



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

SECURE SYNOPSIS

MAINS 2018

GS-IV

FEBRUARY 2018

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IAS SELF STUDY GUIDE

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.

Table of Contents

General Studies Paper - IV _____ 4

Topic: Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world. _____ 4

Q1) "All our knowledge begins with the senses, proceeds then to the understanding, and ends with reason. There is nothing higher than reason." Comment on Kant's statement. (150 Words) _____ 4

Q2) "The first principal of non-violent action is that of non-cooperation with everything humiliating." What do you understand by Gandhiji's statement? Discuss its relevance today. (150 Words) _____ 4

Q3) "Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness." Comment on this observation made by Martin Luther King Jr. (150 Words) _____ 5

Q4) Why did Gandhiji say poverty is the worst form of violence? Do you agree? Justify. (150 Words) _____ 5

Topic: Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values _____ 6

Q1) Gender inequality begins with separation, and desensitisation to it at homes and schools. Comment. (150 Words) 6

Q2) Introduction of compulsory attendance in research universities disrupts nuanced and proven practices of academic heterogeneity and autonomy, and also suffocates free thinking spirit of students. Comment. (150 Words) _____ 7

Q3) Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence. What do you understand by the statement? Illustrate with real life example. (150 Words) _____ 7

Topic: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; _____ 8

Q1) In your opinion, who should be held accountable for fake encounters and custodial deaths (in India)? Justify. (150 Words) 8

Q2) You are an honest and upright police officer. In your service you often observe the following: _____ 9

Topic: Ethics in human actions _____ 10

Q1) Why shouldn't khap panchayats and the society at large interfere in the life choices of individuals regarding marriage and love? Justify. (150 Words) _____ 10

Q2) Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent. Explain the statement with reference to a real life example. (150 Words) 10

Q3) The dark secret at the heart of Indian society is that the decline of public morality is now mirrored by a shameful fall in ethics in the private sector. In the light of recent steep fall in India's ranking in the Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perception Index, critically comment. (150 Words) _____ 11

Q4) You are aspiring to become an IAS officer and you have cleared various stages and now you have been selected for the personal interview. Night before the interview, you are having dinner with your wife in a restaurant. Next to your table, suddenly a group of goons headed by a son of local MLA starts beating an innocent person. They are hitting him hard with certain weapons and the person is pleading for help. Others in the restaurant either run away or witnessing the scene mutely. Your wife is scared and wants to move away from the place. At the same time few of the goons are scaring away other customers and staff there. One of them comes to you and warns you to not to talk about the incident anywhere. _____ 11

What would you have done in such a situation? Justify your action. (250 Words) _____ 11

Topic: Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators __ 12

Q1) What did Nehru mean when he said that only when we are politically and economically free, will the mind function normally and critically? Comment. (150 Words) _____ 12

Q2) "Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not." Comment. (150 Words) _____ 12

Q3) The virtuous man contents himself with dreaming that which the wicked man does in actual life. Comment. (150 Words) 13

Topic: Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance _____ 13

Q1) What is the relation between law and morality? At what point is civil disobedience as a form of resistance to power justified on the grounds of morality? (150 Words) _____ 13

Q2) Discuss the moral and constitutional challenges that the jallikattu issue poses to judiciary today. (150 Words) __ 14

Topic: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; _____ 15

Q1) It is said that superstition is the religion of feeble minds. Comment on the statement and examine why superstition is prevalent in India. (150 Words) _____ 15

Q2) As per the Indian Constitution, it is the duty of each citizen to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform. Yet, superstitious practices are abound in India, including among the highly educated. Why is it so hard to remove superstitions? Can social persuasion and ethics help remove it? Examine. (150 Words) _____ 15

Topic: Ethical issues in international relations _____ 16

Q1) Comment on the relevance of Einstein's argument that peace cannot be kept by force and it can only be achieved by understanding for today's international relations. (150 Words) _____ 16

Q2) Discuss the ethical considerations that should be emphasised by international community in dealing with the refugee crises across the world. (150 Words) _____ 17

Topic: Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; _____ 18

Q3) You are the head of the Human Resources department of an organisation. One of the workers, while trying to molest his co-worker, is pushed away from her towards a heavy machine – which instantly kills him. The witnesses claim that it was his fault and the woman didn't push him with an intention to harm him. She did so in self-defence. His family is demanding compensation from you and has filed complaint against you. Family doesn't know that it's the woman who has pushed him. They are told by other employees that it's an accident. The chairman of the company has asked you to end the issue from your side. He has warned you not to complicate the issue. _____ 18

What options you have in this situation? Discuss their merits and demerits. _____ 18

Topic: Corporate governance _____ 18

Q1) Examine the lessons that banking sector, government and other stakeholders should learn from the recent Punjab National Bank-Nirav Modi scandal. (150 Words) _____ 18

Topic: Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption _____ 19

Q1) Discuss the solutions to address corruption problem in public-sector banking system. (150 Words) _____ 19

General Studies Paper - IV

Topic: Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.

Q1) “All our knowledge begins with the senses, proceeds then to the understanding, and ends with reason. There is nothing higher than reason.” Comment on Kant’s statement. (150 Words)

General

Answer:-

According to Immanuel Kant his idea of senses both external and internal say mind was to understand the world around due to which knowledge arises. So this knowledge shapes our mental capability where reason is given the primary importance.

Kant believed moral obligation derived from our free, rational nature. Kant believed that freedom came from rationality, and he advanced roughly the following argument to support this claim:-

- Without reason, we would be slaves to our passions
- If we were slaves to our passions, we would not be free; thus
- Without reason, we would not be free.

Together, we now have the basis upon which to cement the connection between reason and morality.

- Without reason, there is no freedom
- Without freedom, there is no morality, thus
- Without reason, there is no morality.

Reasoning has the highest position because:-

- Even in ethical dilemma situations it is because of reason one makes logical decisions.
- Due to reasoning, one understands the morality and not follow others blindly. For instance in the communal riots, protests by Karni Sena youth blindly followed their leaders leading to loss of government property.
- It is due to reason that society is moving forward in terms of technological innovation which is making the quality of life better.
- Reason when associated with emotionally intelligence helps you in making good decisions like ho environmental sustainability is imperative now.

However reason without empathy, compassion can have drastic impact:-

- It can lead to intolerance like the persecution of Jews during holocaust.
- People’s life is not valued-refugee issues, human trafficking etc
- Reasoning has to be supported by ethical and moral values to have beneficial impact on the society. If negative emotions affect reasoning it leads to disaster like the religious fundamentalism ideologies of terrorists, staunch right wing groups etc.

Q2) “The first principal of non-violent action is that of non-cooperation with everything humiliating.” What do you understand by Gandhiji’s statement? Discuss its relevance today. (150 Words)

General

Answer:-

- With Gandhi, the notion of nonviolence attained a special status. He not only theorized on it, he adopted nonviolence as a philosophy and an ideal way of life. He made us understand that the philosophy of nonviolence is not a weapon of the weak; it is a weapon, which can be tried by all.
- The statement highlights that when a act which is humiliating takes place, a person need to non cooperate with it and this is the principle of non violence action.
- In the freedom struggle when Indigo planters were just given a token of money they resorted to non violent action of just rejecting it to uphold their dignity as the offered money was very meagre.
- Similarly in the temple entry movement Gandhi did not cooperate with the enshrined tradition of not allowing Harijans inside temples and fought for their right.

So this approach is even relevant today:-

- Even today many traditions and customs which hurt the equality, dignity, fraternity of the human being are present in India like caste discrimination, honour killings, banning women from entering sacred places .So non cooperation with these ideas is necessary and it is already visible.
- Violence against the vulnerable sections ,rape etc are prevalent in India for which resistance through Gandhian means can bring change.
- The founding fathers tried hard to make India a successful democracy but the political system is plagued by corruption, nepotism .The anti corruption movement that took place earlier followed the Gandhian approach as well.
- His approach is relevant even in personal space like families where a person need not cooperate with the humiliation and need to fight back for their self respect.

Q3) “Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.” Comment on this observation made by Martin Luther King Jr. (150 Words)

General

Answer:-

- In this, King calls people to actively seek ways to elevate the needs of others within the society. He embodied these ideals in a life devoted to justice, and his actions as a leader reflected this creative altruism. An individual has not started living fully until they can rise above the narrow confines of individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of humanity.
- While the concept describes civic life and responsibilities, it also holds true in professional interactions. When success world leaders are observed i.e., those who have credibility and have the ability to influence others, are all creative altruists. Sometime in their journey, they’ve made the choice (whether deliberate or through formation of habit) that intentionally finding ways of helping others is non-negotiable.
- **Adam Grant** in his book ***Give and Take***, demonstrates that “givers” are also often the most successful people in any organization, even when the environment is “cutthroat and competitive. *In the long run, the greatest success and the richest meaning will come to those who, instead of cutting other people down, pursue their personal ambitions in ways that lift others up.*
- **Creative altruism** comes in many different forms. But it stems from a mindset of helping others whenever you can even when there is no direct benefit to you.
- **Destructive selfishness** would only push the humanity into darkness with people resorting to violence like ISIS, during communal riots etc where only their perspective is understood by them .
- There are several steps of creative altruism:-
 - Set a personal intention for a win/win outcome where everyone can get some of what they need and want.
 - Meet with everyone affected and find out what they need.
 - Ask for suggestions from everyone involved about how to solve the problem in a way that allows everyone to gain something of value.
 - Try to work to allow the greatest benefits to the greatest number of parties.
 - Decide on a plan for carrying out the group’s decision.
- Through creative altruism, any ordinary career can tip the scales towards becoming an exceptional career, defined as one of service, meaning, purpose, and growth. King ignited a new vision for an entire nation and opened the chapter for a more collaborative world.

Q4) Why did Gandhiji say poverty is the worst form of violence? Do you agree? Justify. (150 Words)

General

Answer:-

Poverty can be defined as deprivation of basic amenities to person which disables him/her from access to food, drinking water, health, safety, shelter, clothing, and other basic amenities. So poverty is a multidimensional issue which adversely affects the person like violence would.

When violence takes place the person is physically hurt or killed or even can have mental trauma but poverty instigates mental, psychological, physical, economic pain to the person.

Poor has to suffer all forms of violence. These include various spheres- economic, health, education, livelihood, social, political, administrative, legal, natural disasters, international.

- Economic poverty: It deprives a poor from all basic necessities like food, drinking water, shelter, clothes, sanitation, education, health, transport etc.
- **Lack of public facilities and costly health treatment in private sector**, ensures that the person remains outside the purview of proper health. Also they are the ones who are the most vulnerable to diseases as they reside in inhabitable conditions with no proper sanitation.
- A poor is unable to send his/her ward to schools so deprivation can be affect further generations as well
- Child labour and forced labour amongst poor is rampant
- Poor children , fall in the trap of employers and work as domestic maids for low wages and long working hours. **Even other forms of abuse life trafficking of women, prostitution and sexual assaults can affect them.**
- When a disaster strikes they are the ones who get impacted the most
- Physical violence on them goes largely unreported and even if reported authorities do not seriously take note of it affecting their fundamental rights promised by the constitution of India
- It hinders holistic development of individual and affects the self esteem creating self doubt.

So poverty is an attack on human dignity. Comprehensive and coordinative effort needs to be taken by societies and countries together to uplift people from this menace and improve their standard of living and provide good quality of life.

Topic: Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values

Q1) Gender inequality begins with separation, and desensitisation to it at homes and schools.
Comment. (150 Words)

[The Indian Express](#)

Answer:-

Home is where the heart is. But it's also the first place where children are socialized into gender norms, values and stereotypes.

From the moment babies are born, their assigned sex (male or female) immediately begins to shape how they should be treated, what opportunities they should receive or how they should behave according to dominant gender stereotypes in their society.

In fact, studies have shown that an individual's sense of being either male or female is predominately determined by the way they are treated by others. **Based on their external environment, children learn very quickly** that boys and girls are different.

Beliefs about the value of boys versus girls are commonly reflected in the way parents treat their children. **For example, the gendered division of household work is accepted almost everywhere. Boys are more likely than girls to have maintenance chores like mowing the lawn or painting, while girls are given domestic chores like cooking and cleaning.** This segregation of household labour tells children that they are expected to take on different roles based on their gender.

The toys given to the kids are based on gender like boys are given cricket bats, hulk, superman toys but girls are given Barbie doll toys, gudiya kitchen set etc.

Also in many schools coeducation is considered forbidden in social terms. So children understand gender roles are different. Also especially outdoor games are encouraged for boys and indoor games are encouraged for girls. Also when a girl goes outside a male member of family is always said to accompany her to protect her. This reinforces that women are vulnerable and always need male protection as well.

Accepting the gender divide in one seemingly innocuous arena only desensitises us to it in a more dangerous context. This segregation and desensitization at such age will have lifelong consequences where elderly women accept domestic violence, pay disparity without questioning and some men think women as their property.

Parents and teachers need to realize that the simple things also trigger lifelong changes and there is a need to consider both genders equal be it physical, mental, psychological etc.

In fact, fathers who take on an active role in childcare and domestic labour positively influence their children by showing that the **adult male role can be nurturing**. This positive role modelling helps boys become better husbands, fathers,

brothers and friends to girls and women. At the same time, it **positively impacts the self-esteem of young girls and reinforces that both genders are equal.**

Additionally, **mothers who work and take on a financial provider role in the family also help break down stereotypes for their children** especially their daughters and challenge ideas about the conventional female role.

Q2) Introduction of compulsory attendance in research universities disrupts nuanced and proven practices of academic heterogeneity and autonomy, and also suffocates free thinking spirit of students. Comment. (150 Words)

[The Hindu](#)

Answer:-

- Universities since olden days have been the places of learning which produce experts in multiple fields who help in the development of the country in the future. So they have been known for being creative, experimentation, research etc. So students who study there enjoy the process rather than being forced to attend to the lectures.
- **Coercive attendance policies do little to help student learning or engagement** and run contrary to the idea of undergraduates as independent learners. By the university level, students have the right and responsibility to prioritize their own time
- In fact, many students who miss lectures and tutorials can be more engaged in their studies than those who show up without fail. Indeed, several highly successful individuals have gained hugely from university despite having attended very few classes. In addition to tech icon Bill Gates and media mogul Oprah Winfrey, several notable people dropped out of college but were still successful.
- Attendance proves nothing in terms of learning. It is an academic 'non-achievement' but the system seems to be getting keener on rewarding it because it is easier than assessing students properly .
- Compulsory attendance is contrary to the idea of higher education as a voluntary activity undertaken by adults and should have the freedom to learn in the way that suits them best.
- Students do attend more classes but mostly because of fear. The actual passion for studying in class is lost. Anything which is forced upon someone will lose its charm.
- As tuition payers, they shouldn't be punished for missing something they are paying for.
- Even when students attend classes some don't pay attention so education need to focus on learning rather than presenteeism.
- Colleges in the Western part of the world do not have compulsory attendance, yet because of the quality of the classes, students attend them voluntarily. The classes are interactive. Students are given freedom to choose their subjects and sometimes even given options in the method of evaluation.
- The quality of higher education in India is criticized .So the education system should focus on quality of teaching as students will be keen to attend the lectures where they gain some knowledge .Also students from childhood should be encouraged to be creative, focus on learning. This will automatically push for demand based learning and make them aware of what they want to pursue by the time they reach university level.

Q3) Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence. What do you understand by the statement? Illustrate with real life example. (150 Words)

Quote Based Question

Answer:-

- Education plays a very important role in developing a good personality. It increases intellectual growth, will give a person many lessons as to differentiate between right and wrong, gives a chance to develop self confidence as people are open to new ideas and learn new things etc.
- Education is said to make people more tolerant by enhancing their knowledge and reasoning skills. This helps people to see through prejudiced claims and dismiss irrational fears about those who are culturally different. When one is educated people get accustomed to seeing things from different points of view, and reflecting on

varied even opposing opinions. That naturally creates tolerance of differing opinions; instead of seeing conflict, one sees opportunities and expanded horizons.

- In daily life there might be many people who criticize and discourage when you want to achieve something. But it is tolerance and the confidence which are the characteristics of true education make a person level headed and stay calm without reacting and push them to achieve their goal. There are many examples in the lives of great leaders like Nelson Mandela, Teresa who achieved the impossible by being tolerant. It's often said that a person's tolerance rises with their education level. So on this basis, the higher a person's educational attainment is, the more likely they are to accept racial or ethnic minorities.
- In administration being patient enough to understand the problems of the common man is very important. When people approach for resolution of issues the ability to successfully empathise with them, be tolerant enough and solve the issue provides immense confidence and shows the true character of the administrator.
- However there are instances when even educated people promote violence or intolerant and cause huge damage to the society like Osama bin Laden who is a terrorist was a educated person. According to the Home ministry report, in Uttar Pradesh alone, over 28 lakh educated youths were found to be involved in crimes like kidnapping, cheating, snatching in 2010. This shows the lack of ethics and utter lack of self confidence in these youth to have livelihood through moral means.
- Education for tolerance should aim at countering influences that lead to fear and exclusion of others, and should help young people develop capacities for independent judgement, critical thinking and ethical reasoning. The diversity of our world's many religions, languages, cultures and ethnicities is not a pretext for conflict, but is a treasure that enriches us all.

Topic: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;

Q1) In your opinion, who should be held accountable for fake encounters and custodial deaths (in India)? Justify. (150 Words)

[The Indian Express](#)

Answer:-

- Right to life and Right to live with dignity are the fundamental rights provided by the Constitution to every citizen of India. Incidence of increase in custodial deaths (both police custody and judicial custody) in India provides a warning signal to regulate the respective areas.
- As many as 591 custodial deaths were recorded across India between 2010 and 2015, according to data released by the National Crime Record Bureau. Also in the last 10 months in Uttar Pradesh there have been many instances of encounters making experts question it.

Police responsibility:-

- **The lack of patience and technical skills drive police to adopt crude methods.** Sometimes the proclivity of superior officers and even politicians to shield them prevents action against them. **The directives and guidelines issued by the Supreme Court and the NHRC on these issues are rarely followed.**
- **They forget they are justice deliverers for a common man.**
- The statistics shows **the misuse of power and the confidence** that they can get away even when they have committed a crime by the authorities and there is lack of sense of responsibility.

Higher level officers:-

- **The responsibility devolves on senior police officers, who need to devise methods to monitor the number of suspects in each police station and the reasons for their detention.** Any detention or arrest should be promptly reported to district superintendents, who should, thereafter, ensure that SC and NHRC guidelines are strictly adhered to.

State/central machinery need to ensure that law and order is maintained properly. Authorities need to be reminded that every Human being including prisoners have some basic fundamental rights. Violation of these by the authority which is supposed to protect them is severe blot to noble constitutional ideas and requires urgent remedies. Similarly judiciary should ensure the fundamental rights are not violated and justice is delivered.

Efforts need to be made to ensure

- Behavioural change in Police force through training and awareness campaign so that they respect human rights as well

- Accountability of Police that any such crime must be fast tracked within specified time period through Independent investigation Agency.
- Improvement of conditions in prison cells can help reduce the traumatic effect on prisoners.
- **It is important that fake encounters and custodial deaths are probed impartially, and if necessary by outside agencies, so that the message goes out to the police that the rule of law can't be compromised.**

The citizens should be made aware of their duties towards a nation and as a **society as a whole** the individuals, families ,teachers ,government institutions, judiciary everyone should ensure that crime is not committed and misuse of power doesn't happen when the crimes takes place.

Q2) You are an honest and upright police officer. In your service you often observe the following:

1. There are many corrupt officers around you who have links with underworld, rowdy elements, corrupt politicians and with smugglers. Many of them openly boast about their links.
2. Few good officers who wish to set things in order are immediately transferred and are given various troubles by powerful politicians and senior officers
3. Some officers believe that ethics has no place in police service as they are targeted both by the criminals and public whenever they try to do the right thing
4. Subordinates are ill-treated by their superiors, which in turn drives these subordinates to indulge in petty crimes
5. Seniors believe that accepting gifts from the public is not wrong as long as they don't receive them from criminals

Comment on the above statements.

(250 words)

Ethics Case Study

Answer :-

The purpose and objectives of police in a democratic society are prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of public order, respect for rule of law, respect for dignity of humans, respect for freedom, liberty and rights of citizens etc. But it is a paradox that the citizens of the world's largest democracy do not trust one of the most important administrative organs of its government which is the Police. It is because corruption has infiltrated in the Indian society as a whole which is visible by the India's rank in the corruption index.

1. The duty of the police is to enforce law and uphold law and order. When some officers are corrupt this duty is compromised. Also the political neutrality which is essential for the efficiency is put behind. Boasting about the links with criminal activities shows that these officers do not respect the job and it is because of these officers people lose trust in police.

As a responsible citizen first it is my duty to report if someone is going against law and being a police officer it is my duty to uphold the law. So first I would like to collect evidence to prove this officer's link with the criminals. Once I find concrete proof I would meet my seniors to take action immediately.

2. It is often said that good people are tested more. The same is true in policing as well. As police is a state subject, there have been instances in police and other services where the upright officer is transferred so as to make him vulnerable and feel punished. But a sincere officer does good work to which ever place he is shifted to and it gives the person immense satisfaction to be efficient even in the constrained situation. In these cases generally the work done speaks volumes and upholds public trust on the system. For instance protests by people when honest officers get transferred.

My job is to do my duty that is acting in public interest and try to ensure peace in the society .Even if I get transferred motive and motivation to work for the betterment of the society does not change.

3. Police act in public interest for the benefit of the society. They are the first justice seekers when a crime takes place. Emotional intelligence, empathy, compassion, transparency are necessary for the success of police. So ethics are necessary in police. It is the police officers who are bold enough to fight back criminals and took steps to protect the peace of society are often remembered by people as well.

Sometimes risk is taken to make the right thing to happen for instance traffic might be diverted by police through other road when some accident is taken place in one road. So disturbance might have been caused to people but what police did was for the greater good.

4. Indian constitution insists that people need to be treated equally irrespective of status so being a subordinate also means they deserve respect and are in no way inferior to the senior officer. However there have been instances in police where subordinates are used for personal errands by senior officers this affects the self esteem of the subordinates as he/she is not performing the duty they were appointed for. Being a police officer, committing a crime is unacceptable as no one is above law.

I would try to behave with my subordinates in a compassionate manner at the same time expect them to be efficient and honest in their work giving them necessary motivation as well. However if they commit the crime I would not spare them and see that law take its due course.

5. Accepting gifts from public is against code of conduct and is considered a bribe even though it is not what officer intended it to be. When gifts are received that officer is liable to the giver, so this is against treating all people equally. Doing duty honestly does not require any gifts .So it is not acceptable to accept gifts from either public or criminals.

Topic: Ethics in human actions

Q1) Why shouldn't khap panchayats and the society at large interfere in the life choices of individuals regarding marriage and love? Justify. (150 Words)

The Hindu

Answer:-

- The **Supreme Court's** latest observation that khap panchayats should not act as though they are conscience-keepers of society and that no one should interfere in relationships between adults brings in to light the issue of marriage and love in India.
- **Hindu mythology** has so many instances about love be it Radha Krishna, Shiv Parvathi who are worshipped and glorified for their eternal love but when it comes to reality, society perceives it as a threat to their culture, bringing disgrace to parent's honour etc.
- It is a grave misfortune that parents and self-appointed guardians of social mores continue to use coercion and harassment, and even resort to murderous violence, as a means to enforce their exclusionary prejudices.
- **Marriage and love** are personal and individual choices, even the Indian constitution upholds the personal liberty to marry someone of their choice. Recently in the **Hadiya case** Supreme Court made it clear her marriage cannot be questioned even though it is inter religion.
- India is such a diverse society that is unacceptable in one part may be acceptable in the other. So a clear cut **collective conscience** cannot be defined. Even if it is defined the question is whether it is should be preceded over **individual liberty**.

Q2) Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent. Explain the statement with reference to a real life example. (150 Words)

General

Answer:-

- Famously stated by **Issac Asimov** through his character Salvor Hardin in Foundation, the title quote could not be more apt at the current moment in history when violence is plaguing the world everywhere.
- When someone does not know how to solve a problem or is incompetent they become angry, and can become violent. So this shows the person has not tried other approaches like pacifying and peaceful means and resorted to coercion, force and violence.
- The fear-based society promotes violence to solve issues. Fear is covered by anger that leads to rage, to hurting others in revenge, to killing others from projecting their inner pain, to killing themselves to escape that inner hopelessness and helplessness.
- Only the incompetent wait until the last extremity to use force, and by then, it is usually too late to use anything. For instance if the British and French hadn't capitulated to Hitler in 1938, the Germans would've been forced to back down or go to war before they were ready and there's a good chance Hitler would've been deposed peacefully.
- Even in the case of religious fundamentalism when people don't accept their point of view, fundamentalists and terrorists resort to violence thinking that will instill fear and make people in sync with their point of view. This only shows they have not applied their emotional intelligence and took the easy way out.

Q3) The dark secret at the heart of Indian society is that the decline of public morality is now mirrored by a shameful fall in ethics in the private sector. In the light of recent steep fall in India's ranking in the Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perception Index, critically comment. (150 Words)

[The Indian Express](#)

Answer:-

- In the **2016 Global Business Ethics Survey**, India was ranked the most unethical of 13 major economies. India ranked 79th out of 176 countries in Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perception Index. It has become a reality in India where common man mostly believes that work from the government office is done by bribes but corruption has spread to even affluent elites and the private sector which was visible in Sathyam scam, Harshad Mehta scam, instances of crony capitalism etc
- In India senior management would ignore the unethical behaviour of employees to attain revenue targets. Foreign investors and companies complain that Indian businessmen don't understand the concept of good faith in negotiations. There is illegal diversion of profits by promoters, insider trading, round tripping etc
- The reason for this unethical behavior could be lack of focus on values while educating children, equating money with success, general decline of ethics in the society, lack of responsibility of the people leading to passive acceptance of corruption etc
- The corroding ethical fabric of the country is not just an issue of morality for its own sake. **No economy can perform at a high level without a basic level of integrity. The pervasive unethical behaviour of the sort will destroy trust. As trust erodes, the cost of doing business will soar, affecting India's competitiveness and attractiveness as an investment destination.**
- So there is a need to increase the transparency in the private sector by implementing corporate governance committees recommendations.

Q4) You are aspiring to become an IAS officer and you have cleared various stages and now you have been selected for the personal interview. Night before the interview, you are having dinner with your wife in a restaurant. Next to your table, suddenly a group of goons headed by a son of local MLA starts beating an innocent person. They are hitting him hard with certain weapons and the person is pleading for help. Others in the restaurant either run away or witnessing the scene mutely. Your wife is scared and wants to move away from the place. At the same time few of the goons are scaring away other customers and staff there. One of them comes to you and warns you to not to talk about the incident anywhere.

What would you have done in such a situation? Justify your action. (250 Words)

CASE STUDY

Answer :-

In the given situation the stakeholders involved are the victim who is being thrashed, people in the restaurant, myself, my wife and the goons.

Ethical issues and conflict of values in this case :-

- Lack of value to human life – This is visible when goons are thrashing the victim
- Misuse of Power – MLA son taking law into hands
- Lack of responsibility by the people who are seeing the scene mutely
- Lack of emotional intelligence on the part of the public to act

Available options:-

1. Take my wife and run away from the scene and not tell anyone about it

- Doing this would make me and my wife safe and attend my interview the next day. But firstly as a human being it is necessary to have empathy for the victim. Secondly a responsible citizen would make efforts to help the victim and report the offence. Thirdly, I would not go with this option because having an aim to be an IAS officer I am aspiring to take action against the anti social elements and uphold rule of law in the society. Not reporting the incident shows the lack of courage on my part and questions my attitude of working with integrity when I face pressure from other elements when I am a civil servant.

2. Try to stop the goons all by myself

- Even though my intentions were good as I wanted to save the victim but following this shows my impulsive nature, not thinking about putting the life of mine and my wife's in danger, also not acting with emotional intelligence where it's clear that I would be overpowered by the goons and if I am beaten badly I might even miss the interview the next day as well. This would not solve the purpose of helping the victim So I would not follow this option.

3. First go outside try to get more people and simultaneously call the police as well

- This is probably the best way to save the victim. As seeing more people the goons might leave the place then the victim can be taken to the hospital immediately. It also gives a sense of satisfaction and give a confidence to attend the interview the next day as I have done the right thing. I would choose this option.

Conclusion:

- **The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil** is for good men to do nothing. This is true as common man needs to stand up against wrong and fight for the right and be a good Samaritan.

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

Q1) What did Nehru mean when he said that only when we are politically and economically free, will the mind function normally and critically? Comment. (150 Words)

The Hindu

- In the poem Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; where the knowledge is free Rabindranath tagore held that in a truly free country every person should be fearless and should have a sense of self dignity and everybody should be allowed to acquire knowledge through education. This imbibes rational thinking and provides a judgment to assess right and wrong, not believe anything without logic. This thought is in sync with Nehru idea that mind functions well when a person is free from any ideology/bias/ prejudice/belief without logic.
- For instance the impact of science and the modern world have brought a greater appreciation of facts, a more critical faculty, a weighing of evidence, a refusal to accept tradition just because it is tradition but even today people believe in some superstitions like seeing a black cat on the road is bad. This lacks proper explanation and highlights the lack of scientific temper.
- When a person thinks about an issue without objectivity the thinking lands in bias and mind does not think in independent manner. For instance in India and all over the world there have been rising instances of rumours believed to be true especially in social media be it political/economical issues or any other thing.
- In short, people's thought should be monitored by rational thinking, not by superstition; logic should rule over old baseless beliefs. People should be open-minded and do something unusual or extraordinary, overcoming the narrowness of mind.

Q2) "Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not." Comment. (150 Words)

General

Answer:-

- **John wooden** stated that **A Person's True Character Is Revealed by What He Does When No One Is Watching**. This is becoming almost impossible to achieve in the social media world where most of the people thrive for attention and recognition. For instance any small achievement is posted on twitter and facebook attracting the attention of thousands and millions of people.
- The ethical idea that whether good is being done or not is not bothered anymore but who did it matters. Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Gandhi and other leaders worked for the benefit of humanity not expecting any return or acknowledgement from the society.
- Especially in civil services where challenges are faced everyday and the ultimate goal is to **uphold public interest** there will be instances where poor is benefitted by your actions and they might not even know who did it. For instance Most people do not know whose idea was NREGA but it benefitted millions of people.

- **Integrity** requires a **self discipline** and **will power** capable of resisting the temptation. Its priceless reward is **peace of mind** and **true dignity**. Integrity requires in a civil servant to incorporate the values of **honesty, sympathy, empathy, compassion, fairness, self control** and **duty** so that a civil servant will be able to uphold high personal and professional standards in all circumstances.

Q3) The virtuous man contents himself with dreaming that which the wicked man does in actual life. Comment. (150 Words)

Quote Based Question

Answer:-

- A virtue by definition is moral excellence, a character trait or quality valued as being always good in and in itself. Being virtuous is important so that people can know themselves. The type of self-knowledge that virtue ethics affords is emotional self-awareness, and it is very important and very difficult to acquire.
- So when a person is virtuous he/she can never dream / think of hurting someone, be selfish, corrupt etc which a wicked person can do. Even if by mistake virtuous person tries to consider causing harm to others in dreams he/she would not act on it as he keeps societal good over personal good. So there is emphasis on good and bad regarding the options.
- For instance two people got into a fight .If one of these persons is virtuous he/she would forgive the other and act in an emotional intelligent manner even though they think about being angry and want to punish the other. However if the person is wicked then he/she would try to inflict pain on the other.
- But as is elaborated in Buddhist philosophy only when thoughts are right action will be right as well. So when the person dreams and thinks about being dishonest, cause adverse impact on the society etc he/she will ultimately end up doing that as thoughts lead to actions.
- So a true virtuous person thinks positively and works in an altruist way unlike wicked person who tries to destroy.

Topic: Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance

Q1) What is the relation between law and morality? At what point is civil disobedience as a form of resistance to power justified on the grounds of morality? (150 Words)

The Hindu

Answer:-

Relation between law and morality:-

- Law is essentially a set of rules and principles created and enforced by the state whereas morals are a set of beliefs, values and principles and behaviour standards which are enforced and created by society.
- **Legal and moral rules can be isolated** with the former being created by the legislative institution of parliament whereas the latter have evolved with and through society and are the standards which society in general accepts and promotes.
- **Some laws mirror the majority of society's moral view**, for example, that murder is wrong but the introduction of same sex marriages is seen by some people as morally wrong and society is divided.
- The existence of unjust laws (such as those enforcing slavery) proves that **morality and law are not identical and do not coincide**.
- The existence of laws that serve to defend basic values such as laws against murder, rape, malicious defamation of character, fraud, bribery, etc. prove that the **two can work together**.
- Laws govern conduct at least partly through fear of punishment. Morality, when it is internalized governs conduct without compulsion. **The virtuous person does the appropriate thing because it is the fine or noble thing to do.**
- **Morality can influence the law** in the sense that it can provide the reason for making whole groups of immoral actions illegal.
- **Law can be a public expression of morality** which codifies in a public way the basic principles of conduct which a society accepts. In that way it can guide the educators of the next generation by giving them a clear outline of the values society wants taught to its children.

How is civil disobedience justified:-

- Civil disobedience is an act performed that violates a specific law. Typically, one violates that law because the law in some way unjustly restricts the freedom of citizens in what is believed to be an immoral way.
- There are several requirements the civilly disobedient act must satisfy to be morally justified:
 - **The act of civil disobedience must be a last resort:**
 - If there is a legally appropriate way to address the wrongness of a law, that way must be exhausted before one resorts to disobedience. This is to show respect for the legal system as a whole.
 - **The act must be public:-**
 - For all practical intents and purposes, the act means nothing if it is done in secrecy. The idea behind the disobedient act is to show that the law is wrong.
 - **The act must be done conscientiously:-**
 - The only acceptable reason for acting in civil disobedience is that one believes that the law one is breaking is wrong and that one believes that breaking that law is the only way available to show how wrong the law is.
 - **The person who performs an act of civil disobedience must accept the consequences of disobeying the law.**
 - **The act must be non-violent.**
- Civil disobedience in a democratic society is a way for minorities to be heard. Civil disobedience makes more impact than other forms of protest. It has proved very significant in bringing justice to the society during the Indian freedom struggle and at the same struggle it is necessary even today to uphold democracy of a nation, making government accountable and giving voice to the voiceless.

Q2) Discuss the moral and constitutional challenges that the jallikattu issue poses to judiciary today. (150 Words)

The Hindu

Answer:-

The issue before the Supreme Court arises out of Tamil Nadu's amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (PCA Act) made early last year amidst vociferous protests in the State.

Moral challenges:-

- **Community's right to cultural freedom** comes into conflict with values of animal welfare as it is said that Jallikattu has been held for over 1000 years.
- **Whether the act involves embracing the bull, rather than inflicting cruelty on them**
- **The sport helps the farmers to select the toughest and sturdiest bulls for further breeding and these bulls** are so valuable that no farmer will ever risk the life of these bulls. The question is raised based on life of the animal and livelihood for farmers as well.
- **There are incidents which show that** the torture that is meted out to the **bulls** during play – instances of lemons being squeezed into the **bulls eyes, chilli powder** rubbed on to their genitals, the force-feeding of liquor. **The moral issue of empathy and compassion towards the bull is questioned.**

Constitutional challenges:-

- Many questions are raised like
 - Whether the law made by the state be considered **as a measure introduced in furtherance of a community's cultural right under Article 29.**
 - Was Tamil Nadu's intention in making the amendment **aimed at ensuring the survival of a native breed of bulls.**
 - **Does the exemption granted to jallikattu run counter to some of the fundamental duties imposed by the Constitution,** thereby impinging on rights guaranteed by Articles 14 and 21. The enumerated fundamental rights **do not explicitly recognise animals as persons.**
 - The Union government brought into force the Prevention of cruelty to animals (PCA) Act, which criminalised several different types of actions resulting in cruelty to animals but some exceptions were left out like :-
 - General concession for "killing any animal in a manner required by the religion of any community". **Question is does Jallikattu come under this.**
 - **Subject of preventing animal cruelty falls in the concurrent list of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution,** State governments possess an equal authority to determine what actions constitute cruelty to animals within their respective territories.
 - **Has the amending law by the state validly overcome the Supreme Court's 2014 judgment in Animal Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja,** where the practice of jallikattu was found to offend the PCA Act.
 - **Is judiciary overstepping its mandate when there is already a law made by the legislature regarding this issue.**

The Jallikattu is a very sensitive issue dealing with the emotions of millions of people so Judiciary needs to be cautious and listen to the arguments of multiple stakeholders and come to the decision which puts the moral and ethical front of Indian society as the primary one.

Topic: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;

Q1) It is said that superstition is the religion of feeble minds. Comment on the statement and examine why superstition is prevalent in India. (150 Words)

[Livemint](#)

Answer:-

The statement shows that superstitions is followed by people who are weak or not rational. To some extent this approach is valid because even in a modern society people still consider it a bad omen when someone sneezes and you are about to go out, people approach godmen for remedies of problems etc.

There have been many inhuman practices in the name of religion. For example, in Maharashtra, there were several cases where people murdered or brutally injured others and held them responsible for some deaths in their families, merely on suspicion.

But totally blaming people who follow superstitions as weak hearted is an incomplete attempt to understand the whole. In aboriginal communities people still believe in magical beliefs. It is not to be forgotten that studies show that the tribes of Nicobar were fast enough to go to the higher reaches of the island to escape tsunami when modern society was so adversely affected.

Also superstition could be based on fact in olden days but the same logic is not valid with changes in the society. For instance many elders in the family believe cutting nails after sunset is bad. In olden days this was prohibited because then electricity was not available and it would be difficult to cut nails as some injury can be caused too but when it is seen in the modern approach the same logic does not hold anymore.

Why Superstition is prevalent in India?

- In India **many people link religion with superstitions**. Many believe age old beliefs as the truth without necessary rational outlook.
- When some scientists and well educated person believes in superstitions it gives legitimacy to the people to follow it.
- Also In India still many are uneducated. The development and fostering of scientific temper is **neglected entirely in Indian education system where reasoning is put behind**.
- Moreover **people tend to look for godmen to get their problems** solved especially in rural areas where adequate public health infrastructure is unavailable.
- Sometimes people who are facing problems and have personal issues etc are superstitious as they want faster resolutions.
- Even hard-core cynics can **occasionally fall prey to superstitions like, if the stakes are high and the effort implemented is low**, many rational people say they don't believe, but they also don't want to take a chance.
- People prefer to take the safer route believing in superstitions in order to avoid any adversity, harm or injury. **This is the reason why most superstitions are associated with fear of some harm that may strike the person if he or she does or fails to do a particular thing.**

Mystical theories cannot be curtailed without a radical change in the public mind-set. So before questioning and discarding any belief/ritual altogether, we ought to find out the rationale behind them and adopt them only if they have a sound rational and scientific basis

Q2) As per the Indian Constitution, it is the duty of each citizen to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform. Yet, superstitious practices are abound in India, including among the highly educated. Why is it so hard to remove superstitions? Can social persuasion and ethics help remove it? Examine. (150 Words)

[The Hindu](#)

[The Wire](#)

Answer:

Superstitions are followed everywhere. No country, no matter its scientific prowess, has conquered superstition. Superstitions are harmful and harmless for instance harmful acts like sati, tradition of tantra followed by godmen affects the lives of innocent girls show that with proper empowerment, science, and strengthening of values these can be eradicated.

Why is it so hard to remove superstitions:

- In India **many people link religion with superstitions**. Many believe age old beliefs as the truth without necessary rational outlook.
- When some scientists and well educated person believes in superstitions it gives legitimacy to the people to follow it.
- Also In India still many are uneducated. The development and fostering of scientific temper is **neglected entirely in Indian education system where reasoning is put behind**.
- Moreover **people tend to look for godmen to get their problems** solved especially in rural areas where adequate public health infrastructure is unavailable.
- Sometimes people who are facing problems and have personal issues etc are superstitious as they want faster resolutions.
- Even hard-core cynics can **occasionally fall prey to superstitions like, if the stakes are high and the effort implemented is low**, many rational people say they don't believe, but they also don't want to take a chance.
- People prefer to take the safer route believing in superstitions in order to avoid any adversity, harm or injury. **This is the reason why most superstitions are associated with fear of some harm that may strike the person if he or she does or fails to do a particular thing.**
- It's an easy way to increase the feeling you're in control. False cause bias is the backbone of most superstitions.
 - A black cat crossed Anil's path when he was on his way to work one morning. Soon after that he met with an accident and broke his leg. As he lay dismayed in the hospital room, he was convinced that the cat caused the accident.
- **The need to fill in the gaps**
 - Human beings have a strong desire to explain things and fill in the gaps. And when we can't explain things with reason, we resort to superstition.
- One of these mechanisms is blaming external factors for the shortcomings that we're personally responsible for.
 - It's a thousand times easier to blame bad luck if one fails in an endeavour than to admit that the fault lay in their own thinking or their methods

Social persuasion and ethics can remove it :-

- Awareness campaigns against dangerous superstitions along with better education and scientific outreach may have some impact but will be a slow process.
- People are generally better persuaded by the reasons which they have themselves discovered than by those which have come into the mind of others. Such a strategy may be more successful.
- Science journalists have the potential to educate the readers on developing a scientific temper.
- When making decisions, rely on common sense and a sound pattern of reasoning

However social persuasion alone would not suffice as seen below:-

- Larger efforts by the State or humongous social movements are required to eradicate superstitious practices.
- For example, practices such as sati were not eradicated by 'persuasion' but due to the enormous efforts put in by social reformers and ultimately by legislation.
- Persuasion' is an excellent tool, but is limited in its scope and reach. Finally, educationists and governments must ensure that people are suitably educated to develop scientific temper and rational thinking.

Topic: Ethical issues in international relations

Q1) Comment on the relevance of Einstein's argument that peace cannot be kept by force and it can only be achieved by understanding for today's international relations. (150 Words)

General

Answer :-

- **If two countries don't understand one another, there cannot be a peace.** There will be misunderstandings leading to friction, which leads to heated arguments which will eventually lead to conflict. If they don't understand each other's values, motivations, likes and dislikes, there is little chance for effective communication.

This attitude is endangering the world peace in the following way :-

- Excessive reliance on rhetorics which serve no purpose except escalating the conflict for instance **North Korean crisis**.
- **Rising wave of protectionism** (threatening economic peace) manifested in recent WTO negotiations & anti-migrant feeling for instance Brexit.
- **Endangering environmental governance** which in turn, is endangering the very human existence for instance US withdrawal from Paris climate agreement.
- **Derailing peace negotiations**. For instance the recent US decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital has decimated the long & hard-earned 'two-state solution' to Israel-Palestine conflict.
- **Protracted conflicts for instance** Syrian civil war.
- **Lack of consensus on tackling emerging issues for instance** non-adoption of CCIT (comprehensive convention on international terrorism).
- Geopolitical wars.
- **So enforcement of one's will by force of arms might suppress resistance of the other for a short period, but there will always be a return to conflict. The cycle will continue until an understanding is reached.**
- **The world leaders have to understand that such narrow attitude to serve one's country is disastrous for the whole of humanity in longer run** and countries are there to uphold the welfare of whole humanity.
- **The leaders need to understand that they owe a peaceful, prosperous, environmentally stable, safe, and secure planet to their future generations:-**
 - Statesmanship behaviour need to be inculcated to view every issue from larger perspective of global welfare not from a narrow prism
 - An attitude of tolerance, compassion & inculcation of emotional intelligence to understand other's viewpoint is necessary.
 - Outright rejection of use of force to establish eternal peace. The first step in this direction can be to **join recently floated total nuclear prohibition treaty**
 - An **attitude of principled distance from intervening in every crisis militarily** and inculcating the maxim that reconciliation is more rewarding than retribution.

Q2) Discuss the ethical considerations that should be emphasised by international community in dealing with the refugee crises across the world. (150 Words)

[Reference](#)

Answer:-

- Refugee crisis is looming all over the world with Syrian refugees moving towards Europe, Rohingya refugees moving towards Bangladesh and India. So there is a need to analyse the ethical considerations that are necessary to resolve the crisis.
- The ongoing migrant or refugee crisis though appears to be a question of political nature and a result of civil war, is more of a humanitarian crisis and **highlights the failure and apathy of the world community to put the people first**.
- Some of the problems of countries which are conflict ridden today are also to the colonial rulers so it is the moral responsibility to solve/address the problem .
- The reason refugees travel to other countries is because **they believe that they will die in their current situation**. So as humans it is the moral responsibility to help people in need.
- There was a **moral consensus** that states have a responsibility to come to the aid of those fleeing the persecution of their states after the Second World War **when a person lost their citizenship it became almost impossible to protect their human rights**. From this strong moral consensus **the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) was born**, and an attempt to put our sense of **moral responsibility into international law** as made. At the same moment, an international body, the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (or UNHCR)**, was created to oversee the implementation of the convention .
- The states should remember the **principle of non-refoulement**, which holds that a state cannot deport a person who has a well-founded fear of persecution.
- States rather than considering the refugees as a economic burden need to accept them as this ill only lead to multiculturalism, employment as well for instance Germany has been successful in accommodating the refugees.
- Merely cutting down on refugees like securing the water boundaries and not allowing embarkment of the refugee ships in the European countries is just a superficial treatment to a deeper problem. The world community should take the responsibility for resolving the instability due to terrorist factions in these

countries. The countries need to understand that in a global world so intricately connected benefit to the refugees will ultimately benefit the world as a whole.

Topic: Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;

Q3) You are the head of the Human Resources department of an organisation. One of the workers, while trying to molest his co-worker, is pushed away from her towards a heavy machine – which instantly kills him. The witnesses claim that it was his fault and the woman didn't push him with an intention to harm him. She did so in self-defence. His family is demanding compensation from you and has filed complaint against you. Family doesn't know that it's the woman who has pushed him. They are told by other employees that it's an accident. The chairman of the company has asked you to end the issue from your side. He has warned you not to complicate the issue.

What options you have in this situation? Discuss their merits and demerits.

Ethics Case Study

Answer:-

- Sexual harassment at work place and not respecting the dignity of women has become more frequent in Modern India and based on facts 70% of women do not even report them. So justice to victimized women is necessary.
- In this particular case study the stakeholders involved are the woman, the co worker perpetuated the crime and his family, head of the Human resources department, employees and the organization. The values in question are abiding to the rules, getting justice to the victim, truth and honesty in dealing with the issue etc.
- In the first case, I would cater to the demands of the family by giving them compensation. The merits by choosing this is the problem will be put to rest soon as the family members of the worker who got killed got compensation as they wished. Also the name of the woman who got molested is not revealed.
- However I would not opt this option due to the inherent nature of falseness implied it. It doesn't solve the issue of bringing justice to the molested. Upon that I am accepting that I have made some mistake when I am paying family members money even without any fault of mine. Also a person is killed and it is not my duty to pronounce who is right and wrong, so I am going against the law.
- In the second case, telling the family the truth and arrange the compensation. The merits being the family got what they were demanding and they deserve to only what actually happened. However the premise is flawed here because when the family knows the truth why should I and the organization pay them compensation. Also my empathetic intention of saving the harassed woman from further pressure and stress is not done as family might go to police now and organization might be put to doubt of some foul play as it did not report the incident.
- In this option, I would report the incident to the police and see the due course of law being followed with right investigation. The demerits however are family members might be distraught as they are not given any compensation, the issue might gain more coverage which my employer did not want.
- I would follow this option because as a professional employee and a law abiding citizen it is my duty to report to the police and let them decide who the actual victim is. Also the woman who killed can be acquitted of all charges in court if it is proved that she acted in self defense against an assault on her. Even in UN human rights convention the concept of justifiable homicide is valid in self defense. Also now the family does not have the reason to demand money from me and the organization as its not an accident.
- The last option is best in the interests of everybody as proper justice would be delivered only via this option.

Topic: Corporate governance

Q1) Examine the lessons that banking sector, government and other stakeholders should learn from the recent Punjab National Bank-Nirav Modi scandal. (150 Words)

The Indian Express

Mahatma Gandhi once quoted "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed". However there is evidence of deep-seated cultural and ethical failures at many large financial institutions especially in banks.

In the Punjab National bank scandal some employees found risk management systems and existing regulations incredibly easy to subvert and got employees of other Indian banks to play along as well.

Ethical lessons needed are:-

- **Banking sector:-**
 - Adequate auditing and internal control
 - Strengthening internal processes to monitor and mitigate risks
 - An emphasis on ethics should also be placed on the recruitment process and career promotion mechanisms, as prescribed by the Financial stability board.
 - Assessing whether a bank has a sound risk culture and proper internal controls
 - Supervisors should check that mechanisms are in place and ensure that the necessary checks and balances are in place throughout the organisation, as well as proper accountability and transparency provisions.
- **Government:-**
 - Banking industry could be made more ethical if the **right mix of financial penalties for misbehavior were put in place.**
 - **Also strengthen the corporate governance framework** by requiring that the governance arrangements include an organisational structure with clear reporting lines, control mechanisms and remuneration policies that promote sound and effective risk management.
 - **Private ownership effectively gives the RBI powers** to punish managements and boards of banks when they fail to perform their key role of managing risk.
 - **Any instance of crony capitalism and influential business man involved need to be punished severely to gain public trust.**
- **Other stakeholders like customers, investors etc:-**
 - Customers need to be made aware that the guilty ill be punished and not take the scam as an excuse to perpetuate the corrupt attitude.
 - Know your customer norms need to be made even more stricter.

Ethics are inextricably connected to the financial world as they form the basis for trust. Without trust the system is either dysfunctional or unstable or both, as the recent experience has shown.

Topic: Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption

Q1) Discuss the solutions to address corruption problem in public-sector banking system.
(150 Words)

The Indian Express

Answer:-

- 'If you owe the bank a hundred thousand dollars, the bank owns you. If you owe the bank a hundred million dollars, you own the bank.' This American proverb alludes to the dangers of corruption, nepotism and cronyism in the banking sector. Often ignored, corruption in the financial services sector can have deep and far-reaching consequences for an economy, and in an increasingly interconnected world, the entire globe.
- According to the RBI, PSU banks along with the latest PNB scam reported loan frauds of Rs 73000 crore. These are reported frauds. **Probity in the conduct of business by banks is crucial given that they deal with public money.** Corruption by banks in the manner of giving loans for extraneous considerations and possibly evergreening or restructuring bad loans could lead to the build up of non-performing assets in banks, tie up capital and prevent fresh credit offtake.

Solutions needed are:-

- **Banking sector:-**
 - Adequate auditing and internal control
 - Strengthening internal processes to monitor and mitigate risks
 - An emphasis on ethics should also be placed on the recruitment process and career promotion mechanisms, as prescribed by the Financial stability board.
 - Assessing whether a bank has a sound risk culture and proper internal controls
 - Supervisors should check that mechanisms are in place and ensure that the necessary checks and balances are in place throughout the organisation, as well as proper accountability and transparency provisions.
 - A process of virtual de-nationalisation of PSU banks, at least at the operating level, has to be the first step.
 - Empowering bank managements and securing their independence from political interference while enforcing strict accountability for lapses.

- RBI formed a committee that made a host of recommendations to improve governance, including **competitive recruitment and remuneration, fixed tenures for bank chiefs, clawback of bonuses when dubious evergreening is detected**, etc
- Include embedding within performance metrics the performance of loans disbursed under the management's watch and making their remuneration contingent on this by penalising management for non performance of loans
- Holding up promotions for deterioration in quality of loans and linking promotions to recoveries. This will bring accountability and disincentivise collusive behavior
- Further, despite fixed tenures, management should be made responsible for loans disbursed in their time if they become non-performing even after they are transferred .
- In addition, there must be tighter rules governing the conduct of bank personnel in both private and public sector banks.
- **Also a group ethical officer post is necessary in all banks to ensure integrity in the employees.**
- Boards also tend to have ex officio nominees to the government rather than independent experts that can provide 'tone from the top. This needs change.
- **Government:-**
 - **Also strengthen the corporate governance framework** by requiring that the governance arrangements include an organisational structure with clear reporting lines, control mechanisms and remuneration policies that promote sound and effective risk management.
 - **Private ownership effectively gives the RBI powers** to punish managements and boards of banks when they fail to perform their key role of managing risk.
 - **Any instance of crony capitalism and influential business man involved need to be punished severely to gain public trust.**

It is time the Centre, the major shareholder in these institutions, takes serious steps to translate this intent into action. To restore the depositor's faith in the banking system, the government, the RBI and the judiciary must ensure that prompt and salutary action is taken.