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INSTA SECURE SYNOPSIS **MAINS MISSION - 2022**

GS- IV

FEBRUARY 2022



NOTE: Please remember that following ‘answers’ are NOT ‘model answers’. They are NOT synopsis too if we go by definition of the term. What we are providing is content that both meets demand of the question and at the same time gives you extra points in the form of background information.



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Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships.

“Morality which does not evolve with time becomes an outdated, obsolete and a burdensome dogma”. Critically analyze (10M)

Why the question?

Perpetuation of age-old morality creates problems in society, you can keep in mind issues such as abortion rights for women, same-sex marriage, etc.

Structure of the answer

Introduction

You can define the terms morality and dogma in the introduction in a brief manner.

Body

Give examples of age-old morality that you think is impeding progress in society. Ex: religious morality related to caste, the status of women as per the scriptures, same-sex marriage, etc.

Give reasons as to why there is a difficulty in changing such regressive morality in society.

Suggest some ways to tackle this situation

Age-old morality is not always wrong or outdated- you should justify this argument by quoting relevant examples. (Ex: respect for collective welfare, selfless service, etc.)

Note: Make sure you explore relevant dimensions in the answer without giving more emphasis to just a few since the keyword in the question is ‘critically analyze’.

Conclusion

Briefly suggest a way to balance the morality as to the needs of the time in a sustainable and effective manner.

Introduction

Social change is of two types, continuous or evolutionary and discontinuous or revolutionary. The most common form of change is continuous. This day-to-day incremental change is a subtle, but dynamic, factor in social analysis especially with respect to moral standards of society.

As cultures evolve and societies develop, people’s ways of thinking about good and evil also transform. This is essential to build an inclusive society.

Body

It needs to be borne in mind that there may be certain activities which the society perceives as immoral per se. It may include **gambling** (though that is also becoming a debatable issue now), **prostitution** etc. It is also to be noted that standards of morality in a society change with the



passage of time.

And rightly so, morality must change and evolve and not become regressive. **We know the example of Indian origin dentist Savita Halappanavar who lost her life in Ireland** as she was denied abortion. It eventually led to sepsis, but on legal grounds the hospital didn't allow her to abort. A life could have been saved. American States are passing anti-abortion laws that are highly regressive, denying woman rights over her body.

In this new modern era, **online dating, live-in relationships, acceptance of same-sex relations are being normalised**. Such progression came as people let go of some of the moral benchmarks that became obsolete. Today **world is more inclusive because of this reason**.

Conclusion

Hence morality and their standards must evolve with time. Our societies have become progressively less prudish and judgmental. We have become more accepting of others, rational, irreligious, and scientific in how we approach matters of right and wrong.

Morality is not properly the doctrine of how we may make ourselves happy, but how we may make ourselves worthy of happiness. Explain. (150 words)

Difficulty level: Tough

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4.

Key Demand of the question:

To write that the end goal morality is not happiness but making oneself worthy of happiness.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by writing about link between Morality and its happiness as its end goal.

Body:

Write about when two things that are not compatible are what an individual should do and what the individual wants to do. When an individual does what they want to do they end up in a road that will lead them into immediate happiness but will not benefit them in the long run. On the other hand when the individual is doing what they should do it will bring them a feeling of discomfort and unhappiness but will benefit them at the end.

Conclusion:

Conclude by summarising.

Introduction

This quote by **Immanuel Kant** explains the true meaning of morality. Morality is about becoming worthy of happiness not just by trying to satisfy one's desire to be happy. Although it is our ultimate goal to be happy, morality must not be directly associated as a means to an end. For, morality is something that will help us understand what it means to become worthy of the happiness we will achieve.

Body

Kant explicitly rejects the doctrine of happiness, which states that one should act virtuously in order to be happy. Morality is not based on happiness. However, happiness is not completely left out of the picture. One's own happiness is a weak sort of duty which is an easy one to obey since all men desire happiness.



Kant says that morality is not about becoming happy but rather about becoming worthy of happiness by heeding the call of duty. And those who do so can expect with some level of certainty that they will in fact attain happiness.

Making oneself happy can be done through materialistic means or non-materialistic means. But to be happy a person needs to be worthy i.e., standing up for morals, being respected in one's own eyes etc. When an individual does what they want to do they end up in a road that will lead them into immediate happiness but will not benefit them in the long run. On the other hand, when the individual is doing what they should do it will bring them a feeling of discomfort and unhappiness but will benefit them at the end.

Conclusion

The purpose of Kantianism is to tell that morality is not to make people happy but the whole purpose is to do the right thing just for the sake of doing it. Kant writes that a human being's **observance of his duty is the universal and sole condition of his worthiness to be happy** and his worthiness to be happy is identical to his observance of duty. **Moral living is worthiness to be happy.**

“The philosophy of ‘Nishkam Karma’ should be at the core of an administrator’s life; particularly in the case of India”. Discuss (15M)

Introduction

Nishkam Karma is a central theme in the Bhagavad Gita. An important philosophical concept in Karma yoga, it means to act unselfishly, or without personal gain in mind. When acting out of Nishkam Karma, an individual is acting without any expectation that good will be returned to him/her. In Sanskrit, nishkam means “action without motive,” “work without desire” or “desireless.”

Body:

Philosophy of Nishkam Karma

- Karma Yoga focuses on the perfect alignment of thought, word and deed.
- Nishkam Karma is considered non-attachment to the result of personal actions in life, but with selfless and loving motives.
- It shows how one can live in this world and work in a manner that benefits oneself and the milieu in which he is placed.
- Desire for specific gains will cause bondage, but deeds done with a sense of dedication and in the spirit of service to God free one from such bondage.
- Example: On the battlefield, Krishna told Arjuna, “Do your duty without thinking about the outcome.” What he meant was, one cannot be sure about the results and hence must not think about the outcomes, when one is performing his/her duty. One may or may not attain the desired result in the end, but thinking in a loop about the possible outcomes will only pile to the confusion, make one doubtful, distracted and increase chances of failures!
- The donation or charity done to the less fortunate of the society must not be based on the fame a person receives at the end of it. Rather, the pure joy of giving, sense of satisfaction



that someone's life is more comfortable now should be the motive. It applies to CSR, NGOs, HNIs too.

Importance of Nishkam karma for an administrator

- An administrator should always keep his/her "self" behind the "self of others" and inspire him/her to abide by the duties and oath of service.
- It makes his/her decisions unbiased and neutral because his intention is focused on his duties and not on the individual he is serving. E.g. He/She will take unbiased decision in a case involving a marginalized person and a powerful politician.
- It enhances the accountability of his/her office and also keeps him/her high on moral values like impartiality, integrity etc. E.g. when an officer is not aspiring for jobs after retirement, he/she will always be integral in the actions.
- It will make his actions empathetic and compassionate towards the weaker section of society, and make his life easy as it will be free of too much of expectations.
- It makes one perform his/her duties without attachment and despite any failures it keeps him/her duty bound with a positive determination to do better.

Conclusion

In today's times, which is often said to be the testing times of extreme materialism, wrenching changes, contradictions and despondency all around, is wielding psychological and physical pressures and leading us to delusions, continual physical sufferings and mental agonies. This necessitates the need to heed the call of "Nishkama Karma" – "Be intent on action not on the fruits of action; avoid attraction to the fruits and attachment to inaction."

Does simplicity have an intrinsic value for a leader in the public sphere? Examine (10M)

Introduction

Simplicity is about **taking control over your life and resisting the forces of the dominant society that tell us to claw our way to the top, to be a winner, regardless of consequences.** Simplicity is **finding balance in our lives and leading a life that is uncluttered yet sophisticated.**

Body

Simplicity – an intrinsic value for leader in public sphere

Simplicity is not something you find or something you do, simplicity is a way of thinking and it takes discipline. Leadership is the ability to influence people; to get them to act together and on time; to provide direction and instil confidence.

Great leaders understand that leadership involves taking the collective, their people and team on the same journey as themselves and making it as easy as possible for people to follow. Often, great leaders espouse the principle that they don't expect anyone to do anything they would not do themselves.

These men and women consult widely, listen carefully, define clearly and act decisively. They know clear thinking and solutions, that can be understood, are contagious amongst their people, and they also know that the opposite is true.



For instance, Gandhiji lived with the harijans to understand their plight first which made it easier for him as well as the people to connect with each other easily.

There is power in simplicity. When a leadership team can make things uncomplicated and clear, that's where the magic happens. That's when people at all levels can really focus and make things happen. That's where you can really create traction and begin to produce awesome results.

Great leaders understand the wisdom of truthfulness and clarity; of keeping their message simple and easy to understand. The footprints of great leaders, who saw into the future and spanned generations, who have previously travelled our paths will often reveal simply, yet profoundly, the benefits of speaking and acting clearly.

Conclusion

Simplicity is not simple. The world around us is exceptionally complex. Thus, it's our ability on how we process complex things and make it simple will be the true achievement. We live in ecosystem that is deteriorating rapidly, the generation is not the happiest one either and we are on the verge of collapse-ecologically, morally, socially, psychologically and otherwise. We need to separate between our **Want** and **Need** and then only we can approach simplicity, where **life is full of joy and its richness is bountiful**. Thus, simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.

What do you understand by the term 'Ethical humility'? Discuss the challenges in developing humility in one's life and suggest possible solutions to overcome these challenges. (15M)

Why the question?

Rise in arrogance, ego, etc. in the society in present times.

Structure of the answer

Introduction

Briefly define the term ethical humility in the introduction.

Body

List the various challenges in developing humility in one's life. Ex: Ego, arrogance, power, etc.

Quote examples for each of the challenges you list. Ex: VVIP mode of behaviour amongst the civil service officers in certain scenarios.

Suggest solutions to overcome all these challenges in developing humility in one's life.

Conclusion

You can highlight the importance of ethical humility for the overall growth of society in a brief manner.

Introduction

Humility in true sense is not inflating oneself with ego despite of all the praises and respect offered for your work. Humility is broadly defined as 1) self-awareness, 2) appreciating others' strengths and contribution, and 3) openness to new ideas and feedback regarding one's performance. Humility means not putting yourself either above or below others; it means not thinking about your position on a scale. **Mother Teresa, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam** are few individuals who were epitome of humility.

Body

Humility is mother of all virtues:



- Humility in true sense is not inflating oneself with ego despite of all the praises and respect offered for your work.
- Humility is at the foundation of all the virtues as said by Confucius is a profound statement with lot of depth in it.
- Humility can free our mind from getting clouded by all the praises and respect.
- Humility counters ego which can be dangerous for further growth and development.
- With no ego in mind, one can invest his energy in more creative ideas.

Challenges in developing humility in one's life

An individual can become humbler by:

- Respecting other human beings and treating all equally.
- Wiping out all prejudices and stereotypes.
- Staying grounded and not showing superiority complex.
- Accepting mistakes and learning from them.
- Being tolerant to other's views and heeding to their concerns.

Conclusion

Humility is thus a virtue that makes you into someone that has the capacity of accepting or developing other virtues. It is similar to a potter who converts a load of mud into a vessel that can contain water and also keep it cool. If it has not been for the potter, the mud could never have developed the capacity to hold water within itself. Similar is humility. It is like a potter's hands that shape an individual into a form which can be used to cultivate other profound virtues like – patience, hard work, perseverance, and many more.

What does this quote means to you? (150 words)

“We are like chameleons, we take our hue and the colour of our moral character, from those who are around us.” — John Locke

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Quotes Wednesdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by explaining the literal meaning of the quote.

Body:



Write about the various influences on morality of an individual – parents, family, teachers, friends, society and media. Cite examples of substantiate your points.

Next, write both good and bad characters can be imbibed from those around us.

Conclusion:

Summarise by highlighting the importance of the quote in the present day to nurture good character and avoid negative influences.

Introduction

This quote relates to our time **because many people today have to try to fit in everyday life to get anywhere in it.** We notice others and automatically look up to them and they become the standard for us. Sometimes, the benchmarks we set for ourselves also is based on other people's lives. While this may sometimes work in our favour when our role models are inspiring people but at the same time, it may be **detrimental if we choose to surround ourselves with wrong people.**

Body

The best example is the Nazi Germany, where millions of jews were killed in holocaust based on Hitler's dictum to exterminated the Jews. During the Nuremburg trials, it was found that **many Nazi Generals blindly followed the authority** without questioning the moral judgement of Hitler.

Even people who were against such incarceration got co-opted eventually seeing their neighbours and fellow countrymen and **accepted the Nazi superiority as blind truth.**

More than sixty years ago **Gustav Gilbert,** a US Intelligence Officer, wrote '**Nuremberg Diary**' about his experience at the Nuremberg prison. Nuremberg Diary contains detailed conversations with politicians, generals, businessmen, architects and engineers. Most senior Nazis were "normal" intelligent people **who contributed to an organization that did extraordinarily evil things.** This shows that not just ordinary people but those who were well educated also became privy to the most heinous genocide in history of the world.

In everyday life, it means **you become the people you surround yourself with.** If one surrounds himself with **drug users, they will eventually see it as morally acceptable** to behave in the same way. Contradictory to that, if one surrounds himself around athletes and people in healthy relationships, they will find themselves becoming fit and surrounded by people who are committed supporting us.

Conclusion

When one considers a personal worldview, one can see that there is always 4 elements. **There is Origins, Purpose, Morality, and Destiny.** Since Morality is one of the facets of worldview, it will be built in the same way as the other three elements; that is, **by the lived experience of the holder of it. Our worldview is constructed through our experiences, our education, our up brings and family, our friends and our enemies.** Through the collected experiences of our lives, we have unintentionally created a lens through which we make sense of the world.

Topic: Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;



Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

What does this quote mean to you? (150 words) “The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.” — Confucius

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Quotes Wednesdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by explaining the literal meaning of the quote.

Body:

Write about how all good things and things which have a massive impact start always small. Cite various examples to substantiate.

Next, write that even things which have negative consequences start small. Cite examples from across the world.

Conclusion:

Summarise by highlighting the importance of the quote in the present day and that good things should be encouraged and negative things must be nipped in the bud.

Introduction

To achieve something substantial, we must begin by taking small steps towards it. Many of us make a mistake of thinking that if we take a few giant leaps, we will reach our goal faster. The key thing to remember here is that there are no shortcuts to success.

Body

One must go through each step before reaching where you want to be. We need to be patient and meticulous in our approach. All the steps that we take to reach our goal will not be a successful one. Some steps will throw us a few steps back. What is important is not to get disheartened

Dashrath Manjhi, famously known as the Mountain Man who single-handedly carved a path through a mountain. He gave 22 years of his life to his village. Manjhi broke through that last thin wall of rock, and walked into the other side of the mountain. After 22 years, Dashrath Das Manjhi, the common man, the landless labourer, had broken the mountain: he had carved out a road 360 feet long, 30 feet wide. Wazirganj, with its doctors, jobs, and school, was now only 5 kilometres away. People from 60 villages in Atri could use his road. Children had to walk only 3 kilometres to reach school. He did indeed move the mountain.

The small steps help us get important lessons that help us understand ourselves better and also help in shaping our character. We get confidence from our successes and the spirit to fight back when we fail. Thus, the journey becomes very enriching. If a few huge leaps took us to our goals, then our life would not be full of so many fascinating experiences.

Conclusion



The mountain will move only when we have done all the small steps, and when it does move, we will come out as better individuals who can inspire others to reach their goals. If we keep looking for shortcuts, then we will lose precious time. Rather we should focus on the journey ahead of us, accept it, and do our best to make this journey as meaningful as we can.

What does this quote mean to you? (150 words) “We must love them both, those whose opinions we share and those whose opinions we reject, for both have laboured in the search for truth, and both have helped us in finding it.” — St. Thomas Aquinas

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Quotes Wednesdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by explaining the literal meaning of the quote.

Body:

Write about diversity of opinion across various dimensions like ethics, politics, economics and society etc. Cite examples of the same.

Mention, how just because there is an opposite opinion that it should not be discarded. Link as to how truth can be arrived by divergence of opinions. Substantiate with examples.

Conclusion:

Summarise by highlighting the importance of the quote in the present day.

Introduction

Freedom of speech and expression is one of the most basic rights to a human being. In fact, John Stuart Mill once said that even if one person has a different opinion and everyone else has another opinion, the dissenting opinion must be heard. Every opinion contains a piece of truth.

Body

Mill argues that silencing any opinion is wrong, even if the opinion is false, because knowledge arises only from the **“collision of truth with error.”** In other words, true belief becomes knowledge only by emerging victorious from the din of argument and discussion, which must occur either with actual opponents or through internal dialogue. Without this process, even true belief remains mere “prejudice.” We must allow all speech, even defence of false claims and conspiracy theories, because it is only then that we have a chance of achieving knowledge.

The **peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion** is, that it is **robbing the human race; posterity** as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth: if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error.

Thus, if we engage (civilly) with controversial or offensive ideas we’ll either discover we have been wrong the whole time – which is, of course, beneficial to us – or we’ll show the dissenter he or she is wrong – which is also beneficial, since more people will now benefit from having more robust ideas. **What helps no one is silencing one side, since those ideas are now denied to everyone.** If those ideas are wrong, we should be able to simply point out how those ideas are wrong; if the dissenting ideas are in fact better, then we’ve done the world a disservice by locking up good ideas.



Consider: many were (and are) offended and **outraged by the revelations of biology linking us to chimps and monkeys**. Yet, regardless of how we feel about it, some 25 or 8 million years ago, there existed on Earth an animal who was the last common ancestor we share with chimps. **Mere outrage will not alter the fact that this entity once existed.**

Conclusion

The conclusions we reach, after testing ideas against arguments and evidence, will often offend us, offend others, offend perhaps something called “common moral decency”. Yet, offence is irrelevant to truth. In most instances, whatever is true remains so regardless of how we feel about it

What does this quote means to you? (150 words) “I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who conquers his enemies, for the hardest victory is over self.” — Aristotle

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Quotes Wednesdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by explaining the literal meaning of the quote.

Body:

Write about desires – legitimate and illegitimate – which are very difficult to control. Talk about why self-restraint and self-control is hard to achieve. Substantiate with examples.

Mention, how desires could be overcome by building strong ethical values like Integrity, fortitude, commitment etc.

Conclusion:

Summarise by highlighting the importance of the quote in the present day.

Introduction

Desires are as much part of man as any other essential requirement. It is the desire of man that made him explore so many paths and rule the world. But the uncontrolled desires make man a slave of these desires and make him do things which may not be considered as moral.

Body

The above statement reflects that the root causes of negative external manifestations of acts or thoughts of humans are his endless desires. There is no end to desires, and one desire leads to other. Thus, while an external enemy is finite and can be defeated, the real challenge is in defeating our internal enemy of desires which is endless and infinite.

Aristotle, through this statement, argues that it is easy to confront and overcome one’s enemy. But it is much difficult to confront the desires. Confronting an enemy is a compulsion for an individual. However, to confront one’s desires is a much difficult task, as it involves resisting the urges of the materialistic pleasures. Aristotle rightly argues that the one who overcomes his desires is much braver than the one who overcomes his enemies.

Only a person of high morality and character can resist the temptations of crude desires. The present society faces an acute form of this problem. Even highly qualified people fail to resist the temptations of material gains and pleasures. This becomes a sign of their moral weakness.



Public administrators are the guardians of public interest. However, as of today they have come to be characterized by self-aggrandizement, self-promotion, self-interest etc, a manifestation of inability to control internal desires. This had led to corruption, crony capitalism, nepotism and favouritism in public affairs. Self-interest has replaced public interest. Thus, the need of the hour is to promote the principles of self-control among public administrators. It must be remembered that administrators are not only public servants but also expected to be model citizens. A self-controlled public administrator will not only lead to an efficient, public-oriented administration but also sustainable society.

Conclusion

Thus, what is required is to train the people to resist their material urges. The biggest challenge for an individual is to confront his own desires and interests, than to face his adversary

What does this quote means to you? (150 words) “We all decry prejudice, yet are all prejudiced.” -Herbert Spencer

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Quotes Wednesdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by explaining the literal meaning of the quote.

Body:

Write about innate hypocrisy that is found in individuals and societies. When faced with Prejudice we are quick to raise voice and demand justice, yet we sometimes have our own biases and prejudices against others. Substantiate with examples.

Conclusion:

Summarise by highlighting the need to overcome our biases and prejudices.

Introduction

Inherently human beings are raised with **certain ingrained thoughts and value system** that are a result of **social conditioning day in and day out**. Such thoughts can **manifest into prejudice** and **cloud our decisions** in some manner, most often than not, having a **negative connotation**. However, when the same prejudice is against us, we call it out saying it is injustice even though we may have done the same to someone else in a different manner. This shows the hypocrisy of human beings.

Body

Prejudices and inherent bias of human beings

Prejudice, in its most basic definition, is **simply pre-judging something or someone**. In any context where there is free choice or will, we have to pre-judge the options before we obtain the necessary information to make the right choice for us, not anyone else. This means no matter how simple the choice may be, we have to pre-judge what it offers to make our selection. On that basis, there really is nothing wrong with being prejudiced, per se. The **dilemma occurs** only when we use the concept in a negative concept to demonstrate **personal preferences** which are **linked to discrimination and power**.

English philosopher Herbert Spencer said, **“We all decry prejudice, yet are all prejudiced.”** Nowadays, it seems as if being prejudiced is the worst act any individual could commit;



however, what we do not understand is that **prejudice survives latently and inherently within us**. From as early as preschool, we have already **learnt stereotypes or acquired negative attitudes** toward “others.” **It is a social concept**, but because we begin to be prejudiced so far back in our childhood, it almost seems an innate thing in our lives. However, it is a **learnt behaviour**. **Prejudice is taught and spoon-fed to everyone** regardless of race, creed, or gender. Whether we like to admit it to ourselves or not, we are all prejudiced in one way or another.

Fortunately, this also means we can unlearn being prejudiced if we truly desired. **The process of countering those negatives with positives can begin at any age though it cannot be done instantly**. The learning process (or unlearning process) requires four key elements before there will be any effective, real change: **acknowledgement, identification, a desire to change, and a raising of awareness and education**.

Conclusion

Anything we have learnt can be unlearn, but it takes much thought, action, and above all, education and awareness in the alternatives available. By teasing out established fears, the information which led to those beliefs, and the desire to be prejudiced, especially against someone, all while widening our horizons through education regarding more engaging and affirming ways of interaction with others and awareness of our privilege and circumstances, we acquire a much better chance of unlearning our negative prejudices and replacing them with more positive and reinforcing behaviour.

What does this quote mean to you? (150 words) “There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.” — Ernest Hemingway

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Quotes Wednesdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by explaining the literal meaning of the quote.

Body:

Write about how there exist false notions of superiority based of class, profession, caste and religion etc. Bring out that despite these distinctions there is no “superiority” and it is just a part of egoism. Mention that being superior to oneself – as in being a better that you were yesterday makes you a truly superior person. Cite examples of substantiate.

Conclusion:

Summarise by highlighting the importance of the quote in the present day.

Introduction

The quote suggests an individual to reflect on self, introspect and become a better version of ourselves. People should always **strive to improve themselves**. However, the **most common pitfall** to this is **attempting to copy someone else** and their **successes**. While this may seem like a noble effort, the goal of self-improvement shouldn't be based on how you stack up against others. Rather, the only way to measure your improvement is to see how you stack up against yourself.

Body



Success and failure are like reflections in a **mirror**. We will never find the right self-image if we look at another's reflection in the mirror. Never compare yourself to other people rather compare yourself to the person you were yesterday and the person you can be tomorrow. Else, it will only be an endless cycle of comparison, unhappiness & discontentment.

A **happy environment** can only be achieved if we **become a better version of ourselves**. As an individual if **one has to compete, compete only with oneself**. We must, **upskill, upgrade, uplift** ourselves. Amass as much knowledge as we can and work towards bettering yourself.

In this process one can uplift others as well. Provide unbiased feedback, support struggling colleagues or friends to come out of self-inflicted inferiority and aid them to work on themselves, for themselves. Also, as a parent, one must stop comparing their children with others. Help them get better every single day because each child is different- with different dreams, talents & skills.

Conclusion

Authentic self-discovery isn't easy. **Someone else's life path cannot be your benchmark of success**, since they have different dreams, passions and skills. There is also no roadmap or ideal outcome in life, because everyone's path is theirs and theirs alone.

Ultimately, what drives our decisions and the key to becoming best version of yourself – are our values and our standards. The values make us who we are, but our standards define what we are willing to accept in life.

Gandhian Trusteeship was an 'Instrument of Human Dignity'. Elaborate. (150 words)

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Why the question: The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of 'Philosophical Mondays' in Mission-2022 Secure.

Key Demand of the question: To explain about the trusteeship of Mahatma Gandhi and its aim of protecting dignity of beings over materialism.

Directive:

Elaborate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the context. You must be defining key terms wherever appropriate and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start by defining the core idea of trusteeship philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

Body:

Further elaborate the concept of trusteeship with examples from Gandhian times to contemporary times. Gandhi's economic ideas were part of his general crusade against poverty, exploitation against socio-economic injustice, and deteriorating moral standards.

He wanted to liberate the modern economic philosophy from the quagmire of materialism and bring it to a higher spiritual plane. Human actions were motivated by social objectives of the protection of human rights.

Conclusion:

End the answer by stressing the need and importance of trusteeship in present times.

Introduction

Trusteeship is a socio-economic philosophy that was propounded by Mahatma Gandhi. It provides a means by which the wealthy people would be the trustees of trusts that looked after the welfare of



the people in general. Gandhi believed that the wealthy people could be persuaded to part with their wealth to help the poor. Trusteeship is not merely a principle not even a philosophy. His idea of trusteeship needs to be revisited in today's **times of growing inequality**.

Body

Gandhiji's doctrine of Trusteeship was an instrument of human dignity:

- Gandhi's economic ideas were part of his **general crusade against poverty, exploitation against socio-economic injustice, and deteriorating moral standards**.
- Gandhi was an economist of the masses and his approach was rooted in **human dignity**.
- His pragmatic approach gave a **new direction to the existing socio-economic problems in the process of protecting human dignity**.
- Gandhism as a socio-economic philosophy suits not only to accomplish the higher ideals of democratic freedom and socialism but it was also thoroughly **developed to meet the challenge of national and international forces of communism and capitalism**.
- The core of Gandhian economic thought is the **protection of the dignity of human person and not mere material prosperity**.
- He aimed at the **development, upliftment, and enrichment of human life** rather than a higher standard of living with scant respect for human and social values.
- **Fundamental ethical values** dominated his economic ideas. He wanted to **liberate the modern economic philosophy from the quagmire of materialism** and bring it to a higher spiritual plane.
- **Human actions** were motivated by **social objectives of the protection of human rights**.
- He based his doctrine of trusteeship on the first sloka of Isopanisad, according to which one is asked to dedicate everything to God and then use it only to the required extent.
- The principal condition laid down in it is that **one must not covet what belongs to others**.
- In other words, in the first instance, **everything must be surrendered to God** and then out of it one may use only that which is necessary for the service of God's creation, according to one's strict needs.
- This makes it clear beyond doubt that it is not in industrial and business sectors only that the doctrine of trusteeship is to be made applicable.
- The spirit of this doctrine is detachment and service. Unless these two virtues are inculcated, it is impossible to obey the command "covet not anybody's riches."
- Therefore, Gandhi's idea of trusteeship arose from his **faith in the law of non-possession**.
- **Man's dignity**, and not his material prosperity, is the centre of **Gandhian economics**. Gandhian economics aims at a **distribution of material prosperity keeping only human dignity in view**.
- Thus, it is dominated more by moral values than by economic ideas.



- According to Gandhi, trusteeship is the only ground on which he can work out **an ideal combination of economics and morals**.

Conclusion:

The philosophy of Trusteeship believes in inherent goodness of human beings. The Gandhian perspective is more relevant today than it was ever before. Gandhi wanted to ensure distributive justice by ensuring that business acts as a trustee to its many stakeholders, and specified that economic activities cannot be separated from humanitarian activities. Economics is part of the way of life which is related to collective values.

Value addition:

Relevance of trusteeship in contemporary world:

- *The revolutions that are raised from time to time in different countries are motivated by the same objectives of human dignity, justice, and equity.*
- *It is very clear that the idea is relevant today as it aims at the social, economic, and political changes in the world.*
- *One of the first steps to achieve this human dignity, justice, and equity is to eliminate the ever-present troublesome element of class struggle in the society.*
- *Though the Gandhian concept of trusteeship does not seek to destroy any particular class, it provides us with an idea of how to narrow the class gap.*
- *The practice of all the democratic nations has been to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor to a minimum.*
- *In India we find this motive behind our cooperative policies, the community development projects, and the taxation policy that heavily taxes the upper class and gives some relief to the lower strata of society.*
- *We find the manifestations of the Gandhian concept of trusteeship in these policies.*

What does this quote means to you? (150 words) "You are what you do, not what you say you'll do." — Carl Gustav Jung

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of 'Quotes Wednesdays' in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by explaining the literal meaning of the quote.

Body:

Write about the difference between saying and doing. Mention that many times humans act contradictory to their words or do not act all. This is reflection of integrity and the character of the person. Substantiate with examples.

Conclusion:

Summarise by highlighting the need to act as per our words.

Introduction



The **world only cares for what we do and not what we say we will do**. The words which we generally say are much lesser importance than the actions which we deliver. **We must speak less and work more**. This will not only help us **achieve our goals in the minimum possible time** but also give some much-needed energy to invest in our significant tasks. It is important to understand the fact that the energy which we have is actually limited, and therefore it becomes very necessary to waste it wisely.

Body

Our **actions** and not words **define our reputation and integrity**. Failing to do what we say and repetition of this behaviour over and over again is harmful to our character which others perceive us to be. It **erodes our credibility**. If we don't do what we say we are going to do, our credibility decreases. After each one of our promises and failing to keep it reduces our integrity as well. Our words mean nothing after this.

It also **builds distrust**. Trust is built on small actions, not on the dramatic moments meant for movies. Finally, it **limits opportunity**. When our team cannot count on the promises made, there will be less and less opportunities for us to prove ourselves.

If you're known as someone who doesn't meet promises and expectations, you will face consequences. Strive to be someone of your word. Especially when it's a "small thing," make sure you do it. **After all, if you fail at the "little stuff," no one will trust you with the "big stuff."**

Conclusion

It is important to acknowledge the fact that our actions define us and not our choices. A winner always finds ways to turn the right ideas into good deeds. He or she will look for ways to give away to their dreams and transform them into reality. **Consistently doing what you say you will do is the foundation of integrity.**

What does this quote means to you? (150 words) "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." — Aristotle

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of 'Quotes Wednesdays' in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by explaining the literal meaning of the quote.

Body:

Write about how there exist difference between educating the mind and the heart. If the mind provides knowledge, then from heart comes, empathy and compassion. The education of mind without inculcating values can be meaningless or even destructive. Substantiate with examples.

Conclusion:

Summarise by highlighting the importance of the quote in the present day.

Introduction

"To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society" aptly captures the idea behind the above quote by **Mahatma Gandhi**. Education promotes the **metamorphosis of a child to become a full-fledged adult**. Mere learning without promotion and development of values even discards the definition of education. Education of values and principles shapes and moulds a soul.



Body

Achieving academic excellence for all students is at the very core of any school's purpose, and will inform much of what they do. **Character education** is not a new thing, extending as it does back to the work of **Aristotle**. Yet it could be argued that the pursuit of success in schools in more recent years has sought to put the **cart before the horse**. In driving students to think of success solely in terms of exam grades and university places, pressure is created that can often be counter intuitive to student well-being and academic progress.

It does not matter how educated or wealthy one is, **if the inherent character or personality lacks morals**. In fact, such personalities can be **threat to a peaceful society**. E.g.: Mussolini, Hitler are all examples of education devoid of morality leading mankind to their destruction.

In contemporary times it is equally relevant. **For instance**, An educated man taking dowry will be a death spell for gender equality and gender justice. The **seven sins of Gandhiji** will materialise when we are educated without morality like Science without humanity as is the case with nuclear weapons today. Thus, Education without values as useful as it seems makes a man, a clever devil.

Conclusion

Education without morals is like a ship without a compass, merely wandering nowhere. It is not enough to have the power of concentration, but we must have worthy objectives upon which to concentrate. It is not enough to know truth, but we must love truth and sacrifice for it.

Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.

Impartiality means acting solely according to the merits of the case and serving equally well governments of different political persuasions. Elaborate. (150 words)

Difficulty level: Easy

Reference: Ethics by Lexicon publications.

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4.

Key Demand of the question:

To write about the importance of impartiality in developing public in civil servants.

Directive:

Elaborate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start by defining impartiality.

Body:

Explain the importance of Impartiality as an attribute for a civil servant; in upholding the constitutional values, in practicing good work culture, in handling tough and challenging situations, in tackling corruption etc. Develop link how this will lead to building of trust.

Conclusion:



Conclude with others values that are needed along with impartiality.

Introduction

“Impartiality is the life of justice, as justice is the life of all good governments”

Impartiality is a principle of justice holding that decisions should be based on objective criteria, rather than on the basis of **bias**, prejudice, or preferring the benefit to one person over another for improper reasons. For a public servant, it means that decisions should be based on objective criteria, rather than on the basis of bias, prejudice or personal interest.

Body:

Types of Impartiality:

- **Public Impartiality:** A public servant as an instrument of government serving the public without discriminating on the basis of caste, religion and gender.
- **Political Impartiality:** Principle of working without reservation and with devotion to the success of every government and its policies. It basically means you are not partial to any particular party or government.

Importance of Impartiality as an attribute for a civil servant:

- **Upholding constitutional values:** impartiality helps a civil servant to uphold constitutionalism and prevent authoritarian government. It helps in upholding rule of law and makes the civil servant accountable to law and law alone. Also, it is in accordance with the constitutional provisions including Article 14, 15 and so on.
 - g. Providing for citizens' welfare measures without any favour and being equitable.
- **Fulfilling all interests equally:** As it is observed “Impartiality doesn't mean neutrality. It also means partiality towards the poor”. Impartiality brings in objectivity and often when funds are to be allocated, an impartial civil servant would not favour his/her own village or city but allocate funds based on the needs.
- It keeps up the morale of the civil servant and with the sense of righteousness, the works get done efficiently. A positive environment is created in the office and a conducive work culture is created.
 - g.: a civil servant cannot be partial towards one set of employees. Whether in performance assessment or granting leaves, the criteria should be objective without partiality.
- **Majoritarianism prevention:** especially in a diverse country like India, minority voices can be suppressed if the civil servant becomes partial towards majority for vested interests.
 - g. Though in a state majority spoken language is promoted, civil servants have to make provisions for linguistic minorities to safeguard their language.
- **Handling emergency situations:** like communal riots, ethnic conflicts etc., an impartial civil servant would have a better credibility and persuasive capability in negotiations.
 - g. N Ravi, an interlocutor is effective in north east insurgency negotiations because of his impeccable record of impartiality.



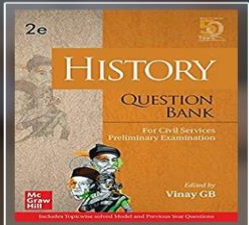
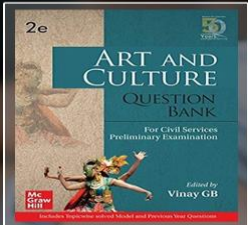
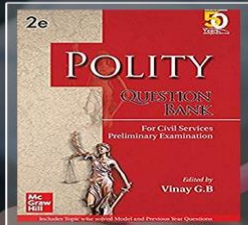
- **Controlling corruption:** It will keep oneself free from nepotism, political-corporate nexus and corruption.
 - The examples are Sagayam IAS of Tamilnadu cadre or Ashok Khemka of Haryana etc.,
- **Build public confidence and trust for the government:** impartial behaviour insurance no undue discrimination towards any section of the community. This results in improve confidence towards policymaker and implementer. It make sure that justice will always be served no matter who is the perpetrator. Example- in IMX media case even former finance minister is being tried under Court of law.
- **Deepening of democracy:** with improve confidence in government machinery the public feels more enthusiastic to take part indecision making.

Conclusion


Present-day civil servants need to perform multiple functions of giving suggestions to political representatives, addressing public grievances, institutionalization of the socio-economic changes, delivering goods and services. Hence a value committed and impartial bureaucracy is need of the hour.

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Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

‘Self-denial’ is at the core of many problems that one faces both in their personal and professional lives in the present times. Discuss. (15M)

Why the question?

Rising cases of unhappiness amongst individuals in the society in recent times; particularly in the case of India which has performed badly in the Gross Happiness Index in recent times.

Structure of the answer

Introduction

You can define the term self-denial briefly in the introduction, along with that list of some problems (anxiety, depression, unhappiness) faced by individuals in the society in their professional and personal lives.

Body

Highlight the connection between self-denial and problems we face in our lives. Ex: Inability to acknowledge and face challenges results in anxiety amongst individuals.

You can quote more such examples from both professional and personal lives

Identify the reasons for the rise in this scenario

Suggest some measures to deal with this situation adequately.

Conclusion

Conclude with any quote or teachings from the lives of leaders, reformers, or philosophers, in this context.

Introduction

Self-denial is a coping mechanism that gives you time to adjust to distressing situations — but staying in denial can interfere with healing oneself or the ability to tackle challenges in day today life.

Refusing to acknowledge that something is wrong is a way of coping with emotional conflict, stress, painful thoughts, threatening information and anxiety. We can be in denial about anything that makes us feel vulnerable or threatens our sense of control, such as an illness, addiction, eating disorder, personal violence, financial problems or relationship conflicts. But this is harmful for our well-being, as problems needs to be acknowledged before they can be solved.

Body

If a person is in denial, they are trying to protect yourself by refusing to accept the truth about something that’s happening in their life. **In some cases, initial short-term denial can be a good thing**, giving the time to adjust to a painful or stressful issue. It might also be a precursor to making some sort of change in our life. But self-denial has a dark side.

When in denial, we tend to avoid difficult situations

- Won’t acknowledge a difficult situation.
- Try not to face the facts of a problem.
- Downplay possible consequences of the issue.

Examples of self-denial and the harm they can be as follows

- A college student witnesses a violent shooting but claims not to be affected by it.



- The partner of an older man in the end stage of life refuses to discuss health care directives and wills with him, insisting that he's getting better.
- Someone periodically misses morning work meetings after drinking excessively the night before, but insists there's no problem because the work is still getting done.
- A couple are racking up so much credit card debt that they toss the bills aside because they can't bear to open them.

In situations such as these, denial might prevent one from getting help, such as medical treatment or counselling, or dealing with problems that can spiral out of control — all with potentially devastating long-term consequences.

Solutions to self-denial

- Honestly examine what you fear.
- Think about the potential negative consequences of not taking action.
- Allow yourself to express your fears and emotions.
- Try to identify irrational beliefs about your situation.
- Journal about your experience.
- Open up to a trusted friend or loved one.
- Participate in a support group.

Conclusion

Awareness regarding self-denial and the consequences must be acknowledged. Mental health is very important in the modern times and the stigma associated with seeking help from experts must be removed. We must find healthy ways to cope with the situation rather than trying to pretend it doesn't exist.

Can emotions supply reasons for moral judgment? Analyze (10M)

Why the question?

The growing realization of the link between emotions and moral judgments

Structure of the answer

Introduction

Briefly define the term moral judgment and emotions in the introduction.

Body

Highlight how emotions in an individual can lead to moral judgments. Ex: Religious emotions in M Gandhi served as a beacon for his moral actions during the independence movement (Message of love and selfless service as propounded in Bhagavad Gita)

Quote more such examples for this dimension.

Highlight how emotions might not readily serve reasons for moral judgments all the time. Ex: Negative emotions like anger could affect the person's ability to be moral (Duryodhana's anger and jealousy against the Pandavas culminated into a devastating war)

Quote more such examples for this dimension.

Conclusion

Suggest a way forward to deal with the negative emotions to prevent them from hampering our ability to be moral. You can use the teachings of any philosopher or leader to justify your suggestions.

Introduction



Moral judgments are influenced by many aspects of life; social norms, ethics, reason, and emotions. **Emotions play a big role** in the way we judge morality and make moral decisions. A brain area known for emotion processing seems to be important for these emotional effects, especially if the moral dilemma seems more personal.

Using emotion regulation, we can have some control over these effects. In fact, we could potentially use emotions to our advantage to motivate more moral behavior.

Body

The **classic trolley problem**, where we have an option to save four people at the cost of one worker. Who would we choose? And the answer to this is usually based on utilitarian judgement but if we know more of their backgrounds, the answer usually changes.

Emotions influencing moral judgement

- Emotions – that is to say **feelings and intuitions** – play a major role in most of the ethical decisions people make. Most people do not realize how much their emotions direct their moral choices. But experts think it is impossible to make any important moral judgments without emotions.
- **Inner-directed negative emotions** like **guilt, embarrassment**, and shame often motivate people to **act ethically**.
- **Outer-directed negative emotions**, on the other hand, **aim to discipline or punish**.
 - **For example, people often direct anger, disgust, or contempt** at those who have acted unethically.
 - This discourages others from behaving the same way.
- **Positive emotions like gratitude and admiration**, which people may feel when they see another acting with compassion or kindness, can **prompt people to help others**.
- Emotions evoked by suffering, such as **sympathy** and **empathy**, often lead people to act ethically toward others.
 - Indeed, **empathy is the central moral emotion that most commonly motivates prosocial activity such as altruism**, cooperation, and generosity.

Examples of emotions influencing moral judgements

- Emotions, in addition to rational thinking, influences the way we make moral judgment and decisions.
- **Anxiety and empathy tend** to make us less willing to sacrifice one to save many.
- **Disgust and anger** make us harsher judges and punishers of moral wrong-doing.
 - Eg: This has also led to **custodial torture in the past**. **Judges** have made **insensitive comments** on cases due to inherent bias and emotions on a subject.
- **Sympathy** can make a law enforcement officer overlook petty theft done by a person to feed his family.

Conclusion



So, while we may believe that our moral decisions are influenced most by our philosophy or religious values, in truth our emotions play a significant role in our ethical decision-making. Most current accounts of moral judgment hold that emotion plays an important role, but the nature and extent of this role are still debated.

Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;

Do you think there are sufficient mechanisms to prevent harassment of honest and upright officers in the country? Substantiate with examples. (150 words)

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Abstract Thursdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Key Demand of the question:

To write about if the mechanisms to protect honest officers are sufficient.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by writing about sometimes there are cost to being honest.

Body:

First, with examples mentions how civil servants are targeted for speaking truth to those in power – transfers, punishment posting, threats, suspensions and even harm to their life etc.

Next, mention steps which are available – Tribunals, Courts, Police protection, whistle-blowers act etc. Mention the limitations of the same and how many honest officers are targeted for their integrity.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting measures to make these mechanisms more robust and effective.

Introduction

A demoralised and demotivated civil service will be highly detrimental to the country, he said. If the nation desires good governance, then it is imperative to ensure that honest officers are fully protected and not unnecessarily harassed. In the recent past, a few instances have surfaced wherein civil servants have been implicated for bonafide mistakes. They have often been prosecuted and even imprisoned. These instances have greatly rattled the moral fibre of the civil servants.

Body

Need to protect honest and upright officer

An honest civil servant should not be harassed by anybody or agency or institution while in service or after retirement. It would make the civil servants working in the system nervous and edgy, which would not be in the interest of the country.



There is a need to protect honest civil servants from any kind of harassment for taking decision in good faith and in public interest. It is pertinent to emphasise that an error in judgement should not be treated as criminal misconduct as it would highly demoralise the civil servants. Error in judgement has to be looked at differently.

Mechanisms to protect honest officers

- **Legal immunity:** The civil servants are given legal immunity, meaning that they **cannot be held accountable for their official acts** if they are undertaken after following due procedure. This will be a great confidence booster for honest civil servants.
- **Ensuring maximum transparency in administration:** The key policy-making decisions should be made ensuring **maximum clarity and openness** about how decisions are taken.
 - This will prevent blaming select individuals for incorrect decisions.
- **Reducing politicization of bureaucracy:** The fear of **transfers, denial of promotions, or being punished post-retirement** may impact the decision making of officers.
 - **Ensuring fixed tenure to civil servants** is a much-needed step for systemic reforms in civil services.
- **IAS Association of India** and other civil society groups should support and stand by honest officers undergoing wrongful prosecution.
- **Creating internal oversight mechanisms:** Internal inquiries in each department should consider integrity and past career record of officers before recommending for a criminal investigation of Bonafide decisions

Conclusion

Honesty and uprightness are the hallmarks of civil servants. Civil servants possessing these qualities are considered as a backbone of any strong organizations. In the line of duty, they take various decisions, at the time some become bonafide mistakes. As long as such decisions, are not taken intentionally and do not benefit personally, the officer cannot be said to be guilty.

Thus, if we can observe that the civil services indeed are prone to mistakes which may not be always intentional. There is a need to segregate mistakes from conspiracy in order to protect the honest and punish the guilty.

Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

Why is probity in governance considered to be an exception rather than being a norm in the modern day administration? (150 words)

Difficulty level: Tough

**Why the question:**

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Abstract Thursdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Key Demand of the question:

To write about why probity is such a rare occurrence in governance.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

Begin by defining probity in governance.

Body:

First, with examples mention why civil servants with strong moral principles are rare and mention the factors that make civil servants compromise their integrity.

Next, mention steps that must be taken to improve and promote probity in governance.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting measures to make these measures more robust and effective.

Introduction

Probity is “the quality or condition of having strong moral principles, integrity, good character, honesty, decency”. It is the act of adhering to the highest principles and ideals rather than avoiding corrupt or dishonest conduct. It balances service to the community against the self-interest of individuals.

Body**Probity is an exception rather than a norm**

- It is the lack of probity in public life that resulted in increasing cases of misallocation of public funds like 2G scam, taking grafts for delivery of public services to citizens, inclusion of fake beneficiaries, use of public power for the personal interest and nepotism.
- There is no recognition of good work in civil services.
- Honest and brave officers are threatened with suspension and humiliation.
- Today, our bureaucracy is twenty times more bureaucratic, our deference to the chain of command more cringing and decorous, our worship of paper more entrenched.
- To quote Hyman Rickover, “If you are going to sin, sin against God, not the bureaucracy. God will forgive you but the bureaucracy won’t.”
- An administration certainly needs guardrails in the form of non-negotiable rules. Without such rails, the system can stray badly. But necessitating a dozen signatures where a few can do, is a criminal surfeit of supervisory controls.
- Similarly, we have a colossal army of paper-pushing subordinates churning out work of frivolous value leading to redtapism.
- Corruption, favouritism, criminalisation of governance, self-centred functionaries etc. are on the rise.

Measures to ensure probity

- **Statutory Code of Values and Ethics for Public Services**– It should be expressed in simple language, easily understandable and should lay down fundamental values that ought to govern the conduct of public servants. For example, British Civil Services Code.



- **Ethical framework** –Need for an **ethical framework** that should provide for prevention and guidance, investigation, disciplinary action, and prosecution.
- **Ethical Guidance** –It should include training in ethics, awareness and development of essential skill for ethical analysis and moral judgement.
- **Sanction and punishment** –**Violation and breaches of the Code of Ethics** should invite **sanction and punishment** under the disciplinary rules. A simplified disciplinary regime should be put in place which, while following the principle of natural justice, may speedily and summarily decide cases and take punitive action against delinquent employees.
- **Independent office of Ethics Commissioner**– Need to create such an independent office on **the US pattern** to provide leadership in ethics and values. Ethics Commissioner should issue and interpret rules which govern standards of conduct and conflict of interest.

Conclusion

Integrity and probity in public life demand that those elected or appointed to public office are themselves imbued with a sense of responsibility to the society that puts them there; that the decisions they take should always be solely in terms of the public interest and not to gain benefits for themselves, family, friends or associates; that they **act with honesty and integrity by not allowing their private interests to conflict with their public responsibilities**; and that the behaviour must always be able to stand up to the **closest public scrutiny**. Similarly, **civil society and institutions** have a crucial role to play by calling to account those who will flout the rules and by refusing to tolerate any but the **highest standard of behaviour in those who they elect or appoint to serve the public interest**.

Value addition

Concept of Probity

- *Probity is confirmed integrity. It is usually regarded as being incorruptible.*
- *It is the quality of having strong moral principles and strictly following them, such as honesty, uprightness, transparency and incorruptibility.*
- *Probity in Governance is concerned with the propriety and character of various organs of the government as to whether these uphold the procedural uprightness, regardless of the individuals manning these institutions.*
- *It involves adopting an ethical and transparent approach, allowing the process to withstand scrutiny.*
- *Probity goes further than the avoidance of being dishonest because it is determined by intangibles like personal and societal values.*
- *Probity has been described as a risk management approach ensuring procedural integrity.*
- *It is concerned with procedures, processes and systems rather than outcomes. The principles of probity, ethics and good governance operate on many levels – from, the individual, to the organization and on to the ‘watch-dog’.*



Corporate governance in India has often found to be inefficient, reactive and too powerless to prevent unethical practises. Comment in the light of recent events. (250 words)

Difficulty level: Tough

Reference: Indian Express

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Abstract Thursdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Key Demand of the question:

To write shortcomings of corporate governance in India.

Comment– here we must express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and form an overall opinion thereupon.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by defining corporate governance.

Body:

Write about the various limitations and shortcomings of corporate governance – frequent scams, lack of transparency, absences of accountability, corruption etc. Give recent examples like Yes bank, NSE scam.

Suggest steps to overcome the above.

Conclusion:

Conclude by writing a way forward.

Introduction

Corporate governance is the system of rules, practices, and processes by which a firm is directed and controlled. 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. Ethics is at the core of corporate governance, and management must reflect accountability for their actions on the global community scale.

Body

Background

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** passed its final order in a sordid saga, involving the country’s largest stock exchange.
- The order, strongly censuring senior officials of the NSE, including its former MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna, throws light on a series of governance lapses at the stock exchange.
- The stock exchange regulator has levied fines on the parties involved in acts of impropriety, and also barred NSE from introducing any new products for a six-month period.
- The order highlights the scale of misgovernance, including the violation of several rules and regulations.
- More worryingly, the episode has exposed the absence of checks and balances at the stock exchange.



Corporate Governance Defined

FIGURE 1: The Principal Actors: Shareowners, Directors, Managers



Challenges for Corporate governance in India

- It is common for friends and family of promoters and management to be appointed as board members.
- In India, founders' ability to control the affairs of the company has the potential of derailing the entire corporate governance system. Unlike developed economies, in India, identity of the founder and the company is often merged.
- Women director appointed are primarily from family in most of the companies which negates the whole reform.
- Appointed independent directors are questionable as it is unlikely that Independent Directors will stand-up for minority interests against the promoter. In the Tata case, these directors normally toe the promoter's line.
- An independent director can be easily removed by promoters or majority shareholders. This inherent conflict has a direct impact on independence.
- Data protection is an important governance issue. In this era of digitalisation, a sound understanding of the fundamentals of cyber security must be expected from every director.
- Board's Approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is often found unsupportive.
- Conflict of Interest – The ICICI Bank Ltd fiasco demonstrates the challenge of managers potentially enriching themselves at the cost of shareholders in the absence of a promoter.

Measures to improve Corporate Governance:

- **Ensure a balanced, competent and diverse Board:** Business should strive for directors who are qualified, understand the business and can offer a fresh perspective. Studies show Boards with greater gender diversity result in improved financial performance.
- **Review your Board composition on a regular basis** to identify any shortcomings and make timely improvements.
- **Build solid foundations for oversight:** Establish, monitor and evaluate the roles and responsibilities of the Board and management. The Board needs to have visibility of management actions and key decision making.



- **Gear key performance indicators towards long term value creation** not just in the short term.
- **Prioritize risk management:** Establish an effective risk management and internal control framework and periodically review its effectiveness. Developing a disaster recovery plan is essential.
- **Ensure integrity in corporate reporting** including safeguards such as conducting external audits of the business.
- **Provide timely and balanced information:** Providing transparency to key stakeholders both in the good and bad times promotes stakeholders' confidence in the business.
- **Emphasise integrity, promote ethical behaviours** and consult different categories of stakeholders on their interests.
- **Treat shareholders equitably and respect their rights.**
- **Ensure adequate disclosures** around related parties' transactions and director's other interests. This is especially important where a director may have external financial interests that could influence his decision.

Conclusion:

The effectiveness of the Corporate Governance has become a global concern. Mainly after many corporate collapse (e.g. Enron, Boeing etc.), fraud cases (e.g. Lehman Brothers), shareholder suits or questionable strategic decisions are drawing attention to the top level decision-making body of the corporation and the board of directors, necessitating the need for ethical considerations where in Indian context, **Uday Kotak committee** recommendations can form guidelines for better ethical corporate governance.

Value addition

Importance of Corporate Governance:

- *Ensures that the management of a company considers the **best interests of all stakeholders involved**;*
- *Helps companies **deliver long-term corporate success and economic growth**;*
- ***Maintains the confidence of investors** and as consequence companies raise capital efficiently and effectively;*
- *Has a **positive impact on the price of shares** as it improves the trust in the market;*
- *Improves control over management and information systems (such as security or risk management)*
- *Good corporate governance also aims at a **faster decision-making process** by establishing a clear delineation of roles between owners and management.*
- *Gives guidance to the owners and managers about what are the goals strategy of the company;*
- *Minimizes wastages, corruption, risks, and mismanagement;*



- *Helps to create a **strong brand reputation**;*
- *Most importantly, it makes **companies more resilient**.*
- *An **increase in staff retention and motivation** can be expected, especially from senior staff, when the company has a well-defined and communicated vision and direction.*
- *A focus on the company's core business will also make it **easier to penetrate the market and attract the interest of shareholders**.*
- *Improved reporting on performance in turn leads managers and owners to make more informed and fact-based decisions, leading ultimately to improving sales margins and reducing costs.*

Do private sector's achievements in meritocracy have valuable lessons for civil service reforms? Debate. (150 Words)

Difficulty Level: Tough

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of 'Conceptual Tuesdays' in Mission-2022 Secure.

Key Demand of the question:

To write how private sector meritocracy can be used as an yardstick for civil service reforms and its limitations.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by giving context regarding private sector's achievements in meritocracy with examples.

Body:

Next, mention the valuable lessons that can be emulated in civil services from private sector's achievements in meritocracy. Argue as to how these will help improve the performance and effectiveness of civil services.

Next, mention the limitations and hindrances of such emulations.

Conclusion:

Conclude by giving a balanced opinion on civil service reforms.

Introduction

The virtues of meritocracy have been paraded all over the world for centuries and many prominent thinkers **since Confucius and Plato have backed it with arguments**. In the context of India and its bureaucracy, there have been repeated comparisons with meritocracy, especially with China and Singapore.

Unfortunately, while meritocracy, in theory, makes great sense, there have been innumerable examples that have shown that meritocracy **does not seem to be equipped to take care of human weaknesses**. The **conversion of India's flexible Varna system into a rigid caste system** grounded on birth that wreaked great social havoc and injustice has been there for all to see.

Body

Meritocracy in private sector: Valuable lessons for civil services

- Meritocracy in the private sector provides a lesson for civil service reforms that governments should emulate.



- **For example**, three meritocracy revolutions recently happened in the country,
 - **The IPL for cricketers**
 - **Streaming platforms for actors, and**
 - **Private equity for entrepreneurs.**
- The reason behind these revolutions was the shift of power from vertical hierarchies to horizontal networks that value talent.
- While meritocracy in civil service selection is uncontroversial, the lack of a proper performance management system allowed no differentiation based on performance. As a result, low productivity individuals continued to hang on in the service.

Steps in this regard

- **The Karmayogi mission** is aimed at overhauling the current post-recruitment training mechanism of the officers and employees and ready them for future challenges.
- **The Capacity Building Commission**, set up in 2021, was charged with the responsibility of achieving that transformation.
- The Commission envisions life-long learning and wishes to create 'optimal learning opportunities for each civil servant with the objective to build an agile and future-ready public service'.
- This, it hopes, will transform the learning ecosystem of the Indian civil services and make it a 'smart, accountable, citizen centric and effective public service'.

Limitations of such emulations

- The private and public sectors are vastly different areas driven by dissimilar objectives. The former works in an environment of open competition.
 - It must, therefore, attain great efficiency, meet emerging challenges in the external environment, make quick decisions, and deliver profits.
 - Whereas seeking greater efficiency and countering challenges are common threads running across both sectors, the monopolistic nature of governments makes these challenges less life-threatening.
- The distinction gets even more pronounced when we take into account the great stress on the purity of process that governmental organisations must follow.
- **Every decision of the government** can be accessed by any citizen through an application under the **Right to Information Act**, and is **subject to challenge in the courts of law in the form of public interest litigation (PILs)**.
- All **decisions** must, therefore, be made with **due caution**. Furthermore, every **policy decision** by the public authorities must be **weighed on the platform of equity and must pass the test of universality and non-discrimination**.
- Whereas governmental decisions must factor in changes in technology, management processes and the like; they cannot forget that governments are also there to provide stability.



- Invariably, **meritocracies** have been seen to get transformed into coteries that **protect their self-interest and keep others out.**
- **Meritocracy** argues the case of the concept of **survival** of the **fittest** and **throws** out the concepts of **justice, equality, and fraternity** that were established through celebrated national revolutions.
- It is for this reason that nations across the world adopted democracy as the mode of governance, because meritocracy was so unreliable in delivering justice to all.

Conclusion

The objectives of efficiency, professionalism, and commitment are served when the purity of the working environment is promoted by the masters—the political class. In a political atmosphere that has disincentivised learning and professionalism and has been progressively destructive of good governance. In this backdrop, meritocracy may not be a solution.

What are the factors that aids collusive corruption in India? Suggest measures to put an end to vicious cycle of collusive corruption. (150 words)

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Abstract Thursdays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Key Demand of the question:

To write about the factors behind collusive corruption and measures need to prevent it.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by defining collusive corruption.

Body:

First, write about the factors that aid collusive corruption – opportunity costs, quid pro quo, acceptance of corruption etc. Write about its impact.

Next, suggest various measures to break the cycle of collusive corruption. Give examples to substantiate.

Conclusion:

Conclude by Summarising,

Introduction

Collusive Corruption is a form of corruption in which **bribe giver and bribe taker** together fleece society for personal gains creating a win-win situation for themselves. There are two dimensions of corruption. One is the exploitative corruption where the public servant exploits the helpless poor citizen. The other is collusive corruption where the citizen corrupts the public servant by a bribe because he gets financially better benefits.

Body

Factors that aid collusive corruption in India

- Collusive corruption depends on **black money**. There is more than 5 lakh crores of black money in circulation in India even after demonetisation.
- **There is a lot of discretionary powers** to civil servants which lead to corruption. Even petty corruption is aided by bribe givers.



- **Due to non-transparency** in working of a government office and **non-implementation of citizen charter**, collusive corruption is rampant. This is especially true in **RTO's, check posts etc where public interaction is high**.
- **Places of collusive corruption:** Awarding of contracts for public works and procurement of goods and services, recruitment of employees, evasion of taxes, substandard projects, collusive violation of regulations, adulteration of foods and drugs, obstruction of justice and concealing or doctoring evidence in investigation are all examples of such dangerous forms of collusive corruption.
- As the **economy is freed from state controls**, extortionary corruption declines and **collusive corruption tends to increase**.
- We need to fashion strong and effective instruments to deal with this growing menace of collusive corruption, which is undermining the very foundations of our democracy and endangering society.

Measures suggested by Second ARC to put an end to collusive corruption

- **Collusive Bribery:** Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act needs to be amended to provide for a special offence of 'collusive bribery'.
 - An Offence could be classified as 'collusive bribery' if the outcome or intended outcome of the transaction leads to a loss to the state, public or public interest;
 - In all such cases if it is established that the interest of the state or public has suffered because of an act of a public servant, then the court shall presume that the public servant and the beneficiary of the decision committed an offence of 'collusive bribery';
- **Punishment:** The punishment for all such cases of collusive bribery should be double that of other cases of bribery. The law may be suitably amended in this regard.
- **Burden of Proof:** The Commission is of the view that 'collusive' corruption needs to be dealt with by effective legal measures so that both the bribe-giver and the bribe-taker do not escape punishment.
- **Sanction for Prosecution:** Prior sanction should not be necessary for prosecuting a public servant who has been trapped red-handed or in cases of possessing assets disproportionate to the known sources of income.
 - The Prevention of Corruption Act should be amended to ensure that sanctioning authorities are not summoned and instead the documents can be obtained and produced before the courts by the appropriate authority.
 - The Presiding Officer of a House of Legislature should be designated as the sanctioning authority for MPs and MLAs respectively.
 - The requirement of prior sanction for prosecution now applicable to serving public servants should also apply to retired public servants for acts performed while in service.



- **Speeding up Trials under the Prevention of Corruption Act:** A legal provision needs to be introduced fixing a time limit for various stages of trial. This could be done by amendments to the CrPC.
- **Confiscation of Properties Illegally Acquired by Corrupt Means:** The Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill as suggested by the Law Commission should be enacted without further delay.
- **Protection to Whistle-blowers:** Legislation should be enacted immediately to provide protection to whistle-blowers on the following lines proposed by the Law Commission:
 - Whistle-blowers exposing false claims, fraud or corruption should be protected by ensuring confidentiality and anonymity, protection from victimization in career, and other administrative measures to prevent bodily harm and harassment.

Conclusion

The Mahatma's vision of a strong and prosperous India – **Purna Swaraj** – can never become a reality if we do not address the issue of the stranglehold of corruption on our polity, economy and society in general. Governance is admittedly the weak link in our quest for prosperity and equity. Elimination of corruption is not only a moral imperative but an economic necessity for a nation aspiring to catch up with the rest of the world.

Enumerate the shortcomings of citizen charters in India and suggest measures to make them more effective in order to improve public service delivery. (150 Words)

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of 'Conceptual Tuesdays' in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by defining citizen charter.

Body:

First, mention the shortcoming of citizen charters – not formulated through a consultative process, lack of awareness, absence of grievance redressal etc.

Next, suggest steps to overcome the above shortcomings.

Conclusion:

Conclude by stressing on need to make the charters effective to provide high quality public service delivery.

Introduction

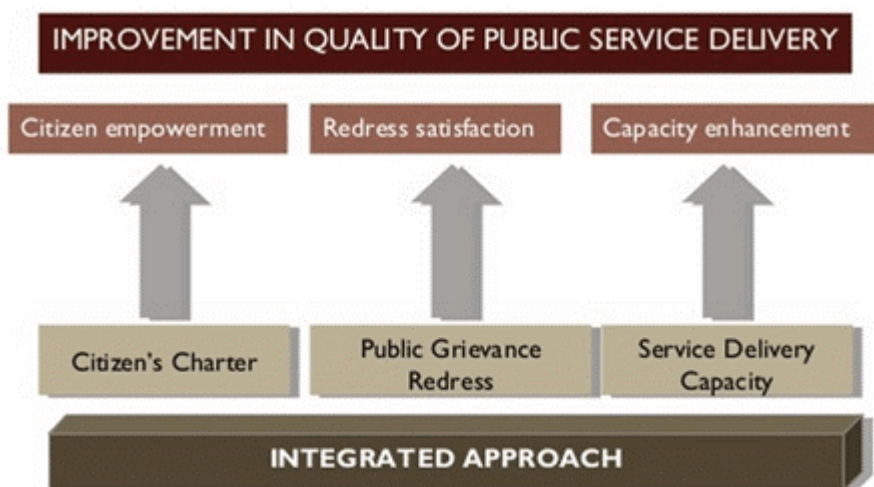
A **Citizens' Charter** represents the commitment of the Organisation towards standard, quality and time frame of service delivery, grievance redress mechanism, transparency and accountability. The concept of Citizens Charter enshrines the trust between the service provider and its users.

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in Government of India (DARPG) initiated the task of coordinating, formulating and operationalising Citizen's Charters.

Body



The **basic objective** of the Citizens Charter is to **empower the citizen in relation to public service delivery**.



Importance of Citizen's charter in the Governance of developing nation like India:

- To make administration accountable and citizen friendly.
- To ensure transparency.
- To take measures to improve customer service.
- To adopt a stakeholder approach.
- To save time of both Administration and the citizen

Problems faced in implementation of Citizen's charter:

- **One size fits all:** Tendency to have a uniform CC for all offices under the parent organization. CC have still not been adopted by all Ministries/Departments. This overlooks local issues.
- **Silo operations:** Devoid of participative mechanisms in a majority of cases, not formulated through a consultative process with cutting edge staff who will finally implement it.
- **Non-Dynamic:** Charters are rarely updated making it a one-time exercise, frozen in time.
- **Poor design and content:** lack of meaningful and succinct CC, absence of critical information that end-users need to hold agencies accountable.
- **Lack of public awareness:** only a small percentage of end-users are aware of the commitments made in the CC since effective efforts of communicating and educating the public about the standards of delivery promise have not been undertaken.
- **Stakeholders not consulted:** End-users, Civil society organizations and NGOs are not consulted when CCs are drafted. Since a CC's primary purpose is to make public service delivery more citizen-centric, consultation with stakeholders is a must.
- **Measurable standards of delivery are rarely defined:** making it difficult to assess whether the desired level of service has been achieved or not.



- **Poor adherence:** Little interest shown by the organizations in adhering to their CC. since there is no citizen friendly mechanism to compensate the citizen if the organization defaults.

Way forward:

- **Wide consultation process:** CC be formulated after extensive consultations within the organization followed by a meaningful dialogue with civil society.
- **Participatory process:** Include Civil Society in the process: to assist in improvement in the contents of the Charter, its adherence as well as educating the citizens about the importance of this vital mechanism.
- **Firm commitments to be made:** CC must be precise and make firm commitments of service delivery standards to the citizens/consumers in quantifiable terms wherever possible.
- **Redressal mechanism** in case of default: clearly lay down the relief which the organization is bound to provide if it has defaulted on the promised standards of delivery.
- **One size does not fit all:** formulation of CC should be a decentralized activity with the head office providing only broad guidelines.
- **Periodic updation of CC:** preferably through an external agency.
- **Fix responsibility:** Hold officers accountable for results: fix specific responsibility in cases where there is a default in adhering to the CC.

Conclusion

Citizen's Charter is playing a prominent part in ensuring "**minimum government & maximum governance**", changing the nature of charters from non-justiciable to justiciable & adopting penalty measures that will make it more efficient & citizen friendly. The **Sevottam model** proposed by 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission for public Service Delivery can be regarded as a standard model for providing services in citizen centric governance.

Case Studies on above issues.

You are the Chief Finance Officer of a private company. Your chairman suggests you to over-report the profit. His idea is that over reporting profit would help convince one financial institution to extend loan to a new project that would provide employment to thousands of unemployed youths in a backward area. What are the ethical dilemmas do you face in this situation? What will you do? Please elaborate (250 words)

Syllabus: Work Culture

Why the question?

Increasing cases of bank fraud and corporate mismanagement in the society in recent times.

Structure of the answer

Introduction

Summarize the ethical and moral values involved in the case study in a brief manner

Body

Identify the stakeholder's involved and ethical dilemmas in the case study

Highlight the options available for you- discussing their pros and cons



Provide a course of action chosen by you- justify your course of action by quoting any ethical philosophy to justify the action.

You can give any examples of actions taken by leaders in a similar situation to further justify your course of action.

Conclusion

Suggest ways through which corporate frauds as highlighted in the case study could be prevented in society.

Introduction

Corporate governance is the system of rules, practices, and processes by which a firm is directed and controlled. 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.

When good corporate governance is abandoned, a company runs the risk of collapse, and shareholders stand to suffer substantially.

Body

Stakeholders in the case

- Myself as Chief Finance Officer
- Chairman
- Tribal unemployed youths
- Current employees
- Company investors and shareholders

Ethical issues involved

- Bad corporate governance and hoodwinking shareholders
- False basis of acquiring loan
- Fraudulent reporting of profits
- Transparency issues

Options available

- **Option #1: Over report the profit**

Merits: It would provide employment to many tribal youths by acquiring the loan.

Demerits: Possibility of failure of the new project which would not only make the youth in a worse situation but also wind up the company itself. Shareholders kept in dark and also the financial institution would incur losses, which otherwise it could have given to a better project.

- **Option #2: Defying the chairman and reporting correctly**

Demerits: Financial institution may deny loan and the project may not take off. This would mean that tribal youth may not get opportunity to be employed and earn livelihoods.



Merits: Transparency in company's accounting and course correction at the right time can be taken. The financial institution may still extend loan due to good corporate governance and accountability. It would also protect the current employees and their interests.

Course of Action and Justification

I would go with option 2 for the obvious reasons that it would protect company and its interests. The **employees will not be penalised for bad executive actions**. Many **livelihoods** will be **saved** and company can **reform** in the short term and **recoup its profits** to desired level. Can intervene in places where there is a wastage and come up with new strategy to improve profits.

One of the biggest purposes of corporate governance is to set up a system of rules, policies, and practices for a company – in other words, **to account for accountability**. Each major piece of the “government” – the shareholders, the board of directors, the executive management team, and the company's employees – is responsible to the others, therefore keeping them all accountable. Part of this accountability is the fact that the board regularly reports financial information to the shareholders, which reflects the **corporate governance principle of transparency**.

Conclusion

A company's corporate governance is important to investors since it shows a company's direction and business integrity. Good corporate governance helps companies build trust with investors and the community. As a result, corporate governance helps promote financial viability by creating a long-term investment opportunity for market participants.

The second wave of the pandemic was devastating in which many people faced shortage of life saving and essential medicines like Remdesivir, Steroids and Oxygen concentrators. As the third wave spread, many hospitals had started to stock up the same to prepare for any sort of emergency.

As third wave progressed, it was seen that demand for medicines like Remdesivir, Steroids and even Oxygen was less due to less rate of hospitalizations and mild severity of symptoms. A well-known hospital is having lot of unused and underutilized medicines which will expire and waste in a few weeks.

To avoid losses to expiry, the senior medical administrator convenes a meeting of all doctors and ask them to push for hospitalization of patients even for moderate symptoms which can otherwise be treated at home. He puts that in the following way “it is the duty of doctors to save lives and not to risk the lives of the patients. Hence, better not to risk with patients having moderate symptoms and admit them in the hospital”.

But everyone present at the meeting knew the real intention behind this announcement and it is also contrary to the government guidelines for third wave which suggests home isolation for mild to moderate cases.

You are an intern at the hospital whose exemplary work during the second wave was appreciated by all. The senior medical administrator had orally told you in case you performed well during third wave as well, you would be given a permanent position with good perks. (250 words)



1. **What are the options available to you as an intern? Evaluate its pros and cons.**
2. **Which option will you take? Justify**

Difficulty level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Case Study Fridays’ in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by giving context.

Body:

First, write about 3-4 options which are available to the intern starting from the least viable one to the most viable. Analyze the pros and cons of all the options from ethical point of view.

Next, select the best possible action according to you and justify ethically the reasons behind its selection. Mention steps to overcome any negative ramification of the actions.

Conclusion:

Conclude by stressing on important of doing one’s duty rather being guided by profit.

Introduction

The devastating pandemic that has stricken the worldwide population induced an unprecedented influx of patients in ICUs, raising ethical concerns not only surrounding triage and withdrawal of life support decisions, but also regarding family visits and quality of end-of-life support. These ingredients are liable to shake up our ethical principles, sharpen our ethical dilemmas, and lead to situations of major caregiver sufferings.

Amidst these situations, many hospitals took undue advantage of patient suffering, even indulged in unscrupulous activities. This is one such case where hospital is advising patients to admit themselves for moderate symptoms to use their medicine stock, even when not necessary.

Body

Stakeholders

- My as an intern
- Medical administrator
- Patients with covid symptoms coming to the hospital
- Doctors of the hospital
- Public welfare in general

Ethical issues involved

- Illicit advice from hospital endangering patient lives.
- Extortion of money from patients on false pretext of treatment
- Wrongful treatment and admission
- Trust on caregivers being exploited
- Undue advantage of patient’s helplessness



Options available

1. To do as I am told and get benefits of permanent job

Merits: My job is secured and I will not have to go in search of work.

Demerits: Patients will have to unnecessarily undergo hospitalisation. It has its own trauma associated especially to patient and their family. Moreover, it is draining on financial resources if they are already constrained. This is exploiting the poor when there was no need of hospitalisation in the first place.

It is also manipulation of doctors to admit patients to spend the medicine stocks that are expiring.

1. To not accept the medical administrator advice and do my job sincerely

Merits: My conscience will be clear and there will not be any fraud or illegal activity conducted in my name. No patient will suffer unnecessarily or waste their money.

Demerits: Personally, my job may not become permanent and I may not be able to secure employment soon. I may also be immediately be removed as an intern.

Course of action

I will of course choose Option 2 and make sure that no patient is being fraudulently hospitalised just to enrich the coffers of the hospital. That is because I am not worried about the permanent position being offered to me in the hospital. It is always better to not work in such places.

I'm a medical intern who has studied MBBS. My skills as a doctor are valuable and there are many hospitals in the city that will hire me. Hence, I am not worried about getting a job in the current workplace. This absolves me of doing anything wrong in the first place.

It is a gross violation of human rights to give unsolicited treatment to patients and make them suffer trauma to believe that they may not survive if their symptoms are not managed. It also takes a toll on the family who trust the doctors and do as advised. We as a society would collectively fail in such cases.

It may so happen that when actually patients need such medicines else where it won't be available for their perusal.

Conclusion

The duty of a caregiver like a doctor is to ensure that patients are given the right treatment and advise. There is a strong trust between a patient and a doctor and that must not be violated at any cost. The hospital must be reported for such activities which may even lead to loss of license to run the hospital. Truth, integrity and accountability are the pillars on which an institution must run.



You are appointed as the S.P of a district. In the first month of your posting, there is a protest organized by Gandhian followers against the mining mafia for which the district is notoriously known for. The protest is primarily against Mr Gabbar who has amassed ill-gotten wealth due to illegal mining and has deep political connections. Not a single FIR has been registered against him so far.

There is political pressure on the administration to keep the status quo along with ensuring that the protest dissipates quickly. The nature of protest is peaceful and as per Gandhian ideals of Satyagraha. However, the protestors are adamant that they will not budge unless action against Mr Gabbar is taken as per the law.

After two weeks of relentless protest, the leader of the protest is killed by some miscreant and this issue becomes a national issue. Protests spread to other districts and states like a wildfire. There is immense public pressure on the administration to act. (250 words)

1.
 1. What will be your course of action as the S.P?
 2. What measures will you take that such inadvertent lapses do not happen in the future?
 3. Do you think the inaction by administration makes it ethically complicit in the attack on the leader?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Why the question:

The question is part of the static syllabus of General studies paper – 4 and part of ‘Case study Fridays in Mission-2022 Secure.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin by mentioning about the facts of case study and relevant stakeholders.

Body:

Mention the ethical and right course of action you will take as the S.P to ensure justice and to end criminal illegal mining.

Write about preventive steps you will take to ensure that such incidents do not happen in future.

Debate whether the inaction of administration was complicit in the attack – present arguments on the both sides and present a balanced opinion in this regard.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting steps to overcome inaction.

Introduction

The case involves peaceful protest turning violent due to death of a Gandhian protester. There is also politico-criminal nexus due to which the individual; responsible for mining mafia is let off the hook, which shows that those with muscle and money power can bend the rule of law.

Body

Ethical values involved

- Gross injustice and violation of rule of law
- Corrupt officials who cannot bring a criminal to justice



- Impacting Right to Life of people who are affected by mining.

Stakeholders

- People of the district
- Politicians and other officials involved
- State government
- Myself as SP
- Mr Gabbar who is a major criminal

Course of action

There are two cases involved. One is bringing Mr Gabbar behind bars which is a tough job as he has the support of political leaders. Second is the death of innocent protester, which leads to widespread protests to other places.

Firstly, I as an SP will gather a team of officers who can be trusted and all non-corrupt. The task at hand is to collect evidence against Mr Gabbar to make a solid case for trial. This will require a lot of agility and speed or else there is chance of interference.

Next, simultaneously I would ensure that the person responsible for death of the protester is behind bars and also make a case with sufficient evidence to bring the person to justice.

Once this is done, there is a need to ensure that protests do not become violent. Will make people convince that the mining mafia will be put to an end and also work towards it. I will assure people of ensuring law and order in the district and request them to stop the protests. Meanwhile, as long as there are people who are peacefully protesting, enough police protection will be needed to those people.

Measures to ensure no repetition of lapses in future

- Making sure that peaceful and legal protests have **enough reinforcements and police protection.**
- Ensure that each and every corner of the district has a **CCTV which is connected to central monitoring system.**
- **Safety audit** of the district to be done, and careful **patrolling** of risky areas.
- Finding out those officials involved who have vested interest in protecting the accused.
- **Busting the mining mafia** by public exposure and writing to higher authorities.
- **Deploying youth volunteer** through recruits nearing mining areas to get intelligence info.

Inaction of administration is ethically complicit

On one hand, such an incident was not anticipated, especially leading to a murder. However, it is the nature of police job to ensure that no untoward activities happen during a peaceful protest. And it is the foremost responsibility of the police to bust any mining mafia and bring people to justice.

If the administration was proactive in handling the mafia and putting a stop to it, there would be no question of protests. Due to extraneous reasons of political intervention in protecting the accused,



there was a breakdown in law and order. It only goes to say that ‘**Big fish don’t fry**’ in India. But as civil servants who have taken an oath to serve the nation with all our integrity, it is our duty to ensure no such activity is taking place under our watch.

Conclusion

As reiterated before the mining mafia needs to be taken down in entirety by making a huge case against them with all evidence intact. The job is to do complete justice and not let miscreants breakdown the rule of law and the law of the land. Weeding out corrupt officials and exposing corrupt politicians is the first step in this case. Though the task may seem difficult, if we do not try then we are trying to fail.

You are posted as Block Development officer in a backward block. Your primary task is to ensure pension disbursement to all beneficiaries. In order to bring transparency and accountability, government has released a new app where biometrics of beneficiaries is captured while disbursing pension. App has failed to function in your area while it is a success in other blocks. The reason for failure is lack of proper network connectivity. Now, higher up orally suggests you to do manual pension distribution so that beneficiaries aren’t put to trouble. What will you do? Please justify your action (250 words)

Why the question?

Digitization of welfare services in the country and issues arising out of it; oral instructions given by higher-ups and issues arising out of it.

Structure of the answer

Introduction

You can summarize the case study in a brief manner or highlight the importance of transparency and accountability in delivery of public services.

Body

Highlight the challenges for you in the case

Highlight the options available for you- discussing their pros and cons

Provide a course of action chosen by you- justify your course of action by quoting any ethical philosophy to justify the action.

You can give any examples of actions taken by leaders in a similar situation or you can quote any judgments given by the courts or the recommendations made by any committees to further justify your course of action

Conclusion

Suggest ways through which issues like this could be handled practically in the society in present times.

Introduction

Delivery of public services especially disbursement of pensions must be streamlined as the public is highly dependent on it. As a fair democratic precept, **transparency and accountability strengthens democracy**, develops trust among its citizens, encourages observance of ethics in public service, and **improves public service delivery**.

Body

Ethical Stakeholders

- Myself as Block Development officer



- The beneficiaries of pension
- Government
- Public welfare

Issues and challenges in the case

- Timely disbursement of funds to the dependent pensioners.
- **Livelihoods of people at stake** against a biometric machine hindering disbursement
- Lack of proper infrastructure like mobile networks and internet connectivity. **Quality of life of people suffers in the process.**
- **Erosion of faith in governance process.**

Course of action

The main **objective is to ensure that the funds are disbursed on time.** And if the app is not working, then I would **ensure that manual disbursement takes place. Simultaneously,** I will also call the vendors of biometric system to **rectify the errors in the machine.** On the other hand, I will write to higher authorities to **ensure that the area has good connectivity** and internet so that failure of biometrics is lesser in the future. A **fall-back option must always be provided** to those when the biometrics does not work. **Pensioners cannot be penalised** for issues of administration.

Delivery of various public goods and services is one **basic responsibility of the State.** The State has a very important role to play in **making available some essential public goods and services,** which **ensures** certain **minimum level of well-being to everyone** in need of those. Financial and other resources under command of the State are always limited and, therefore, the services are to be delivered efficiently and effectively to ensure desired level of welfare to all the citizen and within as short time as possible.

Conclusion

Delivery of services to the poor needs special mention because of their dependency on public services for survival and coming out of the vicious cycle of poverty and poor human development. Hence it is the duty of an officer or civil servant to ensure timely services especially when it comes to financial distribution.

Commitment to change the institutional arrangement for transforming the delivery system is the urgent need for improving services to the poor. That requires proper understanding of how public services are produced and delivered and what are the institutional arrangements in maintaining quality of the services and reaching the same to the people.



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