



Sleepy Classes IAS
Awakening Toppers

UPSC MAINS

Solved PYQs

2024

General Studies Paper IV



How to Maximize Your UPSC Mains Score Using These PYQs

Transform Your Preparation into Your Success Strategy

✗ "I solve PYQs but still struggle in mock exam"

Your Problem: You're treating PYQs like MCQs - solving for the sake of solving without strategic analysis.

Strategic Solution: After solving each question, spend 10 minutes analyzing: What was the examiner testing? Which keywords were crucial? How can I improve my answer structure? Create a "mistakes point list" to track recurring weaknesses.



"I can't finish questions within time limits"

Your Problem: You know the content but struggle with time management and answer structuring under pressure.

Time-Bound Practice: Set strict timers - 7 minutes for 10-mark questions, 12 minutes for 15-mark questions. Practice writing concise, impactful answers. Use bullet points and subheadings to save time while maintaining clarity.



"My answers lack depth and examples"

Your Problem: Your answers are generic and don't stand out among thousands of similar responses.

Content Enhancement: For each PYQ, create a "example bank" - collect 2-3 specific case studies, data points, or contemporary examples. Practice weaving these naturally into your answers to demonstrate comprehensive understanding.



"I don't know which topics to prioritize"

Your Problem: Without pattern analysis, you're studying everything equally instead of focusing on high-weightage areas.

Smart Analysis: Create a frequency chart of topics from last 7 years. Identify recurring themes and question patterns. Allocate 60% of your time to high-frequency topics, 40% to emerging trends. Also Sleepy Classes has a video on complete pattern analysis of UPSC mains.

⚠ Critical Mistake to Avoid

Don't just read solved answers and move on. The real learning happens when YOU attempt the question first, then compare with model answers to identify gaps.



Remember: PYQs are your blueprint, not just practice material

Every question tells you exactly what UPSC expects. Use this collection to decode the examiner's mindset, not just to test your knowledge. Your success lies in understanding the 'why' behind each question.

FREE - GS Mains PYQs Discussion

Date	Day	Topic	Year
02 June 2025	Monday	General Studies Paper 1	2024
03 June 2025	Tuesday	General Studies Paper 2	2024
04 June 2025	Wednesday	General Studies Paper 3	2024
05 June 2025	Thursday	General Studies Paper 4	2024
09 June 2025	Monday	General Studies Paper 1	2023
10 June 2025	Tuesday	General Studies Paper 2	2023
11 June 2025	Wednesday	General Studies Paper 3	2023
12 June 2025	Thursday	General Studies Paper 4	2023
16 June 2025	Monday	General Studies Paper 1	2022
17 June 2025	Tuesday	General Studies Paper 2	2022
18 June 2025	Wednesday	General Studies Paper 3	2022
19 June 2025	Thursday	General Studies Paper 4	2022
23 June 2025	Monday	General Studies Paper 1	2021
24 June 2025	Tuesday	General Studies Paper 2	2021
25 June 2025	Wednesday	General Studies Paper 3	2021
26 June 2025	Thursday	General Studies Paper 4	2021
30 June 2025	Monday	General Studies Paper 1	2020
01 July 2025	Tuesday	General Studies Paper 2	2020
02 July 2025	Wednesday	General Studies Paper 3	2020
03 July 2025	Thursday	General Studies Paper 4	2020

To get UPSC Mains 2025 updates & study material

Join: t.me/Sleepyclassesmains

GS - 4

Q. "The application of artificial intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative decision-making is a debatable issue." Critically examine this statement from an ethical point of view. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Briefly introduce AI in governance and its potential as a decision-making tool.
- Critically examine its dependability from an ethical perspective.
- Use ethical theories (utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, rights-based ethics) to evaluate both pros and cons.
- Support with real-world examples and cases.
- Conclude by highlighting the importance of ethics in regulating AI-assisted administration.

Solution:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly being employed in public administration for tasks like policy targeting, welfare delivery, surveillance, and judicial decision support. While it **offers speed, consistency, and data-driven insights**, the question of whether it is a dependable source of input for administrative decisions raises serious ethical concerns.

Ethical Concerns in AI-Based Administrative Decisions:

- **Lack of Accountability and Transparency:** AI systems often operate as **"black boxes," lacking explainability**. For instance, the **COMPAS algorithm used in the US criminal justice** system was accused of racial bias but lacked transparency to justify risk scores.
- **Bias and Discrimination:** AI systems can **inherit and amplify existing social biases** present in their training data. This undermines the principle of fairness and **violates Kantian deontological ethics**, which emphasizes treating individuals as ends in themselves, not mere data points.
- **Privacy Violations:** AI relies heavily on personal data, risking surveillance without consent. From a rights-based perspective, this **violates individual autonomy and the right to privacy**, as seen in concerns around facial recognition technologies used in public spaces.
- **Undermining Human Judgment and Empathy:** Virtue ethics stresses the role of judgment, compassion, and prudence in public decision-making – qualities AI inherently lacks. Overdependence can erode the moral responsibility of human administrators.

Ethical Justifications for AI Use:

- **Utilitarian Argument:** AI can **optimize resource allocation**, detect fraud which may enhance public welfare outcomes.

- **Impartiality and Standardization:** AI can offer **uniformity in routine decisions**, potentially **reducing subjective biases**, assuming the algorithm is trained fairly. This aligns with Rawlsian justice as fairness – promoting consistent treatment.
- **Supportive, Not Decisive Role:** Ethically, AI can be a valuable tool *if* used as an aid and not as a substitute for human discretion.

AI is not inherently unethical, but its dependability in administrative decision-making is conditional on **how ethically it is designed, deployed, and regulated**. Responsible integration, not blind adoption, is key to ensuring that AI serves public good without compromising human dignity and constitutional values.

★ UPSC IAS 2025 ★

GENERAL STUDIES

LIVE MAINS CRASH COURSE

360 degree Coverage of Important Topics

 Precise Content Discussion

 Mentorship by Selected Candidates

 Theme - Wise Framework discussion

 Relevant Current Affairs Coverage

 Topic Inter-linkages

 Telegram Group

BONUS FEATURES

Essay & Ethics Masterclass | Live Mentorship Sessions

1800-890-3043 | sleepy.classes@gmail.com

 **Sleepy Classes IAS**
Awakening Toppers
GET 15 %OFF
Use Code:
SCOREHIGH
~~₹7,499/-~~
₹6,374/-

Q. Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards responsible behaviour. Explain key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions. Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in a professional context. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Define ethics and introduce the idea of its multiple dimensions.
- Identify and explain the key dimensions that influence ethical behaviour.
- Discuss how these dimensions operate in professional settings, using examples.
- Incorporate ethical theories and public service values.
- Conclude with how a multi-dimensional ethical approach enables sound decisions.

Solution:

- **Ethics** is the study of moral principles that govern human behaviour, both individually and collectively. It **encompasses multiple dimensions – cognitive, emotional, social, and institutional** – which shape how individuals perceive right and wrong and act accordingly.

Key Dimensions of Ethics Influencing Human Actions:

- **Cognitive Dimension:** This involves **using logic and understanding to decide what's right**. For example, a government officer follows rules and laws while making decisions.
- **Emotional Dimension:** Feelings like **empathy, guilt, or compassion** also guide our actions. A doctor who treats poor patients with kindness is showing emotional ethics.
- **Social Dimension:** Our **family, culture, and society shape how we see right and wrong**. In a workplace, if others are honest, we are more likely to act honestly too.
- **Institutional Dimension (Laws, Codes, and Systems):** Offices and governments have **rules and codes of conduct** that guide behaviour. For example, civil servants follow the Conduct Rules.
- **Conscience Dimension (Inner Moral Compass):** Sometimes we **follow our inner sense of what is right**, even when it's risky. For instance, a whistleblower who reports wrongdoing in an office is acting based on conscience.

Application in Professional Ethical Decision-Making:

- In professional life, especially in government, officers face complex situations. They need to think logically, follow rules, care about people's feelings, and consider public expectations – all while listening to their conscience.

- For example, **if a collector has to remove people from illegal housing, the law says to remove them (cognitive), but compassion (emotional) and fairness (social) might suggest helping them relocate safely.** The best decision would balance all these dimensions.

Ethical decisions are not just about following rules — they **involve how we think, feel, act, and understand right from wrong.** In professional life, understanding all these parts of ethics helps officers make fair, humane, and responsible decisions.

GENERAL STUDIES PYQs Based **TEST SERIES 2025**

With Evaluation For UPSC Mains 2025

 **Sleepy Classes IAS**
Awakening Toppers

GET 15 %OFF
Use Code:

SCOREHIGH

~~₹7,499/-~~

₹6,374/-

Time Bound Evaluation and feedback

Mentoring Sessions by Selected Candidates

Live sessions for Score improvement Guidelines

Model Answers curated by Subject Matter Experts

Fortnightly performance monitoring Interactions



☎ 1800-890-3043 | ✉ sleepy.classes@gmail.com

Q. "It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it." In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing the continuation of wars for their own self-interest all around the world. What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop the continuation of ongoing conflicts? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Introduce the moral idea of peace and the contradiction with arms-driven conflicts.
- Use international ethics frameworks to explore ethical responsibilities of powerful nations.
- Support arguments with ethical theories and real-world examples.
- Conclude by emphasizing morally responsible global leadership.

Solution:

- The **quote urges nations not only to speak of peace but to internalize it and act upon it**. However, the global arms trade, largely dominated by powerful nations, often undermines this moral obligation. The **continuation of wars in many parts of the world** – from West Asia to parts of Africa – is influenced, in part, by the vested **interests of large weapon industries seeking economic gain**, often with the tacit support of their governments.

Key Ethical Considerations for Powerful Nations:

- **Duty to Prevent Harm (Deontological Ethics):** Powerful nations have a **moral obligation not to enable violence**. **Selling arms to regions** where they are **likely to fuel human suffering is ethically indefensible**, even if it serves national interest.
- **Accountability for Indirect Harm:** Ethically, responsibility is not limited to direct actions. If arms manufactured in one country led to civilian deaths elsewhere, the **exporting nation shares moral responsibility**.
- **Cosmopolitan Moral Duty:** Ethical cosmopolitanism stresses that **all lives have equal worth, irrespective of borders**.
- **Reform of Global Norms (Constructivist Ethics):** **Powerful countries** influence global norms. They **must lead reforms** in global arms regulation, support treaties like the Arms Trade Treaty, and champion disarmament.
- **Just War Responsibility:** Wars must meet moral conditions – **just cause, last resort, proportionality**. By enabling unjust wars or profiting from them, powerful nations violate the ethical foundation of war itself.

Contemporary Examples:

- The prolonged **conflict in Yemen and Gaza** was **fuelled by arms exported** from countries that publicly condemned the humanitarian crisis.
- On the other hand, **countries like Norway have placed strict ethical conditions on arms exports**, balancing economic interest with human rights.

In a deeply interconnected world, **powerful nations must reorient their moral compass – from profit and control to peace and responsibility**. Believing in peace is not enough – ethical action, even at the cost of self-interest, is the true test of responsible global leadership.

Q. Global warming and Climate change are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development, indicating the direction in which extinction of organisms, including human beings, is heading towards loss of life on Earth. How do you put an end to this, protect life and bring equilibrium between society and the environment? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Introduce the ethical crisis of climate change and its roots in unrestrained human actions.
- Highlight the values and ethical principles needed to reverse environmental degradation.
- Suggest practical and policy-level solutions that restore balance between development and environment.
- Conclude with an ethical appeal for sustainable coexistence.

Solution:

- Climate change and global warming are not just environmental issues – they are ethical failures rooted in human greed and unrestrained development. The **overwhelming presence of over 2,400 fossil fuel lobbyists at COP28 – more than seven times the number of indigenous representatives** – highlights how profit-driven interests continue to dominate global climate platforms, even as the **planet faces record-breaking temperatures**.
- To prevent further loss of life and restore balance between human society and the environment, a fundamental shift in our ethical outlook and actions is urgently needed.

Ethical Foundations for Addressing Climate Crisis:

- **Intergenerational Responsibility:** Ethical action requires us to **protect the rights of future generations**. We hold the planet in trust and must ensure its liveability for those who come after us.
- **Sustainable Development:** True development **meets present needs without compromising the ability of others** – especially the poor and the unborn – to meet theirs. This reflects the Gandhian ethic of "*the world has enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed.*"
- **Environmental Justice and Equity:** **Climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities** that have contributed least to it. Ethical governance demands **equitable resource distribution** and **inclusive policy-making**.
- **Principle of Stewardship:** Which means **humans are caretakers of the Earth, not exploiters**. Our duty is to protect biodiversity and live in harmony with nature.

How to Bring Equilibrium Between Society and Environment:

- **Policy Reforms:** **Shift from GDP-centric models to well-being and sustainability indexes.** Enforce green taxation, carbon pricing, and strict regulation of polluting industries.
- **Technology with Ethics:** Promote **clean energy, green infrastructure, and circular economy** models – guided not just by profit, but by environmental ethics.
- **Community Engagement and Awareness:** Ethical change begins with individual and community choices – **mindful consumption, eco-literacy,** and local environmental stewardship.
- **Legal and Institutional Mechanisms:** **Strengthen environmental laws,** constitutional safeguards (like **Article 48A and 51A(g)** in India), and institutional checks on ecological damage.

Protecting the Earth is no longer a choice but a moral duty, and the survival of humanity depends on how quickly we recognize that the Earth is not a resource to be exhausted, but a home to be cherished and shared.

★ UPSC IAS 2025 ★

GENERAL STUDIES

● LIVE MAINS CRASH COURSE

360 degree Coverage of Important Topics

 Precise Content Discussion

 Mentorship by Selected Candidates

 Theme - Wise Framework discussion

 Relevant Current Affairs Coverage

 Topic Inter-linkages

 Telegram Group

BONUS FEATURES

Essay & Ethics Masterclass | Live Mentorship Sessions

1800-890-3043 | sleepy.classes@gmail.com

 **Sleepy Classes IAS**
Awakening Toppers
GET 15 %OFF
Use Code:
SCOREHIGH
~~₹7,499/-~~
₹6,374/-

Q. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?

(a) "Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it; do not become others." - Swami Vivekananda. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Interpret the meaning of the quote.
- Core Ethical Message – Extract the underlying ethical principles.
- Discuss relevance in contemporary society, governance, and personal conduct.
- Provide a reflective ethical insight.

Solution:

- Swami Vivekananda's quote advocates a **balance between learning from others and staying true to one's own identity**. It tells us to absorb what is ethically valuable from other cultures, systems, or individuals – but not at the cost of losing our originality or sense of self.

The quote reflects several ethical values:

- **Viveka:** The ability to choose wisely what is worth adopting.
- **Authenticity:** Staying rooted in one's own principles, culture, and personality.
- **Humility & Openness:** Willingness to learn from others without ego.
- **Integrity:** Ensuring that adopted values are internalized with sincerity, not superficial mimicry.

These are essential virtues for personal moral development and for ethical leadership in public life.

Application in Present Context:

- **In Governance:** **While adopting policies** like digital governance, environmental sustainability, or welfare delivery from abroad, **they must tailor them to local realities**. For **example, India's UPI system** was built on global digital finance concepts but shaped for its unique demographic and economic context.
- **In Cultural & Social Life:** In the **age of globalization and social media**, individuals, especially youth, are exposed to a **flood of external influences**. While there is value in learning global ethics – like gender equality or climate responsibility – blindly imitating **lifestyles can lead to identity erosion and ethical confusion**.
- **In Personal Ethics:** **Professionals and individuals are often inspired by role models**. However, the ethical growth that truly matters happens when values are not just copied, but internalized and expressed in one's own way – **maintaining originality while growing morally**.

Swami Vivekananda's quote is a **call for ethical assimilation, not imitation**. In today's world where imitation is easy, the real challenge – and virtue – lies in **becoming a better version of ourselves, not a copy of someone else**.

GENERAL STUDIES PYQs Based **TEST SERIES 2025**

With Evaluation For UPSC Mains 2025

 **Sleepy Classes IAS**
Awakening Toppers

GET 15 %OFF
Use Code:

SCOREHIGH

~~₹7,499/-~~

₹6,374/-

Time Bound Evaluation and feedback

Mentoring Sessions by Selected Candidates

Live sessions for Score improvement Guidelines

Model Answers curated by Subject Matter Experts

Fortnightly performance monitoring Interactions



☎ 1800-890-3043 | ✉ sleepy.classes@gmail.com

Q. (b) "Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work." - Sardar Patel (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Interpret the quote in simple terms.
- Core Ethical Message – Extract the key ethical principles.
- Show relevance in personal life, public service, and society.
- Reflect on how faith and strength must co-exist in ethical action.

Solution:

- Sardar Patel's quote highlights that **faith alone is not enough to achieve meaningful goals**. It must be supported by strength – whether moral, emotional, intellectual, or physical.

The quote combines two ethical virtues:

- **Faith** represents conviction, vision, and moral confidence – the belief that good outcomes are possible.
- **Strength** represents resilience, courage, discipline, and the practical ability to act.

Without faith, strength becomes directionless. Without strength, faith remains an ideal with no real-world impact. Ethical action requires both inner belief and outward capability.

Application in Present Context:

- **In Public Service:** A civil servant may believe in **justice or equity (faith)**, but **without administrative strength** – decision-making ability, leadership, and moral courage – these **values cannot translate into action**. For instance, a District Collector tackling child labor must combine belief in children's rights with effective enforcement, stakeholder coordination, and personal resolve.
- **In Social Movements:** Mahatma Gandhi's freedom struggle succeeded because it blended **unshakeable faith in nonviolence with the collective strength of mass mobilization** and disciplined resistance.
- **In Personal Ethics:** Individuals may **value honesty or compassion**, but **without the strength to stand by** them under pressure – such as whistleblowing in corruption – those **values remain dormant**.
- **In Nation Building:** India's **constitution is based on faith in democracy and justice**, but **requires institutional strength**, ethical governance, and civic responsibility to uphold it.

Whether it's a public servant, a reformer, or an ordinary citizen – **faith gives purpose, and strength gives action**. Together, they form the ethical foundation needed to serve society with courage, clarity, and conviction.

Q. (c) "In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so." - Immanuel Kant (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Interpret the quote.
- **Core Ethical Message** - Highlight the distinction between legality and morality.
- Discuss real-world implications in public life, civil services, and social ethics.
- Reflect on the deeper ethical standard Kant demands.

Solution:

- This quote by Immanuel Kant highlights a fundamental difference between law and ethics. While **law holds a person accountable only after wrongdoing is proven, ethics deals with intentions** and internal moral responsibility.

Core Ethical Message:

- Kant's **deontological ethics emphasizes the importance of duty, intention**, and the moral law within.
- A person with unethical intent may still be legally innocent, but morally, they are already on the path to wrongdoing.
- This **reinforces the idea that morality begins within**, and ethical conduct requires **integrity even in thought, not just in behaviour**.

Application in Present Context:

- **In Civil Services and Governance:** A public servant who harbours **corrupt intent – even if never caught or prosecuted – violates the ethical expectations** of impartiality, honesty, and public trust.
- **In Public Life and Leadership:** **Leaders who manipulate or deceive** while staying **within legal boundaries** may escape punishment but **erode institutional trust**.
- **In Business and Corporate Ethics:** A **company** that plans to **exploit loopholes in** environmental or labor **laws may be legally safe but ethically flawed**. ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) frameworks now expect corporations to follow the spirit of ethics, not just the letter of the law.
- **In Society and Daily Conduct:** In the age of digital surveillance, privacy breaches or cyberbullying may be dismissed legally if not proven

Kant's quote challenges us to **rise above minimal legal compliance and aspire to moral integrity**. Ethics is not enforced by courts but by conscience.

Q. "The concept of Just and Unjust is contextual. What was just a year back, may turn out to be unjust in today's context. Changing contexts should be constantly under scrutiny to prevent miscarriage of justice." Examine this statement with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)
10

Approach:

- Define what "just" and "unjust" mean from an ethical lens.
- Explain the idea of **contextual justice** — how time, place, and social conditions influence perceptions of justice.
- Use examples from recent events and governance.
- Highlight need for constant moral and legal scrutiny to uphold fairness.
- Conclude by reflecting on the dynamic nature of justice.

Solution:

- Justice is commonly understood as fairness, equality, and doing what is morally right. However, **what is considered "just" is often shaped by the social, political, economic, and cultural context** in which it is applied.

Contextual Nature of Justice:

- **Evolution of Social Values and Morality:** **Ethics is not static.** Practices once accepted (like caste-based exclusion, manual scavenging, or Section 377 criminalizing homosexuality in India) were once legal and justified by prevailing norms. Today, these are seen as clear violations of human dignity and rights.
- **Technological and Economic Shifts:** Data privacy laws a decade ago were minimal. In **today's digital age, not regulating Big Tech would be unjust to citizens whose data is exploited.** Justice now requires stronger laws reflecting new challenges.
- **Governance and Policy Dynamics:** The recent **push for caste-based census, though previously resisted, is now seen as essential** for delivering targeted welfare. Justice here is linked to recognition and redistribution — ideas that shift with political awareness.

Examples Supporting Contextual Justice:

- **Triple Talaq Verdict (2017):** Once considered a religiously accepted practice, it was later struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional and unjust to Muslim women's rights.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Lockdowns:** Initial lockdowns were viewed as just and necessary. However, prolonged and poorly planned restrictions without social protections became unjust for migrant workers and the poor.

Need for Constant Scrutiny:

To prevent miscarriage of justice, it is essential to:

- Review laws and policies regularly.
- Ensure representation of diverse voices, especially marginalized groups.
- Apply justice as a living principle, not a frozen rulebook.

Ethical governance requires **constant introspection and reform to ensure that what we uphold as “just” today does not become the cause of injustice tomorrow.**

Q. Mindless addiction to Form, ignoring the Substance of the matter, results in rendering of injustice. A perceptive civil servant is one who ignores such literalness and carries out true intent. Examine the above statement with suitable illustrations. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Explain the difference between Form and Substance.
- Discuss how rigid adherence to procedures (form) without understanding intent (substance) can lead to injustice.
- Explain the qualities of a perceptive civil servant who upholds the spirit, not just the letter, of the law.
- Support with real-life examples.
- Conclude with the ethical insight.

Solution:

- The statement emphasizes that **when administrators follow procedures mechanically** – focusing only on the form or surface-level rules – **while ignoring** the substance or **ethical purpose behind them, they may end up delivering injustice.**

Form vs. Substance in Ethics:

- **Form** refers to rules, formats, procedures, and technicalities.
- **Substance** refers to justice, empathy, fairness, and ethical purpose.

Why Literalism Leads to Injustice:

- **Denial of Welfare Benefits Due to Documentation Issues:** A **widow may be denied pension because of outdated ID proof**, even though she is clearly eligible. Here, a focus on form causes human suffering, **violating the substance of welfare policy – social protection.**
- **Eviction Without Rehabilitation:** **Removing slum dwellers without ensuring alternate housing** may fulfil legal orders, but **fails the constitutional obligation to ensure dignity of life.**

The Perceptive Civil Servant:

- A perceptive officer **interprets rules in light of constitutional values** such as justice, equity, and compassion.
- They **show moral courage to bend procedures** when required (**without corruption**) to ensure that governance uplifts the most vulnerable. **Example: IAS officer Armstrong Pame** mobilized resources through social media **to build a 100-km road in a remote part of Manipur without waiting for official sanctions** – fulfilling the true intent of service to people.

A **civil servant must** go beyond literalism and **uphold the substance over form**, ensuring that their **actions reflect the spirit of the law**, not just its wording. This is the hallmark of ethical and effective public service.

Q. "The 'Code of Conduct' and the 'Code of Ethics' are sources of guidance in public administration. There is Code of Conduct already in operation, whereas a Code of Ethics is not yet put in place." Suggest a suitable model for a Code of Ethics to maintain integrity, probity, and transparency in governance. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Differentiate between Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics.
- Emphasize the need for a formal Code of Ethics in Indian public administration.
- Propose a structured model with key ethical principles.
- Illustrate how it will help promote integrity, probity, and transparency.
- Conclude with a reflection on ethical governance.

Solution:

- A **Code of Conduct** provides a **list of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours** and is enforceable through service rules. It is prescriptive and regulatory in nature. In contrast, a **Code of Ethics** is a **broader framework** that **guides the moral compass of civil servants** — focusing not just on compliance, but on values, conscience, and decision-making in ambiguous situations.
- **India** has service conduct rules like the All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, but **lacks a formal, institutionalized Code of Ethics** that articulates values expected from civil servants beyond procedural correctness.

A Model for a Code of Ethics:

A robust Code of Ethics for public servants should include the following components:

1. Foundational Values:

- **Integrity:** Always act in public interest; avoid conflict of interest.
- **Probity:** Be morally upright, avoid misuse of position.
- **Impartiality:** Serve citizens without bias; uphold equality before law.
- **Transparency:** Be open and accountable in decisions.
- **Empathy & Compassion:** Treat citizens with dignity and understanding.

2. Ethical Decision-Making Framework:

Civil servants should ask:

- Is it legal?
- Is it ethical?

- Is it fair to all stakeholders?
- Would I be comfortable if my decision was made public?

3. Periodic Review and Ethical Training:

- Mandatory ethics training at all career stages.
- Regular review of ethical dilemmas and public feedback.

Such a Code of Ethics would:

- **Promote integrity** by guiding officers beyond what is legal to what is right.
- **Ensure probity** by discouraging discretion-based corruption.
- **Enhance transparency** by institutionalizing openness and public accountability.

A **Code of Conduct may prevent misconduct**, but only a **Code of Ethics can promote ethical conduct**. As public expectations rise and governance becomes complex, a formal Code of Ethics is essential for fostering a culture of trust, fairness, and moral responsibility within public institutions.

★ UPSC IAS 2025 ★

GENERAL STUDIES

● LIVE MAINS CRASH COURSE

360 degree Coverage of Important Topics

 Precise Content Discussion

 Mentorship by Selected Candidates

 Theme - Wise Framework discussion

 Relevant Current Affairs Coverage

 Topic Inter-linkages

 Telegram Group

BONUS FEATURES

Essay & Ethics Masterclass | Live Mentorship Sessions

1800-890-3043 | sleepy.classes@gmail.com

 **Sleepy Classes IAS**
Awakening Toppers

GET 15 %OFF
Use Code:
SCOREHIGH
~~₹7,499/-~~
₹6,374/-

Q. The soul of the new law, Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is promote justice of high Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos. Discuss this in the light of major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice in the present judicial system. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Briefly explain the transition from IPC to BNS and what it signifies.
- Explain the shift from **punishment-centric jurisprudence** to a **justice-oriented and victim-centric approach**.
- Discuss how BNS reflects Indian ethical and cultural values of **dharma, fairness, and balance**.
- Highlight key reforms that show the shift in ethical foundations.
- Conclude with a reflection on justice, equality, and cultural rootedness in law.

Solution:

- The **Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita** (BNS), which **replaces the colonial Indian Penal Code** (IPC), marks a significant philosophical **shift in India's criminal justice system – from a retributive model** of punishment **to a more justice-centric** framework.

From Punishment to Justice:

The **IPC**, framed in 1860, **emphasized deterrence and state authority**. In contrast, the **BNS focuses on:**

- **Restorative justice**, where the victim's suffering and dignity are addressed.
- **Proportionality of punishment**, balancing the gravity of crime with humane treatment.
- **Time-bound justice**, recognizing that delayed justice is itself an ethical failure.

BNS and Indian Cultural-Ethical Ethos:

- **Equality and Impartiality** in the BNS echo the **constitutional vision of equal justice under law (Article 14)**, while also accounting for Indian realities such as caste-based injustices, gender inequality, and procedural delays.
- **Inclusion of victim's rights and faster trial mechanisms** resonate with the **Indian ethical notion of karuna (compassion) and kshama (forgiveness)**, while still upholding accountability.

Key Ethical Shifts Reflected in BNS:

- **Simplification and Localization:** Language, procedures, and classification are **made more accessible to the common citizen**, reinforcing democratic ethics.

- **Decriminalization of Petty Offences:** Avoids criminalizing poverty or minor offences – showing a **move toward ethical minimalism** and reformatory justice.
- **Victim-Centric Provisions:** **Greater role for victims in legal proceedings, including compensation,** aligns with restorative ethics.

Rooted in Indian cultural values and constitutional morality, BNS aspires to create a system where equality, impartiality, and dignity replace fear and punishment as the basis of law.

Q. "In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years. Examine the gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants and suggest suitable measures to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Begin with the status of women in public service within Indian cultural-constitutional ideals.
- Identify gender-specific ethical and professional challenges faced by female officers.
- Suggest measures to enhance their effectiveness and uphold probity.
- Conclude with the value of gender-diverse, ethical governance.

Solution:

- **Indian philosophy** and the **Constitution affirm the ideal of equality**, as reflected in Articles 14, 15, and 16. The growing participation of women in public service is a positive step toward realizing these ideals. However, despite legal equality, **female public servants continue to face gender-specific challenges** that affect their professional performance and ethical autonomy.

Gender-Specific Challenges in Public Service:

- **Workplace Bias and Stereotyping:** Women officers are often **perceived as less capable in fieldwork or decision-making roles**, especially in police or administrative services.
- **Work-Life Balance Pressures:** Societal expectations still place **the burden of caregiving disproportionately on women**, leading to stress, burnout, or career stagnation.
- **Lack of Institutional Support:** **Inadequate** facilities such as **safe housing, childcare, and maternity support** hinder women from taking up rural or high-pressure postings.
- **Glass Ceiling and Role Tokenism:** Fewer women reach top leadership positions. In some cases, women are given **ceremonial or non-critical roles without real decision-making power**.
- **Harassment and Safety Concerns:** Incidents of sexual harassment or intimidation in the workplace continue to discourage women from fully asserting themselves, affecting their morale and ethical decision-making.

Measures to Improve Efficiency and Uphold Probity:

- **Gender-Sensitive Workplaces:** **Enforce POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) Act** effectively, provide safe housing and grievance redressal mechanisms.
- **Mentorship and Leadership Development:** Encourage **senior women officers to mentor young recruits**; create gender-balanced leadership pipelines.

- **Flexible Work Policies:** Introduce policies like **flexible posting, teleworking options, and robust childcare support** – without compromising on merit.
- **Training in Ethical Leadership:** Provide ethics and **gender-sensitivity training at every level of service** to create inclusive, just workplaces.
- **Awareness and Cultural Change:** Promote awareness **among male colleagues and the wider public** to shift attitudes about women in authority, particularly in rural or traditional settings.

A gender-sensitive administrative system not only enhances efficiency but also reflects the inclusive values enshrined in Indian ethos and constitutional morality.

Q. Mission Karmayogi is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behavior to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn developing oneself. How will this scheme empower the civil servants in enhancing productive efficiency and delivering the services at the grassroots level? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Approach:

- Introduce Mission Karmayogi and its ethical vision.
- Explain how it enhances personal and professional development.
- Link it to improved efficiency and citizen-centric service delivery.
- Conclude with its significance for ethical governance.

Solution:

- **Mission Karmayogi**, also known as the **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building** (NPCSCB), represents a paradigm shift in India's approach to public administration. Its **goal is to transform civil servants into "citizen-centric, future-ready professionals"** by promoting ethical conduct, behavioural reform, and lifelong learning.

Empowering Civil Servants through Mission Karmayogi:

- **Promoting Ethical Behaviour and Professionalism:** By **inculcating values** such as integrity, impartiality, empathy, and dedication, the **scheme promotes ethical leadership and personal accountability**.
- **Competency-Based Training:** The scheme **identifies specific core, functional, and behavioural competencies** required for different roles. This ensures that training is not generic but role-specific, enhancing the productive efficiency of officers.
- **Digital Platform (iGOT - Integrated Government Online Training):** Through iGOT, civil servants can access **curated content, learn at their own pace**, and update their skills continuously.
- **Decentralized and Inclusive Capacity Building:** Mission Karmayogi is **not restricted to elite services** like IAS or IPS. It **includes Group B and C officers**, who are **critical in last-mile service delivery**.
- **Transparent and Performance-Oriented Governance:** It aims to create a **merit-based system of performance evaluation linked to real outcomes** – enhancing efficiency, reducing delays, and ensuring better grievance redressal at the grassroots.

Mission Karmayogi is a step toward building a civil service that is technically competent, ethically grounded, and emotionally intelligent. By empowering officers at all levels to continuously learn, evolve, and serve with integrity, the mission ensures that governance becomes not only efficient, but also just, inclusive, and compassionate.

Q. There is a technological company named ABC Incorporated which is the second largest worldwide, situated in the Third World. You are the Chief Executive Officer and the majority shareholder of this company. The fast technological improvements have raised worries among environmental activist's regulatory authorities, and the general public over the sustainability of this scenario.

You confront substantial issues about the business's environmental footprint. In 2023, your organization had a significant increase of 48% in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the levels recorded in 2019. The significant rise in energy consumption is mainly due to the surging energy requirements of your data centers, fuelled by the exponential expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AI-powered services need much more computational resources and electrical energy compared to conventional online activities, notwithstanding their notable gains. The technology's proliferation has led to a growing concern over the environmental repercussions, resulting in an increase in warnings. AI models, especially those used in extensive machine learning and data processing, exhibit much greater energy consumption than conventional computer tasks, with an exponential increase.

Although there is already a commitment and goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, the challenge of lowering emissions seems overwhelming as the integration of AI continues to increase. To achieve this goal, substantial investments in renewable energy use would be necessary. The difficulty is exacerbated by the competitive environment of the technology sector, where rapid innovation is essential for preserving market standing and shareholders' worth. To achieve a balance between innovation, profitability and sustainability, a strategic move is necessary that is in line with both, business objectives and ethical obligations.

(a) What is your immediate response to the challenges posed in the above case?

(b) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.

(c) Your company has been identified to be penalized by technological giants. What logical and ethical arguments will you put forth to convince about its necessity?

(d) Being a conscience being, what measures would you adopt to maintain balance between AI innovation and environmental footprint?
(Answer in 250 words) 20

Approach:

- Introduce the core dilemma of balancing AI innovation with environmental sustainability.
- Discuss your immediate response to the challenge.
- Identify key ethical issues.
- Respond logically and ethically to anticipated penalties from regulators.
- Recommend concrete, ethical measures to align business growth with sustainability.
- Conclude with an ethical reflection on responsible corporate leadership.

Solution:

- In an era where artificial intelligence is driving exponential progress, the **ethical challenge** lies in **ensuring that innovation does not come at the cost of environmental sustainability**. This case reflects a **classic ethical tension between economic growth**, technological leadership, **and our responsibility toward the environment** and future generations.

(a) Immediate Response

- My first response would be to **publicly acknowledge the gravity of the environmental concerns**, followed by immediate internal action.
- I would **initiate an independent environmental audit**, **mobilize a Sustainability Task Force**, and announce a **moratorium on non-essential AI model training** until emission benchmarks are evaluated.
- Communicating this transparently will reassure regulators, activists, and the public that the company is committed to ethical responsibility, not just profitability.

(b) Ethical Issues Involved

- **Environmental Ethics and Non-Maleficence:** The sharp rise in emissions raises concerns about causing harm to the environment, violating the ethical principle of non-maleficence.
- **Justice and Intergenerational Equity:** There is an ethical conflict in risking future generations' environmental security for present technological and economic gains.

- **Conflict of Interest and Corporate Accountability:** Holding dual roles as CEO and majority shareholder presents a potential ethical dilemma between private profit and broader public responsibility.
- **Ignoring Environmental Costs:** Expanding AI operations without accounting for their environmental impact raises ethical concerns about shifting the burden of pollution and resource depletion onto society.

(c) Defence to Regulators and Technological Giants

To justify the necessity of our operations and avoid disproportionate penalties:

- **Ethical Transition Argument:** We are in the midst of transitioning to low-carbon data architecture. Penalizing now would punish ethical evolution.
- **Comparative Responsibility:** Many developed-world corporations historically contributed more to climate change. Our commitment to Net Zero by 2030 is firm and more ambitious than several peers.
- **AI's Long-term Positive Impact:** Our AI solutions support climate modelling, precision agriculture, and disaster response, making our innovation part of the solution to climate issues.

(d) Measures to Balance Innovation and Sustainability:

I will initiate the following multi-pronged strategy:

- **Green Infrastructure Development:** Transition all data centres to renewable power and use energy-efficient hardware.
- **Internal Carbon Auditing & Pricing:** Create an internal carbon cost mechanism, linking departmental budgets to energy use and emission reductions.
- **Transparent ESG Governance:** Publish quarterly carbon disclosure reports audited by third parties.
- **Ethical Stakeholder Engagement:** Conduct periodic stakeholder dialogues to align business strategy with societal expectations.

By **integrating environmental ethics into AI innovation**, we not only protect the planet but also **secure our long-term business viability and public trust**. This case demands that we lead not just in AI capability – but in AI responsibility.

Q. Raman is a senior IPS officer and has recently been posted as D.G. of a state. Among the various issues and problems/challenges which needed his immediate attention, the issue relating to recruitment of unemployed Youth by an unknown terrorist group, was a matter of grave concern.

It was noted that unemployment was relatively high in the state. The problem of unemployment amongst graduates and those with higher education was much more grave. Thus they were vulnerable and soft targets.

In the review meeting taken by him with senior officers of DIG Range and above, it came to light that a new terrorist group has emerged at the global level. It has launched a massive drive to recruit young unemployed people. Special focus was to pick young people from particular community. The said organization seemed to have the clear objective of utilising/using them for carrying out militant activities. It was also gathered that the said (new) group is desperately trying to spread its tentacles in his state.

A definite/reliable intelligence tip was received by the State CID and Cyber Cell that a large number of such unemployed youth have already been contacted by the terrorist outfit/group through social media and local communal organisations and other contacts. The need of the hour was to act swiftly and to check these elements/designs before they assume serious proportions.

Discrete inquiries made by the police, through the Cyber Cell, revealed that good numbers of unemployed youth are very active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. On an average, many of them were spending 6-8 hours each day, using electronic devices/internet, etc. It also came to light that such unemployed youth were showing sympathy and endorsing the messages received from certain persons, allegedly the contact persons of that global terrorist group. Their social media accounts revealed their strong affinity to such groups inasmuch as many of them started forwarding anti-national tweets on their WhatsApp and Facebook, etc. It seemed that they succumbed to their ploy and started propagating secessionist ideology. Their posts were hyper-critical of the government's initiatives, policies and subscribing to extreme beliefs and promoting extremism.

(a) What are the options available to Raman to tackle the above situation?
(b) What measures would you suggest for strengthening the existing set-up to ensure that such groups do not succeed in penetrating and vitiating the atmosphere in the state?
(c) In the above scenario, what action plan would you advise for enhancing the intelligence gathering mechanism of the police force?
(Answer in 250 words) 20

Approach:

- Introduce the core ethical and governance dilemma of countering terrorist recruitment amid unemployment and communal sensitivity.
- List options available to the officer.
- Suggest institutional and preventive reforms to strengthen the state's capacity.
- Propose action plan to enhance intelligence gathering ethically and effectively.
- Conclude with a reflection on balancing national security with civil liberties and inclusive governance.

Solution:

- Raman, as Director General of Police, faces a **dual challenge: stopping youth recruitment by a global terrorist** outfit while **maintaining communal harmony and civil liberties**. High unemployment and online radical propaganda have made educated youth vulnerable, demanding swift, sensitive, and strategic action.

(a) Options Available to Raman

- **Monitor Online Activity:** Strengthen **cyber surveillance** to **track suspicious content** and identify youth engaging with extremist material – **within legal boundaries**.
- **De-radicalization Programmes:** Launch **counselling** and **awareness drives** involving community leaders, psychologists, and families to **bring vulnerable youth back into the mainstream**.
- **Lawful Action Against Extremists:** Take strict but **evidence-based legal action against individuals promoting violence** or anti-national content.
- **Community Engagement:** Build trust with affected communities through **dialogue and outreach** to **prevent alienation** and encourage cooperation.
- **Job-Oriented Support:** Collaborate with state agencies to create job fairs, vocational courses, and mentorship schemes in high-risk districts to address the root cause – unemployment.

(b) Measures to Strengthen the Existing Setup

- **Interdepartmental Coordination:** Set up a counter-radicalization cell with **police, education, and labour departments** to ensure a unified response.
- **Upgraded Cyber Cell:** Equip cyber units with **AI tools to track keywords, encrypted channels, and dark web activity** linked to radical propaganda.
- **Revive Community Policing:** Involve beat officers in regular community visits, youth clubs, and local vigilance efforts to build grassroots-level trust and information flow.
- **Empower Local Influencers:** Train teachers, clerics, and volunteers **as counter-narrative ambassadors** to challenge extremist ideology with credible voices.
- **Youth Mobilization Campaigns:** Promote youth participation in sports, NSS/NCC, and innovation contests to shift focus from frustration to productivity.

(c) Action Plan to Enhance Intelligence Gathering

- **Stronger Human Intelligence:** Train **informants from local communities**, especially in vulnerable areas, to provide timely ground-level insights.
- **24/7 Digital Threat Unit:** Establish a real-time cyber monitoring team using AI-based tools for early alerts on suspicious trends.
- **Data Analytics and Pattern Recognition:** Analyse social media behaviour and network formation to predict possible radicalization patterns.
- **Secure Reporting Platforms:** **Create anonymous and accessible portals for citizens to report** suspicious activities safely.
- **Joint Exercises and Training:** Conduct regular training with central agencies like NIA and IB to stay updated on modern intelligence methods.

Raman's **response must combine strong law enforcement with preventive outreach and inclusive governance**. By addressing unemployment, building trust, and using ethical intelligence tools, the state can counter radicalization effectively while upholding rights and harmony.

Q. With multipronged strategy of the Central and State Governments specially in the last few years, the Naxalite problem has been resolved to a large extent in the affected states of the country. However, there are a few pockets in certain states where Naxalite problem still persists, mainly due to involvement of foreign countries. Rohit is posted as SP (Special Operations) for the last one year, in one of the districts which is still affected by the Naxalite problem. The district administration has taken a lot of developmental works in the recent past in the Naxalite affected areas to win the hearts and minds of the people. Over a period of time, Rohit has established an excellent intelligence network to get the real time information regarding the movement of Naxalite cadre. To instill confidence in the public and have moral ascendancy over the Naxalites, a number of cordons and search operations are being conducted by the police. Rohit, who himself was leading one of the contingents got a message through his intelligence source that about ten hard core Naxalites were hiding in a particular village with sophisticated weapons.

Without wasting any time, Rohit reached the target village with his team and laid out a foolproof cordon and started carrying out a systematic search. During the search, his team managed to overpower all the Naxalites along with their automatic weapons. However, in the meantime, more than five hundred tribal women surrounded the village and started marching towards the target house. They were shouting and demanding the immediate release of insurgents since they are their protectors and saviours. The situation on the ground was becoming very critical as the tribal women were extremely agitated and aggressive. Rohit tried to contact his superior officer, IG (Special Operations) of the state on the radio set and on mobile phone, but failed to do so due to poor connectivity. Rohit was in great dilemma since out of the Naxalites apprehended two were not only hard-core top insurgents with prize money of ten lakhs on their heads, but were also involved in a recent ambush on the security forces. However, if he did not release the Naxalites, the situation could get out of control since the tribal women were aggressively charging towards them. In that case, to control the situation Rohit might have to resort to firing which may lead to valuable loss of lives of civilians and would further complicate the situation.

- (a) What are the options available with Rohit to cope with the situation?
- (b) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Rohit?
- (c) Which of the options, do you think, would be more appropriate for Rohit to adopt and why?
- (d) In the present situation, what are the extra precautionary measures to be taken by the police in dealing with women protesters?
- (Answer in 250 words) 20

Approach

- Introduce the core dilemma of balancing counter-insurgency success with civilian safety.
- List Rohit's immediate options.
- Identify key ethical dilemmas.
- Recommend the most appropriate course of action with justification.
- Suggest extra precautions for dealing with women protesters.

Solution:

- Rohit's operation against armed Naxalites has placed him in a **difficult ethical position** – between **upholding law and order and avoiding civilian harm**. His decisions now will have consequences on both security and public trust.

(a) Options Available to Rohit

- **Release the Naxalites under pressure** to avoid possible civilian casualties and defuse the mob temporarily.
- **Use force to disperse the crowd**, including lathi charge or even firing if things go out of control.
- **Try non-violent crowd control techniques** such as negotiation, delay tactics, or symbolic actions (e.g., assurance of fair trial) to calm the mob.
- **Hold the Naxalites under safe custody** within the village and send a small team to bring in reinforcements, mediators, or communication equipment.
- **Use village influencers or mediators** like tribal leaders, NGOs, or women leaders to calm the crowd while buying time.

(b) Ethical Dilemmas Faced by Rohit

- **Rule of Law vs Public Safety:** He must choose between enforcing the law by arresting wanted criminals and preventing violence against civilians.

- **Short-term Peace vs Long-term Security:** Releasing Naxalites may defuse the current tension but risks emboldening insurgents and weakening the state's authority.
- **Duty to the State vs Empathy for Local Sentiments:** Rohit must balance his official role with the emotions of a population that sees Naxalites as their defenders.
- **Use of Force vs Non-violence:** Firing on women protesters, even if legally justified in self-defence, can severely damage public trust and create human rights concerns.

(c) Most Appropriate Option for Rohit and Why

Option 3 – Non-violent crowd control combined with strategic delay and communication is the most ethical and practical path.

Rohit should:

- **Avoid releasing the Naxalites**, as this undermines justice and counter-insurgency efforts.
- **Use non-lethal methods:** calm the crowd through public announcements, empathy, and local influencers.
- **Temporarily secure the arrested Naxalites in a reinforced inner cordon** while waiting for backup or contact with superiors.
- **Use delaying tactics such as offering to talk**, listening to grievances, and assuring due process.
- **Avoid confrontation by not responding aggressively**, which could provoke violence.

This option upholds the **rule of law**, avoids **bloodshed**, and protects **institutional legitimacy** while allowing time for resolution.

(d) Extra Precautionary Measures in Handling Women Protesters

- **Avoid Use of Force** unless absolutely necessary and only as a last resort.
- **Deploy female police personnel** wherever available to manage the crowd sensitively.
- **Respect cultural norms and dignity** during the interaction to prevent alienation.
- **Record the proceedings (if possible)** for transparency and future accountability.

Upholding national security without endangering lives is the highest form of ethical policing. By using patience, communication, and community engagement, Rohit can protect both justice and peace, ensuring long-term trust in governance and law enforcement.

Q. Sneha is a Senior Manager working for a big reputed hospital chain in a mid-sized city. She has been made in-charge of the new super specialty center that the hospital is building with state-of-the art equipment and world class medical facilities. The building has been reconstructed and she is starting the process of procurement for various equipment and machines. As the head of the committee responsible for procurement, she has invited bids from all the interested reputed vendors dealing in medical equipment.

She notices that her brother, who is a well-known supplier in this domain, has also sent his expression of interest. Since the hospital is privately owned, it is not mandatory for her to select only the lower bidder. Also, she is aware that her brother's company has been facing some financial difficulties and a big supply order will help him recover. At the same time, allocating the contract to her brother might bring charges of favoritism against her and tarnish her image. The hospital management trusts her fully and would support any decision of hers.

(a) What should be Sneha's course of action?

(b) How would she justify what she chooses to do?

(c) In this case, how is medical ethics compromised with vested personal interest? (Answer in 250 words) 20

Approach

- Introduce the ethical dilemma between professional duty and personal loyalty.
- Identify stakeholders involved.
- Discuss Sneha's course of action.
- Justify the ethically sound course.
- Discuss how medical ethics may be compromised when personal interests interfere.

Solution:

- Sneha, a Senior Manager overseeing procurement in a reputed hospital, is caught in an **ethical dilemma**. Her brother's company has applied for a major equipment contract. **Though private-sector norms allow flexibility**, any **biased decision risks compromising fairness and the integrity** of healthcare services.

Stakeholders Involved

- Sneha
- Hospital Management
- Sneha's Brother
- Other Vendors
- Patients/Public
- Hospital Staff/Doctors

(a) Sneha's course of action:

- **Recuse Herself from the Procurement Committee:** To **avoid a conflict of interest** and maintain transparency, Sneha should step down from the final decision-making process for this specific contract.
- **Ensure a Fair Evaluation Process:** **Set up an impartial sub-committee to evaluate all bids**, including her brother's, purely on merit – quality, service support, long-term cost, and technical features.
- **Declare the Conflict Transparently:** **Inform hospital management of her relationship** with one of the bidders and let them formally decide whether her brother's bid should continue in the process.

(b) Sneha can justify her decision on the basis of:

- **Conflict of Interest Ethics:** Even in private institutions, **perceived bias can damage credibility**. Stepping aside upholds fairness and transparency.
- **Long-term Professional Trust:** Avoiding **favouritism ensures the hospitals and her own reputation** remain intact, which is vital in the healthcare industry.
- **Merit-Based Procurement:** By allowing her brother's company to compete fairly without her influence, she **balances family interest with institutional integrity**.
- **Leadership by Example:** Her actions would demonstrate ethical leadership and promote a culture of accountability within the organization.

(c) Medical ethics gets compromised by vested personal interest in the following manner:

- Biased procurement may lead to **substandard equipment**, indirectly **affecting patient safety and care quality**.

- Choosing vendors based on personal relations rather than patient-centred outcomes **violates the principle of beneficence**.
- **Favouritism may set a precedent**, promoting a culture where personal gain overrides professional standards.
- It **weakens the ethical duty of non-maleficence**, which healthcare institutions owe to patients and society.

In sectors like healthcare, even the appearance of favouritism can erode public trust. Sneha's responsibility is not just legal but moral – to uphold fairness, transparency, and patient welfare.

GENERAL STUDIES PYQs Based TEST SERIES 2025

With Evaluation For UPSC Mains 2025



GET 15 %OFF
Use Code:
SCOREHIGH
~~₹7,499/-~~
₹6,374/-

Time Bound Evaluation and feedback

Mentoring Sessions by Selected Candidates

Live sessions for Score improvement Guidelines

Model Answers curated by Subject Matter Experts

Fortnightly performance monitoring Interactions



1800-890-3043 | sleepy.classes@gmail.com

Q. With the summer heat being exceptionally severe this year, the district has been facing severe water shortage. The District Collector has been mobilizing his subordinate officials to conserve the remaining water reserves for preventing the district from plunging into acute drinking water crisis. Along with an awareness campaign for conserving water, strict measures have been taken for stopping the over-exploitation of ground-water. Vigilance teams have been deployed to tour the villages and find the farmers who are drawing water from deep borewells or from the river reservoir for irrigation. The farmers are agitated by such action. A delegation of farmers meets the District Collector with their issues and complains that while they are not being allowed to irrigate their crops, big industries located near the river are drawing huge amounts of water through deep borewells for their industrial processes. The farmers allege that their administration is anti-farmer and corrupt, being bribed by the industry. The district needs to placate the farmers as they are threatening to go on a prolonged protest. At the same time, the District Collector has to deal with the water crisis. The industry cannot be closed as this would result in a large number of workers being unemployed.

(a) Discuss all options available to the District Collector as a District Magistrate.

(b) What suitable actions can be taken in view of mutually compatible interests of the stakeholders?

(c) What are the potential administrative and ethical dilemmas for the District Collector? (Answer in 250 words) 20

Approach

- Introduce the crisis: ethical conflict in water allocation during drought.
- Identify stakeholders involved.
- Discuss all options available to the Collector.
- Recommend mutually beneficial actions.
- Highlight key administrative and ethical dilemmas.
- Conclude with a balanced ethical insight.

Solution:

- The District Collector is facing a critical situation: severe water scarcity during an extreme summer, leading to conflict between farmers and industries over groundwater use. While **conservation is vital to prevent a humanitarian crisis, equity and fairness in enforcement must be ensured to avoid perceptions of bias**, unrest, or economic disruption.

Stakeholders Involved

- Farmers
- Industries
- District Administration
- Workers in Industries
- General Public
- Future Generations

Options Available

Option 1: Impose Equal Restrictions on Both Farmers and Industries

Merits:

- Ensures equity; prevents perception of favouritism.
- Reinforces public trust and transparency.
- Conforms with principle of distributive justice.

Demerits:

- May lead to economic losses and job cuts in industry.
- Resistance from powerful industrial lobbies.
- Immediate disruption in production and tax revenue.

Option 2: Allow Industrial Use, Restrict Farmers Further

Merits:

- Keeps industrial production and employment stable.
- Less disruption to local economy.

Demerits:

- Appears anti-farmer; increases rural distress.
- Escalates protest and law-and-order challenges.

- Violates equity and may appear ethically unjustified.

Option 3: Temporarily Halt Non-Essential Industrial Use and Divert Saved Water for Critical Farming

Merits:

- Prioritizes food security and rural livelihoods.
- Demonstrates moral leadership in crisis.
- May de-escalate farmer unrest.

Demerits:

- May result in temporary unemployment in industry.
- Needs clear criteria for defining “non-essential use.”

Option 4: Appoint an Independent Water Allocation Committee and Enforce Time-Bound Rational Use

Merits:

- Promotes shared responsibility; inclusive and consultative.
- Allows both sectors to use water rationally under supervision.
- Reduces tension and maintains transparency.

Demerits:

- Slower decision-making in emergency situations.
- Requires capacity and continuous monitoring.

Most Appropriate Option

Option 4—creating a **Water Allocation Committee with transparent and time-bound usage rules**—is the most balanced and ethical solution. This option **aligns with Gandhian ethics of trusteeship, Rawlsian fairness**, and practical governance principles.

(c) Administrative and Ethical Dilemmas

- **Equity vs. Economic Utility:** Whether to prioritize farmers (food and livelihoods) or industries (employment and economy) in resource allocation.
- **Rule Enforcement vs. Perception of Bias:** Even if industries follow the rules, lack of visible action can lead to public distrust and unrest.
- **Accountability vs. Political Pressure:** Pressure from political or industrial lobbies may conflict with neutral governance and ethical responsibility.

The District Collector must **ensure a participatory and well-communicated strategy**, coupled with balanced enforcement and long-term water governance, **to resolve the current crisis while reinforcing public trust and ethical administration**.

Q. Dr. Srinivasan is a senior scientist working for a reputed biotechnology company known for its cutting-edge research in pharmaceuticals. Dr. Srinivasan is heading a research team working on a new drug aimed at treating a rapidly spreading variant of a new viral infectious disease. The disease has been rapidly spreading across the world and the cases reported in the country are increasing. There is huge pressure on Dr. Srinivasan's team to expedite the trials for the drug as there is significant market for it, and the company wants to get the first-mover advantage in the market. During a team meeting, some senior team members suggest some shortcut for expediting the clinical trials for the drug and for getting the requisite approvals. These include manipulating data to exclude some negative outcomes and selectively reporting positive results, foregoing the process of informed consent and using compounds already patented by a rival company, rather than developing one's own component. Dr. Srinivasan is not comfortable taking such shortcuts, at the same time he realises meeting the targets is impossible without using these means.

- (a) What would you do in such a situation?**
- (b) Examine your options and consequences in the light of the ethical questions involved.**
- (c) How can data ethics and drug ethics save humanity at large in such a scenario?** **(Answer in 250 words) 20**

Approach

- Introduce the ethical conflict between commercial success and scientific integrity.
- Identify stakeholders.
- List possible actions with pros and cons.
- Choose the most ethical course of action with justification.
- Explain the relevance of data ethics and drug ethics in safeguarding humanity.

Solution:

- Dr. Srinivasan, a senior scientist leading a breakthrough pharmaceutical project during a public health crisis, is facing **ethical pressure**. He must now **choose between upholding scientific ethics and yielding to commercial and societal pressure for faster results**.

Stakeholders Involved

- Dr. Srinivasan
- Research Team
- Biotech Company
- Regulatory Authorities
- Patients and Public
- Rival Companies

(a) Options Available

Option 1: Accept Shortcuts to Meet Targets

Merits: Rapid approval, company gains, public access to drug sooner.

Demerits:

- Violates scientific and research ethics.
- Endangers public health due to incomplete or misleading trial data.
- Risk of regulatory and legal backlash.
- Permanent damage to personal and institutional credibility.
- Undermines global trust in pharmaceutical research.

Option 2: Reject Unethical Practices and Follow Protocols

Merits:

- Preserves scientific integrity and public safety.
- Builds long-term credibility for both the scientist and the organization.
- Upholds compliance with laws, ethics, and international research standards.

Demerits:

- Possible delay in drug approval and market entry.

Option 3: Seek External Whistleblower Protection (if internal redressal fails)

- **Merits:** Exposes unethical practices and prevents large-scale harm.
- **Demerits:** Career risk, personal backlash, media scrutiny.

(b) As Dr. Srinivasan, I would firmly reject unethical practices and take the following course of action:

- Report concerns to senior management and ethics oversight body within the organization.
- Advocate for additional funding or timeline extension based on scientific realities.
- Ensure strict adherence to ethical protocols – full informed consent, complete data transparency, and respect for intellectual property.
- If internal resistance continues, consider whistleblower protection or resignation as a last resort.

In a field that deals with human lives, shortcuts today can become tragedies tomorrow. Ethical integrity is not only a moral responsibility but a strategic necessity in pharmaceutical innovation.

(c) Role of Data Ethics and Drug Ethics in Saving Humanity

Data Ethics:

- Ensures **honest, transparent, and complete reporting** of trial results.
- Prevents **false hope, misdiagnosis**, and premature rollout of ineffective or dangerous drugs.
- Builds **public trust in science**, critical during global health emergencies.

Drug Ethics:

- Upholds **informed consent, patient autonomy**, and **non-maleficence**.
- Prevents **biopiracy** and encourages **respect for intellectual property**.
- Supports **equitable access** and **ethical commercialization** of life-saving drugs.

By upholding data and drug ethics, scientists like Dr. Srinivasan not only protect human lives but also safeguard the very credibility of modern medicine.