥ Reluctant to report parents for accepting dowry ~~(vs)~~ following public ethics and dedication to duty.

(b) Institutional and Social Mechanisms to prevent such cases and prevent victims

① Appoint nodal officers under Dowry Prohibition Act to oversee demands of dowry

② Integrate provisions of Dowry Act and prevention of Domestic Violence Act → to ensure brides are not

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

subjected to domestic abuse over dowry issues.

③ Reporting channels to report dowry instances

④ Ensure protection of whistle blowers

⑤ Uphold sanctity and integrity of Marriage as a social institution

↳ and not as a platform to showcase lavishness and social status.

⑥ Create awareness in society about ill-effects and illegality of dowry.

⑦ punishment to the perpetrators to set a precedent.

⑧ fast track courts and family courts to proactively settle dowry cases.

⑨ Impact of social-conditioning and family honor in ethical decisionmaking

⑩ As per Pestalozzi, parents are child's first teacher → they impart foundational values in a child.

- ② Desire for materialism clouds ethical climate in the society.
- ③ Peer influence and negative role of social media → increases demand for luxury → impact objective decision making.
- ④ Rising individualism and traditional ethics (customary morality) promotes illegal acts like dowry, domestic violence.
- ⑤ Justification of dowry and using it as pride further dents societal fabric.
- ⑥ Competition for lavish marriages breeds greed. And as per Gandhi: "Greed is gateway to hell".

Hence, there is a need to promote ethical debates around preserving sanctity of marriage and uphold gender equality.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

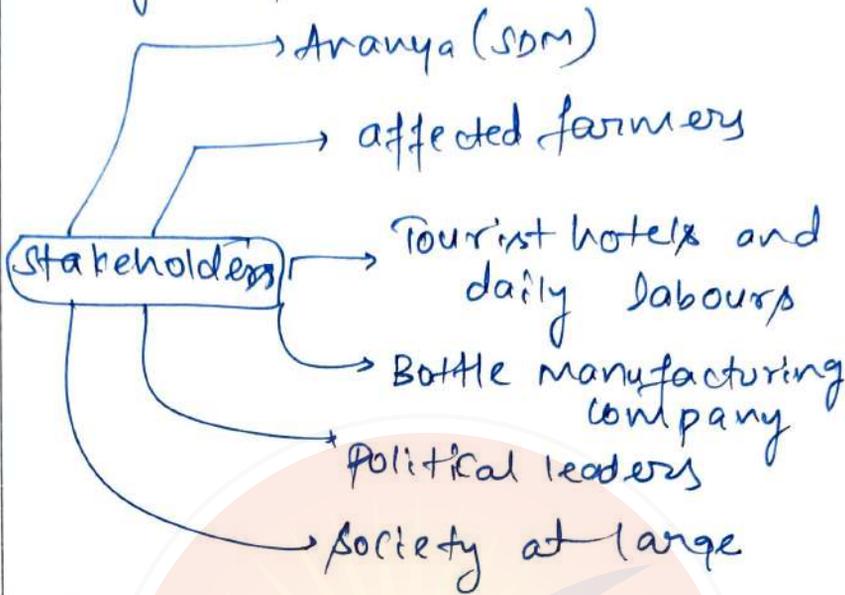
# VAJIRAM & RAVI

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)

The given case is about impact of disaster on lives of people and how vulnerable and marginalised section face the brunt disproportionately. Ananya's objective is to uphold rights of all stakeholders while

being impartial and ethical.



(a) Major ethical dilemmas faced by Ananya

- ① farmers' livelihood vs vested interests: Ananya must ensure farmers are not discriminated and rule of law is upheld for everyone.
- ② Prevent critical water reserve from pollution vs enforcing rules impartially.
- ③ protecting employment of wage earners vs conserving water and

- enforcing rationing of water
- ④ following public duty <sup>to conserve water</sup> vs following unlawful demand by political leaders to favour private companies.
- ⑤ sustaining public trust in the administration vs balancing interests of various stakeholders.

## ⑥ Actions for sustainable water management

### A) Laws

- ① Water (prevention and control of pollution) Act : to control water pollution
- ② Water Cess Act : levied cess on industries to encourage water conservation.
- ③ Environment (Protection) Act 1986 : establishes central Ground water Authority to conserve ground water resources.
- ④ Environmental Impact Assessment 2006 :-

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

requires environmental clearance before dam construction

## (B) Policies

- ① Jal Jeevan Mission - to provide functional taps to all rural houses
- ② Jal Shakti Abhiyan - to conserve rain water "catch the rain where it drops when it drops"
- ③ Atal Bhujal Yojana - sustainable management of ground water resources
- ④ pradhan mantri Krishi Sindhayee Yojana → watershed management to conserve water resources
- ⑤ Pani Panchayats → to ensure participatory water management.

## (C) Course of action

- ① Meet with farmers and gain their confidence on impartial administration.

- ② Do Nishkam karma (duty without worrying of consequences) and order private water bottle companies to use water resources 'temporarily'.
- ③ Follow discourse ethics and understand the varied concerns of all stakeholders.
- ④ Go beyond call of duty (supererogation principle) and persuade political leaders to change their stance.
- ⑤ Scheme convergence : encourage construction of water harvesting structures  
(e.g. Barmer's Apna Gaalab Initiative).
- ⑥ Impose water cess on water usage  
↳ but follow difference principle of John Rawls to protect vulnerable.
- ⑦ Rationing of water and fixed time of usage.

In the long term, strengthening EIA and social forestry measures can help enhance local water resources and further participative democracy.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |

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.

- Identify and briefly discuss the key ethical issues involved in this case.
- What options are available to Ritika? Critically analyze each option.
- 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)

The given case is about the ethical debate surrounding economic development vs Environmental protection. It is rooted in the principles of realism and idealism.



(a) Ethical issues involved are

- ① conflict of interest as NGO is funded by an international company who is the project proponent.
- ② Ensuring rights based ethics of traditional dwellers and communities.
- ③ utilitarian ethics as the said project can help large number with jobs.
- ④ Economic development of the region  
↳ traditional ecological knowledge of the communities is at stake
- ⑤ National interest to achieve renewable energy target  
↳ protecting land rights

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

of vulnerable communities.

⑥ Seeking well-informed consent and confidence of all stakeholders for project success

④ Ensuring sustainable utilisation of land ~~to~~ desertification threat as the said area is arid.

(b) Options available to Ritika and evaluation

① Superficially protest against the development project

Merits → acting in line with ethical egoism

Demerits → secure funds for the Neo Development of the region

→ Creates knower-doer split

→ against core objective of the Neo

→ Sets a wrong precedent of not voicing for ecological rights.

② Reject the donation and strongly protest against the project.

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

Merits

- uphold the rights of the traditional communities (protect their natural right to prosperity)
- in line with NGO's organisational ethics

Demerits

- loss of funding can disrupt NGO's functioning
- possible derailment of economic development.

## ③ Perform NGO's duty of advocacy and policy influence

Merits

- select alternate land for the project
- uphold fundamental duty Article 51A(g) → to conserve environment

Demerits

- lack of resources to explore new site
- delayed results may lead to hasty project implementation.

## (c) Course of action

- ① Socially influence the international donor to rethink its decision to undertake project in ecologically rich land.

- ② follow stakeholder ethics and ensure whole of society approach to select a new land  
(eg): public consultation in EIA.
- ③ Appeal to the collective conscience of the community to voice for their legitimate interests. (Durkheim)
- ④ Create awareness about environment trustee ship to change attitude of the project proponents
- ⑤ If the project is carried anyway in the same land, Ritika should ensure peaceful rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected community.

Further, development works must ensure acomodationist perspective of Riordan, to strive for balance between economic developm-ent and ecological integrity.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Introduction |  |
| Body         |  |
| Conclusion   |  |
| Presentation |  |
| Marks:       |  |