



दृष्टि मेंटरशिप टेस्ट DRISHTI MENTORSHIP TEST



GENERAL STUDIES (Test-16)

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time allowed: Three Hours

DTVF/25-(D-A)-M-GSM (M)-2516

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

Name: Rupam Arora

Mobile Number (as registered on DLA): _____

Medium (English/Hindi): English

Reg. Number: DKBG-650

Center & Date: Kanpur
10/9/20

UPSC Roll No. (If allotted): _____

प्रश्न-पत्र के लिये विशिष्ट अनुदेश

कृपया प्रश्नों का उत्तर देने से पूर्व निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें:

इसमें बारह प्रश्न हैं तथा हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।

सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।

प्रत्येक प्रश्न के अंक उसके सामने दिये गए हैं।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहियें जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश-पत्र में किया गया है, और इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुख-पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिये। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।

प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिये।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर-पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिये।

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting questions:

There are **TWELVE** questions printed both in **HINDI** and **ENGLISH**.

All the questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.

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 a medium other than the authorized one.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

केवल मूल्यांकनकर्ता द्वारा भरा जाए (To be filled by Evaluator only)

Question Number	Marks	Question Number	Marks
1 (a)		5 (b)	
1 (b)		6 (a)	
2 (a)		6 (b)	
2 (b)		7.	
3 (a)		8.	
3 (b)		9.	
3 (c)		10.	
4 (a)		11.	
4 (b)		12.	
5 (a)			
Grand Total(सकल योग)			

मूल्यांकनकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)

Evaluator (Signature)

पुनरीक्षणकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)

Reviewer (Signature)



Feedback

1. Context Proficiency (संदर्भ दक्षता)
 2. Introduction Proficiency (परिचय दक्षता)
 3. Content Proficiency (विषय-वस्तु दक्षता)
 4. Language/Flow (भाषा/प्रवाह)
 5. Conclusion Proficiency (निष्कर्ष दक्षता)
 6. Presentation Proficiency (प्रस्तुति दक्षता)
-



1. (a) आप नैतिक बहुलवाद (Ethical Pluralism) से क्या समझते हैं? एक सिविल सेवक अपने व्यक्तिगत नैतिक विश्वासों को बहुलतावादी समाज के मूल्यों के साथ कैसे समन्वयित कर सकता है? (150 शब्द) 10
What do you understand by ethical pluralism? How can a civil servant reconcile personal ethical beliefs with the values of a pluralistic society? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Ethical pluralism refers to believing & understanding plurality existence of variety of ethics & moral values in a heterogeneous society (like India).

eg: → Touching feet of elders — Hindus.
→ Kissing hand of elders — Muslims.

A civil servant must reconcile his personal ethical beliefs with other beliefs in a pluralistic society ^{like India} which allows freedom (U/A 19) equality (U/A 15-18), and freedom of religion (U/A 25-28) to all sections of society.

How can it be done

→ Enforced contact with plurality of cultures.
eg: India day at LBSNAA



- 2) Literature, books, movies — have a persuading value.
↳ eg. Shayaris.
- 3) Duty sense of service — to serve all, be it from same ethical belief or other.
- 4) Role Reversal — to gain empathy
- 5) Training — regularly
- 6) Learning by observations & good examples of previous civil servants & examples of harmony
↳ eg. Muslims offering water to Kauravs.

The basis to define morality hence must be constitutional morality & not personal beliefs of a civil servant.

उम्मीदवार को इस
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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- (b) "हितों का टकराव भ्रष्टाचार की जननी है।" हितों के टकराव (Conflict of Interest) को परिभाषित कीजिये और उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ सार्वजनिक पद पर इसके प्रभाव स्पष्ट कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10
 "Conflict of interest is the seedbed of corruption." Define conflict of interest and illustrate its implications in public office with suitable examples. (150 words) 10

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J(COI)

Conflict of Interest refers to a state where a person's ~~is a judge~~ personal interests (political, family, financial etc), appear to interfere with professional duties.

It evolves from 'Rule of Law' by A.V. Dicey which mentions "Nobody to be a judge in his own consultation."

Implications of COI in Public office

- 1) Apparent Conflict of Interest - ~~in~~ cases which have potential to convert into COI.

eg: A judge knowing he has an option to take up a case in which he is a stakeholder.



ii) Real CoI - when the matter is taken into consideration, often hiding the CoI from stakeholders.

[eg:] The judge taking up the case.

iii) Corruption - as it leads to sharing of information & details for personal benefit (directly or indirectly)

[eg:] sharing information to builder (where a public official has invested money in)

(iv) Reduced sense of honesty, integrity & probity in public office

(v) Normalisation of CoI, against spirit of public service.

It therefore becomes the responsibility of public officials to not let potential substantiate into real CoI, in line with morals of public duty & probity.

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2. (a) नैतिक अभिवृत्ति (Moral Attitude) और राजनीतिक अभिवृत्ति (Political Attitude) में क्या अंतर है? उदाहरण सहित बताएँ कि ये सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं। (150 शब्द) 10
 How does moral attitude differ from political attitude? Illustrate their impact on public service delivery with examples. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Moral attitude refers to the a combination of principles a person believes in which shapes up their sense of right and wrong. It is a result of their ethical, moral & cultural foundation.

[eg.] Believing corruption is wrong & refusing to take bribes.

Political Attitude refers to a person's mindset with respect to politics, governance, political parties, public issues & bills.

They are formed as a result of political socialisation and ideology, loyalty & historical context

[eg.] Supporting a party because parents supported that party.

Difference

Moral Attitude
 ↳ sense of right, wrong, morality

Political Attitude
 ↳ opinions on public affairs



Impact on Public Service

~~A public servant if he has a partisan~~

A partisan public servant tends to subdue morality in his thoughts & actions relating to public service.

[eg.] Not liking those with opposite political beliefs.

~~Morality~~ Moral Attitude call for equality, empathy & equal treatment for all, irrespective of political attitudes.

[eg.] Identifying beneficiaries based on need & not political orientations.

Hence, ~~for~~ non-partisanship forms the core of spirit of public service whose morals are universal & constitutional in nature & not politically inclined.

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write on this margin)

(b) सार्वजनिक आलोचना या विफलता की स्थिति में, संवेगात्मक बुद्धिमत्ता (Emotional Intelligence) बौद्धिक क्षमता (Intellectual Competence) से अधिक मूल्यवान गुण हो सकता है। सिविल सेवा के कार्यों से उदाहरण सहित स्पष्ट कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10

In the face of public criticism or failure, emotional intelligence can be a more valuable asset than intellectual competence. Justify with examples from civil service functioning. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Failure is an inevitable part of everyone's life. Failures are as important to grow and succeed as are successes.

But, to handle failure gracefully, one must develop Emotional Intelligence. It can be referred to as the ability to handle one's emotions, thoughts, actions & also those of others in times of desperate conditions & situations.

In cases of failure, one must learn to control excessive sadness, anger and discontent, and learn to take it as a stepping stone.

Intellectual Competence + EI = graceful acceptance of failure.

Intellectual Competence - EI = overexpression of emotions, sometimes negative.



Example from Civil Service.

→ A rescue operation during flash floods in Uttarakhand if directly monitored by DM & SP fails miserably, their emotional intelligence will help them to respond to media, kins of those who died, government and their inner moral self. (guilt) with required esteem.

The mission was intellectually competent but failure is not inevitable.

EI thus founds the Cornerstone of public service which deals with a heterogeneous population, overburden, pressures & risk of things not going right.

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3. नीचे तीन महान विचारकों के उद्धरण दिये गये हैं। वर्तमान संदर्भ में ये प्रत्येक उद्धरण आपको क्या संदेश देते हैं?

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

(a) "अंतरात्मा के मामले में बहुमत के नियमों एवं कानूनों का कोई स्थान नहीं है।" - महात्मा गांधी

(150 शब्द) 10

"In matters of conscience, the law of the majority has no place." - Mahatma Gandhi

(150 words) 10

The above quote by Mahatama Gandhi showcase the risk associated with democracy turning into majoritarianism / mobocracy in states where minority have no rights.

J.S. Mill also advocated universal altruism and freedom of speech & expression to minority as he believed minorities although less in number can be correct as well.

Majoritarianism if goes wrong can legitimise even ethnic cleansing as the Nazis did with Jews during World War II.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Therefore, Conscience needs to be constantly uplifted, based on situational & universal principles of equality & freedom.

The Indian Constitution has secured rights of minorities to prevent India becoming a mobocracy in name of democracy.

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- (b) "आप किसी व्यक्ति के चरित्र का अंदाजा इस बात से लगा सकते हैं कि वह उन लोगों के साथ कैसा व्यवहार करता है, जो उसके लिये कुछ नहीं कर सकते।" – योहान वोल्फगैंग वॉन गोएथे। (150 शब्द) 10
"You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him." – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Character of a person is referred to as the amalgamation of all values inculcated as expressed by their actions.

The values of Compassion, kindness, sympathy, empathy are often displayed when we are in contact with ones underprivileged than us in these situation.

Therefore, ~~is~~ a person who treats the people who are in a worse position than him well ~~is~~ can be understood to be a person of good character.

eg: Being kind to a waiter at a restaurant.

For a civil servant, such empathy in character



becomes a necessary quality as there
are many ~~conf~~ such confrontations.

eg: A poor, Dalit man wanting to be
identified as a beneficiary.

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चाहिये।

(Candidate must not
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- (c) “शिक्षा का कार्य मनुष्य को गहनता से सोचना और आलोचनात्मक ढंग से सोचना सिखाना है। बुद्धिमत्ता और चरित्र का समन्वय- यही सच्ची शिक्षा का लक्ष्य है। – मार्टिन लूथर किंग जूनियर (150 शब्द) 10
“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.” – Martin Luther King Jr. (150 words)10

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4. (a) "समानुभूति रहित सत्यनिष्ठा कठोर प्रशासन को जन्म दे सकती है, जबकि सत्यनिष्ठा रहित समानुभूति पक्षपात का रूप ले सकती है। एक सिविल सेवक इस संतुलन को किस प्रकार बनाए रख सकता है?"

(150 शब्द) 10

Integrity without empathy can lead to rigid administration, while empathy without integrity can lead to favoritism. How can a civil servant maintain this balance? (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

Integrity refers to rock solid honesty even when nobody is watching.
eg: Not being corrupt even when you can

Empathy refers to the ability to feel for the other person who is in an unfavourable situation.
eg: feeling bad for an injured man.

Integrity without empathy - leads to performance based administration which is ~~not~~ ~~humanistic~~ rigid enough to ignore particularistic humanistic considerations.

eg: Not giving ration card to an old woman who can't apply online.
(If the rules mandate online application.)

Integrity with empathy - would therefore arrange for her application online



Empathy without Integrity - may lead to swaying of decisions in the favour of whom we feel positive about and not being honest in our considerations.

eg. Favouritism towards a sibling applying for a government tender.
↓
but it is not ethical.

Therefore a blend of both empathy & integrity is required for creating a public service & administration based on lawful administration with humanist considerations.

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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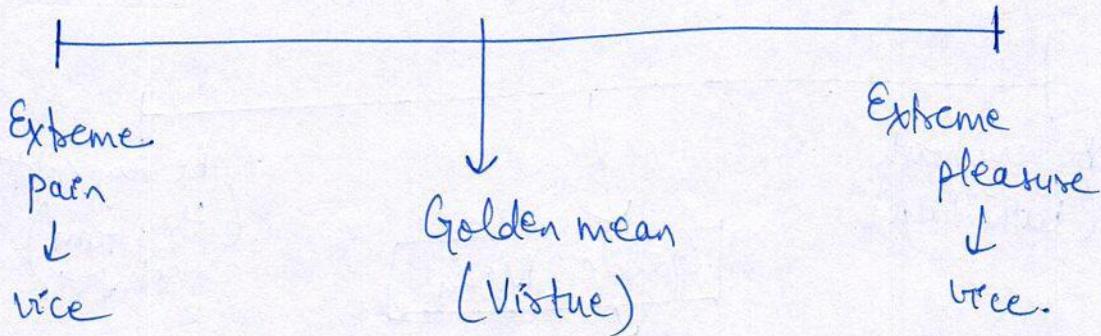
(b) "सद्गुण (Virtue) दो दोषों के बीच की स्वर्ण मध्यम (Golden Mean) मार्ग है।" सिविल सेवकों के समक्ष आने वाली समकालीन नैतिक दुविधाओं के संदर्भ में अस्तु की सद्गुण नीतिशास्त्र की अवधारणा की व्याख्या कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10

"Virtue is the golden mean between two vices." Explain Aristotle's concept of virtue ethics in contemporary ethical dilemmas faced by civil servants. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Aristotle's Statement of golden mean
refers to the chosen path to be the middle path.



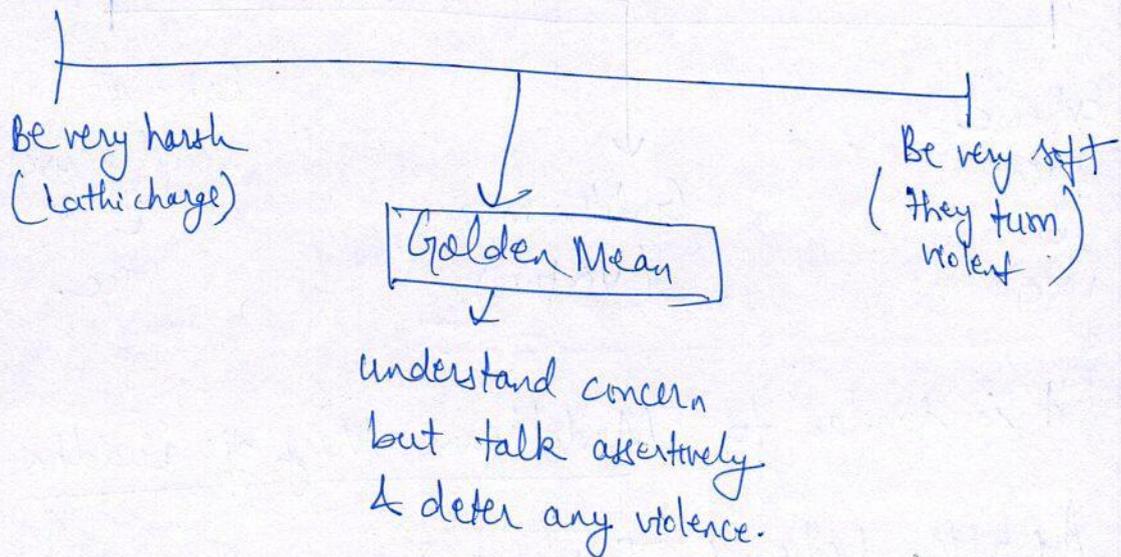
It is similar to Maddhyam Marg of Buddha
Aristotle believed Justice to be the most important virtue and hence the golden mean, which is essential to build a just society.

In public & civil service, Aristotilian's virtue ethics help us to take decisions in case of an ethical dilemma.



eg: controlling protesting students who are in rage but innocent in general.

ADM can be stern to talk & negotiate with them, neither too soft to ~~get~~ be ~~to~~ overpowered nor too harsh to ~~to~~ sow dissent



Golden Mean & Madhyam Marg of Aristotle (west) & Buddha (east) still find relevance in contemporary situations.

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5. (a) "भावनात्मक रूप से बुद्धिमान अधिकारी न केवल प्रभावी होता है, बल्कि मानवीय भी होता है।" जाँच कीजिये कि भावनात्मक बुद्धिमत्ता लोक प्रशासन में नैतिक आचरण को कैसे प्रभावित करती है। (150 शब्द) 10
"An emotionally intelligent officer is not merely effective, but humane." Examine how emotional intelligence influences ethical conduct in public administration. (150 words) 10

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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Emotional Intelligence refers to the ability of controlling one's emotions, thoughts & actions as well as those of others ~~in~~ times of unfavourable situations. especially in

While there are many factors leading to efficiency, like hard work, transparency, accountability, Emotional intelligence forms the basis of a humanistic approach.

EI influences ethical conduct in public administration as:

- i) Empathy towards underprivileged
- ii) Humanistic approach and not only performance oriented approach.

[eg] Rehabilitation before displacement of tribals as guided by SC.



iii) Helps deal with variety of people
in a ~~com~~ heterogeneous society like India
(Plurality of morality & culture)

iv) builds tolerance to gracefully accept
beliefs different than one's own.

Emotional Intelligence therefore a cornerstone
of public service in a welfare state,
like India, with heterogeneous population.

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(b) प्रशासनिक उत्तरदायित्व के संदर्भ में कांट की कर्तव्य की धारणा की तुलना गांधी की अहिंसा की धारणा से कीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10

Compare and contrast Kant's notion of duty with Gandhi's idea of non-violence in the context of administrative responsibility. (150 words)10

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चाहिये।

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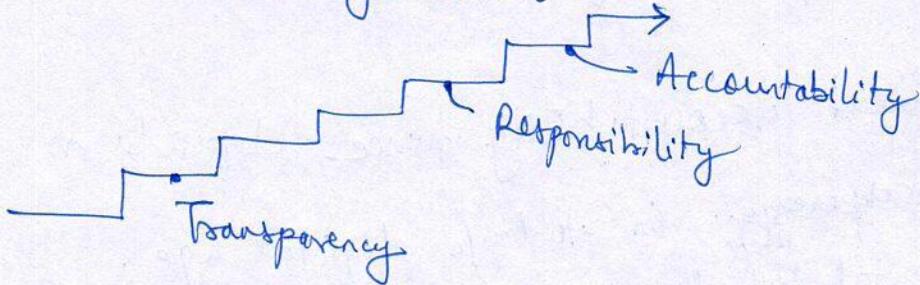
6. (a) पारदर्शिता को सुशासन की आधारशिला क्यों माना जाता है? तकनीकी साधन नैतिक जवाबदेही को किस प्रकार सशक्त कर सकते हैं? (150 शब्द) 10
 Why is transparency considered a cornerstone of good governance? How can technological tools enhance ethical accountability? (150 words) 10

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Transparency is considered to be about sharing information with those who are entitled to it and nobody else.

Transparency is the foundation of responsibility and accountability as well.



eg: Expenditure of budget of a scheme published on a public portal, as audited by an independent auditor.

It forms an important basis for both good governance & ethical governance.



Technology can boost ethical ~~accountability~~ ~~transparency~~ accountability as it reduce interventions of middle men, hence reducing corruption.

eg: Direct benefit transfer schemes, through Clearing Corporation of India.

CCTV ~~can~~ are widely used for surveillance
Biometrics for attendance & timelines.

Ethical Accountability hence depends on ~~transparency~~ in today's digital age.
] digital technology]

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(Candidate must not
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- (b) संस्थागत सत्यनिष्ठा को मजबूत करने में व्हिसलब्लोअर संरक्षण के महत्त्व पर चर्चा कीजिये। भारत में हाल के मामलों के उदाहरण दीजिये। (150 शब्द) 10
Discuss the significance of whistleblower protection in strengthening institutional integrity. Provide examples from recent cases in India. (150 words) 10

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Whistleblowing refers to calling out discrepancies, corruption, and ~~unwanted~~ unwarranted happenings in public service.

Whistleblower Protection Act, 2014 deals with the concept of whistleblowing in India, its mechanism and also whistleblower protection.

Whistleblower protection is important ~~is~~ to save them from any perceived danger or threat from the accused or related stakeholder.

eg: A politically-backed real estate developer threatening a whistleblower against his complaint.

It is therefore important to preserve anonymity, and details of the whistleblower.



eg

In India, IAS Ashok Khenka acted as a whistleblower in Gurgaon Land case.

More recently, Dharmasthala Temple Allegations by a former sanitation worker accusing many sexual assaults at the temple.

He sought protection from the ill intentions of temple authorities.

Whistleblower protection therefore is important for institutional integrity, failing which the will to act can reduce.

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7. रमेश, एक सिविल सेवा अभ्यर्थी, को हाल ही में भविष्य की यूपीएससी परीक्षाओं से प्रतिबंधित कर दिया गया क्योंकि यह पाया गया कि उसने अपनी पात्रता के बारे में गलत जानकारी दी थी और झूठे दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत किये थे। यह घटना बिहार में बड़े पैमाने पर हुए विरोध प्रदर्शनों के बाद सामने आई, जहाँ BPSC अभ्यर्थियों ने परीक्षा प्रक्रिया में कई अनियमितताओं की रिपोर्ट के बाद निष्पक्षता और पारदर्शिता की मांग की थी। इन घटनाओं ने भर्ती में नैतिकता, प्रणालीगत खामियों तथा सार्वजनिक संस्थाओं की विश्वसनीयता में गिरावट पर सार्वजनिक बहस को जन्म दिया है। इस मामले ने मीडिया में व्यापक कवरेज और अभ्यर्थियों तथा संस्थानों की नैतिक जिम्मेदारियों, मजबूत सत्यापन प्रणालियों की कमी, प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं के दबाव में नैतिक समझौतों एवं सिविल सेवकों की सार्वजनिक छवि तथा यूपीएससी की विश्वसनीयता को लेकर चिंता उत्पन्न की है।
- आप कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग (DoPT) में एक अधिकारी के रूप में तैनात हैं, और अब आप पर सिविल सेवा भर्ती की नैतिक व्यवस्थाओं में व्यापक सुधार करने तथा मीडिया, छात्रों एवं संसद को जवाब देने का दबाव है।

(250 शब्द) 20

Ramesh, a civil servant aspirant, was recently barred from future UPSC examinations after it was found that he had misrepresented her eligibility and submitted false documents. This incident came on the heels of mass protests in Bihar, where BPSC aspirants demanded fairness and transparency after multiple irregularities were reported in the examination process. These events have sparked public debates on ethics in recruitment, systemic loopholes, and declining trust in the integrity of public institutions.

The case led to widespread media coverage and concern over Ethical responsibilities of aspirants and institutions alike, Lack of robust verification systems, Pressures of competitive exams driving moral compromise and the public perception of civil servants and the credibility of the UPSC.

You are posted as an officer in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), which is now under pressure to overhaul civil services recruitment ethics mechanisms and respond to media, students, and the Parliament.

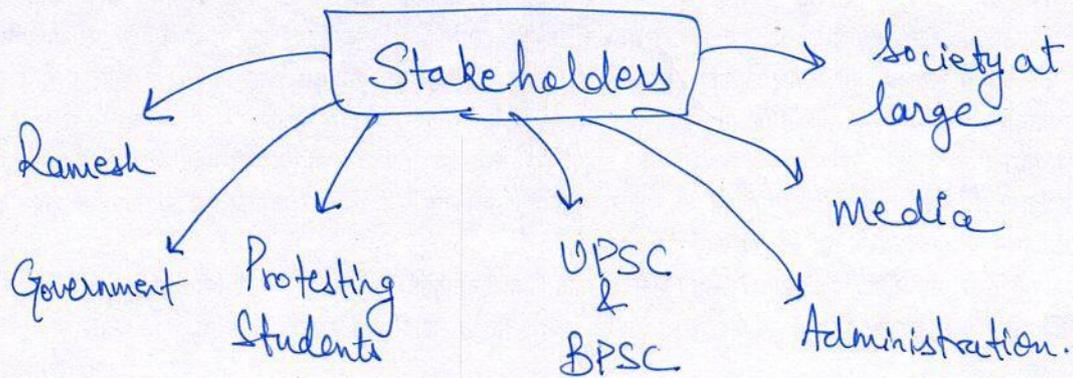
(250 words) 20

- (a) उपर्युक्त मामले में शामिल नैतिक मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिये।
Identify the ethical issues involved in the above case.
- (b) एक अधिकारी के रूप में, आप अभ्यर्थियों के प्रति सहानुभूति एवं सत्यनिष्ठा के कठोर अनुपालन की आवश्यकता के बीच किस प्रकार संतुलन बनाएँगे?
As an officer, how would you balance empathy for aspirants with the need for strict enforcement of integrity?
- (c) ठोस संस्थागत सुधारों के सुझाव प्रस्तुत कीजिये जो वास्तविक उम्मीदवारों को हतोत्साहित किये बिना ऐसे मामलों को रोकने में मदद करेंगे।
Suggest a set of concrete institutional reforms that would help prevent such cases without discouraging genuine candidates.

The following case study deals with Compromise with Professional Ethics and with the fundamental values of Indian Administration Framework.

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A recent highlighted case of an IAS officer in Maharashtra brought the debate to limelight again (Puja Khedkar issue)

(a) Ethical Issues Involved above

i) Fair representation of documents v/s Misrepresentation — by candidates such as Ramesh.
↳ Shows lack of integrity & honesty even before joining the system of administration.

ii) Accountability of institutions like UPSC & BPSC to protesting students
↳ Credibility of UPSC is stained.

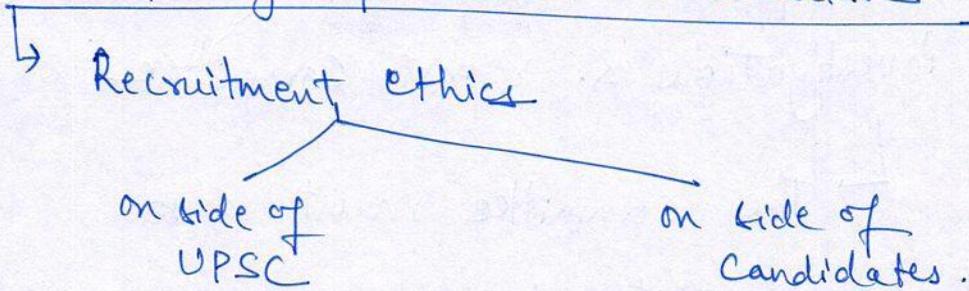
उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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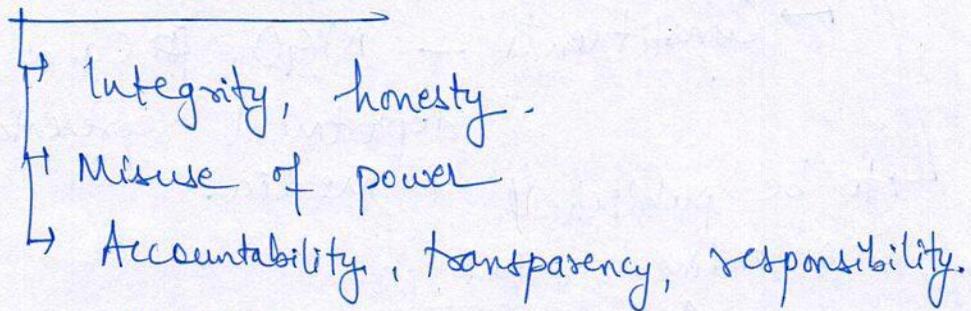


↳ Answerability - to satisfy public sentiment

iii) Transparency of Process & Candidature



iv) Breach of fundamental values of civil service



v) To be **harsh** or **soft** against protesting students

↳ dismiss protests without satisfactory answers

↳ polite and satisfaction of media, students

(b) Balance of empathy & strict enforcement of integrity

↳ To address demands & concerns

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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of students & media & make them feel heard.

→ To appoint a multi-stakeholder investigation & report committee

→ The committee must also suggest reforms, suitable for both ~~the~~ candidates & department.

→ Constituents — NGO, ~~the~~ candidates, department representatives, media.

→ to be published on online portal.

→ Strict Enforcement of Integrity —

→ absolute rejection of any further cases,

→ 2nd chance to prove validity of documents.

→ Increased scrutiny process by including an in-person verification process

→ upholding credibility by reducing future cases.

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Concrete Institutional reforms -

- i) Bonafide letter required by educational institution at the time of interview to confirm student's education.
- (ii) Inperson- verification process,
- (ii) Forms to be signed by a gazetted officer
- (iv) Transparent process of recruitment at every step. — published on online portal.
- (v) To be barred from all government examinations if found guilty.

Credibility of UPSC must be saved by applying such gradual yet stern actions to deter faulty applications in lust of govt job, while keeping a window of correction for genuinely mistaken.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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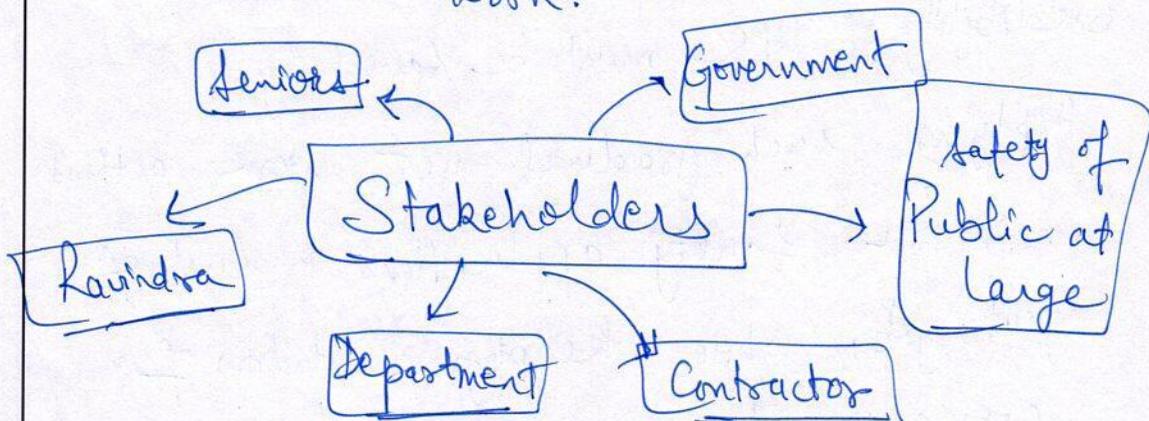


8. रवींद्र विद्युत मंत्रालय में एक वरिष्ठ अभियंता हैं। उन्हें पता चलता है कि एक ठेकेदार, जिसे राजनीतिक संरक्षण प्राप्त है, ने सरकार द्वारा वित्तपोषित ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण परियोजना में घटिया सामग्री का उपयोग किया है। यह त्रुटिपूर्ण कार्य ग्रामीणों के लिये खतरा बन सकता है। उनके वरिष्ठों ने संकेत दिया है कि इस मुद्दे को उठाने से 'विभाग की बदनामी' हो सकती है और संभवतः पदोन्नति भी रुक सकती है। रवींद्र अपने वरिष्ठों के प्रति सत्यनिष्ठा और जन-सुरक्षा के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता के बीच दुविधा में हैं। (250 शब्द) 20

Ravindra is a senior engineer in the Ministry of Power. He discovers that a contractor, with political backing, has used substandard material in a government-funded rural electrification project. The faulty work could pose a danger to villagers. His seniors hint that raising the issue would "embarrass the department" and possibly stall promotions. Ravindra is torn between loyalty to his seniors and his commitment to public safety. (250 words) 20

- (a) रवींद्र को किन नैतिक दुविधाओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है?
What are the ethical dilemmas faced by Ravindra?
- (b) एक कार्यवाही का सुझाव दीजिये और उसे नैतिक तर्क के साथ उचित ठहराइये।
Suggest a course of action and justify it with ethical reasoning.
- (c) वे कौन-से संस्थागत सुरक्षा उपाय हैं, जो नैतिक पारदर्शिता को प्रतिशोध के डर के बिना सुनिश्चित कर सकते हैं?
What institutional safeguards can ensure ethical disclosures without fear of retaliation?

The above case study deals with ethical dilemma of Ravindra with respect to whistleblowing against substandard work.



Such cases were recently highlighted in Bihar where sub-standard materials were used in bridges and they collapsed.

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(a) Ethical Dilemmas faced by Ravindra

(i) To act as a whistleblower or not

↳ Both inside department corruption & construction of project with substandard material.



(ii) To obey seniors ^{loyalty} in unethical situation or not go against them. ^{public safety}

(iii) To keep self interest (of promotion) above interest & safety of villagers at large

(iv) Image building of department by not raising concern v/s embarrassing the department by raising concerns.

(v) To accept misuse of power (political backing of contractor) or to raise voice (whistleblowing)

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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(b) Course of Action — 3 options

(i) Course 1 → accept the fault like everybody else in the dpt.

Merits →
→ timely promotion
→ good relations with seniors
→ no risk of whistleblowing
→ image of department.

Demerits →
→ reduced public safety
→ lack of integrity & honesty
→ acceptance of corruption.

(ii) Course 2 → to disobey seniors
→ directly whistleblow

Merits →
→ Integrity & honesty displayed.
→ courage of convictions

Demerits →
→ bad relations with seniors
→ department image blow.
→ risk
→ stalled promotions



(iii)

Course 3

→ to try to convince seniors to do the right thing

→ if they don't agree, talk to their seniors and explain gravity of situation.

→ whistleblow with caution & support of atleast a few.

Merits

→ no harm to relations

→ ~~stalled promotion~~

→ integrity upheld.

→ whole dpt acting as one.

Demerits

→ stalled promotions

→ risk of backlash.

→ dpt image blow.

→ Ravindra should prefer to use Course 3

But should use option 2 only if option 3 fails.

→ Courage of conviction, honesty provides more satisfaction than immediate promotions.

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(c) Institutional safeguards

(Ethical Disclosure without fear of retaliation)

(i) Whistleblowers Act, 2014.

(ii) Citizens charter.

(iii) Publishing all details on public portal.

(iv) Project impact assessment by an independent auditor.

(v) Certification of use of BIS standard materials before release of payment.

(vi) Structural engineer to countersign use of material as mentioned to share responsibility.

(vii) Regular checks by department at different stages.

(viii) Non-disclosure of details of whistleblower.

This way, we can contain & manage such forms of corruption which happens at the cost of public safety.

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9. सुश्री अनन्या वर्मा, 29 वर्षीय आईएएस अधिकारी, एक उत्तर भारतीय राज्य के सांप्रदायिक रूप से संवेदनशील उपमंडल में उप-मंडल मजिस्ट्रेट (SDM) के रूप में तैनात हैं। 2020 बैच की यह अधिकारी अपनी कुशल सार्वजनिक सेवा, कठोर कानून-प्रवर्तन एवं स्थानीय नागरिकों के बीच सहजता के लिये जानी जाती हैं। अपने आधिकारिक दायित्वों से इतर, अनन्या X (पूर्व में ट्विटर) पर एक निजी सोशल मीडिया प्रोफाइल बनाए रखती हैं, जहाँ वह कभी-कभी सामाजिक-राजनीतिक मुद्दों पर अपने विचार साझा करती हैं। एक शाम, उन्होंने धार्मिक समूहों की कुछ ऐतिहासिक प्रथाओं और आधुनिक कार्यों की आलोचना करते हुए एक थ्रेड साझा किया, हालाँकि किसी विशेष धर्म का नाम नहीं लिया। उनका दावा है कि उनका उद्देश्य नैतिक आत्मचिंतन को प्रेरित करना था, न कि किसी को आहत करना।

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हालाँकि, यह पोस्ट तीव्रता से वायरल हो गई। कई मीडिया संस्थानों ने इसे “राज्य के एक अधिकारी की पक्षपाती टिप्पणी” के रूप में प्रचारित किया। सांप्रदायिक विभाजन के दोनों ओर के राजनीतिक समूहों ने अथवा तो उनकी विश्वसनीयता पर हमला करने या उनके रुख का समर्थन करने के लिये उनके पोस्ट का प्रयोग करना शुरू कर दिया। एक स्थानीय विधायक ने मुख्य सचिव को पत्र लिखकर उनके तत्काल स्थानांतरण की मांग की, यह आरोप लगाते हुए कि वे “सांप्रदायिक सद्भाव के लिये खतरा” हैं। कुछ लोगों का तर्क है कि वह एक नागरिक के रूप में अपनी अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता का प्रयोग कर रही थीं। अन्य लोगों का कहना है कि उनका पोस्ट सिविल सेवकों से अपेक्षित राजनीतिक तटस्थता और धार्मिक निष्पक्षता के सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन करता है, विशेषकर उन लोगों के लिये जो संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में सेवा कर रहे हैं। जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, उनकी दक्षता को स्वीकार करते हुए, राज्य संवर्ग के लिये नैतिकता अधिकारी (Ethics Officer) के रूप में आपसे ऐसे उभरते डिजिटल दुविधाओं पर एक नीति नोट तैयार करने की सलाह मांगते हैं।

(250 शब्द) 20

Ms. Ananya Verma, a 29-year-old IAS officer, is posted as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of a communally sensitive subdivision in a North Indian state. A promising officer from the 2020 batch, she is known for her efficient public service delivery, strict law enforcement, and approachability among local citizens.

Outside of her official responsibilities, Ananya maintains a personal social media profile on X (formerly Twitter), where she occasionally shares her thoughts on socio-political issues. One evening, she shares a thread criticizing certain historical practices and modern-day actions of religious groups—without naming any particular religion. Her intention, she claims later, was to provoke ethical introspection, not to offend.

However, the post quickly goes viral. Several media outlets pick it up and brand it as “biased commentary by an officer of the state.” Political groups on both sides of the communal divide begin using her posts either to attack her credibility or to endorse her stance. A local legislator writes to the Chief Secretary demanding her immediate transfer, alleging a “threat to communal harmony.”

Some argue that she was exercising her right to freedom of speech as a citizen. Others insist that her post violates the principle of political neutrality and religious impartiality expected from civil servants—especially those serving in conflict-prone areas.

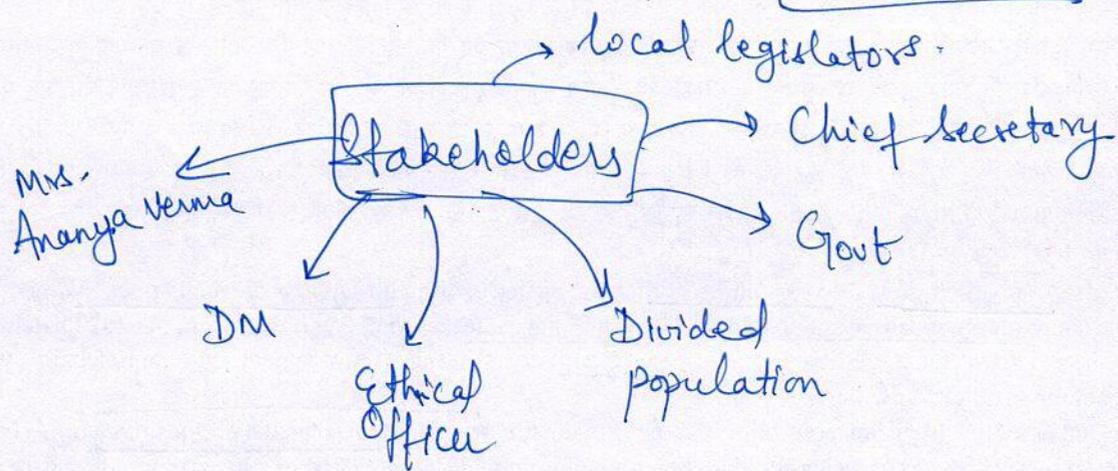
The District Magistrate, while acknowledging her competence, seeks your advice as the Ethics Officer for the state cadre to frame a policy note on such emerging digital dilemmas involving public servants.

(250 words) 20

- (a) इस मामले में शामिल नैतिक मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिये।
Identify the ethical issues involved in this case.
- (b) एक सिविल सेवक को अभिव्यक्ति की व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता तथा पेशेवर कर्तव्यों एवं संवैधानिक तटस्थता के बीच संतुलन कैसे बनाना चाहिये?
How should a civil servant balance personal freedom of expression with professional duties and constitutional neutrality?
- (c) डिजिटल स्पेस में लोक सेवकों के आचरण को कौन-से नैतिक सिद्धांत एवं सेवा मूल्य मार्गदर्शित करने चाहिये?
What ethical principles and service values should guide the conduct of public servants in the digital space?



The following case study consists of the debate around Freedom of speech, Neutrality, Ethical Pluralism, Reasonable Restraint on Freedom of speech, religious impartiality & dedication to service ethics & rules.



(a) Ethical Issues Involved in Case

i) Freedom of speech v/s Restraint

↳ to have posted such content which could spark communal tensions.

ii) IAS officers: freedom to use social media publicly — debate on public & private accounts of the person v/s the post

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चाहिये।

(Candidate must not
write on this margin)



(iii) Malafide intention as claimed by protestors or genuine intention as claimed by Mrs. Ananya

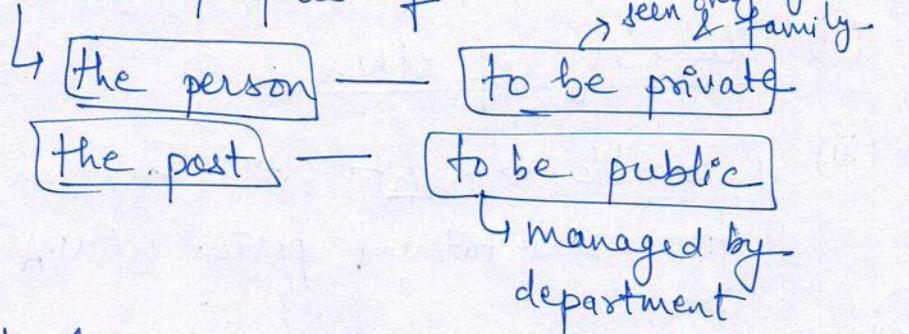
(iv) Political neutrality v/s Religious impartiality

(v) To transfer Mrs. Ananya under pressure or not.

(b) Balance by civil servants

→ Refrain from posting any ~~misdeed~~ communal content which can trigger violence or debate.

→ Social media profiles of



→ To not let any statements out which can be used either positively or negatively in political sense by parties.

↳ Value of non-partisanship.

→ Constitutional morality to be the guide under digital content sharing.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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↳ Plurality of Ethics, traditions & morals to be accepted by heart & spirit if sanctioned by rule of law.

↳ Duty to be done without partisan approach and keeping personal beliefs aside.

(4) Ethical Principles & Service Values in digital space

↳ (i) Non-partisanship

(ii) Plurality of ethics

(iii) Reasonable restraint over Freedom of speech for constitutional posts. (U/A 19)

(iv) Dedication to public service over sectoral interests.

(v) Personal v/s Private divide of profiles of person & post.

(vi) Sarvodaya concept by Gandhi
Sava-Dharma Samanta by Gandhi.

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Hence, an IAS officer must be aware that their actions will catch many eyes & hence must not walk the tightrope of suspicion either voluntarily or involuntarily so as to not seem partisan and tilted towards one community or party.

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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10. आप शिक्षा मंत्रालय में एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी हैं और हाल ही में आपको भारत में एड-टेक प्लेटफॉर्मों के लिये व्यापक नियामक दिशा-निर्देश निरूपित करने हेतु गठित एक समिति के प्रमुख सदस्य के रूप में नामित किया गया है। इस नीति का उद्देश्य संबद्ध क्षेत्र में उत्तरदायित्व लाना, छात्रों के हितों की रक्षा करना, मूल्य निर्धारण को विनियमित करना और विभिन्न प्लेटफॉर्मों पर गुणवत्ता मानक सुनिश्चित करना है। महामारी उपरांत एड-टेक क्षेत्र में अभूतपूर्व विकास हुआ है, जिससे छात्रों, अभिभावकों और शिक्षा की परंपरागत प्रणालियों पर इसके प्रभाव को लेकर इसकी सराहना और साथ ही आलोचना की गई है।

हितधारकों की प्रस्तुतियों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ते समय आपको ज्ञात होता है कि आपका/आपकी कनिष्ठ भाई/बहन एक प्रमुख एड-टेक कंपनी का/की सह-संस्थापक है। यह कंपनी वर्तमान के विनियामक परिवेश का प्रत्यक्ष लाभार्थी है और डेटा गोपनीयता, शुल्क पारदर्शिता और शिक्षक योग्यता से संबंधित अनेक प्रस्तावित प्रावधानों से सकारात्मक या नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित होगी। इस कंपनी में आपकी कोई वित्तीय या प्रबंधकीय सहभागिता नहीं है, लेकिन कुछ सहकर्मी आपके पारिवारिक संबंध से अवगत हैं। यह समिति डिजिटल गवर्नेंस में आपकी विशेषज्ञता पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है, लेकिन अपने संबंध का प्रकटीकरण किये बिना आपकी भागीदारी इसमें बने रहने से, विशेषकर यदि नीतिगत परिणाम आपके भाई/बहन की कंपनी के पक्ष में लिये जाते हैं, इसे हित संघर्ष के रूप में देखा जा सकता है।

(250 शब्द) 20

You are a senior officer in the Ministry of Education and have recently been nominated as a key member of a committee constituted to formulate comprehensive regulatory guidelines for ed-tech platforms in India. This policy is intended to bring accountability to the sector, protect student interests, regulate pricing, and ensure quality standards across platforms. The ed-tech sector has grown exponentially, especially after the pandemic, and has drawn both praise and criticism for its impact on students, parents, and traditional education systems.

While going through stakeholder submissions, you realize that your younger sibling is a co-founder of a prominent ed-tech company. The company is a direct beneficiary of the current regulatory vacuum and would be affected—positively or negatively—by several clauses under discussion, including those related to data privacy, fee transparency, and teacher qualifications. You have no financial or managerial involvement in the firm, but the familial relationship is known to some colleagues. While the committee relies heavily on your expertise in digital governance, continuing your participation without disclosure may be perceived as a conflict of interest, especially if the policy outcomes appear to favour your sibling's company.

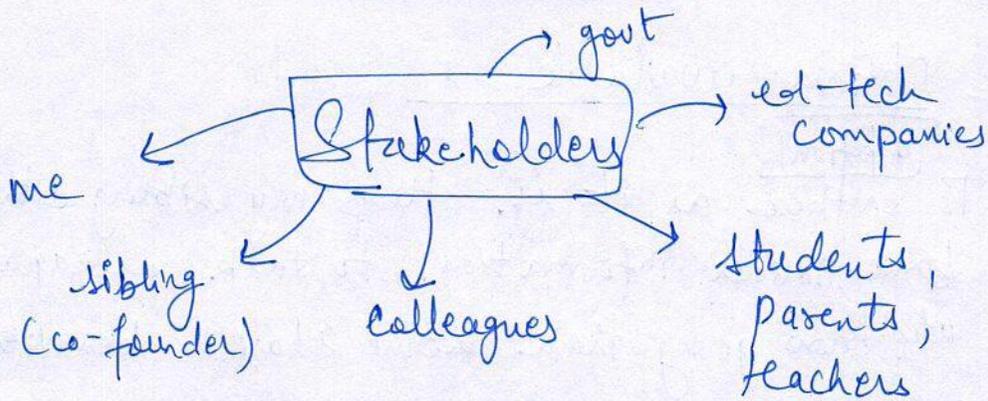
(250 words) 20

- (a) इस स्थिति में कौन-कौन सी नीतिपरक दुविधाएँ शामिल हैं?
What are the ethical dilemmas involved in this situation?
- (b) इस परिदृश्य में एक सिविल सेवक के रूप में आपके पास कौन-कौन से विकल्प उपलब्ध हैं?
What options are available to you as a civil servant in this scenario?
- (c) उन तरीकों का सुझाव दीजिये जिनसे संस्थाएँ लोक नीति से संबंधित समितियों में हित संघर्षों का निवारण कर सकती हैं?
Suggest ways in which institutions can manage conflicts of interest in committees dealing with public policy.

The above case study deals with
Conflict of Interest in public administration

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
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चाहिये।

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write on this margin)

(a) Ethical Dilemmas

- (i) To continue with the past or to step aside due to conflict of interest potential.
- (ii) Use of expertise for benefit of policy
vs to continue with potential conflict of interest.
- (iii) To give sibling some information to be better prepared or to conceal information from sibling.
- (iv) To not let seniors know about the potential situation & talking colleagues who know into it or to let the situation told to everyone.



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(b) Options available

Option 1

(i) To continue as it is. Help my sibling with some insider information, to talk colleagues who know giving them some share in benefits.

Merits → continuation with key position.
→ use of expertise.
→ policy formulation on time.

Demerits → evident conflict of interest (COI)
→ lack of transparency & ~~non-partisanship~~ integrity.
→ risk of bias towards sibling.

(ii) Option 2 → To step aside completely fighting COI.

Merits → integrity, accountability upheld.
→ no bias.
→ saved from potential COI.

Demerits → wasted expertise.
→ delay in policy formulation.



Option 3 → To let the board know of the COI, ask to step down from the key post and take up an advisory post in the same committee if voted by the committee.

↳ To ask for suggestions made to be non-binding & non-votary.

Merits →

- honesty & integrity upheld.
- expertise utilised.
- COI avoided.
- merit based policy on time.

Demerits → loss of personal prestige as advisory role is below key nominated position.

→ **Option 3** is the most desirable to be chosen as personal prestige is way below professional ethics, service attitude and national interest.

Final decision to be with the Committee.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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(k) Ways in which Institutions can manage CoI.

- i) self declaration by signing an affidavit of no CoI.
- ii) Penalty or punishment against voluntary non-disclosure.
- iii) Treating advisory roles as healthy ~~roles~~ and important roles.
- iv) Training & socialisation with respect to professional ethics — learning by example
- v) Chairman of the Committees to countersign affidavits, sharing responsibility
↳ will lead to due diligence
- vi) Publishing details of all members on a public portal (including their family members)

Such conditions if applied can help public institutions deal with CoI in a more transparent & accountable manner.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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11. वायु प्रदूषण के बढ़ते स्तर और नगर संकुलता के दृष्टिगत, भारत के एक प्रमुख नगर के नगर प्रशासन ने अपने केंद्रीय व्यापारिक क्षेत्र में एक डायनामिक पेड पार्किंग नीति लागू करने का निर्णय लिया है। इस नीति का उद्देश्य निजी वाहनों के उपयोग में कमी लाना, सार्वजनिक परिवहन को बढ़ावा देना और दुर्लभ नगरीय भूमि का कुशल उपयोग सुनिश्चित करना है। इस नीति के तहत, विशेष रूप से सर्वाधिक व्यस्त समय के दौरान पार्किंग शुल्क उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ा दिए जाएंगे और डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणालियाँ शुरू की जाएंगी। इससे प्राप्त राजस्व का उपयोग सार्वजनिक परिवहन और पैदल यात्री अवसंरचना में सुधार के लिये प्रस्तावित है।

हालाँकि, इस नीति को लेकर स्थानीय व्यापार स्वामियों ने कड़ी प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त की है, क्योंकि उन्हें भय है कि ग्राहकों की संख्या कम हो जाएगी; दैनिक वेतन भोगी कर्मचारी और निम्न आय वर्ग, जो अपने दोपहिया वाहनों के लिये किफायती पार्किंग पर निर्भर हैं, का तर्क है कि यह नीति प्रतिनामी है; पर्यावरण समूह और नगर योजनाकारों ने वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं और संधारणीय आवागमन को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता का उल्लेख करते हुए इस निर्णय का समर्थन किया है।

राजस्व उपयोग की पारदर्शिता और भ्रष्टाचार या उत्पीड़न के बिना नई प्रणाली का क्रियान्वन करने की नगरपालिका प्रशासन की क्षमता को लेकर भी चिंताएँ हैं। (250 शब्द) 20

आप वह नगरपालिका आयुक्त हैं जिसका उत्तरदायित्व इस नीति का क्रियान्वन करना है।

In response to rising air pollution and urban congestion, the municipal government of a major Indian city has decided to implement a dynamic paid parking policy in its central business district. The policy aims to discourage private vehicle use, promote public transport, and ensure efficient use of scarce urban land. Under this policy, parking fees will be significantly increased, especially during peak hours, and digital payment systems will be introduced. The revenue generated is proposed to be used for improving public transport and pedestrian infrastructure.

However, the policy has triggered strong reactions from Local business owners fear reduced customer footfall. Daily wage workers and lower-income groups, who rely on affordable parking for their two-wheelers, argue the policy is regressive. Environmental groups and urban planners support the move, citing global best practices and the need to prioritize sustainable mobility.

There are also concerns about the transparency of revenue utilization and the capacity of the municipal administration to enforce the new system without corruption or harassment. (250 words) 20

You are the Municipal Commissioner responsible for implementing this policy.

- (a) विभिन्न हितधारकों के हितों को संतुलित करने में आपके निर्णयन में किन मूल्यों और सिद्धांतों का मार्गदर्शन होना चाहिये?

What values and principles should guide your decision-making in balancing the interests of different stakeholders?

- (b) ऐसी कार्ययोजना का सुझाव दीजिये जिससे पारदर्शिता, समानता और प्रभावी नीति कार्यान्वयन सुनिश्चित हो। Suggest a course of action that ensures transparency, equity, and effective policy implementation.

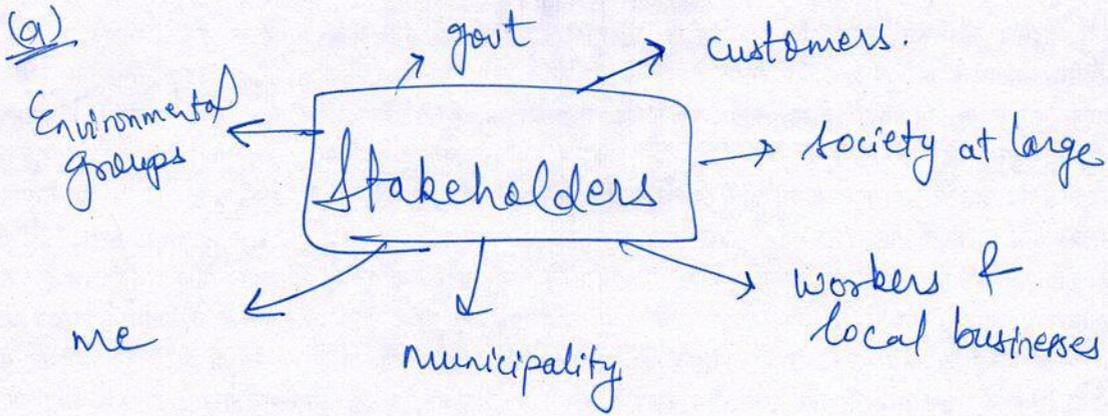
- (c) आप पार्किंग शुल्क से प्राप्त धन के संभावित भ्रष्टाचार और दुरुपयोग की आशंकाओं का समाधान किस प्रकार करेंगे?

How would you address concerns of possible corruption and misuse of funds generated from parking fees?

The above case study deals with ethical dilemmas in public policy & its implementation.

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चाहिये।

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write on this margin)

(b) Values & Principles guiding decisions.

(i) Encouragement and Persuasion - to
use public transport
↳ will myself use public transport.

(ii) Courage of Conviction - to continue
with policy for larger public good,
with needed modifications.

(iii) Transparency -> of money received &
where it is spent.
by engaging all stakeholders,
in the process.

(iv) Accountability -> to let emergency vehicles
and disabled persons to pass & park for
free



(a) Responsibility → of satisfying all stakeholders on the effective implementation and expenditure of money collected

(b) Course of Action to ensure.

i) Transparency → to engage representatives of both traders & environmental groups.

- independent auditing of money received & spent.
- Pollution level monitors to track the difference.
- digital payments with receipt.

ii) Equity → Hierarchy in parking fees, more for four wheelers & less for two wheelers.

- Daily wage workers, raw material trucks can enter, load, unload and leave without parking fees.

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(iii) Effective Policy Implementation

- myself go on checks & rounds.
- direct access to meet me by traders representatives in case of issues.
- daily reports.
- Daily expenditure & receipt collection to be shared on a postal with stakeholders.
- Visible infrastructure improvement projects based on demands of traders of the area to eventually help & increase footfall.

(C) Addressing Concerns of possible corruption

- Digital, time based parking fee collection.
- Projects & budget spent to be shared and countersigned by all stakeholders (as a form of acknowledgment)
- Direct access to meet me on priority

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- ↳ Grievance redressal mechanism, citizen charter, helpline number - directly at my office.
- ↳ Implementation responsibility divided among public stakeholders as well.

To make it a 'we' project than a 'govt' adventure is the key to impact all stakeholders positively by addressing their concerns & enhancing participation.

उम्मीदवार को इस
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12. भारत में सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के तीव्र प्रसार से संचार, शासन व्यवस्था और सामाजिक संपर्क में महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन हुए हैं। हालाँकि, किशोरों पर अत्यधिक सोशल मीडिया उपयोग के नकारात्मक प्रभाव-जैसे चिंता, अवसाद, साइबरबुलिंग और मिथ्या सूचना की प्राप्ति- को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ी हैं। हाल के अध्ययनों और वैश्विक नीति रुझानों ने इन जोखिमों को उजागर किया है, ऑस्ट्रेलिया जैसे देशों ने बच्चों को ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिये सख्त आयु-सत्यापन अधिनियम प्रवर्तित किये हैं। भारत में, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (मध्यवर्ती दिशा-निर्देश और डिजिटल मीडिया आचार संहिता) नियम, 2021 और डिजिटल वैयक्तिक डाटा संरक्षण, अधिनियम, 2023 जैसे विनियामक ढाँचों के माध्यम से अनुपालन और माता-पिता की सहमति की आवश्यकताएँ पेश की गई हैं, लेकिन प्रवर्तन और गोपनीयता चुनौतियाँ बनी हुई हैं।

एक संसदीय समिति ने सोशल मीडिया पहुँच के लिये अनिवार्य आयु-सत्यापन और नाबालिगों के लिये समय-सीमा जैसी कड़ी व्यवस्थाओं की सिफारिश की है। नागरिक समाज समूह और अभिभावक किशोरों की मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं और ऑनलाइन उत्पीड़न के बढ़ते मामलों के चलते कड़े सुरक्षा उपायों का समर्थन करते हैं। वहीं, डिजिटल अधिकार कार्यकर्ता चेतावनी देते हैं कि ऐसी व्यवस्थाएँ गोपनीयता का उल्लंघन कर सकती हैं, डेटा का दुरुपयोग हो सकता है और जिन किशोरों के पास सरकारी पहचान पत्र नहीं है, वे इन प्लेटफॉर्म से वंचित रह सकते हैं। सोशल मीडिया कंपनियों का तर्क है अत्यधिक कड़े नियम डिजिटल नवाचार और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता को बाधित कर सकते हैं।

आप इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी हैं, जिसे किशोरों की सोशल मीडिया सुरक्षा के लिये- विभिन्न नैतिक, विधिक और व्यावहारिक पहलुओं का संतुलन रखते हुए- नई नीति तैयार करने का दायित्व सौंपा गया है।

(250 शब्द) 20

The rapid proliferation of social media platforms in India has transformed communication, governance, and social interaction. However, concerns have grown about the negative impact of excessive social media use on adolescents, including increased anxiety, depression, cyberbullying, and exposure to misinformation. Recent studies and global policy trends highlight these risks, with countries like Australia introducing strict age-verification laws to protect children online. In India, regulatory frameworks such as the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, have introduced compliance and parental consent requirements, but enforcement and privacy challenges persist.

A parliamentary committee has recommended stricter measures, including mandatory age verification for social media access and time restrictions for minors. Civil society groups and parents support stronger protections, citing rising cases of mental health issues and online harassment among teenagers. However, digital rights activists warn that such measures could infringe on privacy, lead to data misuse, and exclude marginalized youth who lack access to official identification. Social media companies argue that overly stringent regulations may stifle digital innovation and free expression. You are a senior official in the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology tasked with drafting a new policy to address adolescent safety on social media while balancing competing ethical, legal, and practical considerations.

(250 words) 20

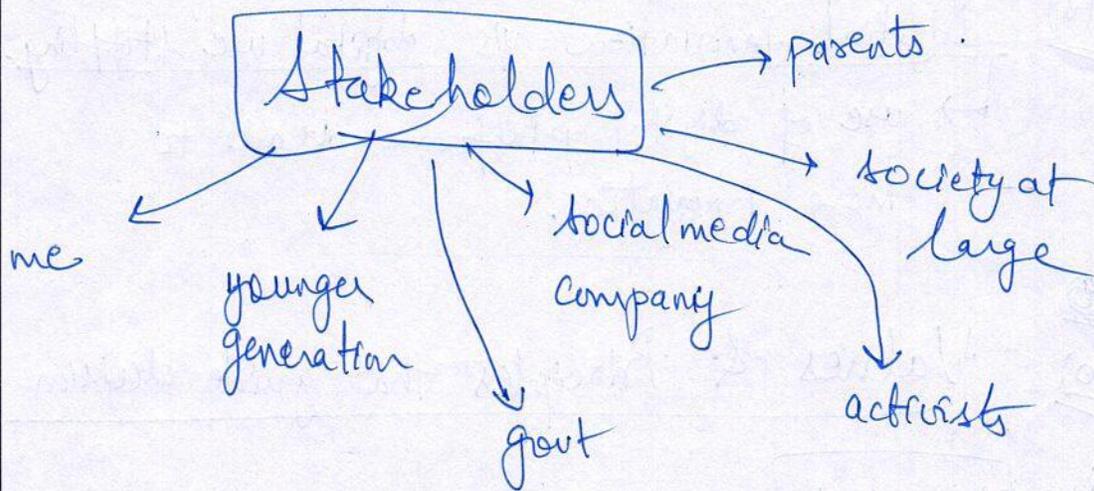
- (a) भारत में किशोरों की सोशल मीडिया पहुँच को विनियमित करने में शामिल प्रमुख नैतिक दुविधाओं की पहचान कर उनकी विवेचना कीजिये।
Identify and discuss the key ethical dilemmas involved in regulating adolescent access to social media in India.
- (b) इस संदर्भ में आपके निर्णयन में किन मूल्यों और सिद्धांतों का मार्गदर्शन होना चाहिये?
What values and principles should guide your decision-making in this context?
- (c) एक ऐसी संतुलित नीति दृष्टिकोण का सुझाव दीजिये जिससे गोपनीयता या डिजिटल अधिकारों का अनुचित उल्लंघन किये बिना किशोरों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा संबंधी समस्याओं का निवारण किया जा सके।
Suggest a balanced policy approach that addresses adolescent mental health and safety without unduly infringing on privacy or digital rights.
- (d) आप नीति निर्माण प्रक्रिया में पारदर्शिता, उत्तरदायित्व और हितधारकों की सहभागिता किस प्रकार सुनिश्चित करेंगे?
How would you ensure transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation in the policy-making process?

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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(a) The following Case study deals with ethical dilemmas while framing a public policy due to merits & demerits of both contrasting opinions.



Key Ethical Dilemmas

(i) Mental Health of youth v/s Profit Blindness
→ unlimited use = max. profit of companies.

(ii) Freedom of Internet v/s Restrictions based on mental health
Freedom of Trade

→ who decides what's the limit.
→ it is in itself not unethical, then how can we restrict?

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चाहिये।

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write on this margin)



(ii) Online favourable content like online education will also fall under this gambit — restricting education in the name of digital well being?

(iv) Digital Innovation v/s digital use stifling
→ use of digital platforms leads to more innovation.

(b) Values & Principles that guide decision

(i) Neutrality → of thought & unbiased approach towards issue

(ii) Courage of Conviction → to stick to what is right

(iii) Probity → To not bow under pressure of social media companies & digital activists

(iv) Responsibility → of ensuring mental health given the data shows serious concerns.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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(C) Policy Approach

- (i) Keeping education apps out of ambit of time restraint with parental consent.
- (ii) Age verification by eKYC (video call + aadhar link)
- (iii) Email- & form submission of consent of parents to blocked & allowed apps & services
- (iv) Cyber bullying — use of AI helpline to report against bullying
→ ~~strict~~ juvenile cyber crime laws with Community service as punishment.
- (v) Report to parents (weekly) of use of social media by their child.
- (vi) Safety & protection of data by data localisation mandate, ~~using~~ leveraging open source India stack like aadhar link,

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(d) Ensuring

Transparency → Publishing details of meeting on public portal
→ draft policy open for public scrutiny.
→ suggestions invited.

Accountability → to ensure data privacy laws.
→ consent by parents
→ DPDP Act
→ significant intermediaries to shoulder responsibility

Stakeholder participation — involve NGOs, ~~ed~~
~~ed~~, edtech CEOs & school principals in forming policies

→ Beta policy implementation starting from a few residential colonies & schools, voluntarily consented by parents

This way we can ensure a good draft of policy & implementation of an issue which is the need of the hour.

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Space for Rough Work
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)



Space for Rough Work
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)