



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1990)

Name of Candidate	ASHISH		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENG.	Registration Number	1010258
Center	ONLINE	Date	11/12/2021

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1(a)	10	
1(b)	10	
2(a)	10	
2(b)	10	
3(a)	10	
3(b)	10	
4(a)	10	
4(b)	10	
5(a)	10	
5(b)	10	
6(a)	10	
6(b)	10	
6(c)	10	
7	20	
8	20	
9	20	
10	20	
11	20	
12	20	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWELVE** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**.
इसमें बारह प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.**
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-साह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित विदिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेगा।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

SECTION - A

1. (a) Open Government Data (OGD) can be seen as a step towards greater transparency and accountability in India. In this context, discuss the benefits of OGD and the challenges which lie therein. (150 words) 10

ओपन सरकारी डेटा (OGD) को भारत में अधिक से अधिक पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की दिशा में एक कदम के रूप में देखा जा सकता है। इस संदर्भ में, OGD के लाभों और उसमें निहित चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

'open Government Data' is an initiative / approach towards taking a proactive step to ensure transparent information dissemination and consequently ensure accountability.

Benefits of OGD

- ① Citizen friendly → ensure that public interest is fulfilled as the utmost priority of government
- ② maintenance of public trust through fulfillment of social contract (Hobbes, Locke)

- ③ Fulfills Nolan Committee's recommendation of openness
- ④ Improves transparency and accountability with high degree of efficiency and responsibility
- ⑤ Responsive system → fulfills ideas of Citizen Charter

However, OGD is associated with certain challenges like:

- ① lack of awareness regarding the feature
- ② Digital divide due to structural and infrastructural issues
- ③ less avenues for direct grievance redressal
- ④ lack of maturity → early stage issues

If the idea of OGD is truly fulfilled, the majesty of law will be spectacularly upheld.

1. (b) An important requisite for ensuring probity in governance is absence of corruption. Analyse. (150 words) 10

शासन व्यवस्था में ईमानदारी (प्रोबिटी) सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक आवश्यक तत्व भ्रष्टाचार का अभाव है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Probity refers to the practice of honesty and accountability through integrity in public governance.

Clearly, ~~cor~~ absence of corruption is an important requisite of ensuring probity because the basis of corruption itself lies in dishonest practices like mis/dis-appropriation of public resources for fulfilment of self interest.

Chanakya identified more than 40 types of corrupt practices in governance that erode probity.

Corrupt also entails an idea of secrecy which is against the

principles of transparency and openness that are prerequisites of probity.

2nd ARC defined corruption as 'discretion plus monopoly minus accountability'. Clearly, corruption involves monopolisation which is against public interest.

Discretionary acts (eg. license Raj) issue red herrings that ~~that~~ ^{take} the focus away from underlying erosion of probity.

The recommendations of Santhanam Committee can be implemented to ensure probity in governance eg. training, salary increase etc.

Kautilya also suggested regular transfer of officials to reduce corruption and as a result, ensure probity.

2. (a) Enumerate the decisive factors behind moral attitude. Also, discuss any incident from your life wherein you brought about a change in someone's attitude around an important social issue. (150 words) 10

नैतिक अभिवृत्ति के लिए उत्तरदायी निर्णायक कारकों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। साथ ही, अपने जीवन की ऐसी किसी भी घटना की विवेचना कीजिए जिसमें आप किसी महत्वपूर्ण सामाजिक मुद्दे पर किसी व्यक्ति की अभिवृत्ति में परिवर्तन लाने में सफल हुए थे।

Moral attitude refers to the outlook towards people and situations based on usually universal ideas of morality eg. tolerance, temperance etc.

(Decisive factors behind moral attitude)

- ① Education → teaches the correct way to look at circumstances
eg. APT Abdul Kalam's stories teach single minded attitude towards goal
- ② Socialisation → family also teaches moral attitude through primary socialisation eg. 'not to crib if any wish is not granted' → patient attitude

- ③ Conscience → also guides attitude to be moral and ethical
- ④ Art → eg. Films like swades, Lagaan
[Incident from life]

A friend of mine, in college, was totally against the idea of India's cultural Syncretism and peaceful co-existence. A feeling of 'other' pervaded his mindset. I recommended him Amartya Sen's book 'The argumentative Indian' and then discussed the issue with him regularly. He now believes in tolerance and Indian values of vasudhaiva kutumbakam.

Clearly, Kalam's idea of dialogue and discussion is also an important factor behind moral attitude.

2. (b) Highlighting the importance of whistle-blowing in an organisation, discuss the systemic factors that determine whether a person would become a whistle-blower. (150 words) 10

किसी संगठन में व्हिसल-ब्लोइंग के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उन प्रणालीगत कारकों की विवेचना कीजिए जो यह निर्धारित करते हैं कि कोई व्यक्ति सूचना-प्रदाता (व्हिसल-ब्लोवर) बनेगा या नहीं।

Whistle-blowing is a phenomena where two equally important interests collide but the whistle-blower ultimately chooses allegiance to universal ethical values over parent organisation/ country etc.

Importance of Whistle-blowing in an organisation

- ① Prevents organisation's conscience from becoming lax → prevents crisis of conscience
- ② Ensures ethical standards are followed in the short, medium and long terms.
- ③ Holds the organisation accountable for unethical acts.

eg. Bradley Manning → unethical practices
of USA's military establishment were
uncovered → ~~that~~ international pressure

④ Prevents despotism, nepotism, discriminatory practices in an organisation.

⑤ Necessary for wider public & institutions like democracy etc.

eg. Cambridge Analytica case → threat
to democracy.

Systemic factors that determine whether
a person will become whistle-blower

① Rule conduciveness → whether the
rules are whistle-blower friendly,
highly rigid or in-between
eg. official Secrets Act → very strict

② Organisational Hierarchy → Whether the
superiors support or not

③ Legislative support in that location

④ moral absolutism of the whistle blower
is also important eg. Edward Snowden

Systemic as well as individual's internal
factors determine whistle-blowing
tendencies

3. (a) Transparent governance promises an accountable state but a balance has to be achieved between disclosure requirements and administrative privileges for efficient governance. Discuss. (150 words) 10

पारदर्शी शासन एक जवाबदेह राज्य का भरोसा दिलाता है, लेकिन कुशल शासन व्यवस्था के लिए प्रकटीकरण आवश्यकताओं और प्रशासनिक विशेषाधिकारों के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Transparent Governance is ~~an~~ the sine-
qua-non for ensuring an accountable
state. It means that the governance
practices are open for relevant
scrutiny. eg. RTI provisions

(Need for balance)

- ① Efficient Governance → eg. too
many unnecessary RTI Applications
Impede the smooth functioning of
administration
- ② National Interest → eg. official
Secrets Act → strict disclosure provisions →
if breached → may result in national
security threat or diplomatic crisis
- ③ Prevent Vested Interests → Administrative

privileges are sometimes necessary to ensure officials are not harassed or blackmailed.

④ Service Delivery → sometimes requires 'on the spot' decisions for the utilitarian principle of larger good for the larger no. of people

⑤ Preserving democratic institutions
↳ balance between despotism and direct democracy is necessary in vast country like India

⑥ Maintaining formality in bureaucracy → otherwise increase in informality may open the doors for corruption, bribery etc.

Therefore, provisions like RTI in India, Ombudsman in Scandinavian countries, Citizen charter in UK have been framed wisely to maintain the adequate balance

3. (b) Citizen empowerment is a natural outcome of a Citizen's Charter. Critically evaluate in the Indian context. (150 words) 10

नागरिक सशक्तीकरण सिटीजन चार्टर का एक स्वाभाविक परिणाम है। भारतीय संदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

is a document which
Citizen Charter enlist the entitlements of citizens vis-a-vis the service delivery in various forms by the Government. eg. 'Honouring the honest taxpayer charter' → derived from the idea of citizen charter

Citizen's charter → results in citizen empowerment

① objective and rational provisions in written format → allows the citizen to demand # entitlements → resulting in empowerment

② Grievance Redressal → efficient and effective → citizen can hold the government accountable for its promises

③ Social Contract Theory → Citizen is at par with the government in a give and take relationship → Citizen Charter embodies this concept

④ Responsible Government → answerable to the citizen when the demands are not fulfilled

⑤ Ease of living → Citizen Charter provides avenues for conflict resolution so that citizen doesn't have to move from one government office to another

⑥ Reduces Corruption by minimising discretionary potential of officials
→ thus taxpayer's money is not wasted → Social and Human Capital is built → empowerment

Clearly, Citizen Charter is naturally results in outcome of citizen empowerment.

4. (a) Emotional Intelligence is an essential ingredient for successful implementation of pandemic induced emergency response. Comment in the light of COVID-19 pandemic. (150 words) 10

भावनात्मक बुद्धिमत्ता महामारी जनित आपातकालीन अनुक्रिया के सफल कार्यान्वयन हेतु एक अनिवार्य घटक है। कोविड-19 महामारी के आलोक में टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Emotional Intelligence refers to the ability of an individual to understand, regulate and control his/her own as well as others' emotional for managing a situation in a way that goals are fulfilled.

Emotional Intelligence → essential ingredient for successful pandemic response

① Welfare measures → eg. COVID relief centres for migrant workers → IAS Gaurav Agrawal in Rajasthan was applauded for his emotional intelligence

② Service Delivery → resources are scarce in the pandemic situation eg. Oxygen → the coordinating officer must objectively assess the needs of various regions

③ Managing emotionally charged situations
eg. many doctors were assaulted, yet they were emotionally intelligent and managed to successfully help many patients

④ Humanist response → PM Modi's idea of role based bureaucrats instead of rule based bureaucrats → need to have emotional intelligence → eg. IPS Arun Bothra helped child with rare illness in procurement of medicine from other part of India

⑤ Conscientiousness and Magnanimity
↳ pre-planned and stoic responses need elements of emotional intelligence to deal with one-in-a-century situations.

Therefore, Emotional Intelligence is a pre-requisite in governance and especially during COVID-19 pandemic management.

4. (b) Discretionary power by itself is not pure evil but gives much room for misuse. Discuss in the context of administration in India. (150 words) 10

विवेकाधीन शक्ति अपने आप में कोई बुराई नहीं है, लेकिन यह दुरुपयोग की अत्यधिक संभावना उत्पन्न करती है। भारत में प्रशासन के मंदर्म में चर्चा कीजिए।

Discretionary power refers to the power of an individual or an organisation to take decisions by itself in situations which are either not covered by laws/rules/regulations or falls in the grey area of vagueness or inconclusiveness.

Discretionary power → Not pure evil by itself

- ① Needed during special circumstances

eg. Governor's discretionary powers prevents instability in states

- ② Laws/rules can't cover all situations

eg. Tax laws → IRS officers use their discretionary powers to collect revenue in tricky situations

- ③ Welfare → eg. IAS officers have some powers to take discretionary steps to ensure justice

Discretionary powers → too much scope for misuse

India has faced situations like Inspector Raj (License Raj) due to high discretionary powers to officials where they harass entrepreneurs and general public and coerce into bribery.

2nd ARC reports has mentioned discretion as a major cause of corruption eg. Chara Ghotula case in Bihar → due to huge discretionary powers to animal husbandry officials.

Discretionary powers have also been used by police in India to physically and mentally torture those in custody.

Therefore, discretionary powers, although not pure evil by itself, must be regulated to ensure minimum government, maximum governance.

5. (a) Explain the ethical issues involved in spending government funds for advertisement campaigns and publicity. (150 words) 10

विज्ञापन अभियानों और प्रचार के लिए सरकारी धन खर्च करने में शामिल नैतिक मुद्दों की स्पष्ट कीजिए।

spending government funds for advertisement has many ethical dilemmas associated with it.

Issues

- ① Fiscal Prudence → based on the religious ideas of frugality and also democratic principles
- ② Gandhiji's idea of trusteeship can be applied here → Government has money that originally belongs to the taxpayers (citizens) *
- ③ Vested party interests superceding national and public interests (against the ideas of responsible government * and answerability

④ Govt. spending on advertisement also shows lack of moral uprightness and earnestness

⑤ Gross value violations of public trust in the government → 1

⑥ May alienate the middle class and result in breakdown of rule of law.

However, Government spending on advertisements also ^(and generates awareness) educates the people about schemes and policies.

It also develops accountability as judiciary, CAG ask questions on promises in advertisement.

Therefore, moral bounds should be established with strict frameworks to balance the benefits and ills of Government advertisement spendings.

5. (b) Explaining the concept of political neutrality, discuss its significance in administration. Also, highlight how the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules seek to ensure political neutrality in the civil services. (150 words) 10

राजनीतिक वटस्थता की अवधारणा की व्याख्या करते हुए, प्रशासन में इसके महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, इस बात पर भी प्रकाश डालिए कि कैसे केन्द्रीय सिविल सेवा (आचरण) नियमावली सिविल सेवाओं में राजनीतिक वटस्थता सुनिश्चित करने का प्रयास करती है।

Political neutrality means that the institutions and individuals involved in governance are not inclined towards any political paradigms or parties while taking decisions that are part of official work.

Significance in administration

① Non-partisanship, Impartiality
eg. Woodrow Wilson envisaged bureaucracy as beyond the fleeting interests of day to day public

② Maintains sanctity of institutions
eg. CAG, Central Election Commission etc.

③ Public Trust → eg. Judiciary of India
(If political neutrality is not maintained, the

rule of law (crumbles)

④ Stability of administration → if the governor totally abandons political neutrality, the state machinery will fail → regionalism, separatism etc.

⑤ continuity in administration towards goal of public interest → even when political changes happen

Central Civil Service Conduct Rules →
maintaining political neutrality

① Well laid down provisions for decision-making in most situations → less discretion → political neutrality upheld

② Strict limits on gift amounts etc. → prevents quid-pro-quo arrangements

③ Transfer policies maintain political neutrality

④ Procurement and tender norms
Clearly, Conduct Rules are a major factor for ensuring political neutrality in civil services

6. What do each of the following quotations mean to you?

निम्नलिखित में से प्रत्येक उद्धरण के आपके लिए क्या मायने हैं?

(a) We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far." – Swami Vivekananda (150 words) 10

"हम वो हैं, जो हमें हमारी सोच ने बनाया है; इसलिए इस बात का ध्यान रखिए कि आप क्या सोचते हैं। शब्द गौण हैं, विचार रहते हैं; वे दूर तक यात्रा करते हैं।" - स्वामी विवेकानंद

Swami Vivekananda's quote emphasizes that the humans are products of their thoughts and ideas i.e. the words we speak, the actions we perform emanate from our thoughts.

Mahatma Gandhi heard his voice of conscience which was based on purity of thought (Sat-chit-Ananda). He took special care of his thoughts and thus, his words and actions were always in harmony with his thoughts.

It is often said that no one stops an idea whose time has come. It is because ideas live much longer.

than individuals.

If thoughts are not regulated, its pollution is reflected in our words and our actions. eg. Deviant persons like thieves, murderers are often found to have immoral thought and abusive words.

It is also important to control and take care of thoughts because cardinal virtues of Plato also emanate from virtuous thoughts.

True knowledge, value education, positive temperament, humility, gratitude etc are important factors that determine our thoughts.

6. (b) "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." - Albert Einstein
(150 words) 10

"सफल व्यक्ति बनने का प्रयास मत कीजिए, बल्कि सिद्धांतों वाला व्यक्ति बनने का प्रयास कीजिए।" - अल्बर्ट आइंस्टीन

Being Successful is merely a narrow goal and it is the value of an individual or organisation that determines his/its importance.

The meaning of success is dynamic and highly dependent on space and time. Whereas, being of value is a goal that will have almost universal value.

for example, in the materialistic world, the amount of money is the indicator of success. Lal Bahadur Shastri didn't have any meaningful possessions at the time of his death but his death was mourned because he was of value.

Ustad Bismillah Khan, when awarded the Bharat Ratna, did not have enough money to travel but people helped him because he was of value and thus managed to enrich many lives.

People more often strive to be a success rather than of value because it is easier and materially beneficial. It is based on short-sighted world view.

According to Aristotle, being of value requires self discipline. It takes a mature consciousness and persistent effort towards perfection based on Bhagwad Gita's idea of Nishkam Karma.

Important things are tough to achieve. Even then, it is more important to strive to be of value than success.

6. (c) "Virtue lies in our power, and similarly so does vice; because where it is in our power to act, it is also in our power not to act." — Aristotle"

(150 words) 10

"सद्गुण हमारी शक्ति में निहित है और इसी प्रकार अयगुण भी; क्योंकि जहाँ कार्य करना हमारे अधिकार में है, वही कार्य न करना भी हमारे अधिकार में है।" - अरस्तू

Aristotle was a firm believer, ^{in the fact} that virtue and vice both are bestowed upon us. We have the capability and power to exercise virtue by acting in the right manner. And also, if we don't act in the virtuous manner, we fall prey to vice.

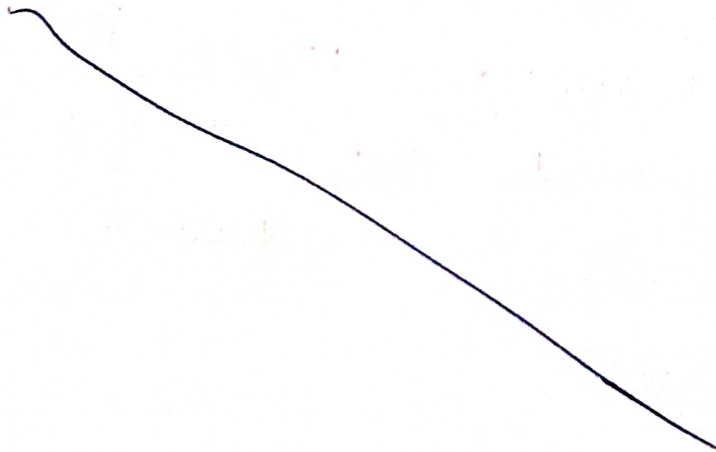
For example, if a woman is being harassed by an unarmed ~~man~~ ^{or} an armed man for that matter, we have the power to initiate a resistance. However, it is often observed that diffusion of responsibility is practised in such situations.

Vinod Kambli and Sachin Tendulkar both were equally talented cricketers.

Where Sachin opted to exercise virtue, Kambli fell prey to vices.

Aristotle emphasised on self discipline along with necessary knowledge to be virtuous. The golden mean, if used judiciously, can help at important junctures of life.

Summun Bonum can be achieved if virtues are acted upon and vices are suppressed.



SECTION - B

In the following questions, carefully study the cases presented and then answer the questions that follow (in around 250 words):

7. Party X has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha. However, because of it falling short of majority in the Rajya Sabha, a large number of its bills are getting stalled in the Upper House. Elections of a key state are around the corner and the party desperately needs to win, for it to secure a majority in the Rajya Sabha. As part of its campaign strategy, the social media head of the party suggests an insidious strategy to make electoral gain. A part of the strategy involves sending out questionnaires online and promoting them using ads. The response filled by people to these online questionnaires will help reveal their key personality traits to the social media team of the party. These behavioral science insights would be important in helping candidates tailor their campaign messages according to the recipient's personality traits. However, because the content of the questionnaire is incendiary and polarizing, the social media team decides to use fake accounts to administer data collection on social media platforms to avoid getting penalised. In addition, the strategy also involves sending out provocative content through online ads and fake news reports. This goes against the spirit of free and fair elections and violates the Election Commission guidelines on multiple levels.

As one of the key members of the social media team of the party, you have been entrusted with carrying out this campaign successfully.

(a) What are the key ethical issues involved in this case.

(b) What is the course of action you would take? Give reasons for your response in a situation like this? (20)

लोक सभा में एक राजनीतिक दल X का स्पष्ट बहुमत है। हालांकि, राज्य सभा में बहुमत की कमी के कारण उच्च सदन में बड़ी संख्या में इस दल के विधेयक अवरुद्ध होते जा रहे हैं। एक प्रमुख राज्य में चुनाव होने वाले हैं और राज्य सभा में बहुमत जुटाने के लिए इस दल के लिए जीतना अत्यंत आवश्यक है। अपनी अभियान की रणनीति के हिस्से के रूप में, दल के सोशल मीडिया प्रमुख चुनावी लाभ प्राप्त करने के लिए कपटी रणनीति का मुद्दा देते हैं। इस रणनीति का एक भाग ऑनलाइन प्रभावशाली भेजना और विज्ञापनों का उपयोग करके उन्हें बढ़ावा देना है। इन ऑनलाइन प्रभावशालियों के लिए लोगों द्वारा दिए गए जवाब, राजनीतिक दल की सोशल मीडिया टीम के समक्ष लोगों के व्यक्तित्व के प्रमुख लक्षणों को प्रकट कर देंगे। व्यवहारवादी विज्ञान की ये अंतर्दृष्टियाँ (मूर्धन्य दृष्टि), संदेश प्राप्तकर्ता के व्यक्तित्व के लक्षणों के अनुसार उम्मीदवारों को अपने चुनाव अभियान का संदेश/स्वरूपा तैयार करने हेतु सहायता कर देते हैं महत्वपूर्ण होगी। चूंकि, प्रभावशाली की विषय-वस्तु उत्तेजक और भुवीकरण करने वाली है, इसलिए सोशल मीडिया टीम दृष्टि होने से बचने के लिए सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर ऐसा संलग्न प्रसारण के लिए नकली खातों का उपयोग करने का निर्णय लेती है। इसके अतिरिक्त, इस रणनीति में ऑनलाइन विज्ञापनों और पत्रों समाचार रिपोर्टों के माध्यम से उत्तेजक सामग्री भेजना भी शामिल है। यह स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव की भावना के विरुद्ध है और कई स्तरों पर निर्वाचन आयोग के दिशा-निर्देशों का उल्लंघन करता है।

दल की सोशल मीडिया टीम का एक प्रमुख सदस्य होने के नाते, आपको गफलतापूर्वक यह अभियान चलाने का उत्तरदायित्व सौंपा गया है।

(a) इस प्रकरण में सम्मिलित प्रमुख नैतिक मुद्दे क्या हैं?

(b) आपके द्वारा की जाने वाली कार्रवाई क्या होगी? इस तरह की स्थिति में अपनी अनुक्रिया के कारण बताएं?

This case study represents how
~~an~~ unethical strategies are envisaged
for political gains and subsequently
end up endangering the democratic
structures and constitutional norms.

⑨ (Key ethical issues involved in
the case)

① Public Interest (free and
fair elections) ~~is~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~
can be bypassed for political
gains.

② Against the constitutional
right to privacy

③ The practice, if uncovered, will

have chilling effect on freedom of
speech and expression.

④ Unfair practices can start a
process that ends in lax conscience
and crisis of conscience

⑤ Against the universal value of
honesty and transparency

⑥ Creation of fake accounts is
also an act of cheating

⑦ Using data of personality traits
may result in polarised society
→ against the idea of brother-
hood and fraternity

⑧ Such practices are forms of
profiling and have led to
humongous ills like holocaust in
the past.

⑨ Constitutional Morality is being
breached

⑩ ~~False~~ Misinformation and Disinfor-
mation campaigns → may incite hatred
and riots → damage social capital

⑪ Moral code of Conduct ~~is~~ is breached.

⑥ Course of action

⑥ Choices available

① Go ahead and carry out the
campaign

Merits |
→ Electoral gains → may
result in material gains
→ may result in
promotion
→ goodwill of party bosses

Demerits |
→ Crisis of conscience
→ Cognitive Dissonance
→ Harm to society and country

- (ii) Discuss the issue with social media head and present ethical issues

Merits

- If understood, a major error can be avoided
- democratic principles and sanctity of election safeguarded
- clear conscience

Demerit

- may be removed from the team
- may even lose job in the party
- may be silenced through blackmail

- (iii) Report the plan to public through whistleblowing (with proof)

Merits

- Voice of conscience is heard → results in morally correct decision
- informs the public about corrupt electoral practices
- EC may take strict actions and frame new guidelines
- Democracy is preserved

Demerits

- may be harassed and even jailed on false charges by politicians
- almost definitely joblessness
- future job prospects affected
- loss of public trust in democracy
- embarrassment for country

Action → In this case, it is prudent to take the step (ii) first and if the concerns are not heard, then step (iii) as in the case of Cambridge analytical scandal.

This is because, the national interest is more important than narrow political interests. Also, if voice of conscience is not heard, the result may be mental problems, lack of self-respect, even suicidal tendencies.

Also, if the case is uncovered in future, there will be legal implications.

8. You are an IPS officer on your first posting in a very poor and isolated rural area of one of the most backward states of the country. In your office complex, of which you are the incharge, there is a frequent sewage related problem, causing inconvenience to the employees in your office complex and severely affecting the efficiency of the workplace. It might also lead to health disorders and diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea etc. To resolve it, the cleaning workers are made to do manual scavenging work without due regards to their safety. Most of these workers are from marginalised castes and are discriminated against socially. You are aware of the laws banning manual scavenging and the loopholes around it. In this context, answer the following questions:

(a) What are the issues which you need to address in this situation?

(b) Present your course of action to deal with the given situation. (20)

आप एक IPS अधिकारी हैं। देश के सबसे पिछड़े राज्यों में से एक राज्य के एक बहुत ही निर्धन और अलग-थलग ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में आपकी पहली तैनाती होती है। आपके कार्यालय परिसर में, जिसके आप प्रभारी हैं, अक्सर सीवेज से संबंधित समस्या उत्पन्न होती है, जिसने आपके कार्यालय परिसर के कर्मचारियों को अनुविधा होती है और कार्यस्थल की दक्षता भी बुरी तरह से प्रभावित होती है। इससे स्वास्थ्य विकार और हैजा, दस्त आदि जैसी बीमारियां भी पैदा हो सकती हैं।

इस स्थिति का समाधान करने के लिए, सफाई कर्मियों से उनकी सुरक्षा का उचित ध्यान रखे बिना मैनुअल स्कैवेंजिंग (हाथ से मैला डोने) का कार्य कराया जाता है। इनमें से अधिकतर श्रमिक हाशिए पर रहने वाली जातियों के हैं और उनके साथ सामाजिक रूप से भेदभाव किया जाता है। आप मैनुअल स्कैवेंजिंग को प्रतिबंधित करने वाले कानूनों और उनमें निहित कमियों से अवगत हैं। इस संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

(a) वे कौन से मुद्दे हैं जिन्हें आपको इस स्थिति में समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है?

(b) दी गई स्थिति से निपटने के लिए अपनी कार्यवाही का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए।

This case is a clear example of how laws can not always be effective if social, economical, and technological conditions are not in harmony with the law.

(a) Issues that need to be addressed

(i) frequent sewage issues

↳ temporary solution
↳ permanent solution

(ii) improve the efficiency of
the office and remove/minimise
the inconveniences of the employees

(iii) to uphold the rights and
entitlements of the workers
who perform manual scavenging

(iv) efforts to reduce/eradicate
discrimination against the lower
caste people in that region

⑥ Course of action

① since it is necessary to ~~do~~ get the sewage cleaned in the short term, I, as IPS officer, will try to look for the best possible way for the manual scavengers to clean the sewage in the safest possible manner

② Then, may be for the long term, the sewage structure can be modified so that if ⁱⁿ future such issues arise, the employees are not inconvenienced and efficiency is maintained.

③ Researchers in India have invented 'Bandicoot' robot to replace manual scavenging ~~by~~ in cleaning sewages. The process of procuring those can be initiated.

- ④ It is also prudent that I, as
IPS officer, collaborate with the
district administration and NGOs
working in that area to skill
the manual scavengers so that
they find employment in other
sectors.
- ⑤ It will be essential to educate
the manual scavengers regarding
their legal rights and loopholes that
are used to circumvent those
rights
- ⑥ A safe and least-manual
alternative can also be devised through
help from other educational
institutions
- ⑦ As shown in the movie Article 15

it is possible to reduce discrimination against lower castes by leading by example.

(viii) I will take the matter to the Panchayats of those poor and backward areas so that a dialogue can be initiated regarding constitutional provisions against discrimination and people can be educated especially children in schools.

(ix) Within the legal framework, I will look for opportunities in which people can get employment in that backward and poor region through use of government schemes for Self Help Groups eg. Stand-up India → SCs/STs/women

Therefore, these steps can help in solving the short term and long term issues in the case.

9. You have recently been posted as a District Development Officer in a traditionally rural area that has seen rapid economic development in the past few years. You notice that there is a huge disparity between the number of male and female children in the area. When you go to the hospital and check the birth registry, you realise that registered new-born babies are mostly males. On further investigation, you notice a similar pattern in the village primary school, which has more male students than females.

When you raise the issue with your colleagues, they ignore it and carry on with their work. You suspect that the practice of female foeticide may be entrenched in the area as you had read about the issue in the context of this state while studying for the Civil Services Examination. It seems to you that respected members of the community like doctors, politicians and government officials have chosen to ignore the issue, given the prevalence of patriarchy and mind-set of voters in the area. Thus, despite rapid economic development, preference for male child continues to persist.

Based on the information above, answer the following:

(a) Do you have any ethical duty in this scenario? Justify your views.

(b) What would be your next steps and why?

(20)

हाल ही में आपको एक पारंपरिक ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में एक जिला विकास अधिकारी के रूप में तैनात किया गया है। इस क्षेत्र में पिछले कुछ वर्षों के दौरान तेजी से आर्थिक विकास हुआ है। आप पाते हैं कि उस क्षेत्र में बालक और बालिकाओं की संख्या में अत्यधिक असमानता विद्यमान है। आप अस्पताल जाकर जब जन्म की रजिस्ट्री की जाँच करते हैं, तो आप पाते हैं कि पंजीकृत नवजात शिशुओं में ज्यादातर बालक हैं। आगे जाँच करने पर, आपको गांव के एक प्राथमिक स्कूल में भी ऐसा ही पैटर्न नज़र आता है जिसमें बालिकाओं की तुलना में बालक अधिक हैं।

जब आप अपने सहयोगियों के समक्ष यह मुद्दा उठाते हैं, तो वे इसकी अनदेखी कर अपना काम जारी रखते हैं। आपको संदेह है कि इस क्षेत्र में कन्या भ्रूण हत्या की प्रथा व्याप्त हो सकती है जैसा कि आपने निविल सेवा की परीक्षा हेतु अध्ययन करते समय इस राज्य के संदर्भ में इस मुद्दे के बारे में पढ़ा था। आपको लगता है कि चिकित्सकों, राजनेताओं और सरकारी अधिकारियों जैसे समुदाय के सम्मानित सदस्यों ने पितृसत्तात्मकता की व्यापकता और इस क्षेत्र के मतदाताओं की मन:स्थिति को देखते हुए इस मुद्दे की अनदेखी की है। इस प्रकार, द्रुत आर्थिक विकास के बावजूद, बालकों के प्रति वरीयता जारी है।

उपरोक्त जानकारी के आधार पर, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

(a) क्या इस परिदृश्य में आपका कोई नैतिक कर्तव्य है? अपने विचारों का औचित्य सिद्ध कीजिए।

(b) आपका अगला कदम क्या होगा और क्यों?

Female foeticide is a criminal offence in India and also involves ethical questions like taking life of a foetus.

④ Ethical duties in this scenario

① As District Development Officer,
it is my duty to oversee that
all laws are followed in the
process of development in the
region. (Deontology principle)

→ It is a criminal offense to
practice female foeticide

② It is necessary to uphold the
value of justice in this case →
the principle of paternalism mandates
that since the foetus can't take
decisions on its own, the state should
decide for its benefit.

③ Skewed-sex ratio in the area
can lead to issues like bare branches
which will raise ethical issues related

With crime and deviance in the future.

- ④ Even though the area has witnessed rapid economic development in the last few years, it has not resulted in inclusive growth because girls are largely excluded from avenues of agency and deprived from education.

As DDO, it is my official duty (and dharma) to ensure inclusive growth in the area.

- ⑤ Ethical dimension of Empathy and compassion are also being tested in this case. Because, the girls can't be left to themselves to fight against patriarchy that is deep rooted.

- ⑥ Constitution also prevents discriminat-

ion on basis of sex (Article 15). And
as a civil servant, Constitution is
the most essential document for me.

(b) Next steps

(i) I will set up a separate
team to collect facts in this
case in a proper format and
I'll oversee the functioning of the
team

(ii) Once the facts are collected and
the prima facie observations are
substantiated, I'll first call the
government doctors and discuss, most
importantly, the legal issues involved.
This might help in opening up the case.

(iii) After this, the district SP will
be formally notified of this issue
so that this can't be shrugged off.

- ④ I'll hold discussions with various Panchayat levels and especially with the women in those panchayats.
- ⑤ I'll generate awareness in the schools and with the like-minded families in the region, a campaign might be started for widespread dissemination of information.
- ⑥ If results are not visible in due time, National Commission for Women and NCPCR can be formally contacted to discuss future scope of action.
- ⑦ Successful women of that region eg. athletes, IITians etc. can be contacted to visit the villages and schools to arouse the spirit in those regions.

In this manner, the case will be thoroughly investigated, and rationally and practically solved.

10. According to some reports, gambling and betting together, while illegal, have evolved into a multi-billion dollar industry in India with one estimate pegging the market at \$60 billion. Added to this is the wide reach of cricket as a sport and the periodic cases of betting in it making to news. It has been suggested by some that making gambling and betting legal would resolve many issues and also contribute to the exchequer.

On the other hand, there remains a strong opinion against doing so.

(a) What is your opinion on the matter?

(b) Also, identify the merits of the arguments in opposition to the stand you have taken. (20)

कुछ रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, अवैध होते हुए भी जुआ और मट्टेबाजी सम्मिलित रूप से भारत में कई अरब डॉलर के उद्योग के रूप में विकसित हो गया है। एक अनुमान के अनुसार, इसका बाजार 60 अरब डॉलर तक का हो गया है। इसके साथ ही, एक खेल के रूप में क्रिकेट की व्यापक पहुंच है और इसमें मट्टेबाजी के प्रकरण यदा-कदा सुर्खियों में रहते हैं। कुछ लोगों ने यह मुझाव दिया है कि जुए और मट्टेबाजी को विधिक मान्यता देने से कई मुद्दों का समाधान हो जाएगा और सरकारी खजाने में भी वृद्धि होगी।

वहीं दूसरी ओर, ऐसा करने के विरुद्ध एक प्रबल राय भी बनी हुई है।

(a) इस विषय पर आपकी क्या राय है?

(b) साथ ही, आपने जो रख अपनाया है उसके विरुद्ध तर्कों की खूबियों की भी पहचान कीजिए।

Betting and Gambling are not only legal or modern day moral questions, rather they have been discussed and usually discouraged in almost all major religions of the world

(a) (My opinion)

Although examples of foreign nations

Like Britain and others show that legalising betting can be beneficial for both the exchequer and the practising individuals, it is still a large unsolved dilemma in those countries as well.

I am of the opinion that betting and gambling in India has not been holistically covered in all its aspects and thus the prevailing ideas lack relevant data-backing.

In absence of that data, it is only prudent to continue criminalising betting and gambling. However, if relevant facts are gathered in mission mode and best practices are sourced from around the world,

It would not be a waste to legalise betting and gambling in highly regulated manner.

This is because, ~~as~~ as has been observed with prohibition of alcohol, the banning of ~~de~~ such activities usually results in underground mafia and people's rights are endangered without any accountability.

In ~~the~~ conclusion, I will advocate that betting and gambling be legalised ~~after~~ if thorough studies objectively weigh in favour of legalisation

(b) Merits in ~~the~~ support of arguments against my stand

Argument against my stand → Continue to ban/criminalise betting and gambling perpetually.

Merits of this argument

① Majority of people continue to follow laws and it is prudent to continue to dissuade them from such activities.

② Most people in this world are religious and it is unnecessary to tamper with such religious values if they are harmless to the society.

③ Legalising these will dilute the moral principles that generate consensus in society and bind societies together

④ The gains to the exchequer will be not match to the erosion

of values in society.

- ⑤ If betting and gambling are legalised, they will permeate to the educational institutions which might result in morally corrupt students.

Therefore, this issue is a contentious and highly volatile one. Any steps should be taken only after considering all the facts and also values of the society.

11. You work as a marketing consultant for a multinational company that specializes in various products including nutrient supplements, diet pills etc. The company pays its employees extremely well and provides satisfactory fringe benefits. Your manager has hinted that he will recommend you for overseas company transfer, which will improve your job profile. This has motivated you to work harder and perform better. The company has to advertise and sell a new weight loss pill 'X'. As per in-company research, it has minimal or no side effects and has no adverse impacts on health, which is its unique selling point (USP). You are given the responsibility of heading the marketing team for advertising pill 'X'. Due to a well-crafted marketing strategy including endorsement by a renowned celebrity, the product has generated considerable public attention. However, while working on an advertisement campaign for the pill, you find out that the in-company research findings of pill 'X' are fabricated. While it indeed has no side-effects, there are no proven benefits of taking the pill as well. It merely acts as a placebo. When you bring up the issue with your manager, he promptly tells you to keep the facts to yourself. He also indirectly brings up the fact that your performance review date is approaching and hints that you will get transferred overseas if you prove your loyalty to the company. Based on the given information, address the following:
- Identify the stakeholders in this situation.
 - State the ethical issues that arise in this case.
 - Discuss your options in this scenario and mention your next step. (20)

आप पोषक तत्व पूरक आहार, डाइट पिल्स (आहार की गोलियों) आदि सहित विभिन्न उत्पादों में विशेषज्ञता प्राप्त एक बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी के लिए विपणन सलाहकार के रूप में काम करते हैं। कंपनी अपने कर्मचारियों को बहुत अच्छा वेतन देती है और संतोषजनक अतिरिक्त लाभ भी प्रदान करती है। आपके प्रबंधक ने संकेत दिया है कि वह आपकी विदेश में स्थित कंपनी में स्थानांतरण के लिए अनुशंसा करेगा, जिससे आपकी जॉब प्रोफाइल में सुधार होगा। इसने आपको और अधिक मेहनत तथा बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने के लिए प्रेरित किया है।

कंपनी को वजन घटाने वाली एक नई गोली 'X' का विज्ञापन और विक्री करना है। अंतः-कंपनी अनुसंधान के अनुसार, इसका कम से कम या कोई दुष्प्रभाव नहीं है और इसका स्वास्थ्य पर कोई प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता है, जो इसकी विक्रय की खास खूबी है। आपको गोली 'X' का विज्ञापन करने के लिए विपणन टीम का नेतृत्व करने की जिम्मेदारी दी जाती है। एक प्रसिद्ध सेलिब्रिटी द्वारा विज्ञापन सहित अच्छी तरह से तैयार की गई विपणन रणनीति के कारण, इस उत्पाद ने जनता का काफी ध्यान आकर्षित किया। हालांकि, इस गोली के लिए एक विज्ञापन अभियान पर काम करते हुए, आपको पता चलता है कि गोली 'X' का अंतः-कंपनी अनुसंधान निष्कर्ष मनगढ़ंत या जाली है। हालांकि, इसका वास्तव में कोई दुष्प्रभाव नहीं है, लेकिन इस गोली का कोई प्रमाणित लाभ भी नहीं है। यह केवल प्रायोगिक औषध के रूप में कार्य करती है। जब आप यह मुद्दा अपने प्रबंधक के सामने लाते हैं, तो तुरंत आपको तथ्यों को अपने तक सीमित रखने के लिए कहा जाता है। परीक्षा रूप से यह दृष्टि किया जाता है कि आपके प्रदर्शन की समीक्षा की तारीख निकट आ रही है और संकेत दिया जाता है कि यदि आप कंपनी के प्रति अपनी निष्ठा सिद्ध करेंगे तो आपको विदेश स्थानांतरित कर दिया जाएगा।

दी गई जानकारी के आधार पर, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए।

(a) इस स्थिति में हितधारकों की पहचान कीजिए।

(b) इस प्रकरण में उत्पन्न होने वाले नैतिक मुद्दों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

(c) इस परिदृश्य में अपने विकल्पों की विवेचना कीजिए और अपने अगले कदम का उल्लेख कीजिए।

(a) Stakeholders in this situation

(i) me (marketing consultant)

(ii) The multinational company

(iii) my manager

(iv) The renowned celebrity

(v) The general public who
will buy the pills

(vi) legal framework / institution
of country → with which regulate
contents / promises of advertisements

⑤ Ethical Issues in this case

- ① false advertisement on deliberate pretense is a case of molestation, fraud, cheating and dishonesty
- ② lack of transparency regarding the in-house findings
- ③ lack of corporate ethics
- ④ chance of legal complications as advertisements must be correct
- ⑤ issue of corruption → kind of blackmail (indirectly bring the performance review date) to silence the marketing consultant (me)
- ⑥ Moral Bankruptcy → Commerce without Morality → One of Gandhi's seven sins

① Options in this scenario

* Option 1

Stay silent and wait for promotion
by making a deal with the manager/
company

Merits -

- material benefits (promotion, increased salary)
- overseas transfer
 - improve job profile
- Company earns huge profits,
- Economy gets better
- consumers face no side effect
- loyalty

Demerits

- dishonesty, lies, cheating
- crisis of conscience
- illegal act
- duping money from consumers without any benefits

* Option 2

Blow the whistle and make the findings public

Merits

- Company is held accountable
- Transparency
- Anticlient conscience followed
- Consumers save money
- Law is upheld

Demerits

- may be fired from job
- won't be transferred overseas
- company faces losses → manager may be jailed
- Economic disruption

In this case, Option 2 seems to be the correct option. This is because the monetary and other material benefits in Option 1 are based on narrow viewpoints.

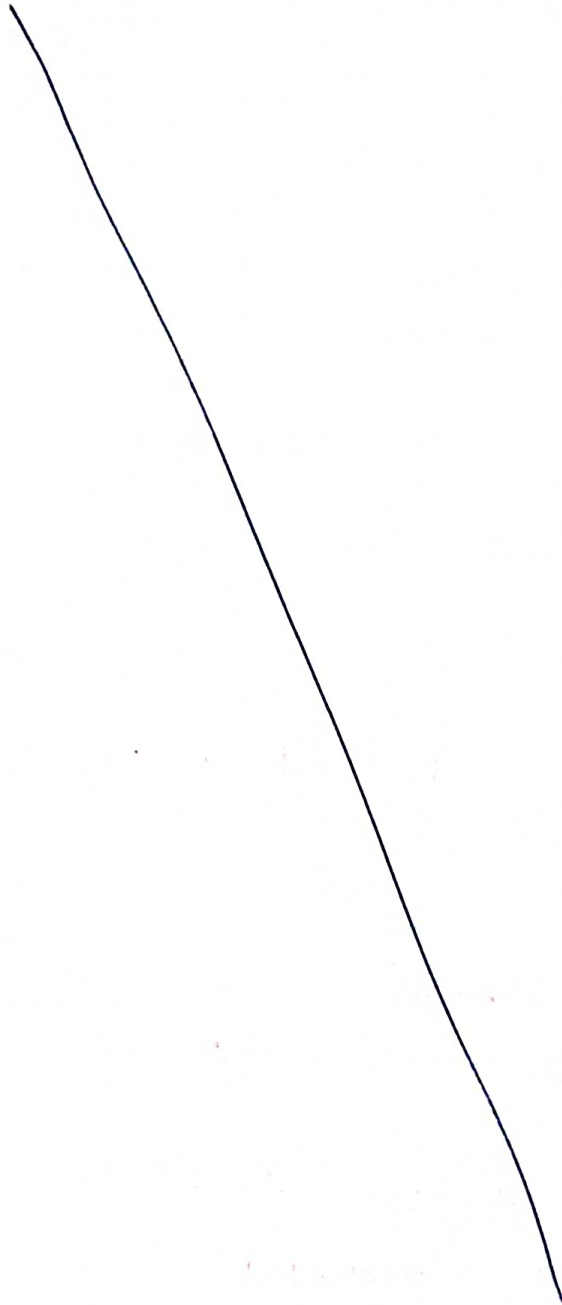
The option 2 will help sustain a better life as exemplified by Gandhiji's

1990

VISION IAS™

Don't write
anything this
margin
(as it is
not in the
margin)

Idea of always listening to the
voice of conscience.



12. There was an incident at a company wherein a fire broke out and led to a number of casualties. During the preliminary inquiry, one of the employees and bystander witnesses, specified that the company had taken all the safety measures and the management was not at fault. During litigation, the same employee was identified as a witness and his deposition was to be taken.

The issue is now in the court. You are a Senior Manager of the company and accompanying the said employee to the court for the deposition. On the way the employee tells you that he had lied during the inquiry; and that the truth was worse for the company than he had stated previously.

- (a) Identify the various ethical issues you would face in this situation.
(b) What would you suggest the employee to do? Give reasons for your suggestions.

(20)

एक कंपनी में एक हादसा हो जाता है जिसमें आग लग जाती है और कई लोग हताहत हो जाते हैं। प्रारंभिक जाँच के दौरान, एक कर्मचारी और घटना के प्रत्यक्ष गवाहों ने विशेष रूप से इस बात पर बल दिया कि कंपनी ने सभी सुरक्षा उपाय किए थे एवं प्रबंधन की कोई गलती नहीं थी। मुकदमेबाजी के दौरान, उसी कर्मचारी की गवाह के रूप में पहचान की गई थी और उसका बयान लिया जाना था।

अब यह मुद्दा न्यायालय में है। आप कंपनी के वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक हैं और बयान के लिए न्यायालय में उक्त कर्मचारी के साथ जाते हैं। रास्ते में वह कर्मचारी आपको बताता है कि उसने जाँच के दौरान झूठ बोला था; और यह भी कि जो भी उसने पहले बताया था, वास्तव में कंपनी के लिए सच उससे भी भयावह है।

- (a) इस स्थिति में आप सामने आने वाले विभिन्न नैतिक मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए।
(b) आप कर्मचारी से क्या करने के लिए कहेंगे? अपने सुझावों के लिए कारण दीजिए।

(a) Ethical Issues involved in this

case

- (i) Wrongful deposition in the court by the said employee
(ii) My loyalty to the company (as senior manager)

(iii) The employee may be implicated for partial / incorrect testimony during the inquiry

(iv) Justice for the people who lost lives during the fire

(v) Accountability of the company has to be ensured

(vi) I might also be implicated for withholding information

(b) Suggestions

I would suggest the employee to connect with the people who were the members of the inquiry team, because there is still time left before the deposition in court - In best case scenario, the deposition may be postponed

to later date. Otherwise, I'll suggest
the employee to come clean
in the court to avoid legal
and moral complications.

1990

VISION IAS™

Don't write
anything this
margin
(not your &
eyes on for all)

