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Mains Practice Questions

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Q. Gauvav successfully cleared the prestigious civil services examination and was excited about the opportunity that he would get through the civil services to serve the country. However, soon after joining the service, he realized that things are not as rosy as he had imagined.

He found a number of malpractices prevailing in the department assigned to him. For example, funds under various schemes and grants were being misappropriated. The official facilities were frequently being used for personal needs by the officers and staff.

After some time, he noticed that the process of recruiting the staff was also not up to the mark. Prospective candidates were required to write an examination in which a lot of cheating was going on. Some candidates were provided external help in the examination.

Gaurav brought these incidents to the notice of his seniors. However, he was advised to keep his eyes, ears and mouth shut and ignore all the things which were taking place with the connivance of the higher-ups. Gaurav felt highly disillusioned and uncomfortable. He comes to you seeking your advice.

Indicate various options that you think are available in this situation. How would you help him to evaluate these options and choose the most appropriate path to be adopted?

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- In this case, Gaurav may be heading a department or an office. An office is a single unit and a department comprises many offices.
 - In this case he is responsible for managing it in accordance with rules and regulations.
 - In any case, Gaurav should not become privy to unlawful actions. Otherwise, he will become knowingly a party to wrongdoing and liable for penalties.
- In any office, accounts have to be kept accurately and pilfering money is a crime. He should ensure that accounts and records are maintained properly. If necessary, he should arrange an audit.
 - Based on it, he should start action against the fraudsters.
 - As regards misuse of office facilities, he should instruct those responsible for their custody and proper use to prevent private use of office facilities.
- No examination is conducted without invigilators. He should take action against erring invigilators and candidates if malpractices are detected.
 - In a hierarchy, the primary responsibility rests with the official who has been assigned the task. If things go wrong, he will be responsible.
- If something falls within his exclusive power, he should act based on his conscience. If he has to work on the instructions of superiors, he should bring these matters to their notice in writing. Then they will be forced to act.

- Ultimately, one cannot do anything illegal, irrespective of any compulsions. Officers have to perform their duties ignoring distracting thoughts about office or state of society. Gaurav should refuse to play ball.