



# **LUKMAAN IAS**

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## **SPACE FOR TEACHER'S REMARKS**

**1. Understanding of questions:**

**2. Structure of answer:**

**3. Content of answer:**

**4. Presentation:**

**5. Any other remarks:**

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Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.

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## Section A

1. (a) What do you understand by the concept of civil service accountability? Are you satisfied with the present level of accountability in civil services? Discuss how the role of emotional intelligence becomes important in enhancing accountability? (150 words) 10

Civil Service Accountability  
can be defined as the answerability of  
actions, decisions and official work  
of civil servants to the public and  
all stakeholders (government, international  
bodies, courts & justice systems etc.)  
lacunae in current accountability  
of civil services:

- ① Lack of grievance redressal mechanism  
leads to civil servants not being  
accountable.

↳ for eg: Citizen charters have  
not been adopted in over 80% of  
government departments.

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↳ poor implementation of SEVOTTAM model of governance.

② Lack of feedback & control through Social Audits, citizen report cards etc. → even mandated social audits in MGNREGS not implemented.

③ Delays in RTI inquiries & lack of proper data & information management in government offices.

Hence, from accountability perspective, services have not been satisfactory.

## Emotional Intelligence & Accountability

Emotional intelligence refers to the development of analytical & cognitive ability with respect to various emotions such as anger, etc.

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It entails:

- ① Self-regulation
- ② Self-monitoring
- ③ Autonomy
- ④ Feedback

Accountability is directly related to regulation, control, monitoring & reporting when needed.

Emotional intelligence develops both internal accountability for a civil servant as well as external accountability towards the public.

For eg: A highly emotionally intelligent civil servant such as IPS will be able to act with restraint in times of ~~panic~~ mob/crowd control as well as exercise force only when needed in dire circumstance.

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1. (b) Consider the following questions based on the relationship between religion and law
- Religious belief shouldn't serve as foundation for morality in a pluralistic society like India.
  - Law should prevail over religion whenever there is conflict between the two.
- Discuss how ethics can help having a better understanding of conflict between religion and law? (150 words) 10

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It has been famously said that "where religion and law end, ethics begins."

Ethics are standards of what is wrong and what is right conduct in society. They can guide as well as resolve conflict of religion & law through a moral and value-based approach that is universal in nature.

Religion:  
→ Religious values such as Right Action, Right Conduct, Right Faith (Jainism), & even Christian

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values such as given in the Ten Commandments are ethical guidelines to direct behaviour & righteousness in their followers.

→ Religion guides 'dharma' or duty & 'karma' or action. Hence, ethics is principally the invisible thread that ~~holds~~ holds together religious ethos.

→ However, religious practices & traditions are different than ethical principle. For example: viewing of 'burqa' or 'veil' in muslim communities as regressive practice by Christians is not about ethics but more about a cultural practice.

Law

Law is a set of rules that restrict bad behaviour & outline

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punishment for such:

→ law can be unethical. For instance, civilian encounters protected by AFSPA are largely unethical.

→ law must reflect the moral principles & universal ethics

3

Fallas the  
instructor



Not Ans

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2. (a) Since politics and business are inseparable, a good governance ecosystem is a precondition for corporate governance. Comment.

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(150 words) 10

Good governance is foundational aspect of a well-functioning society. Kautilya in Arthashastra espoused this principle as it leads to "happiness of citizens & their wellness."

Good governance is precondition for ~~the~~ corporate governance as well because:

- ① Good governance leads to a set of laws that shape legal obligations of corporates → essential for corporate governance. (such as Accounting standards for fair transactions)
- ② It leads to environmental obligations (such as rules framed by Central Pollution Control Board) to

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ensure of corporate governance regarding  
polluting industries.

- ③ Good governance instills a sense  
of public morality, righteousness  
& duty-bound behaviour among  
CEOs, board directors etc.

for example: Singapore

③ has become hub of corporate  
governance excellence. This is in  
part due to high level of good  
governance of its public administration  
system.

→ In India SEBI, RBI &  
Stock exchanges publish corporate  
governance rules.

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2.

(b) Explain whether you will agree or not with the popular impression that in our country now there is no fear of the anti-corruption laws on the part of government officials? Discuss the factors which are responsible for such perception. (150 words) 10

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Anti-corruption laws are framed to enable detection, investigation & conviction of corrupt public officials.

Such laws in India include:

- ① Prevention of Money Laundering Act. (PMLA)
- ② Lokpal and Lokayukta Act
- ③ Black Money Act

Lack of fear among officials from this ~~set~~ legal provisions is due to some ~~the~~ major factors:

- ① Presence of constitutional safeguards (Article 311) which make it difficult to investigate & implicate an official.
- ② Acceptance of corruption as a norm & tolerance of it by public.

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③ Legal provisions such as the DSPE (Delhi Special Police Establishment) Act that annul other legal provisions.  
↳ Permission to investigate & charge-sheeting of high-level officials safeguards corrupt officials.

④ Lack of implementation of the Lokpal Act has led to demotivation of public in regards to corruption.

⑤ Ineffective provisions such as a diluted whistleblowers Act, to protect honest officials.

⑥ Pervasion of corruption from highest to lowest levels has led to moral degradation & de-valuing of uprightness of civil services.

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Solutions to improve perception:

① Abolish regressive laws that protect corrupt officials ~~not done~~ by Supreme court to denotify DSPE Act.

② Implement CVC's (central vigilance commission) mandate ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Act~~

③ Reform civil services internally

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3.

Given are two quotations of moral thinker/philosophers. For each of these, bring out what it means to you in the present context:

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- (a) "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that". (150 words) 10

The cure of every disease is an antidote that fights the bacteria or a virus causing the disease.

An antidote disables the biological function of such viruses, just as light fills the room & drives out the darkness.

In the current context, this quote also means that antidote of hate is love.

Love has ability to heal invisible wounds caused by hatred. Hatred causes bad speech, destruction, war, communalism & differences in society.

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Love has the ability to provide an intangible feeling of security, trust, and a constructive spirit.

For example: Mother Teresa considered compassion & empathy as the highest values of humanity. She called us to "draw the circles of our families wider & consider world as a family".

5 Similarly, APTJ Abdul Kalam called for inquisitive & spirited minds - "ignited mind" to fuel the light in society to drive out the darkness.

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3.

(b) "Anybody can become angry - that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose, and in the right way - that is not within everybody's power and is not easy".

(150 words) 10

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question  
Not Understood  
Properly

Anger is a raw emotion that expresses displeasure in an aggressive way towards others. ~~For example.~~ In Indian mythology, ~~Indra~~ the god of rain & thunder caused destruction through thunderous clouds when angry. or 'Shiva' caused destruction through 'Tandava' dance in fits of anger.

Anger can cause much damage to both the self as well as to those it is directed towards.

↳ For self, it causes stress, anxiety, heart-beat climbs exponentially.

↳ For self, it also showcases



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lack of self-regulation & emotional intelligence.

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↳ for others, it causes intimidation, use of force & coercion, lack of trust & leads to lack of cooperation.

For eg: An <sup>civil servant</sup> ~~man~~ in an <sup>office</sup> ~~position~~ <sup>higher</sup> must restrain anger if he/she is unsatisfied with work performance or incompetence of some subordinates.

However, anger can also be productively used to showcase passion & dedication to work.

If it is directed with care & with appropriate message, it can be an effective tool of getting work done in various precarious

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Situations.

for example : A civil servant can get angry on unfinished work by a government contractor and can systematically explain the displeasure of such delay. He/she can further direct the contractor to strict timelines & impose a fine as necessary. This 'directed' anger can resolve problem & send strong message across to the stakeholders.

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4. (a) Distinguish the following with suitable examples. (200 words) 10
- i. Responsibility from fiduciary responsibility
  - ii. Courage from courage of conviction
  - iii. Integrity from impeccable integrity
  - iv. Probity from probity in public life

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(b) "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, which would not be in the interest of the country". Comment. (150 words) 10

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Motivation & autonomy are key to performance of civil servants. if they are harassed or intimidated, it will lead to poor outcomes for the country such as:

- ① Engaging in corruption due to fear from harassers. This is against public good.
- ② Resigning by highly capable officers & shifting to other private jobs to avoid harassment. Often transfers are also requested.
- ③ Demotivation at work leading to personal stress & burning-out which can lead to organisational decay.
- ④ Poor culture at workplace &

②

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Spill-over effect on subordinates  
who could also get ~~negatively~~  
impacted.

For example: Harassment  
& forcing by local vested interests  
often leads to civil servants  
asking for transfers.

Solutions:

① Separating direction political interference  
in civil services by quoting 2nd  
ARC Report recommendations.

↳ These include longer & fixed  
tenures for civil servants &  
recording of all meetings with  
political leaders.

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② An Act to prosecute threats that stop public servants from carrying out their duty should be implemented.

③ Strong institutional support by police & law enforcement officials in catching the perpetrators of such acts.

417

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5.

What is 'success in life' for you? Explain with relevant references and examples. Discuss its importance in your life. Do you think success is essential for recognition in society? (150 words) 10

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Success has been defined in a myriad of ways. Aristotle regarded only a 'life that is examined' as a successful life. Gandhiji regarded life of celebrity, non-violence & truth as a successful one. Materialists regard life of pleasure & self-fulfillment by worldly engagements as a successful life. As a student of sociology, I consider a successful life as one that is characterised by one-ness with our society.

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Close relationships with one and all around me - parents, friends, teachers, coworkers as well as neighbours & citizens are hallmarks of success to me. For instance, helping the children of my neighbours in finishing homework when needed, participating in cleaning drives in society and caring for well-being of friends.

Over time, this has also changed as I view success as a further extension of not only relationships & one-ness with society, but also that of developing knowledge, inquiry & applying it to resolve problems faced by society.

For example, the annual flooding



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in my colony during monsoons led to outbreaks of epidemics every year.

To resolve this, I collected funds from society, persuaded them to develop a draining system & got <sup>society's</sup> engineers to participate. This led to solving an annual problem.

Success doesn't lead to recognition in the truest sense. 'Admiration' of people & society is true recognition & it can be won by participation & caring for common issues as I have experienced.

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6.

"A Constitution may indicate the direction in which we are to move, but the social structure will decide how far we are able to move and at what pace". In the light of this statement, do you think that attitudes held by us are the main cause of lack of desirable level change in our society? Discuss the hurdles faced in changing such attitude? (150 words) 10

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Constitution of India provides for various principles that can guide the social shaping of common values & principles.

For example: Fundamental <sup>in Article 51A</sup> duties call for right treatment of women, senior citizens etc. and Fundamental <sup>provide</sup> rights for abolishing untouchability & human trafficking.

However, Social attitudes prevent us from achieving these principles.

Attitudes of Patriarchy, caste rigidity, disrespect for women & viewing them as inferior, ~~etc.~~

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attitude of religious 'purity' & 'impurity' etc. lead to roadblocking of change in society as envisioned by the constitution.

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Dr. Ambedkar called this as "social contradictions" that exist in society.

Hurdles in changing such attitudes:

- ① Cognitive hurdles exist such as societal rules by Khap Panchayats that are in violation of the constitution as well as regressive in nature.
- ② Socialisation that occurs in family, friends & school is often

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biased & creates such attitudes at the very foundational level of our upbringing.

② Failure of institutions & laws to enforce constitutional provisions.

For example: The failure of Police during violence in Jat reservation issue in Haryana was based on caste lines → This institutional failure threatens rule of law.

b

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7. The role of Media is very important in shaping people's thought and action. In this regard consider the following:
- i. Media should stand for peace and not for war.
  - ii. Media shouldn't take side in the name of nationalism.
- Discuss how media ethics can help in explaining the above questions.

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(150 words) 10

Media is considered as the fourth pillar of our democracy. A free & autonomous media is essential to enhance transparency, accountability & direct moral compass of all stakeholders in society.

Media ethics are applied ethics of how media should act & what it should report for overall well-being of society.

National Broadcasters Authority & Press Council of India help determine these standards in respect

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to print & news TV media

Media ethics can help explaining these questions as follows:

i) Peace stance & not war:

(a) Peace is a universal value. Our Constitution strives for universal peace & egalitarian society as directive principles of our state policy.

↳ Media ethics identifies these values & calls for peace as a key principle to be espoused.

(b) Peace is also good for overall economy & security of the country.  
↳ Media ethics espouses to develop a stable society.

ii) Media shouldn't take sides in name of nationalism.

→ Media ethics call for an

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unbiased, non-partisan and  
objective media.

→ If media becomes a conduit  
for ideological expressions, it leads  
to misinformation of public.

→ Media ethics is about  
developing patriotism & objectivity  
among public. It is standard  
of excellence to inform public &  
not to misinform.

Hence, it is clear that  
media ethics calls for highest  
standards of journalism when  
reporting.

④

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8. In the face of prevalent circumstances, our efforts at combating corruption suffer for three basic reasons: -

- (i) Absence of a basic or minimal code of conduct that applies uniformly to every holder of public office or authority, irrespective of the wing of the State to which he belongs;
- (ii) A procedure that offers escape routes, at every step of the way, to the delinquent; and
- (iii) Lack of will or initiative on the part of authorities in catching the bull by the horns.

Analyse them and give your appropriate response to each reason.

(150 words) 10

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## Section B

9. You are in a subordinate position as a Revenue Officer next to the district head of your department. Your department is entrusted with revenue collection in the district. Annual and the corresponding monthly targets are duly achieved in the district where you are posted and the performance of that district is considered to be satisfactory and even good as compared to other districts in the state.

Eventually, you come to know that there is more potential for revenue collection and hence you start applying more efforts. Your enthusiasm to collect more revenue has not gone well in the administration. You are advised from above and below your rank to maintain status quo or face consequences. All the staff seems to be in collusion and you have good evidence to believe that the nexus goes to the departmental headquarter.

- (a) Identify the various actions that you could take;
- (b) Evaluate the pros and cons of each of your actions.
- (c) What should be the most appropriate action in your view? Give adequate justification. (250 words) 20

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10.

You are the Chief Judicial Magistrate of a district and you have also administrative authority on district judiciary. In due course, a four days leave from work falls and everyone seems to enjoy the holidays. On the third day of the leave, you come to know through TV channels that one of your subordinate judges had been caught in a raid on a hotel, famed for prostitution in the neighbouring country.

However, the judge is released without any case registered against him and is freed by the local police of the neighbouring country. The neighbouring country did it due to good relation with our country.

Although the news did not reach to the press and public of your district, but staff members are aware about such incident. Majority of staff members want only warning should be given, but the other want the erring judge to be sacked.

(a) What should be your courses of action in this case and discuss why they are necessary?

(a) Discuss some feasible strategies to avoid such type of embarrassment in future.

(250 words) 20

This case presents the situation of upholding values of dignity in workplace & ensuring that individuals involved in illegal & immoral acts of prostitution are sacked. At the same time, the case also calls for ensuring the principle of "innocent & not guilty until proven".

My decision criteria in this situation is driven by principles

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of fair investigation, & appropriate  
legal & moral action against the  
culprit.

a source of action :

- ① Set up an investigative committee  
to fairly look into the matter,  
collect facts from neighbouring  
country & form a report.
- ② Study international law to  
ensure matters of jurisdiction  
are clear.
- ③ Set-up an ethics-judicial committee  
to separately study the issue to  
ensure that the concerned judge's  
side is heard as well. He may

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only be vacationing in the hotel without being involved in any immoral/illegal act. → Also suspend judge till investigation is being carried out.

- (4) Take pertinent action to suspend the judge if found guilty.

Strategies to avoid such embarrassment:

6  
(1) Educate the entire staff about taking utmost care in staying in only reputable places.

↳ conducting online research to ensure work is free of crime

(2) laying out a departmentally-wide code of conduct & code of ethics & prescribed punishments for violation.

9

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11.

A joint operation has been started by security forces in a naxal affected area after one such ambush by naxalites in which some people and security personnel were killed.

The operation has not received encouraging success. The local media in that area, has been reporting all the progress on day to day basis and it has been critical to security forces for their lack of success.

The security forces are of view that the role of media is having demoralising effect on police force, on the one hand, and morale boosting for naxalites, on the other.

You are District Magistrate of one such affected district. You have become popular due to your democratic way of handling the naxalites which has also resulted into surrenders in past.

You get a call from the head of the joint operation to curtail media freedom and ensure that the local media reports in favour of administration. Even you are told not to shy away if there is need to gag media and arrest some journalists.

- (a) What are the options available to you in this situation?  
(b) Evaluate the pros and cons of each of your options and choose the most appropriate one, giving reasons. (250 words) 20

This case presents a situation of ensuring security of the personnel in police force while also balancing freedom of speech & expression of media.

It is important to note that in such operations of national security implications, media is required to act responsibly & report so that lives of personnel & operational tactics are

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not compromised.

My decision will be directed by media ethics & also the concern for safety of the forces & national security interest.

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9 Options:

① Act as per joint operation head  
advice, curtail media:

Merits

- ① Motivate the forces to carry out operation.
- ② Demotivate naxalites & cause them to surrender.
- ③ Gain public & government's accolades for me personally.

Demerits

- ① Cause media to write poorly about my own decision & lead to public outcry.
- ② Against values of media ethics &

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freedom of speech & expression as per Article 19.

(2)

Call an emergency <sup>joint</sup> meeting of media editors, National Broadcasting Standards Authority officials & police force representatives for a joint solution.

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Merits :

- ① let all sides present their case, facts & reach to a middle path & agreeable solution.
- ② lay out all rules & ethical code of conduct for media to ensure its compliance.

Demerits

- ① could lead to further complication & <sup>different</sup> sides may not come to agreement.

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③

Appeal to media to stop coverage  
of sensitive information and issue  
warnings in case not adhered

Merits

① Media will act & stop coverage

Demerits

② Coverage may continue & situation  
may escalate.

I will pursue option ② to

call a <sup>joint</sup> meeting to ensure that

media editors are reminded of  
their duty of not endangering

lives of security forces. This will  
invariably lead to a longer term

solution of ensuring that media  
freedom is preserved, but their

duty as a 4th pillar of society  
is also fulfilled.



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12.

The ministry of health appointed an expert team to conduct epidemiological study on the health of 1,000 agricultural workers to know the impact of pesticide exposure on health. The study finds that there are adverse impacts on the health of agricultural workers such as the possibility of skin cancer. The report finds its way in media which result into public outcry. However, the ministry rejects the findings of the team as it does not find satisfactory.

The ministry of environment has requested the ministry of health not to disclose the findings unless it carries its own study to verify the facts as its expansion plan for genetically modified seeds may get affected.

An RTI activist applies for information to PIO of ministry of health. Now, the PIO is in dilemma what he should do? So far, the PIO has a good record of disclosing information for which he has been recently appreciated.

Suppose you are the PIO then discuss the merits and demerits of the following options and choose the most appropriate one, giving reasons.

- (a) The PIO should consult the higher authority and act as per the advice.
- (b) The PIO should refuse to disclose the information as it is sensitive and can create law and order problem.
- (c) The PIO should partially disclose the information which is not related to the adverse impact on health.
- (d) The PIO should disclose the complete information to maintain his good record.

(250 words) 20

This case presents a situation of adhering to provisions of a legal provision (RTI) by the PIO as required. As a public official with such duty, my foremost concern is ensuring compliance with letter of the law in larger public interest. It is also an

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ethical duty to enforce the law as necessary. This will help me as a PIO to take relevant action/stand in this case.

(a)

Merits:

① Higher authority will be able to provide a balanced course of action based on previous ~~with~~ experience.

② Higher authority is more legally aware of outcomes of such a case. As a junior, my position will be secured if advise is taken from & acted upon as per higher authority.

Demerits:

① Higher authority may advise me to quietly ignore the RTI, which will not be ethical.

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(D) Merits :

- ① This will ensure that Ministry of environment can continue efforts to develop GMS.
- ② Higher authorities maybe pleased & offer promotion for such option.
- ③ Responsibility will be passed-on to higher appeal authority, & I will be protected.

Demerits :

- ① Farmers' interests will be compromised & many more's life put in jeopardy.
- ② As a PIO, I have not fulfilled the duty of revealing information as per RTI act, & have not acted as per code of conduct & duty.

(C) Merits

- ① Will comply to the RTI rules

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to some extent.

Demerits:

- ① will not fulfil the required RTI's purpose.

Merits

- ① ensure my duty is fulfilled as PIO.
- ② life of many farmers could be saved.

Demerits

- ① GND programs of ministry of environment will be put in jeopardy.
- ② cause law & order problems.

I will chose option ② as  
it fulfills my duty as per RTI

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Act to disclose information as necessary. I will also inform relevant law enforcement agencies of a possible ~~low~~ backlash due to sensitive information in the report so that any violence is stopped ~~well~~ in advance.

The reason for choosing this is because it is in larger public interest of farmers & the report has critical findings of public consequence.

07

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13. Under the ambitious interlinking of rivers programme, one state Chief Minister on the occasion of inauguration mentioned that khus grass should be laid in and around the confluence of the two rivers to promote tourism.  
Mr A is a sincere, honest and dedicated senior district forest officer. On the basis of the CM wishes, he issued tender for this grass and eventually, over Rs. 15 lakh was spent to buy 5 lakh ton grass and they were planted in around the confluence.  
Since due to flood, the grass planted were swept away, the department again started efforts to lay down the grass then it was found that there were irregularities and corruption. It has been reported that on paper, the quantity of grass shown is different from the quantity planted. Proper labourers were not also employed rather passers' by were given the task but interestingly, bill vouchers for wages have been issued.  
Suppose you are the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the state and you have been give task to take appropriate steps then how do you view the following questions

- a) Whether the issues in the case study are more about corruption rather than administrative efficiency?
- b) Although MrA has dedication towards service but lacks work culture ethics.
- c) The issues are not about efficient utilisation of public fund but rather about quality of service.
- d) In your view, what should be the most appropriate action against Mr A? Give proper justification. (250 words) 25

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① As a principal Chief Conservator, I view the issue as having both corruption as well as administrative efficiency implications.

Corruption:  
→ Mr. A as an honest officer may not be involved, however the corruption

Be decisive - corruption

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department in question definitely has some corrupt elements in other positions.

→ Also, it cannot be ruled out that Mr. A. was ~~not~~ <sup>actually</sup> involved in corruption, maybe due to some pressure or moral lapse. A proper investigation is needed to establish this.

→ Also, departmental mechanisms & allocation of contracts are prone to corruption.

Efficiency:

→ Mr. A was not able to carry out proper inspection, & due diligence of grass & contractors as well as bill vouchers of labours → administrative lapse.

→ Mr. A as the district forest officer is responsible for ensuring transparency & accountability among junior subordinates involved.

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(b)

Mr. A maybe a highly dedicated officer but the cases raises questions such as:

- ① His ability to check corruption among other members of the office.
- ② His ability to inspect & ensure compliance with the rules of tendering.
- ③ His laxity at work.

However,

- ① He may have been intimidated or harassed into this → should be investigated.
- ② He may be facing family problems due to which such lapse happened → must be investigated.

As a Chief Conservator, both organisational structure, policies, procedures of tendering, & investigation into prevailing circumstances need to be done.



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(c) I view this as an issue of quality of service that led to mismanagement & inefficient use of public funds.

Quality service ~~standards~~ & policies would ~~have~~ ensured that steps were ~~to~~ place to inspect ~~the~~ ~~grants~~. Additionally such standards would expose any misdealings & corruption by any level of officer.

Absence of these standards led to inefficient use of funds.

(d) My decision criteria for taking action against Mr. A is based on ensuring fairness & justice to him as a sincere officer, addressing institutional

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lapses, quality service delivery problems, ensuring that corrupt officials are caught, and ensuring that other unknown personal facts about Mr. A are revealed as pertinent to the case.

Action:

- ① Investigate any <sup>external</sup> pressure or harassment of Mr. A. If found, address it at law enforcement level.
- ② Investigate departmental lapses & fix them. Carry out necessary training programs for officials to ensure compliance.
- ③ Suspend Mr. A for any lapses in oversight of the project if

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found, & address the shortcomings through capacity development & re-training.

④ If corruption is found done by Mr. A <sup>& other officers</sup> take necessary legal action.

This case clearly exposes inefficient work culture problems which should be addressed by structural changes in functioning of such departments. Use of technology and check-lists for tendering in the long-term is necessary. Proper motivation programs are also needed for long-term removal of corruption.

9

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14.

There is a very strange story of electrification of a village in one state. The village is divided by a 50 feet road. The higher caste live on the one side of the road and people belonging to the lower caste live on the other side of the road.

The power supply in the village has created a wide gulf between the two sections' living standards. On one hand, the upper caste has all the modern facilities such as TV, refrigerators, coolers and other luxury goods, but on the other, the lower caste struggle even if there is electric poll. They have to get their mobiles' charged through battery and children have to study under lantern.

When the people belonging to lower caste went in past to electricity department to get power connection, they were refused on certain excuse. Recently, media has reported the incidents of discrimination.

The power department is under huge pressure from the forward caste not to supply electricity to lower caste area and have threatened that if power is supplied, the village will experience violence.

- Suppose you are the Executive Engineer of the district and the matter come to your knowledge then how you will handle the situation to redress the grievances of people belonging the lower caste?
- In this case, what is more important for you: not disturbing the harmony or eliminating caste discrimination, which will necessarily result into disharmony?
- Discuss your strategies for similar cases in villages where caste discrimination prevails to eliminate such practices and ensure sustained harmony.

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① This situation presents a case of both social discrimination on basis of caste as well as institutional failure of electricity department to equitably supply the required service for all the villagers.

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It also raises questions of moral decay in society of keeping one caste repressed. It raises legal constitutional issues that require equal treatment.

As an executive engineer, my ~~decision~~ course of action will be based on following parameters:

- ① This is a case of constitutional right infringement as per Articles that provide for equality, abolition of untouchability. Hence, I am legally required to act in ~~the~~ interest of entire village.
- ② The threat to disturbing peace & causing violence have to be taken up at highest levels of district administration.  
↳ Police has to be informed about the threat & right course of action by investigation & arresting the

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potential offenders has to be taken.

③ Junior engineers will be directed to raise polls & supply electricity → needed security will be provided to all staff.

④ A committee will be appointed to carry out swift investigation into lapses in providing electricity equally in the first place.  
↳ offenders shall be reported as per Prevention of Atrocities Act (Against Dalits & Scheduled Tribes).

⑥ Harmony can only be established permanently when all sections of village are treated equally from a social point of view.

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Eliminating caste discrimination ~~is~~ is a moral duty of a <sup>civil</sup> citizen & public duty of a ~~public~~ servant. It is ~~both~~ constitutional, legal as well as a ethical choice.

In the short-term, any action by engineer can lead to violence, but institutional safeguards such as police as well as moral appeal to progressive sections in upper caste can lead to cooling down of tempers. Hence, violence can be avoided.

In the long-term, good of public shall be realized when electricity becomes available to all and the whole village actually prosper.

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Hence, as an executive engineer, I will first act upon the situation to end caste discrimination while also ensuring safety by repressing violence. In the long term, education of villagers, use of panchayat & moral appeal can be utilised to unite society.

② Strategies for similar cases in other villages to eliminate discrimination & ensure harmony:

① Survey of village to detect cases of discrimination should be carried out. Reported cases of such discrimination shall be highlighted for immediate action.



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- ② An action-back force can be formed at village level to address such cases.
- ③ Coordination among various government department to ensure safety, avoid & prevent violence while solving such cases.
- ④ Forming village level committees of officials to approach Panchayats & local bodies to appeal for cooperation from village gram Sabha. ↳ if needed remind them of legal obligations & actions by legal authorities in case of non-compliance.
- ⑤ launching 'Nukkad' (street plays) & other social programs to spread message of equality & awareness.

12

