# VISION IAS

**GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1057)**

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<th>Name of Candidate</th>
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## INDEX TABLE

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**Total Marks Obtained:**

**Remarks:**

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### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).

2. There are FOURTEEN questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI.

3. All questions are compulsory.

4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

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.

6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.

7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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75, 3rd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar Market, Near Axis Bank, New Delhi – 110060

103, 1st Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009
1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best
Answer the following questions in not more than 150 words each:

1. (a) Self doubt can both help and hinder leadership. Discuss with examples.

**Self-doubt is an inherent part of our humanity, and refers to the situation when a person begins to question his own actions, beliefs and abilities.**

**Help leadership**

1. Ponder upon one's mistakes and gaps in leadership, and thus address them.

   E.g. A manager can understand that his team management skills need to be enhanced.

2. Help accept other perspectives and suggestions.

3. Increase our willingness to approach seniors/friends for advice, or learn from their experiences.
Hindered leadership

1. Head to delayed decision-making

2. Compromise on your own principles and work ethics
   e.g. Once K. Sreedharan stood up to a politician and prevented him from compromising a metro project. If he would have self-doubts, he would never show the moral courage to stand for the right thing.

3. Lower the confidence of your peers and juniors

4. A self-doubtful person will always fear innovation, and proceed with time-tested and copied ideas.
   e.g. If Steve Jobs would have self-doubts over himself, he would never have thought of a personal computer.

Thus it is important to balance the above.
1. **Bring out the significance of probity in public life. What are the requisites for ensuring probity in governance? Pointing out the key concerns in India in this context, suggest certain remedial measures.**

**Proximity refers to the quality of following moral principles:**

- **Significance in Public Life**
  - Improved quality of delivery of public goods
  - Ethical governance
  - Establishing public trust
  - Assuring the dignity of the individual

**Requisites**

- Integrity in duty
- Decision-making on impartial and non-partisan basis
- Openness to accountability
- Empathy and compassion towards citizens
- Commitment to service
The key concerns in India include -
1. Corruption and red-tapism in bureaucracy
2. Political interference
3. Monopoly of government over key services, and increased scope of discretion
4. Unempathetic bureaucracy
5. Uninformed and inactive citizenry

As per 2nd ARC, remedial measures are -
1. Code of ethics for civil servants, politicians, judiciary
2. Enhancing legal framework like RTI and Prevention of Corruption Act
3. Strengthening social infra
   - Social role of media and citizen's charter
4. Systematic reforms
   - E-Governance, simplifying, strengthening rules and supervisory procedures, role of officers
2. (a) While the corrupt and dishonest should be punished swiftly, honest public servants need to be protected against malicious and motivated complaints to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of an organisation. Discuss. How can the two objectives be reconciled?

Corruption and dishonesty has become a routine part of our organisations.
However, honest and ethical public servants do exist, and must be protected.

As per the 2nd ARC and Law Commission of India, following steps are needed -

1. Existing legal frameworks like Prevention of Corruption Act and Whistleblower Act must be strengthened in scope and provisions.

2. Enabling provisions must be put to provide opportunity of appeal to the officer. This should be done only in front of a
due Court of law, or specially established personnel bodies for this purpose.

3. The need for getting approval for inquiry from senior officer or minister, must be done away with

4. The investigative agencies must remain neutral, and inspect each perspective

5. The constitutional provisions already provide adequate protection to honest servants. Thus unnecessary provisions should be avoided

Thus both objectives can be reconciled.
2. (b) The effective implementation of the Right to Information Act will create an environment of vigilance which will help in functioning of a more participatory democracy. Elaborate.

As per the 2nd ARC, the right to Information Act (RTI) is like a Master Key to Governance.

Why its effective implementation is needed

- Create a vibrant democracy where citizens hold representatives accountable
- Set end to corruption and unethical practices
- Enhance public trust

RTI is a fundamental right, part of Article 21, as declared by SC.

Steps needed

1. Repeal or modify pre-RTI acts like Official Secrets Act, that go against its spirit
2. Enhance the scope of RTI

3. Strengthen and simplify the information retrieval process

4. Empower the CIC - Chief Information Commission - to hold negligent public organisations responsible

If the above is achieved, RTI will help us achieve a true democracy.
3. (a) The bureaucracy technically has been an efficient form of organisation but is seen to have exceeded its administrative powers due to its tendency towards self-aggrandisement, permanence in employment, and nearness to the political executive. Discuss.

The bureaucracy has been called the steel frame of our democracy. This is because:

1. Has successfully implemented programs like Green Revolution

2. Has helped India perform well on developmental targets - reduced poverty, increased literacy and life expectancy

3. Several officers like T. Dreehabran, T. Beshan have shown spirit of service and worked for welfare of people.

However, it has been criticized on the grounds of -
Treating self as elite, 
routine parties, luxurious lifestyle
Access to benefits not available to common man

Excessive protection by constitution and laws
secured promotion irrespective of merit or performance
Even if punished, maximum punishment is a transfer or suspension

Neatness to political executive
Association with political parties extra-premium on loyalty to political boss
Placing interests of politicians before that of citizens

Thus it is necessary for our public servants to reform themselves and uphold their spirit of service.
3. (b) Social media has played a key role in influencing political opinions and social attitudes in India. Comment.

भारत में सोशल मीडिया ने राजनीतिक मतों और सामाजिक अभिव्यक्तियों को प्रभावित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका का निभाया है। टिप्पणी कीजिएः

Social media provides a digital platform for people to interact with each other.

E.g. Social networking sites like Facebook

It has become extremely popular among youth, and is their premium source of consuming and sharing information.

Influencing Political Opinion

1. Most political parties are quite active on social media

2. Media houses rapidly share political news instantaneously

3. Debates and live discussions
Influencing Social Attitudes

1. MMS or pornography shared develop wrong attitudes towards women

2. Online hatred and trolling develop hatred towards communities

3. Invoking patriotism and nationalism

4. Exposing us to the plight of people and enabling us to help them
   e.g. Several fund-raising groups on social media help generate awareness and money for good cause

5. Attitude towards privacy of others

Thus responsible use and self-regulation are required to make best use of social media.
4. (a) "Nonviolence is not servile passivity but a powerful moral force which makes for social transformation". Comment.

"अहिंसा दासगृह जैसी निकितिता नहीं है बल्कि एक शक्तिशाली नैतिक बल है जो सामाजिक परिवर्तन में मदद करता है"। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Non-violence has been a principle endowed in the moral fabric of India

Not a servile passivity

1. Violence only spreads hatred and worsens issue

2. Does not mean remaining non-responsive or passive towards issues

As a moral force

1. Gandhi ji, with its help, led the freedom movement

2. Helps respect others' dignity and life

3. Helps us take decisions calmly
4. Inspires others to follow the path of peace

5. Takes moral courage to be non-violent

The biggest testimony is the fact that even extreme radicals like Bhagat Singh accepted its need and importance for social transformation.
4. (b) It is at the interface of public action and private interest that the need arises for establishing not just a code of ethics but a code of conduct. In this context, highlight the need for drafting a code of ethics as well as a code of conduct.

The need for a code of ethics and conduct arises due to these issues:

1. Conflict of interests resulting from clash of public—personal duty
2. Political interference in functioning
3. Increased discretion and lack of disclosure to citizens
4. Citizens' right to know how the administration is functioning

Thus the 2nd ARC has recommended such a code built on the values of:

1) Integrity
2) Impartiality and non-partialism
3) Objectivity
4) Empathy
5) Dedication to public duty

Further, it has said that conflict of interests should be comprehensively covered in such a code.
5. (a) Income inequality is a matter of grave concern for the Indian society. In this context, examine the relevance of Gandhiji's concepts of 'Sarvodaya' and 'Trusteeship'.

As per a recent report, top 1% of Indians acquire more than 20% of the total income.

Sarvodaya

Refers to the principle that good of the individual is in the good of all. It thus promotes the values of altruism, public service, charity and distributing wealth to the needy, which is beyond our requirement.

Trusteeship

Gandhi believed that every resource and thing on the Earth belong...
to God. Thus we as people and his creatures, are guardians of his property.

It is thus our duty to equitably share it. The rich and affluent must see themselves as trustees of God's will, and thus share their wealth with the needy.
5. (b) It does not take long for conflict to turn violent when deep seeded prejudices and discriminatory attitudes are not addressed. Discuss in the context of communal and caste-based violence in India. What role should the state play in this context?

The Indian society has been plagued by prejudices and discriminatory attitudes like —

1. Intolerance towards other belief, way of life
   e.g. Towards tribals

2. Religious fragmentation
   e.g. Hindu - Muslim issues

3. Casteism and untouchability

This has led to incidents like

Badrí lynchings, communal holocaust
(partition), caste-based politics etc

The state should not remain
culpritive to such issues. Neither
Should it encroach upon the freedom of the minorities in the name of majoritarianism.

It must provide a conducive legal, socio-economic and political environment that protects the rights, dignity and freedom of all, especially the weaker section.

It is also the duty of responsible and educated citizens to protect fellow citizens and promote a culture of tolerance and respect.
6. Explain with examples how emotional intelligence increases the effectiveness of leadership skills in a civil servant.

उदाहरण सहित आलोच्या कीजिए जि किस प्रकार भावनात्मक समाज (सूक्ष्म) एक सिविल सेवक में नेतृत्व कौशल की प्रभावशीलता में वृद्धि करती है।

Emotional intelligence refers to the capacity to understand and manage one's own emotions and that of others.

Use in leadership

1. Performance management
   e.g. A leader can understand the reasons for poor performance of his colleagues, and help him

2. Building peer relationships
   e.g. Understanding emotional distress of your peers

3. Enhanced conflict resolution
   e.g. Solving problems like citizen protests, bandh etc by better empathising with their cause
4. Work-family life balance

5. Conducive work culture and thereby better team spirit and productivity

Thus E1 is of immense significance in public duty.
7. A Citizens' Charter sees public services through the eyes of those who use them. In this context, analyze the importance of citizen charter in making public services citizen centric.

Citizens' charter is an instrument that lists the services provided by an organisation to the public.

**Importance**

1. **Makes citizen** aware of their entitlements

2. Help citizens hold organisation responsible for quality of service delivery

3. Makes the organisation better understand its mandate

4. Inculcates in the organisation the need for having a more responsive citizen centric interface
Thus the need is to rationalize the citizens' charter of organization and make it justifiable to increase accountability.
8. Given the effects that cultural attitudes about menstruation have on women, there is need to follow a strategic approach in combating these. Discuss.

Menstruation is a natural act of the female body over which she has no control. It is thus surprising that our culture has always treated it as an unhealthy and polluting act.

Strategic Approach

Awareness generation

Behavioral change driven by use of media

Health awareness ramps

Use of female and male role models
Legal

Protection of women from unethical and unhealthy practices

Punishing those who threaten women safety due to such attitudes

Economic

Providing safety sanitary pads at affordable rates

Schemes having financial incentives to promote healthy attitudes
In the following questions, carefully study the cases presented and then answer the questions that follow (in around 250 words):

9. As the District Magistrate you are posted in a district that had been infamous for girl-child marriages. The government introduced a contributory scheme two decades ago, where the government contributed the same amount as the parents, into an account, for their girl child of age 0 to 7 years. The total sum could be withdrawn only when the girl turns eighteen and is unmarried. Due to this scheme, a new pattern has emerged. All girls are married as soon as they turn eighteen and incidents of dowry have increased substantially – because the community customs require paying the sum commensurate to the age of the girl. Further, parents now tend to save money for the scheme instead of investing in girl’s education. As the local administration tries to tackle the current situation it looks up to you for ideas and leadership:

(a) Identify the factors which have led to such outcomes.

(b) Devise a strategy, keeping in mind the multiple aspects of the situation.

The issue of girl-child marriage has been a historic problem in our society.
2) **Factors responsible**

1. **Tradition** - Girls are considered as burden on the family, who need to be married off as soon as possible.

2. **Economic**
   
   a) The income received from the government scheme is being used for marriage, not productively.
   
   b) Marrying the girl early results in a lower dowry.

3. **Social** - The community customs and social environment add pressure on families to marry their girls quickly.

b) As an administrator, the values I need to exhibit here are:

   - Empathy and compassion
   - Concern for dignity of individuals
   - Respect for women and gender equality
Plan of Action

1. The scheme needs to be reformed. A provision must be introduced which first mandates the use of the money for girl education up to class XI or.

2. Instead of releasing the full sum in one go, the release should be linked to certain criteria.
   E.g. Full sum to be released only if girl is opting for higher education for other purposes, it could be linked to defined time periods.

3. To facilitate the above, proper reasons for withdrawal should be asked. If the reason is marriage, then
The family must be advised about the value of higher education for girls, and how it is beneficial. That being said, nothing should be forced upon them, as it is legal to marry girls at 18 years.

4. Awareness campaigns, use of mass media, and behavioural economics must be used to bring a change in the custom.

5. Dowry is a curse, and thus the law should be strictly enforced.

6. Women role models and success stories will be used to encourage a long-term change.

The above will help girls prosper in the district.
10. While on the one hand, some state governments have implemented alcohol consumption prohibition laws, it is permitted in other states. Debates around this issue often involves aspects such as individual rights, cultural attitudes and social welfare. As a teacher you need to explain the key issues involved to a young audience. What are these? How would you conclude the lecture?

एक और जड़ा कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने मद्यपान नियंत्रण कानून लागू किए हैं, जबकि अन्य राज्यों में इसकी अनुमति है। इस मुद्दे पर बहस में प्रायः व्यक्तिगत अधिकार, सांस्कृतिक अभिवृत्ति और सामाजिक गतिविधियों के पहलु सम्मिलित होते हैं। एक शिक्षक के रूप में आपकी युवा भेदों को इसमें सम्मिलित महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों को समझाना है। ये मुद्दे क्या हैं? आप आपने क्या किया?

Alcohol prohibition is a sensitive issue that has again come to the forefront following prohibition laws being imposed in states like Bihar, Gujarat etc.

As a teacher, I will look to present both sides of the coin to the audience, and enable them to take a rational and informed decision on the issue.
Issues about individual rights

Alcohol consumption should be allowed

Right to choice is an important part of our liberty and freedom

It is unethical to ban consumption in personal places, as state should not interfere in individual's privacy

Such bans only promote individuals to purchase alcohol illegally, so go outside the state
Alcohol consumption should be prohibited

Individual’s right to choice should not extend to consumption of harmful items

Individual’s actions have social implications. E.g., domestic violence, encouraging under-aged children to drink etc.

Issues around cultural attitudes

1. Indian culture has always treated alcohol consumption as a vice, and against our spiritual values

2. The above is also reflected in the Preamble to our Constitution, where the state is mandated to ensure an alcohol-free society
3. However, on the opposite side, alcohol consumption is an integral part of the culture of our indigenous people.

Issues around social welfare

Alcohol consumption should be allowed

- Drinking responsibly does not harm others around us.
- Instead of an outright ban, state must enforce regulations to ban illegal sale, and punish those who drank irresponsibly.

Alcohol sale provides huge revenue to the state, which is used for welfare activities.
Alcohol consumption should be banned.

leads to issues like domestic violence, crimes, juvenile crimes and rape

causes unprecedented road accidents

leads to exploitation and poverty among the weaker sections

provides a fillip to the underground alcohol/toddy industry

I would conclude the lecture by saying that the state must not force its will upon the people, as it only leads to negative outcomes. Instead, the change must come voluntarily. For this, mass awareness campaigns, behavioural change drives, nudge economics and such innovative means must be utilized.
11. As a concerned citizen you have been engaged with the issue of persons employed in manual scavenging. You notice that despite laws and strictures from the highest court of the land the practice of employing human labour to clean sewers continues. While the administration has to ensure the cleanliness of the urban localities, those who are employed also have to earn to sustain themselves and their families. The death of few workers recently due to asphyxiation while cleaning a septic tank has caused much consternation in your locality. You would like to engage with the situation by writing to the administration, for which you need to find an answer to the following:

(a) Identify the stakeholders involved and state their conflicting interests.
(b) What challenges does the administration face in curbing this social evil?
(c) Enumerate the steps to deal with the problem.

एक चित्तिता नामरिक के रूप में आप हास से मैंना उठाने (में मूर्खता के बाद) में नियोजित लोगों के सुड़े से जुड़े हुए हैं। आप पता है कि देश के काॅन्बुर और उद्धर्त व्यावसाय की कटा आयोजना के बाद जवाब मिल सकते हुए मामले तम नियोजित करने की प्रथा जारी है।

एज्ज़ा प्रशासन की शहरी क्षेत्रों की सफाई सुनिश्चित करनी है, बह़ी ही लोग नियोजित हैं उन्हें अपना और अगंत परिवारों का भरण-पोषण करने के लिए रोज़-रोज़ी भी कमानी है। आप इसमें सेंटिक टैंक की सफाई करते समय भाषाबद्धग ने करवा कराही स्वरुपारोधों के कारण कुछ कर्मचारियों की मुश्किल ने आपके दोद में अत्यधिक मंगल पैदा किया है। आप प्रशासन को शिकार इस स्थिति से ।

(a) इसमें सम्मिलित हिताधिकारी की पहचान कीजिए और उनके परस्पर-विरोधी हितों का वर्णन कीजिए।
(b) इस सामाजिक बुराई पर अंकुश लगाने में प्रशासन को किन मुनीतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है?
(c) इस समस्या में निपटने के उपायों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।
Conflicting interests

1. For myself
   stopping manual scavenging despite knowing its importance as a means of sustenance for the poor

2. For manual scavengers
   feeding their families, or raising their voices against manual scavenging, which is illegal

3. For administration
   a) enforcing outright ban, or allowing the practice as it provides sustenance

   b) stopping manual scavenging, or using it to achieve cleanliness targets at low costs

4. For locality
   empathising with the workers, or ignore the urine as it provides them livelihood, and keeps the locality clean
b) Challenges faced include-

1. It provides employment and livelihood to the weaker sections

2. Alternatives to manual scavenging are costly

3. It is rooted in social evils of casteism

4. It is a necessary evil to keep the streets clean

5. Government’s own departments like railways are involved in recruiting them

2) The steps needed can be divided into the following categories -
Strict enforcement of the **Manual Scavenging Act 2013**

Holding employers who don't provide protective gear (as mentioned in the said Act) accountable.

**Economic**

Alternative employment to the scavenger.

Scheme to promote workers to start up business in cleaning solutions but through proper technology and protective gear.

**Technological**

Exploiting alternatives like Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) system.

Developing local technological solutions like robots.
Social

Awareness campaign and media drives

Changing attitude against casteism

Inculcating the spirit of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which focuses equally on dignity of ourcleaness

The change must come from the citizens, who must raise their voice against this inhumane practice.
12. You are a teacher in the Science department of a reputed college. Your HoD (Head of Department) has been a good mentor to you and has guided your career progress. You get to know from one of your students that the HoD gives private tuitions at his residence, which is disliked by many others in the department. There are also rumours that he might be giving extra marks to the students taking his tuitions. When enquired, his reply is that he is not alone and a few other teachers are giving private tuitions as well. He assures you that it is beneficial for the students as some of them need extra attention. He advises you not to make a fuss about it and indirectly reminds you about the assessment rating, which is due this week. You are aware that a good rating will definitely get you the due promotion. The HoD is due to retire in 4 months.

(a) What are the dilemmas that you face in this situation?

(b) Highlight the course of action that you would adopt and give reasons for the same.

An ethical education system can do wonders for the development of the country.
Stakeholders

Me, as a teacher
HOD

Students attending school only

Other teachers of the college

Students attending both school and tuition

Dilemmas

1. Own promotion vs stopping the practice of private tuition

2. Private tuition may indeed be beneficial to the needful students

3. My fellow teachers (colleagues) would get into trouble and lose their jobs

4. Injustice towards the students attending school only

5. My affection towards HOD (my mentor) vs doing the right thing and stopping his wrongdoing
b) My action would be based on the values of:
   1) Integrity
   2) Dedication to duty
   3) Spirit of service
   4) Compassion towards students

Plan of Action

The first task is to ascertain that private tuitions are allowed by the college policy, or not. If they are, the sole issue becomes awarding extra-marks. If they are not (most probable), then it amounts to violating the rules.

Therefore the plan can be divided in two cases –

Case 1 – Private Tuitions is not allowed

1. As a teacher who is committed
to the college, I will inform the Hod and teachers about the college policy, and ask them to stop this practice. This will give them an opportunity to do the right thing.

2. If they do not listen, then I will inform the higher management. Before that, I will collect necessary proof.

3. I will further request the management to arrange for special classes for the tuition-giving students in the college itself. I will volunteer to take these classes in my free time. I am sure other teachers will do the same. The college, if wants, can pay extra to such teachers. This will be open to all students, and thus help them cope up.

4. I am positive that the higher management will ensure my rating is now out of the Hod’s hands. In fact
I can even receive extra credit for doing the right thing.

Case 2 - Private Tuition is allowed

1. First, I will collect solid evidence that marks are being awarded partially. This can be done by analysing the answer copies.

2. Again, I will first give the opportunity to the teachers to stop this. Otherwise, I will approach the authorities with proof.

3. I will request the authorities to forgive the students, if they were unaware of this act of teachers.

The above plan helps me serve my role as a teacher, considered to be at par with parents in our society.
13. While stampedes and mishaps due to overcrowding have led to loss of lives on multiple occasions, it remains an issue discussed only when there is a tragedy. Recently you were assigned the responsibility of conducting a mela around a revered religious place, which attracts millions of devotees. Every year the numbers have been increasing and this year due to certain celestial alignments the crowd is expected to be unprecedented. In the previous year the officer in charge was criticised and transferred over allegations of hurting religious sensitivities by restricting access to the religious place. You have three months to prepare for the mela.

(a) Identify the key areas you would focus on?

(b) What are the challenges that you foresee?

(c) How do you propose to overcome them?

Recent cases like the collapse of Elphinstone Bridge in Mumbai, have shown how overcrowding has become a serious issue in India.

The key areas to be focused upon -

1. Security of the people and the religious place
2. Balancing organised, yet unrestricted access to the place

3. Crowd management

4. Infrastructure like roads, bridges etc

5. Respecting religious sentiments of the devotees

b)

Challenges

- Paucity of time to prepare
- Assessing the current state of the infrastructure at place
- Arranging for required staff to manage the event
- Political interference and media exposure
- Balancing the religious sentiments with the security of lives
Plan of Action

1. I will first look into the previous records and how it has been conducted. Then I would assess the current state of the place.

2. Conduct a full gap and vulnerability mapping of the sensitive infra and potential places of stampede / mishaps.

3. Identify the requirements - technical and personnel - and arrange for the same.

4. Organise the main access route by barricading, employing speakers, and upgrading the road / bridge etc.

5. Ensure provision for first-aid at the venue itself.
6. Enlist the help of local volunteers and crowd management agencies.

7. Ensure that all staff are interconnected by walky-talkies, and in case of any mishap, immediate response teams can be deployed.

8. Enlist help of NDRF and other crowd management practices.

Thus, a successful and secure event can be organised.
14. You are a senior official at a government agency that is responsible for collection, storage and protection of biometric data of citizens. Due to the expanse of operations, the agency employs third parties for collection of data. There have been reports of security breach and leakage of data by third parties in exchange of money. A journalist from a prominent newspaper carries a sting operation and releases some data in the public to show the ongoing corruption and highlighting the inability of the agency in protecting public data. You are asked by the chairperson of the agency to file an FIR against the journalist and pursue criminal proceedings against him considering it an act of unauthorized access.

(a) Do you agree with the action sought by the chairperson against the journalist? Give appropriate reasons for your answer.

(b) If you disagree, what would be your course of action?

(c) Do you think the action of the journalist is justified?

आप नागरिकों के बायोमेट्रिक आंकड़ों के संग्रहण, भंडारण और संरक्षण हेतु उत्तरदायी एक सरकारी एजेंसी के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी हैं। परिचालन विभाग के कारण एजेंसी, आंकड़ा संग्रहण हेतु तृतीय पक्ष की नियोजित करता है। तृतीय पक्ष द्वारा पेपर के बदले सुरक्षा उल्लंघनों और आंकड़ों के लूपैज की सूचनाएं भरनी हैं। एक प्रमुख समाचार पत्र के एक पत्रकार द्वारा एक स्टिंग ऑपरेशन किया जाता है और तल रखे भ्रष्टाचार की पहचान करने वाले एवं मार्केटिंग आंकड़े सुरक्षित रखने में एजेंसी की अवसर उठाना करने वाले कुछ आंकड़े आम जनता के समस्या जारी किए जाते हैं। आपको एजेंसी के अध्यक्ष द्वारा इसे अपनके पास आता है एक कार्य मानते हुए पत्रकार के विरुद्ध एक FIR दर्ज कराने और उसके खिलाफ आपराधिक कार्रवाई करने के लिए कहा जाता है।

(a) क्या आप पत्रकार के विरुद्ध अध्यक्ष का चाहती है कोई कार्रवाई से नहीं है? अपने उत्तर के लिए उल्लिखित कार्रवाई बनाएं।

(b) यदि आप असहमत हैं, तो आपकी क्या कार्यवाही होगी?

(c) क्या आप मानते हैं कि पत्रकार का कार्य उचित है?
Merits → • Journalist has illegally obtained access to public data, and might have even used it for unethical purposes
  • Will deter other news agencies to use illegal means

Demerits → • The purpose was to expose corruption and security issues
  • Hides the agency’s own negligence and unethical acts
  • Lead to over-blown coverage by the media

I disagree with his actions due to the above de-merits. The fact that the journalist was able to obtain data shows the agency’s faulty security architecture. Also,
Corruption and sale of public data is highly unethical and illegal. Thus the agency must accept the blame, rather than shifting it on others.

My course of action:

1. I will collect due evidence to establish the unethical and illegal acts of the agency, and those involved, including third parties.

2. I will myself act as a whistle-blower, and expose the wrongdoing of the agency.

3. Regarding the journalist, I will pursue a FIR, but for different reasons. The fact remains that he did an
illegal act. He could have used the agency's grievance channels, or file a RTI. It is equally important to make other media houses aware of this as well, as a culture of sting operations will create only mistrust and inhibit agency's functioning.

2) The journalist's purpose is justified as it has public utility. The public has every right to know how their data is being protected and used.

However, his mode of action cannot be justified. When proper legal channels are available, there is no need for him to take the law in his own hands. The fact that he has
released the data makes it further worse.

That being said, it is equally necessary for the agency to establish such grievance and monitoring channels that infuse trust in the citizens.