

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1

Which are the seven essential principles of public service that serves as a guide for civil servants? (250 words)

## Approach

- Briefly mention what is public service.
- Write in brief about the need of principles in public service.
- Enumerate the seven principles of public service.
- Conclude with importance of few other principles desirable in a public service.

## Introduction

- Public service is a service which is provided by the government to people, either directly (through the public sector) or by financing private provision of services. Citizens expect public servants to serve the public interest with fairness and to manage public resources properly.

## Body

- Promotion of Indian small and medium enterprises.
- Industries to take lead in Skill India.
- Vocational training to be made part of the school curriculum.
- Structural reforms by the government: for example GST is a step in the right direction but needs to be more simplified.
- Promotion of sunrise industries.
- Policy, financial and regulatory support to startups in manufacturing sector through start-up India, Stand-up India, SEZs etc. National Investment and Manufacturing Zones.
- The alternative funding mechanism for large infrastructure projects.
- Labour laws reforms.

## The Seven Principles

The Nolan committee promotes Seven Principles of Public Life that serve as a guide for civil servants:

- **Selflessness:** Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

*continued...*

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1

Which are the seven essential principles of public service that serves as a guide for civil servants? (250 words)

*...continued*

- **Integrity:** Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.
- **Objectivity:** In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- **Accountability:** Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
- **Openness:** Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- **Honesty:** Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- **Leadership:** Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

## Conclusion

Apart from these essential principles given by the Nolan committee, many values like **Impartiality, Transparency, Courage of conviction, Probity, Accountability, Empathy towards weaker sections** etc. are expected from a public servant as well. Moreover, in the era of rapid transformation in society, more needs to be done to promote and reinforce standards of conduct in public bodies, in particular through guidance and training, including induction training.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

2

**What is the citizens' charter? What are its significance and limitations in a democracy like India? (250 words)**

## Approach

- Briefly explain the concept of citizens' charters.
- Explain the significance and limitations in the Indian context.
- Suggest some reforms.
- Give a way forward.

## Introduction

- Citizen's Charter is a tool for facilitating the delivery of services to citizens with specified standards, quality, time frame etc. with commitments from the Organisation and its clients.
- This also includes expectations of the Organisation from the Citizen for fulfilling the commitment of the Organisation.
- The Citizen's Charter is not legally enforceable and therefore, is non-justiciable.

Improving the quality of services, offering a choice for the users wherever possible, standards specifying what to expect within a time frame, value for taxpayers' money, accountability of the service provider (individual as well as Organization), transparency in rules, procedures, schemes and grievance redressal and making the service delivery participative are some principles of service delivery.

## Body

### Significance of Citizens' Charter in India

- It empowers the citizens in relation to public service delivery and is significant for a large democracy like India.
- It is emphasised on *citizens as customers* by ensuring that public services are responsive to the citizens they serve.
- The concept of Citizens' Charter enshrines trust between the service provider and its users. It enables greater responsiveness of officials towards the public.
- It holds the public official accountable for the power entrusted in him and enables the right sense of duty in spending public money collected through taxes and in providing citizens with necessary services.

*continued...*

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

2

**What is the citizens' charter? What are its significance and limitations in a democracy like India? (250 words)**

*...continued*

## Limitations of Citizens' Charter in India

- Devoid of participative mechanisms: End-users, Civil society organizations and NGOs are not consulted when Charters are drafted.
- Poor design and content: Charters are not very meaningful and succinct, there remains an absence of critical information that end-users need to hold agencies accountable. Also, Charters are rarely updated making it a one-time exercise, frozen in time.
- Lack of public awareness: only a small percentage of end-users are aware of the commitments made in the charters since effective efforts of communicating and educating the public about the standards of delivery promise have not been undertaken.
- Measurable standards of delivery are rarely defined making it difficult to assess whether the desired level of service has been achieved or not.
- Organizations do not adhere to their Charters since there is no citizen friendly mechanism to compensate the citizen if the organization defaults.
- The tendency to have a uniform charters for all offices under the parent organization. Charters have still not been adopted by all Ministries/Departments. This overlooks local issues.

## Way Forward

- Decentralised framing of charters, wide consultation processes, precise and firm commitments of service delivery standards to the citizens, redressal mechanism in case of default, periodic evaluation and better engagement of civil society are some of the reforms that can make citizens' charters more effective in India.
- A Citizens' Charter cannot be an end in itself, it is rather a means to an end - a tool to ensure that the citizen is always at the heart of any service delivery mechanism.
- Drawing from best practice models such as the Sevottam Model (a Service Delivery Excellence Model) can help CC in becoming more citizen centric.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

3

**Discuss how 'Right to Information' has helped in furthering the goals of democracy and explain the impediments still remaining in its implementation. (250 words)**

## Approach

- Explain the link between 'RTI' and goals of democracy like accountability ,transparency, openness, check on arbitrariness, participation, etc.
- Describe the challenges in the implementation of RTI.
- Conclude by providing way forward.

## Introduction

- Right to Information mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information. It has made access to information both a citizens' right and at the same time the government's duty.

## Body

### 'Right to Information' and goals of democracy

- Accountability: RTI promotes accountability of government by promoting a transparent and open government.
- People participation: RTI is a powerful tool that strengthens democracy and promotes good governance by enhancing the citizen's ability to participate in the process of governance.
- Reduces corruption: RTI reduces corruption and arbitrary administrative actions.
- Responsive: Responsive governance is hallmark of democracy and 'RTI' promotes responsive governance.
- Citizen empowerment: RTI empowers the citizen by giving him legal right to hold public authorities accountable for their work.

## Impediments in the implementation of RTI

- Low public awareness: In general there is low awareness about the 'RTI'; further the awareness level is low among the disadvantaged communities such as women/sc/st/rural population etc.
- Constraints faced in filing applications like Non-availability of User Guides for RTI implementation for information seekers,
- Inconvenient submission channels for RTI application e.g. inadequate efforts have been made to receive RTI applications through electronic means i.e., on email/ website etc.
- Inconvenient payment channels for submission of application fees: Majority of PIOs use cash and demand drafts, which causes inconvenience to citizens.

*continued...*

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

3

**Discuss how 'Right to Information' has helped in furthering the goals of democracy and explain the impediments still remaining in its implementation. (250 words)**

*...continued*

- Non-friendly attitude of the PIOs: The attitude of civil services towards 'RTI' is still not positive. This bureaucratic resistance discourages information seeker.
- Poor quality of information provided: It is observed that incomplete and inaccurate information provided by the PIOs to curtail the statutory rights under 'RTI'.
- Constraints faced in inspection of records: PIO discourage physical inspection of records even when it is allowed by RTI act.
- Inadequate trained PIOs and First Appellate Authorities
- Failure to provide information within the stipulated time of 30 days.
- Pendency of RTI applications: There is huge number of pending RTI application. The total number of pending RTI requests in 2016-17 was 11,29,457.
- Violence against information seeker: There have been instances of attack and assault on information seekers.

## Way forward

- Engagement of civil society organizations like NGOs in building awareness.
- Promoting a culture of transparency through training among civil servants.
- Promotion of greater voluntary disclosure of information held with public Authorities.
- The person demanding information under the RTI should be emboldened and secure. Police authorities in States have to be sensitive to this and take effective steps to prevent the occurrence of such incidents.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1

**What is Corporate Governance? What are the ethical issues with Corporate Governance in India? Suggest measures to improve Corporate Governance in India. (250 words)**

## Approach

- Describe corporate governance.
- Enlist the ethical issues with Corporate Governance in India.
- Suggest measures to improve Corporate Governance in India.

- Give a conclusion by underlining the significance of corporate governance.

## Introduction

- Corporate governance essentially involves balancing the interests of a company's many stakeholders, such as shareholders, senior management executives, customers, suppliers, financiers, the government, and the community.

## Body

### Ethical issues with Corporate Governance in India

- Conflict of Interest: The challenge of managers potentially enriching themselves at the cost of shareholders e.g. recent case of former ICICI bank head Chanda Kochhar approved a loan to Videocon for a quid pro quo deal for her husband.
- Weak Board: Lack of diversity of experience and background represents a major area of weakness for these boards. There have been questions about board performing in the larger interests of the shareholders. In case of IL&FS, not a single red flag was raised by any board member.
- Separation of ownership and management: In case of family-run companies, the separation of ownership and management remains a key challenge in majority of companies including some of India's top ones.
- Independent directors: Independent directors are partisan and are not able to check promoters unethical practices.
- Executive Compensation: Executive compensation is a contentious issue especially when subject to shareholder's accountability. Executive compensation needs to stand the test of stakeholders' scrutiny.

*continued...*

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1

What is Corporate Governance? What are the ethical issues with Corporate Governance in India? Suggest measures to improve Corporate Governance in India. (250 words)

*...continued*

## Suggestions to improve Corporate Governance in India

- Implement the recommendations of Uday Kotak Panel, such as:
- Minimum 6 directors to be on board of listed entities; every listed entity to have at least 1 independent woman director
- More transparency on appointment of independent directors and should play a more active role on the boards.
- Audit Committee must review use of loans/adv/ investment by holding co in arm over Rs 100 crore.
- Diverse boards are better boards: In this context, 'diverse' is all-encompassing, including gender, ethnicity, skills and experience.
- Robust risk management policies: Adoption of effective and robust risk management policies for better decision making as it develops a deeper insight into the risk-reward trade-offs that all Corporations face.
- Effective governance infrastructure: Policies and procedures which guide ethical behaviour should form the base of any organizational behaviour. Ensure separation of the line of responsibility between board and management.
- Evaluation of the Board's performance: The Board should consider addressing weaknesses uncovered in board evaluations, enhancing their governance processes.
- Communication: Facilitating shareholder communication with the board is key. There is a need to provide a contact person with whom shareholders may discuss any issue.

## Conclusion

- In a growing economy like India corporate governance is critical for attracting investment both from domestic and international sources.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

2

The Government is mulling corporate literacy exam for independent company directors. Highlight the role of independent company directors in good corporate governance. (250 words)

## Approach

- Briefly introduce idea of corporate literacy exam for independent company directors.
- Elaborate on the role of independent company directors in good corporate governance.

## Introduction

- As per section 149 (6) of The Companies Act, 2013, Independent Director means any director other than a managing director or whole-time director or a nominee director.
- The government reportedly wants to introduce a qualification exam for independent directors. Online assessment will cover basics of Indian company law, ethics and capital market rules, among others.
- This development comes at a time when several top banks are dealing with myriad accusations of improper lending, alleging lapses in their audits, for instance- Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) crisis, ban on Deloitte Haskins & Sells which failed to warn of mounting risks etc.

## Body

### **Role of independent company directors in good corporate governance**

The current law states that a company's board strength should comprise at least a third of independent directors. Their main responsibility is to function as a watchdog independent of a firm's influence and safeguarding the interests of minority shareholders amongst others.

- Independent judgment: Independent directors bring independent judgment to bear on the board's deliberations
- Objectivity: While evaluating the performance of the board and management of the company bring an objective view.
- Monitoring performance: Scrutinizing, monitoring and reporting management's performance regarding goals and objectives agreed in the board meetings.

*continued...*

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

2

The Government is mulling corporate literacy exam for independent company directors. Highlight the role of independent company directors in good corporate governance. (250 words)

*...continued*

- Protecting stakeholders: Independent directors safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, particularly the minority shareholders; and balance the conflicting interests of the stakeholders.
- Risk management and financial control: Independent directors satisfy themselves about financial controls and systems of risk management and check on the integrity of financial information
- Remuneration: Establishing the suitable levels of remuneration of senior management, executive directors etc.
- Improving corporate credibility and acting as a watchdog: Independent directors reports on the matters concerning the unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct or ethics policy.

## Way forward

- Under Companies Act and SEBI rules independent directors can be held personally liable for acts of the company carried out with their knowledge or when an independent director did not act diligently.
- Application of these rules along with the proposed exam should ensure an independent director is not merely perceived as a plum appointment that is accompanied by little responsibility.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

3

**What do you understand by corporate social responsibility? What is its significance in the present Indian context? (250 words)**

## Introduction

- "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)" can be referred to as the corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare.
- The term generally applies to companies' efforts that go beyond what may be required by regulators or environmental protection groups.
- It is a concept that holds an enterprise accountable for its impact on all relevant stakeholders by continuing its commitments to behave fairly, transparently and therefore sustainably.
- India became the first country to statutorily provide for CSR through its Companies Act 2013 by inserting clauses on compliance, enforcement, conformity, disclosure and auditing.
- The provisions explicitly state that companies with a revenue of Rs.1,000 crore and more or those with a profit of Rs.5 crore and more or a net worth of Rs.500 crore or more are required to spend a minimum of 2% of their net profits over the preceding three years on any field ranging from rural development, women empowerment, promotion of arts, relief and infrastructure building.

## Body

### Significance of CSR in India

- Engages Corporates in the Development process:
  1. The responsibility of a corporation to contribute to local development differs fundamentally with the nature and scope of activities of a welfare state.
  2. Involving corporate sector is an effective way to provide services, especially in India where massive development work is required to reach acceptable living standards.
- Helps build brand of a company: CSR also serves as an additional force to expand work and rebuild brand, image and goodwill of a company.
- Empowers the communities: ensuring accountability from the corporates for their consumption of resources shared by the communities.

*continued...*

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

3

What do you understand by corporate social responsibility? What is its significance in the present Indian context? (250 words)

*...continued*

- Can help achieve sustainable development goals: CSR aligns private enterprises to the goal of sustainable global development by providing them with a more comprehensive set of working objectives than just profit alone.
- Moral Responsibility: Corporate sector is dependent on wider society for its business. Business managers have a moral responsibility to protect the interests of society and look after the welfare of their different stakeholders apart from providing goods and services.
- Attracts better human resources: CSR is seen to be a great way to attract good talent and to retain them. Social initiatives are a good way to satisfy the emotional and social needs of employees by helping them contribute towards the good of society.
- Meeting consumer expectations: Consumers have become more aware of their rights and are also more demanding. They protest against corporate adopting unethical practices and support and reward socially responsible corporate e.g. corporate ensuring no child labour or adopting green policies are appreciated.
- Efficient allocation of available resources: Large organization have the human talent and financial resources to solve societal problems, hence they should be socially responsive. They are also more efficient and ensure a business and result oriented approach towards social projects.

## Way Forward

- With increased integration of world capital and improvement in communications, ethics has become all the more integral to corporate behaviour.
- There should be thrust on local area development, as industries are located in India on the basis of the research of raw market availability, transportation costs and, crucially, the co-operative attitude of the local government.
- Intimate knowledge of the needs of the locality would even be beneficial. Hence, localisation of CSR should be emphasised upon.
- To undertake long-term projects there needs to be certainty in the CSR budget, fluctuating performance implies fluctuating CSR allocations. This can jeopardize a CSR initiative initiated earlier. Pooling resources among companies can address this issue.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

1

**As an international organisation committed to global peace, has the UN been able to ensure international ethics? Examine along with reasons given in support of your answer. (250 words)**

## Introduction

- International ethics concerns with ethical obligations between countries. Issues like wars, state backed ethnic conflicts, terrorist attacks, nuclear arms proliferation etc. involve questions of international ethics e.g. whether a particular war is 'just war'.
- The United Nations was established in 1945 to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and one of its main purposes is to maintain international peace. Yet on many occasions it has failed in its mission as well as in ensuring international ethics for establishing peace.

## Body

### Reasons for failure of UN to build International ethics

- Competing blocks: UNSC at present is too undemocratic and concentrates power in 5 permanent members who use their veto power to satisfy their own and allies 'national interest' without any ethical considerations e.g. in Syria competing blocks are fighting for territorial control.
- Lack of reform in UNSC: The Security Council's membership and working methods reflect a bygone era. Though geopolitics has changed drastically, emerging nations are demanding more representative quota in UNSC which is important for enhancing its legitimacy. Greater sharing of power would help in reaching consensus on common issues quickly and democratically. It will also ensure condemnation of unethical actions without any favours or bias, thus creating a moral pressure on the perpetrating state.
- Failure to invoke R2P: In 2005, the UN and its member states collectively sanctioned 'Responsibility to Protect (R2P)', R2P's core tenant decrees on every sovereign state an obligation to safeguard its inhabitants from mass atrocities, and the duty may fall to the wider international community. In Rohingya's crisis UN failed to invoke R2P as China opposed action.
- Failure to convince P-5 countries: UN ability to tackle peacekeeping challenges and thus protecting human rights depends on its capacity to persuade big powers to take the UN seriously. However, UN has failed in this pursuit to build a case for International morality vis-à-vis hard national interest.

## Way Forward

There is a dire need for reforms in United Nations based on equality and democratic spirit. An organization built on the moral principles of equality and representation will promote International ethics and world peace.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

2

**In a fast integrating technologically driven world with melting borders, international ethics framework for all is wishful thinking. Critically analyse. (250 words)**

## Approach

- Describe international ethics.
- Bring out the reasons in difficulty in arriving at international ethics framework for all.
- Through critical analysis, show how international ethics framework for all can still be possible.
- Give a suitable way forward.

## Introduction

- **International ethics** is an area of international relations theory which concerns the extent and scope of ethical obligations between countries.

## Body

### Challenges for international ethics for all in technologically dynamic globalised world

- **National interest:** Global ethicists attribute the failure to develop a global ethics to selfish national interest. According to them political drivers of state action at the domestic level are relentlessly local.
- **Dynamism:** The world is constantly changing. Today the rate of that change has become so rapid as to require development of new approaches and decisions which are consistent with the times. Further difference in development level makes uniform international ethics difficult for all.
- **Diversification:** Differences in cultures, nationalism, ethnic differences revives debate of ethical relativism as communities live in a morally pluralistic world each of which acts upon different principles.
- **Possibility of conflicts:** In a globalised world ethical systems, whether local or global, are also heavily competitive, since they are constantly bidding for adherents, seeking to hold on to doubters and to ward off attacks.

## Possibility of International ethics

- **Global Cooperation:** In global era there is increasing cooperation between nations e.g. arriving at SDGs and Paris climate change deal giving hope about development of International ethic.
- **Global challenges:** Globalized world is throwing global challenges like global terrorism, climate change, global economic slowdown which needs global cooperation through agreed up on international ethical framework, absolute ‘national interest’ approach only escalates conflicts.
- **Common interest:** International ethics stresses on common interests between nations and build the international sphere on the basis of idealist values that are of common interests to nations participating in any international issues and problems enhancing possibility of their coming together. For instances, on issues like climate change, climate finance, terrorism, trade policies, refugee crisis there is an imminent need of global consensus based on ethical principles and human values.

## Way forward

- International ethics require equality among nations and respect for their sovereignty.
- International ethics must enable all nations to participate more actively in shaping and building good international community to ensure sustaining peace, equity, welfare of all and consensus building through peaceful means on common issues.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

3

**What is the meaning of ‘International Morality’? Mention its importance and discuss the Rohingya issue in this context. (250 words)**

## Approach

- Describe ‘international morality’ and its broader dimensions applicable in today’s geopolitics.
- Highlight its importance vis-a-vis current problems of trade wars, disturbance in middle east, nuclear arms race, muscular positioning of China, refugee problem etc.
- Elaborate on the need for ‘international morality’ in dealing with the case of Rohingya refugees.

## Introduction

- International morality is an area of international relations theory which concerns the extent and scope of ethical obligations between countries.
- Ethical questions are central to the study of international relations as issues like war and peace, international trade, international laws and global organizations; global climate change etc involve many ethical questions.

## Body

### Importance of International Morality

- **Peaceful world:** Morality in international affairs enhances probability of a peaceful world order without wars and violent incidents and promotes the welfare of people.
- **Just world order:** It promotes democratic world order based on equality where developing nations will have equal representations in important global institutions like IMF, World Bank, UN etc.
- **Human Rights:** International morality protects human rights by curbing unnecessary wars and violent conflict. Further helping people suffering from conflicts e.g. Syrian refugees allowed in Europe.
- **Justice and equity:** International morality promotes justice and equity by supporting poor countries e.g. Climate justice recognizes responsibility of rich nation in climate financing.

### Need for ‘international morality’ in dealing with the case of Rohingya refugees.

The Rohingya living in the Rakhine State of Myanmar were forced to flee their homes due to violence to Bangladesh and India. They were subject to discrimination for years and not recognised as citizens.

- **Human rights:** Rohingya issue is intricately related to human rights of refugees. Neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and India have moral responsibility to provide these refugees with food and shelter.
- **Political asylum:** Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. This raises the question of accountability of countries refusing protection to Rohingyas.
- **Violation of international humanitarian laws:** According to Amnesty International the Myanmar army committed extensive violations of international humanitarian law. Such transgressions at institutional level demands International action in spirit of ‘International morality’ e.g. UN Security Council issued a presidential statement calling for an end to the violence and for the restrictions on humanitarian aid to be lifted.

## Way Forward

- Need for ‘International morality’ is gaining significance in an increasingly global and conflict ridden world.
- Excessive focus on ‘national interest’ is cause of increasing conflict e.g. ensuing trade war between the USA and China has put global economy recovery in danger. In a highly integrated world, national interest needs to be tempered with International morality, and the stakeholders should desist from narrow viewpoints which hampers growth of all.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

**1**

**Circumstances justify morality. Do you agree? Substantiate. (250 words)**

## Approach

- Describe morality.
- Give arguments to show that sometimes circumstances justify morality using situational and consequentialism approach to ethics.
- Give a conclusion.

## Introduction

- Morality is the standard or code of conduct of society or group or individual to decide what is right or wrong behaviour.
- Certain ethical approaches tend to provide absolute guidelines for behaviour under all circumstances e.g. Deontological and Virtue approach.

## Body

- In situation ethics, right and wrong depend upon the situation. There are no universal moral rules or rights - each case is unique and deserves a unique solution. Thus ethics according to this approach depends upon circumstances.
- In some times and places an action may be ethically wrong however in other situations it may not be so e.g. lying is ordinarily not in the best interest of interpersonal communication and social integrity, but is justifiable in certain situations e.g. lying to a person with violent intentions to protect someone.
- Cultural sensitivity: Action of individual or organization should be sensitive to circumstances, context, particularity, and cultural traditions. Every moral decision is required to demonstrate respect for individuals and communities and the things that they regard as valuable. This avoids impersonal ethics e.g. deontological approach.
- Importance of motives or intentions: The rightness of an action does not reside in the act itself but in factors like the totality of end, means or motive. For eg: stealing medicine to save someone's life.
- Ethical relativism supports the position that there are no moral absolutes, no moral right or wrong. This position would assert that our morals evolve and change with social norms over a period of time, thus giving primacy to circumstances.
- Consequentialism approach provides that right or wrong depends on the consequences of an act and that the more good consequences are produced, the better the act. Consequentialism is flexible and can take account of the circumstances.

## Conclusion

- Although morality is justified by the circumstances in many cases, there can be instances when morality based on circumstances may produce dysfunctional outcomes. e.g. in Public services if an individual claims to act according to circumstances bypassing code of conduct produces inconsistency and problem of fixing accountability.
- It is important not to let circumstances dictate the morality each time, to avoid chaos in the society.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

2

What are the three primary schools of thought in Ethics? Explain Conduct Ethics and its types. (250 words)

## Approach

- Explain the meaning of theories of ethics.
- Describe conduct ethics and its various types.
- Give a conclusion.

## Introduction

- Ethical theories provide a basis for decision-making when ethical issues are involved. These theories represent the viewpoints from which individuals or organizations seek guidance from, as they make decisions.
- The three primary schools of thought in Ethics are:
  1. **Consequentialism**- based on the outcome of an action
  2. **Deontological**- based on duty or obligation to act
  3. **Virtue**- based on moral characteristics of performer e.g. honesty, integrity etc.

## Body

- Conduct Ethics: In conduct ethics, the focus is on the conduct of a person rather than the character of the person.

### Types of Conduct ethics

- **Consequentialism:** This is further divided into Utilitarianism, Hedonism, and Egoism.

### Deontological Approach

#### Utilitarianism

- The core idea of utilitarianism is that evaluation of actions as morally right or wrong depends on their effects.
- Utilitarian approach believes that the purpose of morality is to make life better by increasing the number of good things (such as pleasure and happiness) in the world and decreasing the number of bad things (such as pain and unhappiness).
- This approach is criticised for the difficulty in attaining full knowledge and certainty of the consequences of our actions. Through this approach, the rights of minorities are more likely to be sidelined.

#### Hedonism

- Hedonistic theories identify pleasure and pain as the only important elements to describe morality.
- Indian philosophical approach of Charvaka school (Lokayata) advocates hedonism.
- Through hedonism, activities like drug abuse, alcoholism etc can be justified as ethical.

*continued...*

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

2

What are the three primary schools of thought in Ethics? Explain Conduct Ethics and its types. (250 words)

*...continued*

## Egoism

- Egoism approach to ethics argues for maximizing one's own self-interest as it is in human nature to avoid pain and it is irrational for a man to ignore his self-interest.
- Egoism cannot explain actions which are not guided by self-regarding desires. E.g. say a soldier throws himself on a grenade to prevent others from being killed. It does not seem that the soldier in this situation is pursuing his perceived self-interest.

## Deontological approach

- This approach to ethics focuses on the rightness or wrongness of actions themselves, as opposed to the rightness or wrongness of the consequences of those actions (Consequentialism) or to the character and habits of the actor (Virtue Ethics).

• Immanuel Kant, the foremost proponent of Deontology, considered moral duty as an unconditional obligation,

regardless of one's will or desires, and regardless of any consequences which might arise from such action.

## Conclusion

- Ethical theory is a mechanism for assessing whether a particular action or rule is ethically justified.

- Ethical approaches help in resolving ethical dilemmas at the individual and organizational level.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

3

What do you understand by ethics and what are its determinants?  
How is ethics different from values? (250 words)

## Approach

- Introduce by defining ethics.
- Elaborate its determinants in human action.
- Now define values and list down the difference between ethics and values.

## Introduction

- At its simplest, ethics is a system of moral principles. They affect how people make decisions and lead their lives.
- Ethics is concerned with what is good for individuals and society and is also described as moral philosophy. The term is derived from the Greek word ethos which can mean custom, habit, character or disposition.

## Body

**Ethics covers the following dilemmas:**

How to live a good life

Our rights and responsibilities

The language of right and wrong

Moral decisions - what is good and bad?

- **Determinants of Ethics:** These are the factors which decide whether the action being judged is ethical or not. Most of the moralists agree that to judge the goodness or badness of any particular human act, three elements must be weighed from which every act derives its morality. They are:

- **The object of the human act:** The object is usually regarded as the primary factor for the moral judgement of a human act. An act is generally classified as morally good, bad or indifferent from the viewpoint of an object. For a morally good act, the object of it must be good.

- **The circumstances contextualising the human act:** Circumstances can make an otherwise good action better for e.g. giving food to a person who is almost dying of starvation.

1. They can make an otherwise indifferent, a good act. For e.g. sitting with a person who is feeling lonely.

2. At the same time, they can also make an act which is evil in its object to be worse. For e.g. robbing a beggar from his/her only meal of the day.

*continued...*

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

3

**What do you understand by ethics and what are its determinants? How is ethics different from values? (250 words)**

*...continued*

- The end or the intention of the agent in performing a human act: A good intention can make an act better. for e.g. helping a poor person to start a small business with the intention of making him independent.
- Values: Values refer to the important and enduring beliefs or principles, based on which an individual makes judgements in life.

## Conclusion

- While ethics is consistently applied over the period and remains the same for all human beings. Values have an individualistic approach.
- Ethics are the set of rules that govern the behaviour of a person, established by a group or culture. Values refer to the beliefs for which a person has an enduring preference.
- Ethics and values together lay the foundation for sustainability. Establishing ethics for an organisation can determine its core values.

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

## Case Study

You are a senior forest official who has recently been posted in a forest range which is also a tourist spot, famous amongst trekking enthusiasts and a pilgrimage center of local hill tribes. However, the trekking site is open only for males as the local tribal culture doesn't permit the entry of women to the hill site housing their deity.

Recently, the State High Court has ruled that the site should be open for all without any gender discrimination. Following this, there have been relentless pressure from womens' group to allow women at the trekking site, while local tribal group opposes the same. You fear that opening the site for women might lead to protests from tribals, compromising law and order situation and may also endanger the safety of trekkers to the site.

**(1) What are the options open to you in this scenario? Discuss along with their merits and demerits.**

**(2) Which would be the most appropriate action that you would take in this situation and why? (250 words)**

### Approach

- Mention the stakeholders, values involved in the issue and laws / rules applicable. State the ethical dilemma involved in the issue in the introduction.
- State different options available along with their merits and demerits.
- Give arguments for adopting specific response among the available option.

### Key Points

- Stakeholders: Tribal community, Women, NGO groups promoting the idea of gender equality, Government (executive and law and order machinery) for ensuring the rule of law and implementing constitutional right of equality
- Values involved: Equality, Preservation of tribal culture, Right to freedom of movement, Sense of duty of civil servants to promote public interest
- Law /Rules/ Rights involved: Equality before law( Article 14), Equality of access to public places( Article 15), Right to conserve distinct Language, Script or Culture ( Art. 350:- tribal rights), cultural or linguistic minority has right to conserve its language or culture ( Art.29).
- Ethical Dilemma: Tribal Rights versus Value of Gender Equality.

*continued...*

21TH JUNE

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

*...continued*

## Introduction

As a Senior Forest official and public servant there I have a duty and obligation to implement the judgment of High Court. However, as tribal culture does not allow women to visit pilgrimage center there is possibility of protest which may turn violent endangering life and property. Again it is my duty to protect life and property in the forest by ensuring that women get entry without protests.

## Available options along with their merits and demerits

- Mention the stakeholders, values involved in the issue and laws / rules applicable. State the ethical dilemma involved in the issue in the introduction.
- State different options available along with their merits and demerits.
- Give arguments for adopting specific response among the available option.

**Option 1:** Discourage women from going in close proximity of pilgrimage site to ensure peace in the area, and respect towards tribal culture.

### Merits

- Peace in the area will be maintained.
- I will be able to discharge my duty of protecting life and property under my jurisdiction.
- Tribals will not be alienated as their cultural beliefs are respected and protected.

### Demerits

- This alternative will be against the constitutional values of gender equality.
- This will be against the court order.

**Option 2:** Issue a stern warning to tribals to not oppose the women entry at any point in the entire region, with dire consequences if they disturb the peace or women safety in the region.

### Merits

- This action is in accordance to the spirit of law and my call of duty.
- It is also according to constitutional value of gender equality.
- It will also save me from moral dilemma of going against my personal moral value of gender equality.
- Through this option, the High Court order would stand obeyed.

*continued...*

21TH JUNE

# BE MAINS READY

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

*...continued*

## Demerits

- Tribal culture's sanctity being disturbed.
- Possibility of escalation of conflict as tribal community may see it as an attack on their cultural values.
- Possibility of life and material loss and disturbance in the area.
- May impact tourism in the long run due to disturbance in the area, affecting the local economy.

**Option 3:** Setting up meeting with tribal elders and convincing them about the need for women entry at the same time ensuring tight security measures.

## Merits

- Persuasion through peaceful discussion is likely to mellow down tribal opposition without antagonising them further.
- It will have a better chance of maintaining peace in area thus protecting life and property.
- It will help in promoting goal of women empowerment by making tribal community understand the rationale behind the court's ruling.
- It will be in line to constitutional values of gender equality and High Court directives.
- It will meet the goals of performing duty conscientiously and sensitively.

## Demerit

- Trying to manage tribal discontent may not bear results in short term and there may still be possibility of protest and conflict, for which needed security measures have to be in place. It also runs the risk of compromising on tribal rights and minority rights (Article 25). However, in the long run this would be the most appropriate approach.

## Most appropriate action and reason for adopting it

- I will choose option 3 as most desirable option for the merits of this option far outweighs the demerits.
- This option satisfies my duty as a public servant and adherence to constitutional values. It also promotes rule of law.