

VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1525)

Name of Candidate	SARTHAK AGRAWAL		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	937212
Center	ONLINE	Date	17 th Dec '20

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)। 2. There are FOURTEEN questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें चौदह प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं। 3. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। 4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं। 5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे। 6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए। 7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
1(a)	10		
1(b)	10		
2(a)	10		
2(b)	10		
3(a)	10		
3(b)	10		
4(a)	10		
4(b)	10		
5(a)	10		
5(b)	10		
6	10		
7	10		
8	10		
9	20		
10	20		
11	20		
12	20		
13	20		
14	20		
Total Marks Obtained:			
Remarks:			
Signature of Examiner			

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

SECTION - A

1. (a) Administration discretion can be a blessing if used correctly, however its misuse can prove to be a curse. Discuss with examples. (150 words) 10

यदि प्रशासकीय विवेक सही तरीके से उपयोग किया जाए तो यह एक वरदान हो सकता है, हालांकि इसका दुरुपयोग अभिशाप सिद्ध हो सकता है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Discretion in administration is the flexible exercise of judgement allowed to a public official in the performance of some of her duties.

Merits of discretion

- 1) Hastens decision making in situations of crisis

↳ eg: dealing with an unprecedented crisis in public order - in Covid crisis many officers implemented social distancing even before official orders.

- 2) Routine problems can be addressed efficiently

↳ eg: a scheme that helps poor people but its parameters are not clear

although the eventual objective is .

3) Can prevent loss of life & property

↳ eg: a UP police officer crossed the border during Delhi riots to protect a man from a mob

Demerits of discretion

1) Against rule of law

2) Can place enormous power at the feet of unelected officials

↳ eg: deciding whom to award a benefit .

3) Conduit for corruption

↳ eg: allotting spectrum licenses on vague & discretionary grounds → loss to exchequer .

Discretion can be a blessing in several low-level decisions but it can also cause severe damage to governance when it becomes a habit or occurs when discretion is generally avoidable .

1. (b) There is a view that corrupt practices have been socially accepted in India. How can this 'acceptance' be shifted to 'rejection' towards corruption? (150 words) 10

प्रायः यह मत व्यक्त किया जाता है कि भारत में भ्रष्ट प्रथाओं को सामाजिक रूप से स्वीकार कर लिया गया है। भ्रष्टाचार के प्रति इस 'स्वीकृति' को 'अस्वीकृति' में कैसे परिवर्तित किया जा सकता है?

As has been suggested by various thinkers, we must shift the social norm away from corruption and towards ethical and honest practices

How to effect a change in norms

Challenge → change the behaviour of a large number of people who can visibly inspire the rest to follow suit.

1) Start from highly visible actors like politicians, bureaucrats, corporate, cricketers etc

↳ Met out severe punishment for corruption through stringent

laws and enforcement

↳ e.g. ball tampering incident & repercussions shook the conscience of Australians.

2) Target petty corruption.

↳ e.g. Singapore under Lee Kuan Yew's high penalties on policemen accepting bribes, individuals indulging in anti-social behaviour etc.

3) Popularise the honest and defame the corrupt

↳ e.g. GST compliance rating being made publicly available to name and shame agents

4) Corruption = Monopoly + Discretion - Accountability

Focus on these things for speeding results -

2. (a) Ethical business practices are key for long-term survival of a company.
Comment. (150 words) 10

किसी कम्पनी के दीर्घकालिक अस्तित्व के लिए व्यावसायिक नैतिकता महत्वपूर्ण है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Recently, WIPRO and Tata were
adjudged as ^{two} ~~some~~ of the most
ethical companies in the world.

Benefits of ethical business practices for
long-term survival

1) Retention of customers, shareholders
and workers

↳ less expenditure on rehiring &
retraining workers

2) Less frequent run-ins with law
enforcement

↳ more time for productivity
improvement.

3) Pleasant work culture if everyone is treated fairly

↳ leads to higher motivation and more output.

4) Avoiding scandals that tarnish long-term reputation

↳ e.g. Volkswagen scandal.

Limitations

1) Often ^a quick buck can be made that translates to long-term advantage

2) People are forgetful and forgiving

↳ e.g. Reliance's actions in the 1980s/1990s have been forgotten

3) Public cares more about the product than ethics of business (similarly for employees - e.g. Microsoft, surrogate marketing practices companies).

It stands to reason that eventually, ethical practices will yield returns even if they do not immediately.

2. (b) Law succeeds in encouraging ethical behaviour in a society only when it is backed by conscience of its individuals. Discuss. (150 words) 10

किसी समाज में नैतिक व्यवहार को प्रोत्साहित करने में कानून केवल तभी सफल होता है जब इसे समाज के लोगों के अंतःकरण द्वारा समर्थन प्राप्त हो। चर्चा कीजिए।

Governments often resort to laws to promote ethical and just behaviour - e.g. laws against discrimination. Some are more successful than others (e.g. walker ban recently by NGT) which attests to the importance of conscience in law-abiding behaviour.

Why laws may not promote ethical behaviour

- 1) People fundamentally disagree with its premise or need
- 2) Feel they can get away with it because their conscience allows them to indulge in unethical behaviour
↳ utilitarian reasoning (Bentham)

3) Complacency

↳ traffic law violations

4) Wide dissemination of the benefits

of laws occurs when people consider them to be just and in sync with their conscience

↳ eg. Article 15 Movie became popular - people had a behavioural change.

When law succeeds despite ~~to~~ not have backing by conscience

1) Before the Gandhian phase, many laws by British, unjust in nature, were implemented

↳ role of strict enforcement

2) General law-abiding nature in society - eg. Singapore.

In most cases, laws require conscience to succeed but on some instances strict behaviour and enforcement can also bring results.

3. Given below are quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. Bring out what they mean to you in the present context:

निम्नलिखित उद्धरण नैतिक विचारकों/दार्शनिकों के हैं। स्पष्ट कीजिए कि वर्तमान संदर्भ में आपके लिए इनका क्या अर्थ है:

(a) Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. Martin Luther King Jr. (150 words) 10

हमारे जीवन का उस दिन अंत होना शुरू हो जाता है जिस दिन हम उन विषयों के बारे में चुप रहना शुरू कर देते हैं जो मायने रखते हैं। मार्टिन लूथर किंग जूनियर

Martin Luther King (MLK) was deeply inspired by MK Gandhi and fought for the rights of African-American in the USA even as segregationist policies were enshrined into American law at that time. He had to pay with his life for the just and non-violent war he fought for his Black compatriots.

Meaning in present context

- 1) To live a full life requires ^{something} more than individual possessions and wealth.
- 2) Constant pressure from all sides

to drown out your voice and
encourage you to keep quiet about
the multiple injustices happening around
you

↳ e.g. frequent human right abuses,
poverty and deprivation faced by
large parts of the world.

3) These challenges require collective
voice

↳ each individual is important as
they add to the clamour

e.g. through protest movements
for action on climate
change

Clearly Dr. King's quote is highly
relevant to today's world, where a
number of new injustices have cropped up
and it becomes our moral duty to
speak against them.

3. (b) In law a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so. Immanuel Kant (150 words) 10

कानून की नजर में कोई व्यक्ति तब दोषी है जब वह दूसरों के अधिकारों का उल्लंघन करता है। नीतिशास्त्र के अनुसार, वह तब भी दोषी है जब वह ऐसा करने के बारे में सोचता है। इमैनुअल कांट

Kant was a philosopher whose work has inspired the concept of human rights around the world. In this statement, he enunciates his high standards for ethical behaviour. Kant believed that the only behaviour that is totally free is that which is inspired by a sense of duty towards the other. Here, even thinking of doing wrong to others (say, by considering whether to lie) is enough to degrade the humanity of the other person.

Present day context

1) Also finds resonance in the teachings of Grandhi

↳ no matter the law, we should always do good to others.

2) ~~It is not a crime to~~

Consideration of violation of another man's right - say his right to liberty - suggests that man is being assumed as a vehicle which takes away the moral standing from that decision.

3) This also suggests the importance of keeping your thoughts clean, because often, 'As a Man thinketh, so he becometh'.

4. (a) What do you understand by Social Intelligence? Discuss its relation with the Emotional Intelligence of an individual. (150 words) 10

सामाजिक बुद्धिमत्ता से आप क्या समझते हैं? किसी व्यक्ति की भावनात्मक बुद्धिमत्ता के साथ इसके संबंध पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Social intelligence is the ability of an individual to accurately perceive the behaviour, emotions and needs of a group of people and act accordingly.

↳ eg. in a group interaction, not blabbering continuously when it is clear that others are not comfortable with your proximity.

Close relation between Social Intelligence (SI) and Emotional Intelligence (EI)

1) Being ~~emotionally~~ emotionally intelligent often leads to social intelligence as well

↳ fitting in with society &

↳ acting appropriately in social settings if you can correctly perceive the behaviour of intelligent

2) Both involve introspection

3) IQ may not imply either EQ or SQ

Differences between EQ & SQ

1) People with social anxiety may have EI but no SI.

2) Often a different set of skills is needed to succeed in social situations

↳ e.g. public speaking

3) Different kinds of people in social groups

↳ need to assess act accordingly, & keeping biases aside.

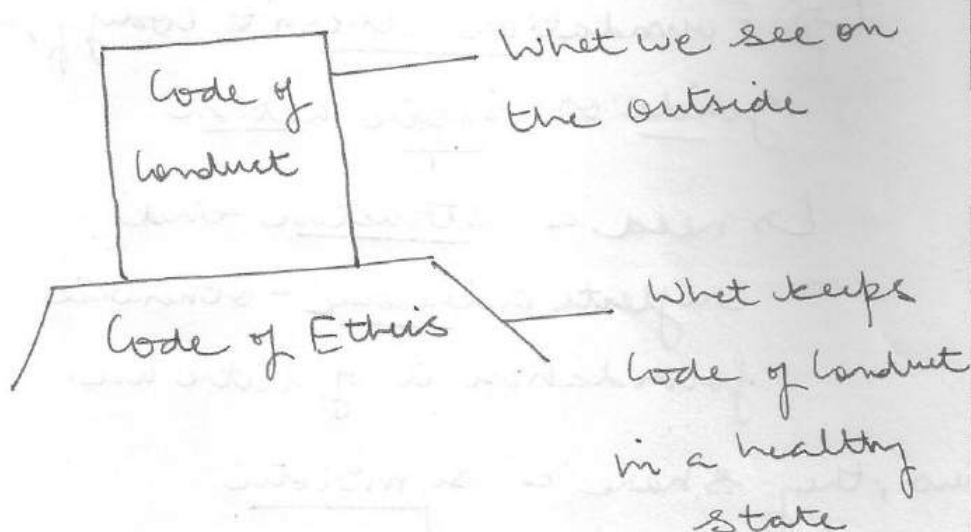
While there are similarities, the SI & EI concepts also have differences, and

the presence of one may not imply the other.

4. (b) While code of conduct presents a structure to organized values, code of ethics gives a foundation to that structure. Examine. (150 words) 10

जहाँ आचरण संहिता संगठित मूल्यों के लिए एक संरचना प्रस्तुत करती है, वहीं नीतिपरक आचार संहिता उस संरचना को एक आधार प्रदान करती है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

A code of conduct is a formal set of rules that reflect an organisation's commitments to certain ideals and must thus be obeyed, failing which action can be taken. Code of ethics on the other hand is the moral values the constituents are expected to uphold in their daily activities.



If no code of ethics to provide a
foundation to code of conduct's
structure :-

- 1) It will collapse and be
flouted often (since
employees do not believe in
the precepts - if enforcement
slacks, so does adherence).
- 2) It is the bedrock - reflects the
real ideals on which structure is
built.

Importance of structure

↳ Foundation doesn't codify,
guide or inspire action

↳ need a structure that
reflects adherence - otherwise
foundation is of little use.

Thus, they share a symbiotic
relationship of the above kind

5. (a) According to Buddhism, for a man to be perfect there are two qualities that he should develop equally: compassion (karuna) on one side, and wisdom (panna) on the other. Analyse. (150 words) 10

बौद्ध धर्म के अनुसार, एक व्यक्ति के पूर्ण होने के लिए उसे स्वयं में दो गुणों को समान रूप से विकसित करना चाहिए: एक करुणा और दूसरा प्रज्ञा। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Compassion and wisdom are two qualities that both important on their own, and when practised together, generate a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Importance of compassion

1) Man a social being

↳ to recognise and understand the challenges faced by a fellow human is crucial.

2) Leads to empathy and goodwill

↳ increases trust and the strength of social interactions.

3) Wide disparities & poverty in
modern world

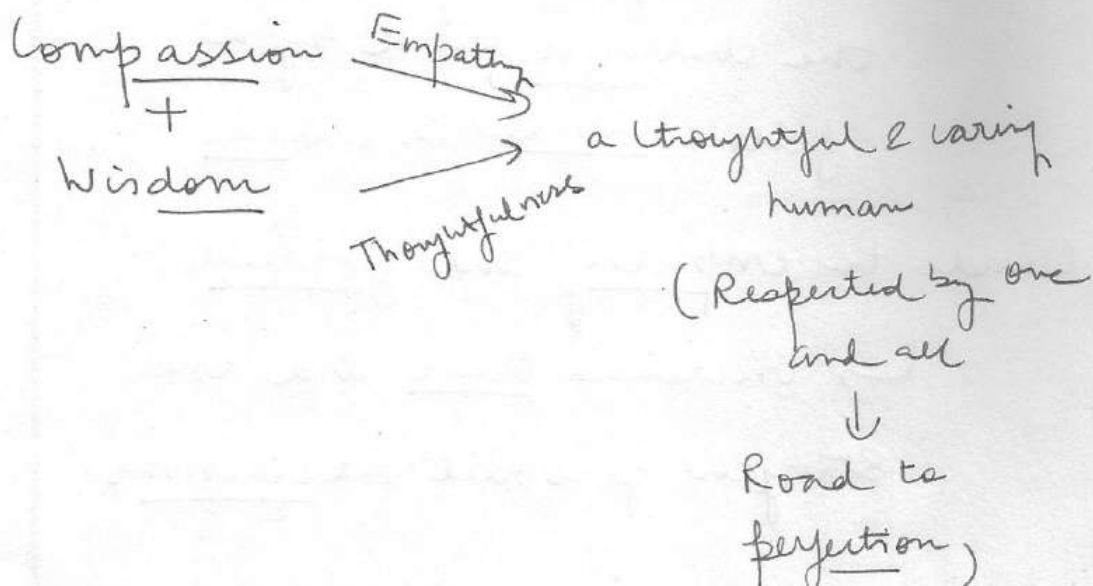
Need for wisdom

1) To apply one's mind in a
thoughtful manner before taking
crucial decisions.

↳ helps avoid mistakes

↳ leads to long-term good

2) In social settings, being wise in
your dealings leads to greater
trust in your person.



5. (b) The life of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam presents a broad range of lessons and virtues to be learnt by public servants in India. Discuss. (150 words) 10

डॉ. ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम का जीवन भारत में लोक सेवकों द्वारा सीखे जाने वाले सबक और सद्गुणों की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला प्रस्तुत करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Dr. Kalam's life is very well suited to the phrase - 'My life is my lesson', especially so for public servants.

Lesson

1) Humility

2) Commitment to the nation

3) Compassion for others (many examples from his time in DRDO)

Need for public servants

While dealing with their vast powers & social standing

Necessity for civil servants

To foster a good work culture that encourages productivity.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4) Commitment to public, especially kids | Important in day-to-day interactions |
| 5) Futurist | Dealing with 21 st Century challenges - need to anticipate <u>them</u> |
| 6) No desire for personal wealth & belongings | Antidote to corruption in <u>government</u> |
| 7) Non-partisan while President | Important in polarised times |
| 8) Thirst for knowledge | To learn continuously in different, challenging <u>assignments</u> |

6. Identify which essential information should be made available to the public via Citizen's Charter? Also, suggest some steps for successful implementation of the Citizen's Charter. (150 words) 10

चिन्हित कीजिए कि नागरिक चार्टर के माध्यम से कौन-सी आवश्यक जानकारी जनसामान्य के लिए उपलब्ध कराई जानी चाहिए? साथ ही, नागरिक चार्टर के सफल कार्यान्वयन के लिए कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Citizen's charter is an undertaking given by a public service organisation to ~~the~~ the citizens interested in availing service from it and should ideally have the following essential information :-

- 1) The process of getting a certain work done should be transparent



- 2) Which offices / officials to go to and in what order
- 3) What documents / other info. one may be required to produce
- 4) Time limits (+ average, median, lower limit times)

for availing various services.

5) Grievance redressal systems

- how to file a complaint
- to whom it must be addressed
- by whom will action be taken.

Steps for successful implementation

- 1) Legal guarantee
↳ e.g. Taxpayer Charter
- 2) Clear publicity
↳ Showing charter prominently
- 3) Taking prompt and effective action against erring personnel.
- 4) Making it concrete and having clear and narrow timelines

The above steps should help spread citizens charters across a government functions.

7. Respect for human rights and humanitarian principles is a responsibility for all members of the international community. Discuss in the context of roles and responsibilities of States for protection of refugees. (150 words) 10

मानव अधिकारों और मानवीय सिद्धांतों के प्रति सम्मान व्यक्त करना अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय के सभी सदस्यों का उत्तरदायित्व है। शरणार्थियों के संरक्षण के लिए राष्ट्रों की भूमिकाओं और उत्तरदायित्व के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

India recently launched operation Insanijat for the rehabilitation of Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh. A number of UN agencies and conventions also deal with protection of refugees.

Roles & responsibilities of States for refugee protection

- 1) To not force refugees to return to their homelands in the face of persecution
- 2) Leveraging international help and coordination for speaking out against persecution of communities in any country which leads to refugee movements.

- 3) ~~Provision~~ Provision of temporary shelter, food and safe spaces for refugees to live in.
- 4) Coordinating with other countries towards resettling refugees depending on the capabilities of different nations.
- 5) Not allowing discrimination or abuse against refugees while they are in transition.

Although India hasn't signed the UN Convention relating to refugees, it took in millions of Bangladeshis after in 1971 and has since lived up to its ideals of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

8. What is red-tapism? Why is it considered a hurdle in the process of transitioning towards citizen centric governance? (150 words) 10

लाल फीनाशाही क्या है? क्यों इसे नागरिक केंद्रित शासन व्यवस्था की ओर स्थानांतरण की प्रक्रिया में एक बाधा के रूप में देखा जाता है?

Originally, and in some states even till day, government files were wrapped with 'red tape'. In colloquial terms, this means frequent delays, arbitrary requests for more information causing further delays and in general a lack of enthusiasm and energy to perform one's duty with alacrity, responsiveness and vigour.

Why red tape is a hurdle

- 1) Makes citizens the 'subjects' of govt. processes, rather than their master.

↳ running around govt. departments for work to be done

2) Lack of clarity and frequent
forays into arbitrariness

↳ citizen not sure of the
relevant timelines

3) Leads to lack of trust in Govt.

↳ either cancelling project or
exploring private alternatives

The PM has promised to transition

India from a red-tapeist culture

to one with a welcoming red ribbon.

SECTION – B

In the following questions, carefully study the cases presented and then answer the questions that follow (in around 250 words):

9. Given the rising tide of Covid induced fatalities, the government is under extreme pressure to deliver some vaccine to the population. You are the Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India. You are heading the committee to oversee the process of vaccine development and distribution to fight against the Covid outbreak in the country. You have been asked to expedite the process and come up with a solution at the earliest.

Some vaccines are available around the globe, but they are in limited supply and also expensive. One of the indigenously developed vaccine has shown initial positive results, but health experts have raised concerns over its safety, efficacy and the methodology being followed for its approval. Other promising vaccines under development, following a rigorous methodology, may take months to enter the market. In this context:

(a) What are the critical issues involved in the case?

(b) Explain, with relevant reasons, the course of action that you would take. (20)

कोविड के प्रकोप के कारण मृत्यु की बढ़ती संख्या को देखते हुए सरकार, जनता को कुछ वैक्सीन उपलब्ध कराने को लेकर अत्यधिक दबाव में है। आप भारत सरकार के मंत्रिमंडल सचिव हैं। आप देश में कोविड प्रकोप का सामना करने के लिए वैक्सीन का विकास और वितरण की प्रक्रिया का निरीक्षण करने वाली समिति का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं। आपको प्रक्रिया में तेजी लाने और जल्द से जल्द समाधान के लिए कहा गया है।

वैश्विक स्तर पर कुछ वैक्सीन उपलब्ध हैं, लेकिन उनकी आपूर्ति सीमित है और साथ ही वे महंगी भी हैं। स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित वैक्सीन में से एक में आरंभिक सकारात्मक परिणाम देखे गए हैं, लेकिन स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों ने इसकी सुरक्षात्मकता, प्रभावकारिता और इसके अनुमोदन के लिए अपनाई जा रही कार्यपद्धति पर चिंता व्यक्त की है। विकास की प्रक्रिया के तहत कठोर कार्यपद्धति का पालन करने वाली अन्य आशाजनक वैक्सीनों को बाजार में उपलब्ध होने में महीनों का समय लग सकता है। इस संदर्भ में:

(a) इस प्रकरण में सम्मिलित महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे क्या हैं?

(b) प्रासंगिक कारणों के साथ स्पष्ट कीजिए कि इस संबंध में आप क्या कार्यवाही करेंगे।

The situation around the availability of Covid vaccines involves important ethical questions and various trade-offs

must be confronted to arrive at a
well-considered decision.

(a) The issues involved in this case
are:

- 1) Saving lives of covid positive
patients v. waiting for a properly
validated vaccine.
- 2) Risking the harm caused by a
faulty subpar covid vaccine or
taking a risk-averse approach.
- 3) Spending taxpayer's money on
expensive vaccines available abroad
v. saving money for other uses
(e.g. distribution channels).

- 4) Privileging scientific opinion v.
domestic political needs
- 5) Dealing with uncertainty
↳ When will the 'promising'
vaccines enter the market.
- 6) Competing for vaccines in the global
market that might deprive poorer/
worse hit countries with no
indigenous capacity.
- b) I will take the following actions
to address this problem in a
multi-pronged way :-
 - 1) ~~For~~ Enter into negotiations abroad
through a competent official for a
quotation on the international
vaccine regarding its price, storage

Condition, time of delivery and
quantity available

↳ a limited stock will help
inoculate high-risk patients/
health workers - save lives &
soothe nerves. But will not
over-purchase if price is too
high.

2) Set up a health panel of competent
and recognised health experts -
and in coordination with DGCI - to
get more trial data from
indigenous company

↳ won't roll out unless
certified by experts

↓
vaccine hesitancy already
a big concern, shouldn't

risk further damage to credibility of
vaccine.

- 3) Ensure that any approval only
comes after the emergency trials are
successful.
- 4) ~~Enter~~ Enter into negotiations with
friendly countries / GAVI to see what
other pool is available.
- 5) Ensure Government assistance to
fast-track production for other
vaccines
↳ important to have multiple
candidates due to high demand
- 6) Keep fatalities low by improving
facilities in hospitals, social distancing &
procurement of ventilators

In conclusion, my foremost priority is to
get a safe vaccine, to also reduce vaccine
hesitancy by tying up with celebrities, & buy a
limited dose from abroad

10. Literacy levels have been increasing in India over the past few decades, and the literacy rate was found to be 74.04 per cent after the 2011 census. Though this increase in literacy rate seems like a very great accomplishment, it is a matter of concern that still so many people in India cannot even read and write. Children are going to school but not learning much beyond "floor level tasks".

Moreover, the higher literacy level has not resulted in better human values and this is manifested in the troubled atmosphere in the society at large. This failure of the education system to reform human behavior is troubling for a young democracy, like India. Given this situation, answer the following:

(a) What role is education expected to play in reforming human behaviour and inculcating human values?

(b) Do you think only the government is responsible for this state of the education system? If not, identify the stakeholders who should press for a change in the education system in this regard. (20)

पिछले कुछ दशकों से भारत में साक्षरता का स्तर बढ़ रहा है, और वर्ष 2011 की जनगणना के अंतिम आंकड़ों के अनुसार भारत में साक्षरता दर 74.04 प्रतिशत रही। यद्यपि, साक्षरता दर में यह वृद्धि बहुत बड़ी उपलब्धि की तरह प्रतीत होती है, तथापि इसके साथ चिंता का विषय यह है कि अभी भी भारत में अत्यधिक संख्या ऐसे लोग विद्यमान हैं जो पढ़ और लिख नहीं सकते हैं। बच्चे शिक्षा प्राप्त करने के लिए विद्यालय तो जा रहे हैं लेकिन वे अभी भी स्तरीय ज्ञान से अधिक कुछ नहीं सीख पा रहे हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त, उच्चतर साक्षरता से बेहतर मानवीय मूल्य परिलक्षित नहीं हुए हैं जिसे समाज में व्यापक रूप से अशांत वातावरण के रूप देखा जा सकता है। मानव व्यवहार में सुधार लाने में विफल शिक्षा प्रणाली भारत जैसे नवोदित लोकतंत्र के लिए समस्या है।

इस परिस्थिति को देखते हुए निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

- (a) मानव व्यवहार में सुधार लाने और मानवीय मूल्यों को विकसित करने में शिक्षा द्वारा निभाई जाने वाली अपेक्षित भूमिका क्या है?
- (b) क्या आप मानते हैं कि शिक्षा प्रणाली की इस दशा के लिए केवल सरकार जिम्मेदार है? अगर नहीं, तो उन हितधारकों की पहचान कीजिए जिन्हें इस संबंध में शिक्षा प्रणाली में बदलाव लाने के लिए दबाव डालना चाहिए।

Oscar Wilde said - 'Education is a fine thing but ~~no~~ nothing that is worth knowing can be taught in schools'.

However, education and the entire schooling experience do go a long way in creating better citizens, which is absolutely necessary for addressing our shared challenges today.

(a) Role of education in reforming human behaviour and inculcating human values

1) Teaches young children the importance of social and civic responsibility

↳ civic / political science subjects

2) To not fall into the trap of superstitions and to deal with the world critically

↳ Sci scientific temper and aptitude.

3) To develop a bonding between
citizens pointing out their shared
historical experiences

↳ cf. through history classes

4) Teaching sports manspirit, companionship
and fairness

↳ through physice education

5) Moral values and philosophy

↳ how to live a good life? —
the fundamental question kids
should find an answer to at school

6) Inculcating respect for elders

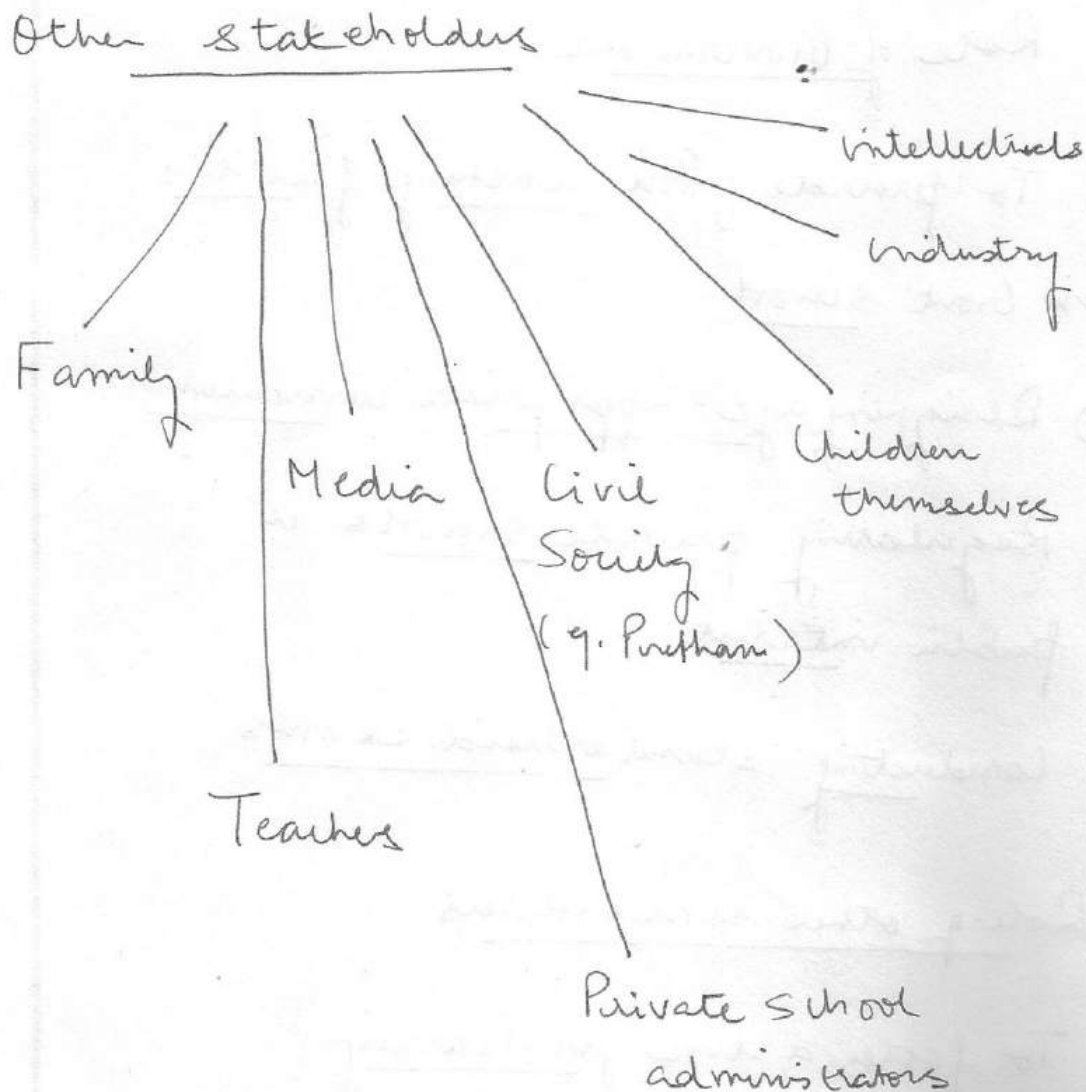
(teachers) and discipline (arriving
on time.)

(b) Role of Government

- 1) To provide good teaching facilities in Govt. schools
- 2) Designing age-appropriate curriculum
- 3) Regulating private schools in public interest
- 4) conducting standardised exams

Role of other stakeholders

- 1) To foster a love for learning
- 2) Developing curiosity & scientific temper
- 3) Contextualising school education
- 4) Ensuring child is regular at school and working diligently.



The above stakeholders also ^{Share} have responsibility for ensuring that our education system lives up to the ideals of Tagore and Swami Vivekananda.

11. Problems surrounding air pollution present an urgent challenge for many countries, including India. Among other reasons, this challenge has been exacerbated by the indifferent attitude of people towards it. Various studies have pointed out the harmful effects of air pollution. Despite the government bringing various regulations on activities like stubble burning and bursting fire crackers, people violate them.

(a) Discuss the reasons behind such behaviour on part of society towards air pollution.

(b) Suggest measures that are required to be undertaken to nudge people towards pro-environment behaviour. (20)

वायु प्रदूषण के चतुर्दिक समस्याएं भारत सहित कई देशों के लिए एक गंभीर चुनौती उत्पन्न करती हैं। अन्य कारणों के बीच, इस चुनौती को इसके प्रति लोगों के उदासीन अभिवृत्ति से और बढ़ावा मिला है। विभिन्न अध्ययनों द्वारा वायु प्रदूषण के हानिकारक प्रभावों को इंगित किया गया है। सरकार द्वारा पराली जलाने और पटाखे फोड़ने जैसी गतिविधियों पर कई तरह के विनियम लागू करने के बावजूद लोग इनका उल्लंघन करते हैं।

(a) वायु प्रदूषण के प्रति समाज के इस तरह के व्यवहार के कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

(b) उन उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए जो पर्यावरण समर्थक व्यवहार के प्रति लोगों को आकर्षित करने के लिए आवश्यक हैं।

Cities like Delhi and Patna are among the most polluted in the world as far as air quality is concerned. This not only has adverse effects on health, but also hurts the economy through its impact on shopping, tourism and travel.

(a)

Why society is complacent towards air pollution

1) Not become an urgent issue

↳ air pollution is insidious -
it chips away at your health
slowly but surely

↳ other issues like development
are more important at this
stage.

2) The rich, who have a louder voice
in public affairs, can insulate
themselves through air purifiers,

N95 masks, or even escaping the city at
time of high pollution.

3) General ignorance and lack of
concern about health issues

↳ India facing diabetes pandemic
but sugar consumption is still
high

4) Distrust in Government diktats

5) Communalisation of discourse

↳ around Diwali cracker ban

6) Political polarisation

↳ ignoring suggestions & measures
proposed by your political opponents

7) Poverty and helplessness

↳ explains stubble burning,
firewood burning for energy.

8) Lack of awareness & social consciousness

↳ less social solidarity.

Measures to nudge people towards pro-environment behaviour

- 1) Showing economic and health costs of pollution and degradation more vigorously:

↳ eg. Campaign that said

1 cigarette = 4 minutes ^{loss} ~~loss~~ of life

- 2) Demonstrating the people who lose the most from pollution in ads.

↳ pair of elderly and pregnant woman who are concerned about ill-effects of pollution on their health.

- 3) Green firecrackers being lit up at centralised events

↳ eg. 4th July celebrations in US

4) Encouraging car pooling as a socially responsible gesture

↳ showing pictures of car-pooled behaviour on ITO crossing digital boards to laud people

5) Public representatives and officials to travel by public transport one day a week

↳ make public transport a mass movement.

6) Tell people where their electricity is coming from at the time of bill payment

↳ e.g. 70% from coal & 30% from hydro → this generates a amount of pollution.

These ~~to~~ nudges can help alter behaviour alongside other public policy measures.

12. In recent times, social media has emerged as an important platform for all to share their information and opinions. Many civil servants are also quite active on the social media. Given this situation, there have been calls to revise or update the Civil Services Conduct Rules.

Suppose you are a senior IAS officer who is heading a panel set up by the government to bring suitable changes in the conduct rules. Elaborate on how you will respond to the following questions:

- (a) What are the issues with a civil servant expressing his/her views on social media on various matters?
- (b) Should criticism of government policies on social media by civil servants be allowed?
- (c) How should civil servants conduct themselves on social media? (20)

हाल के दिनों में, सोशल मीडिया सभी के लिए अपनी जानकारी और राय साझा करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मंच के रूप में उभरा है। कई लोक सेवक भी सोशल मीडिया पर अत्यधिक सक्रिय हैं। इस स्थिति को देखते हुए, सिविल सेवा आचरण नियमावली को संशोधित या अद्यतित करने की मांग की गई है।

मान लीजिए आप भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी हैं, तथा आचरण नियमावली में उपयुक्त परिवर्तन करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक पैनल का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं। विस्तारपूर्वक बताइए कि आप निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया देंगे:

- (a) एक लोक सेवक द्वारा विभिन्न मुद्दों के संदर्भ में सोशल मीडिया पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे कौन-से हैं?
- (b) क्या लोक सेवकों द्वारा सोशल मीडिया पर सरकारी नीतियों की आलोचना करने की अनुमति दी जानी चाहिए?
- (c) लोक सेवकों को सोशल मीडिया पर खुद को कैसे संचालित करना चाहिए?

Recently, many IAS officers have been issued show-cause notices for their tweets or other posts on social media - eg. Shah Faesal for commenting on women's safety (or the lack of it) in the country.

(a) Issues with Civil Servants expressing their views on social media

1) All India Civil Services Conduct Rules do not allow a public servant to ~~criticise~~ criticise government policy through a statement of opinion or fact

↳ also to not embarrass relations between State government / Central Govt. or any foreign Govt.

2) Can reflect disunity in the Govt. if explicit criticism is made

3) In our polarised times, can invite allegations of partisanship

4) Ignorant approach not fit for those who are in charge of making things better

5) But also, FoE (Art 19(1)(a)) for civil servants is there

↳ if their comments promote the public good, then they may be benign.

6) What about discriminatory or prejudiced

(b) Merits of allowing criticism views?

- 1) Consistent with rights under Art. 19(1)(a)
- 2) Shed light on bad government policy
- 3) Dissent - safety valve of democracy - might allow a competent officer to stay inside the Govt. instead of quitting.
- 4) Generate public uproar - lead to improvements.

Demerits of allowing criticism

- 1) Against extant rules
- 2) Allegations of partisanship and cynicism favouritism
- 3) Charges of cynicism
↳ should improve policy from within
- 4) Disunity in Government
- 5) Weakens authority of elected representatives

(C) Civil servants should conduct themselves in a manner that befits their high constitutional status (Art. 312) by remembering the following precepts:

- 1) Maintaining objectivity
- 2) Consistent with the ideals of Arts. 14 and 15
↳ non-discriminatory approach

- 3) Increase transparency in Govt.
functioning
↳ Art. 21 ^{interpretation} by SC
- 4) Focus on policy - not politics
↳ non-partisanship
- 5) Speaking the truth - not misleading
public through posts
- 6) Generating public interest in matters
that are important
↳ environmental awareness by
Parveen Kaswan, IFS.
- 7) Dealing with people with empathy and
level-headedness
↳ not entering into shouting matches
or Twitter arguments

These attributes will help balance
transparency and free speech with the
expectations of this office.

13. Economic growth has been the primary goal of economic policies, and the principal measure of an economy's success. In the last few decades, economic growth benefitted mankind in multiple ways. But alongside these benefits, it has also generated significant issues and a series of converging challenges. In light of this, answer the following:

(a) What was the rationale behind GDP growth being considered the pillar of economic policies the world over in the past few decades?

(b) Explain the need to go beyond GDP growth and reassess our measures of development. Identify some of the components that need to be complemented with GDP growth going forward. (20)

आर्थिक संवृद्धि, आर्थिक नीतियों का प्राथमिक लक्ष्य रहा है, और किसी अर्थव्यवस्था की सफलता का प्रमुख उपाय भी। विगत कुछ दशकों में, आर्थिक संवृद्धि ने मानव जाति को कई तरीकों से लाभान्वित किया है। लेकिन इन लाभों के साथ ही, इसने महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों को और अभिसरण संबंधी चुनौतियों की एक श्रृंखला को भी उत्पन्न किया है। इस तथ्य के आलोक में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

(a) विगत कुछ दशकों में विश्व भर में जी.डी.पी. की संवृद्धि को आर्थिक नीतियों का स्तंभ माने जाने का मूल आधार क्या था?

(b) जी.डी.पी. की संवृद्धि से आगे जाने की आवश्यकता की व्याख्या कीजिए और विकास के हमारे उपायों का पुनर्मूल्यांकन कीजिए। कुछ ऐसे घटकों की पहचान कीजिए जिन्हें आगे बढ़ने के लिए जी.डी.पी. की संवृद्धि के साथ पूरक के रूप में होने की आवश्यकता है।

Before the pandemic, India's average GDP growth rate over five years was 7.4 percent - one of the highest in the world. Despite this, we ranked a low 129 ~~of~~ on Human Development Index, left over 36 percent of our children undernourished, and harmed our environmental resources to the extent that 70 percent of India's water is contaminated (World Water Quality Index)

(a)

Neoliberal order -
desire to stand out
amidst nations also
targeting GDP growth

Makes
available more
tax resources
to spend on
issues like nutrition
and environment

Improving
incomes for
people is a
potent political
demand

Rationale behind
giving primacy to
GDP growth

Resources
for
strengthening
military

Easy to
compute -
and hence
target

Past
evidence of
fast growing
countries also
being successful
elsewhere (eg. China)

Trickle
Down
assumption -
high growth
will eventually
benefit all

(b)

The need to go beyond GDP growth

1) Rising inequality

↳ top 1 percent earn 55 percent
of income (2016)

2) Weak trickle down effects -

poverty reduction is still slow

↳ Leaked NSSO report suggests
poverty increased between
2011-12 and 2017-18

3) Environmental (un)sustainability

↳ land degradation

↳ water & air pollution

4) Other factors of human development

↳ Education - improving quality of learning

↳ Healthcare

↳ Nutrition, especially among children and women

Components to be complemented with

GDP growth

1) Distribution of gains

↳ Kaushik Basu suggested focusing on GDP growth but for the bottom 20 percent.

2) Human development indicators

(e.g. health, nutrition and learning levels)

↳ UN's Human Development Index

looks at this

3) Environmental conditions

↳ computing 'Green GDP' to
reflect damage to natural
resources.

4) Democratic progress

↳ means of achieving GDP growth
equally important

(cf. World Press Freedom

Index - India 142/180
rank.)

As suggested by a number of economists
over recent years, including Dr. Amartya
Sen, an singular focus on GDP growth at
the expense of other factors that enrich
life is unlikely to be desirable or optimal
for a deeply unequal country like India.

14. The Covid-19 pandemic is far from over but governments across the world appear to have either relaxed lockdown parameters or will do so soon. Containing Covid and restoring our economies requires not just good policy decisions and medical advice; it also needs continued compliance with the recommended behavioural changes. Daunting as they may seem, the drastic changes in behaviour being called for, can indeed be brought about. Answer the following in this regard:

- (a) Why is behavioural change seen to be desirable in a country like India, when it is faced with a pandemic of the kind of Covid-19?
- (b) What role have different stakeholders in India been playing in helping communities adhere to the desired behaviour?
- (c) Discuss the challenges in bringing about behavioural change, particularly in such an environment of anxiety and uncertainties. (20)

कोविड-19 वैश्विक महामारी की समाप्ति अभी बहुत दूर है लेकिन विश्व भर में सरकारें लॉकडाउन के मानदंडों में या तो शिथिलता प्रदान करती हुई प्रतीत हो रही हैं या शीघ्र ही ऐसा करेंगी। कोविड के प्रसार को रोकने और हमारी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को पुनः बहाल करने के लिए न केवल अच्छे नीतिगत निर्णयों और चिकित्सा सलाह की आवश्यकता है; बल्कि इसके लिए अनुशंसित व्यवहार परिवर्तनों के साथ इनके निरंतर अनुपालन की भी आवश्यकता है। ये चाहे जितने भी चुनौतीपूर्ण प्रतीत हों, व्यवहार में जिन बड़े बदलावों की अनुशंसा की जा रही है, वे वास्तव में लाए जा सकते हैं। इस संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित प्रश्नों के उत्तर दीजिए:

- (a) भारत जैसे देश में, कोविड-19 जैसी वैश्विक महामारी का सामना करने के लिए व्यवहार परिवर्तन को वांछनीय क्यों माना जाता है?
- (b) भारत में समुदायों को वांछित व्यवहार का पालन करने में मदद कर रहे विभिन्न हितधारकों की क्या भूमिका रही है?
- (c) विशेष रूप से चिंता और अनिश्चितताओं के ऐसे वातावरण में, व्यवहार में परिवर्तन लाने से संबंधित चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

One of the most interesting things about responses to Covid-19 around the world is the sheer diversity in the way people have adapted - Asian countries like Japan & Korea have done much better than USA & Europe that are more individualistic and abhor top-down dictates for behavioural change.

India falls somewhere in the middle of these two extremes.

(a) Covid-19, & an effective response to the pandemic requires:

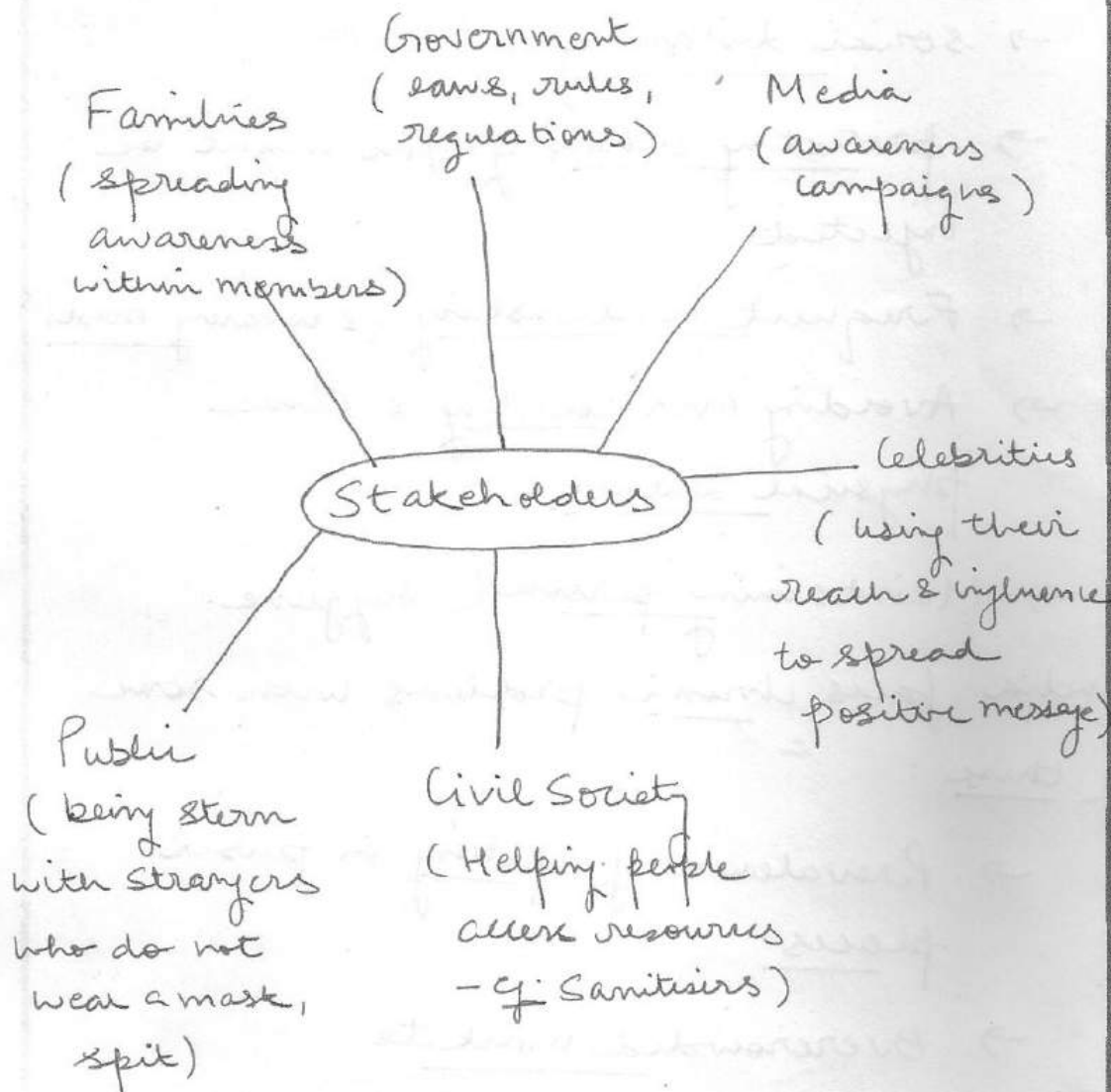
- social distancing
- protecting others if you might be infected.
- Frequent handwashing (& wearing masks)
- Avoiding overcrowding & close physical contact
- Maintaining personal hygiene.

India faces chronic problems with some of these:

- Prevalence of spitting in public places.
- Overcrowded markets
- Lack of patience and discipline when outside
- An increasingly self-centric culture (frequent lockdown violations)

Thus India faces special challenges and it is imperative that the necessary behavioural changes are implemented.

(b) Stakeholders and their roles :



(C) Challenge is in bringing about change

1) Economic challenges

→ lack of water, soap, sanitiser

→ Need to operate business
to survive

2) Social challenges

→ Changing behaviour = upsetting the
status quo

→ Reluctance to obey outside diktats

3) Psychological challenges

→ Feeling immune to the disease
(complacency)

→ Feeling angushed over loss of
loved one / other problems -
cannot think of anything else.

- General feeling of grumpiness leads to reluctance to incorporate new changes.

India can make the necessary challenges changes - we have been successful in reducing open defecation by a huge magnitude and that success should inspire us in this crisis as well.