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Answer Writing & Syllabus Mastery



ETHICS & GANDHIAN THOUGHTS

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ANALYSIS: SYLLABUS AND PREVIOUS YEAR PAPERS**1. Core Values in public service / governance.**

1. Critically examine the core values in the domain of public service. (2019, 8marks)

2. Philosophical basis of public service / governance and Integrity, Professionalism, Accountability.

1. Mention the philosophical basis of public service.(2020, 4 marks)

3. Objectivity and Transparency, information sharing and right to information, codes of conduct, work culture, challenges of corruption and political pressures.

Define corruption and discuss its different types.(2017, 4 marks)

2. Corruption has become an all pervasive phenomena in our society. Discuss the main causes and consequences of it in the development of our society. (2019, 20 marks)
3. Corruption is like a termite that destroys best of systems. What suggestions would you suggest for corruption free system in India? (2022, 20 marks)
4. How technology is helpful in bringing the transparency and objectivity? (2020, 4 marks)

4. Gandhian Thought: Truth and Non-violence, Satyagraha, Ends and Means, Religion and Politics.

1. Explain Gandhian concept of Satyagraha. (2016, 4 marks)
2. Relation between religion and politics has been a subject of controversy since long. Analyse Gandhi's view on this issue. (2017, 20 marks)
3. Examine critically Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas on State, Society and Sarvodaya. (2018, 20 marks)
4. Mention the historical background of "Satyagarha" movement. (2019, 4 marks)

QUESTION BANK

1. Transparency in government organizations is an essential pre-condition for good governance. Elucidate.
2. What do you understand by the term accountability in administration? Bring out its relationship with transparency.
3. Analyse the reasons responsible for wide spread corruption in India.
4. Analyze the significance of adopting a code of ethics for creating a healthy work culture in an organization.
5. What do you understand by Gandhian ethics. Discuss the role of Gandhian ethics in conflict resolution.
6. Discuss the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhiji on religion.
7. Examine the relevance of Gandhian concepts of 'Sarvodaya' and 'Trusteeship' in modern India.
8. Briefly explain the Gandhian idea of end and means.
9. Mahatma Gandhi created a moral system which also served as the framework for his political practice. Elucidate.
10. Explain Gandhi's Idea of Satyagraha.
11. Define code of conduct. Explain the five principles of code of conduct.
12. Critically analyse the significance of Right to Information (RTI) act in bringing transparency in governance.
13. What are the good characteristics required in Public servant?
14. Illustrate the importance of the code of conduct in the discharge of their duties as civil servants.
15. Effective public service delivery demands a people-centric approach, which is built upon coordination and leverages technology. Discuss.
16. Explain the significance of the following in the context of civil service:
 - a) Public Trust
 - b) Objectivity
 - c) Empathy
 - d) Selflessness
17. Define
 - a) Accountability
 - b) Professionalism
 - c) Integrity
 - d) Transparency.

FOUNDATIONAL VALUES IN PUBLIC SERVICES/GOVERNANCE

Public services and governance in India are guided by several core values and principles that help ensure the functioning of a democratic and accountable system.

Some of the key core values of public services and governance listed by the Nolan Committee include:

- **Selflessness** - Public officials should act solely in the public interest and not for personal gain. They should set aside their own families' or friends' interests when making decisions and performing their duties.
- **Integrity** - Public officials should be honest and truthful. They should not seek to deceive or conceal information. Integrity is fundamental to building public trust.
- **Objectivity** - Decisions should be made based on evidence, reason, and impartiality, rather than personal bias or prejudice. Public officials should avoid favouritism and conflicts of interest.
- **Accountability** - Public officials are accountable for their actions and decisions. They should be prepared to explain and justify their choices, and mechanisms should be in place to hold them to account.
- **Openness** - Information should be made available to the public unless there are compelling reasons to withhold it. Transparency promotes public understanding and trust.
- **Honesty** - Public officials should be truthful and straightforward in their communications. They should not knowingly mislead the public or others.
- **Leadership** - Those in leadership positions should set a positive example of ethical behaviour. They should promote and uphold these principles within their organizations.

Some of the Values are also provided by the 10th Report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission. These values are:

- **Impartiality** - Impartiality is the quality of making decisions without bias or prejudice; an example of impartiality is when no favouritism is involved.
- **Non-partisanship** - Non-partisanship means not supporting any political party, even if you agree with their ideas. It's about not aligning with any political group.
- **Dedication to Public Service** - Dedication to public service means a strong commitment to the public interest, excellence, efficiency, and continuous improvement.
- **Empathy** - Empathy is the ability to understand and share another person's emotions and experiences, including their mental state and feelings. It helped to understand the problems of citizens effectively.
- **Tolerance** - It requires a civil servant to make fair decisions, to be impartial, objective, non-partisan, and tolerant of diverse perspectives.
- **Compassion** - Compassion is a profound form of empathy, involving a genuine desire to help those who are suffering. It includes emotional understanding, empathy, and a strong urge to provide support and protection.

Why Core Values is Required in Public Services/Governance?

Core values are essential in public services and governance for several reasons:

- **Guidance** - Core values provide a clear moral and ethical compass for public officials and institutions, helping them make decisions and conduct themselves in ways that align with the best interests of the public.
- **To Ensure Accountability** - They serve as a basis for holding public servants accountable for their actions and decisions.
 - ❖ When values are violated, there are standards against which behaviour can be assessed.
- **To Create Trust and Credibility** - Upholding core values builds trust and credibility with the public.
 - ❖ Citizens are more likely to have confidence in a government that adheres to principles of transparency, fairness, and integrity.

- **To Promote Fairness and Equity** - Values like fairness and equity ensure that public services are provided without discrimination, benefiting all citizens equally.
- **To Maintain Efficiency and Effectiveness** - Values like Openness and Accountability, guide resource allocation and service delivery, ensuring that government actions achieve the desired outcomes.
- **To Ensure Ethical Conduct** - Core values promote ethical conduct, preventing corruption, favouritism, and abuse of power within the public sector.
- **Guarantee Public Interest** - They emphasize the primacy of the public interest over personal or political gain, reinforcing the idea that public officials are servants of the people.
- **Establish Long-Term Sustainability** - Values like Leadership, Openness, Accountability, etc. promote policies that look ahead and prioritize the long-term well-being of both society and the environment.

Challenges for Core Value Implementation in Public Services:

Implementing core values in public services can be challenging due to various factors:

- **Resistance to Change** - Bureaucratic structures and established practices, resist adopting new values and behaviours, hindering their integration into the system.
- **Political Interference** - Political agendas and pressures, sometimes, compromise the adherence to values, leading to favouritism or biased decision-making.
- **Lack of Awareness** - Public servants and officials do not fully understand or be aware of the core values, making it challenging to apply them consistently.
- **Enforcement Challenges** - Ensuring accountability for violations of core values can be challenging, as mechanisms for enforcement may be weak or ineffective.
- **Training and Education** - Training regarding the core values is inefficient and inadequate, and implementing core values in administration is challenging.
- **Public Perception and Trust** - Rebuilding public trust in cases where core values have been compromised is a significant challenge.
- **Changing Political Leadership** - Changes in political leadership can bring shifts in priorities and values, impacting the consistency of value implementation.

Way Forward:

To address these challenges and ensure the effective implementation of core values in public services, several strategies can be pursued:

- **Leadership Commitment** - Strong leadership at both political and administrative levels is essential.
 - ❖ Leaders should demonstrate a commitment to core values and set an example for others to follow.
- **Training and Capacity Building** - Invest in comprehensive training and capacity-building programs for public servants.
 - ❖ Ensure that they understand the core values and know how to apply them in their daily work.
- **Awareness Campaigns** - Launch awareness campaigns to educate both public servants and the general public about the importance of core values in public service. This can help build a shared understanding and commitment.
- **Accountability Mechanisms** - Strengthen mechanisms for holding public servants accountable for violations of core values. This may include establishing independent oversight bodies and whistleblower protection.
- **Clear Policies and Procedures** - Develop clear policies and procedures that explicitly state the importance of core values and provide guidelines for their implementation.
- **Regular Audits and Reviews** - Conduct regular audits and reviews of public service operations to identify areas where core values may be compromised. Take corrective actions promptly.
- **Public Engagement** - Involve the public in the monitoring and evaluation of public services. Their feedback can be valuable in assessing the adherence to core values.

- **Transparency and Accountability:** Promote transparency in decision-making processes to reduce the scope for political interference and favouritism. Encourage open and fair procedures.
- **Civil Society Engagement** - Engage civil society organizations and watchdog groups to help monitor and advocate for the implementation of core values.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration** - Encourage collaboration between government agencies, civil society, academia, and the private sector to collectively work towards value-based governance.

Various Actions taken by the Indian Government to reinforce ethical guidelines:

- **Executive Accountability to Parliament** – The Constitution of India mandates that the Council of Ministers are responsible to the parliament, which ensures accountability of the executives.
- **Code of Conduct for Civil Servants** - A code of conduct has been mandated for civil servants, to enhance public trust in government by ensuring that personal influence and interests do not compromise government decisions.
- **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (Mission Karmayogi)** - The Government's National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) adapts to citizens' evolving needs and aims to bolster the civil services nationally.
- **e-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS)** - The Central Government has introduced an electronic Human Resources Management System (e-HRMS) across all departments to streamline service matters digitally.
 - ❖ This reduces time and costs, provides digital records, offers MIS dashboards, enables real-time manpower monitoring, and enhances productivity.
- **Faceless Assessment Scheme** - The faceless assessment scheme, launched in 2020, aims for efficient tax administration, less physical interaction, enhanced accountability, and team-based assessments.
- **Geo-MGNREGA** – Geo-tagging of the assets of MGNREGA with the use of remote sensing and GIS (Geographic Information System) based information, enhanced the transparency in the govt schemes.
- **Right to Information Act of 2005** – The act ensures citizens' access to government information, promoting transparency and accountability in public authorities.
- **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act of 2013** - The act establishes a Lokpal at the Union level and Lokayukta at the State level to investigate corruption allegations against specific public officials.
- **Whistle-blowers Protection Act of 2014** - The act creates a mechanism to receive complaints about corruption or misuse of power by public servants and to investigate these allegations.

Conclusion:

The foundational values of public services and governance play a crucial role in ensuring the effective functioning of a democratic and accountable system. These values, such as selflessness, integrity, accountability, and transparency, serve as guiding principles that help build public trust, promote fairness, and maintain ethical conduct within the public sector.

Philosophical Basis of Public Service and Governance

The philosophical basis of public services and governance encompasses a wide range of ideas and principles that have evolved over centuries. These principles provide a foundation for how societies organize and manage their affairs to meet the needs and interests of their citizens.

Several key philosophical concepts underpin public services and governance:

- **Social Contract Theory** - Social contract theory, was first articulated by philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.
 - ❖ They suggest that individuals in a society agree to give up certain freedoms and submit to the authority of a government in exchange for protection, security, and the benefits of an organized society.
 - ❖ This theory underscores the legitimacy of government as long as it serves the best interests of its citizens.

- **Democratic Principles** - Democracy is based on the idea that government derives its authority from the consent of the governed.
 - ❖ Philosophers like John Stuart Mill and John Rawls have contributed to the development of democratic theory, emphasizing concepts such as individual rights, the rule of law, and the importance of public participation in governance.
- **Utilitarianism:** Utilitarianism, championed by philosophers like Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, suggests that public policies and governance should aim to maximize the overall happiness or well-being of the greatest number of people.
 - ❖ This concept informs decisions about resource allocation, public services, and policy priorities.
- **Justice and Equity** - Philosophical notions of justice and equity, as exemplified by thinkers like John Rawls, prioritize fairness in distributing societal benefits and burdens.
 - ❖ Public services and governance should aim to rectify disparities in wealth, opportunity, and well-being.
- **The Common Good** - Some philosophical traditions, such as communitarianism, emphasize the importance of the common good or the well-being of the community as a whole.
 - ❖ This perspective suggests that public services and governance should prioritize collective welfare over individual interests.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Philosophical principles of accountability and transparency emphasize that governments should be answerable to their citizens.
 - ❖ Citizens have the right to know what their government is doing and to hold it responsible for its actions.
- **Ethical Considerations** - Ethics play a significant role in the philosophical basis of public services and governance.
 - ❖ Ethical principles guide decision-making in areas such as public service delivery, policymaking, and the treatment of citizens.
- **Human Dignity** - The concept of human dignity underpins many philosophical approaches to governance.
 - ❖ It emphasizes the inherent worth and rights of every individual, and governance systems should protect and promote human dignity through the provision of essential services and respect for human rights.
- **Rule of Law:** The rule of law is a foundational principle that asserts that all individuals and institutions are subject to and accountable under the law.
 - ❖ It promotes legal consistency, fairness, and the protection of individual rights.
- **Public Interest:** The idea that public services and governance should act in the public interest is fundamental.
 - ❖ This means that decisions and policies should prioritize the well-being and interests of the broader society rather than serving narrow or special interests.

Integrity

Integrity means doing things honestly and truthfully. It's about consistently sticking to your strong moral and ethical beliefs without ever compromising them.

Significance of Integrity in Public Services/Governance:

- **Enhance Trust and Legitimacy** - Integrity helps build trust between the government and its citizens. When public officials and institutions operate with integrity, it enhances the legitimacy of the government in the eyes of the public.
- **Ensure Accountability** - Integrity is closely linked to accountability. When public officials are held to high ethical standards, they are more likely to be accountable for their actions and decisions.
- **Enhance Efficiency and Effectiveness** - Integrity in public services enhances efficiency and effectiveness by

ensuring decisions prioritize the public interest over personal gain or politics, leading to better resource allocation and higher-quality services.

- **Impartiality and Objectivity** – A public servant, with values and integrity, makes decisions without being biased and based on facts and merits.
- **Curb the Corruption** – Integrity also reduces the evil of corruption within the government and bureaucracy, and also reduces its negative impact on society.
- **Uphold Rule of Law** - Integrity upholds the rule of law, reinforcing that all citizens are equal before it, irrespective of their status or connections.
- **Promote Social Cohesion** - Integrity is imperative for promoting fairness and justice, which in turn helps to reduce social tensions and fosters unity.

Role of Integrity to Promote Democracy:

- **Building Trust** - Integrity in democracy instils trust by ensuring transparent and honest operations of democratic institutions, boosting citizens' confidence in the fairness of the system.
- **Informed Voting** - Integrity provides truthful information for voters, enabling informed choices during elections.
- **Prevent Authoritarianism** - When leaders and institutions remain accountable to the people and adhere to ethical standards, they are less likely to concentrate power, suppress dissent, or undermine democratic values.
- **Ensure Protection of Rights** - Integrity safeguards individual rights and ensures equal treatment under the rule of law.
- **Promote Ethical Leadership** - Leaders with integrity prioritize the public good over personal gain, inspiring ethical citizenship.
- **Ensure Inclusivity** - Upholding integrity ensures inclusivity and diversity within democracy. It ensures that all citizens, regardless of their background or beliefs, have an equal and fair opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Challenges to Enforce Integrity in Public Service/Governance:

- **Political Interference** - Elected leaders put improper pressure on government employees and organizations, which undermines their ability to uphold honesty and weakens the enforcement of rules and laws.
- **Corruption** - Corruption within public service and government is a significant obstacle to integrity. Bribery, embezzlement, and other corrupt practices erode trust and hinder efforts to enforce integrity.
- **Lack of Transparency** - A lack of transparency in decision-making processes makes it difficult to detect and address instances of misconduct or unethical behaviour.
- **Cultural Norms** - In some societies, cultural norms tolerate or even encourage practices that are considered unethical or corrupt in other contexts.
- **Public Apathy** - When the public is disengaged or apathetic about issues of integrity in governance, there is less pressure on officials to act ethically.

Measures to be Adopted to Promote Integrity in Civil Services:

- **Clear Codes of Conduct** - These codes should outline expected behaviours, ethical principles, and consequences for violations.
- **Training and Capacity Building** - Civil servants should be educated on the importance of ethical behaviour and how to recognize and report unethical conduct.
- **Leadership by Example** - Promote ethical leadership from the top down. Leaders within the civil service should exemplify high standards of integrity and ethics.
- **Use of Technology and Digitalization** - Implement technology solutions for transparency and accountability, such as e-procurement systems, online reporting mechanisms, and digital records management.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns** - Run public awareness campaigns to inform citizens about their rights, the importance of integrity in public service, and how to report corruption or unethical behaviour.

Integrity stands as a fundamental pillar in the realm of public services, governance, and the promotion of democracy. Its significance cannot be overstated, as it encompasses a wide range of benefits that contribute to the stability and prosperity of societies.

Transparency and Objectivity

Transparency

- Transparency in public services involves government agencies being open and accountable, and sharing information about their activities and decisions with the public to foster trust and understanding.

Objectivity

- In public services, objectivity means making impartial decisions based on evidence and facts and avoiding personal biases or favouritism.

Relationship Between Objectivity and Transparency:

- **Transparency Fosters Objectivity** - When government agencies and officials are transparent about their actions, decisions, and processes, it becomes easier to ensure that these actions are carried out objectively.
- **Objectivity Enhances Transparency** - The government's objective decisions instil confidence in them to transparently communicate these objective decisions and the rationale behind them to the public, further enhancing public trust.
- **Mutual Reinforcement** - Together, they create a system in which public services are both impartially delivered and subject to public scrutiny, fostering accountability and trust.

Work Culture in Public Services and Governance

Work culture in public services refers to the shared values, beliefs, norms, attitudes, and behaviours that characterize the working environment and interactions within government organizations and agencies.

- It encompasses the collective mindset and practices of public servants and leaders and significantly influences how work is conducted, decisions are made, and services are delivered within the public sector.

Importance of Positive Work Culture:

- **Service Delivery** - A positive work culture can lead to better service delivery.
- When government employees are motivated, satisfied, and engaged in their work, they are more likely to provide efficient and high-quality services to the public.
- **Accountability** - A healthy work culture promotes accountability and transparency within government organizations.
 - ❖ When employees feel empowered to speak up and report wrongdoing, it can help prevent corruption and unethical behaviour.
- **Effective Communication** - A healthy work culture provides a platform for effective communication among the verticals and horizontals of the organisation which helps in getting work done effectively.
- **Employee Engagement** - A positive work culture fosters employee engagement, which can lead to higher productivity and better outcomes for the public.
- **Recruitment and Retention** - A good work culture can attract and keep talented employees. When workers are happy and appreciated, they tend to stay and contribute their knowledge to the organization.
- **Reduced Conflicts** - A good work culture promotes effective communication and helps in reducing conflicts among individuals/teams during work.

Impact of Hostile Work Culture:

- **Decreased Employee Morale** - Employees in a hostile work culture often experience low morale and reduced job satisfaction.
- **High Turnover Rates** - High turnover rates result in increased recruitment and training costs and can disrupt

team dynamics and productivity.

- **Negative Health Effects** - It may lead to stress, anxiety, depression, and even physical health issues, such as hypertension or sleep disorders.
- **Reduced Collaboration** - People may become defensive, unwilling to share ideas, or reluctant to work together, which can hinder innovation and teamwork.
- **Diminished Creativity and Innovation** - When employees are afraid to voice their ideas or concerns, valuable insights and solutions may go unnoticed, harming the organization's ability to adapt and grow.
- **Negative Customer Impact** - Employee dissatisfaction often spills over into interactions with customers or clients, resulting in poor customer service and potential loss of business.
- **Decreased Organizational Performance** - A hostile work culture can hinder an organization's ability to meet its goals and objectives. Projects may be delayed, quality may suffer, and financial performance may decline.
- **Management Challenges** - Leaders and managers may face difficulties in retaining and motivating their teams in a hostile environment. This can lead to leadership turnover and instability within the organization.

Way Forward:

- **Lead by Example** - Leadership sets the tone for the workplace culture. Leaders should characterize the values and behaviours they want to see in their employees.
- **Define Core Values** - Clearly define the core values that your organization stands for.
 - ❖ Ensure that these values are communicated and integrated into all aspects of the workplace.
- **Communicate Effectively** - Foster open and transparent communication channels.
 - ❖ Encourage employees to share their thoughts, concerns, and ideas.
- **Empower Employees** - Give employees autonomy and the authority to make decisions within their roles.
 - ❖ Empowered employees feel a greater sense of ownership and responsibility.
- **Recognize and Reward** - Acknowledge and reward employees for their achievements and contributions.
- **Promote Work-Life Balance** - Encourage employees to maintain a healthy work-life balance.
 - ❖ Avoid overloading them with excessive workloads or unrealistic expectations.
- **Conflict Resolution** - Develop a fair and effective conflict resolution process to address issues promptly and fairly when they arise.

In conclusion, fostering a positive work culture within public services is not just a matter of employee satisfaction, it directly impacts the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of government organizations.

Corruption

Corruption is the misuse of power or resources for personal gain, often at the expense of the public good, through practices like bribery, fraud, and nepotism.

Factors Responsible for the Corruption in India:

- **Political Factors:**
 - ❖ **Election Funding** - Corruption often begins with the use of illicit funds in elections. Candidates view campaign expenditures as investments, which can lead to the misuse of power once elected.
 - ❖ **Criminalisation of Politics** - A significant percentage of Indian legislators have pending criminal cases against them, creating a scenario where those with legal issues are entrusted to make and uphold laws.
 - ❖ **Collusion with Business** - Economic reforms have opened doors for the private sector, but this has also given rise to questionable alliances between politicians and business leaders, contributing to corrupt practices.
- **Economic Factors:**

- ❖ **Informal Sector Dominance** – Around 83% of the Indian workforce operates in the informal sector, evading taxation and labour regulations.
- ❖ This often compels businesses to resort to bribery to avoid complex compliance issues.
- ❖ **Complex Business Environment** - Lengthy approval processes, a lack of transparency, and limited legal accountability in matters such as timelines, force entrepreneurs to navigate bureaucracy through illicit means.
- ❖ **Income Disparities** - In India, a small group of the richest 1% have way too much money, which leads to corrupt deals among them and forces poor people to pay bribes just to survive.
- **Administrative Factors:**
 - ❖ **Legacy of Colonial Bureaucracy** - India's bureaucratic system retains its colonial character with obsolete laws, excessive discretion, a lack of transparency, and no effective legal accountability.
 - ❖ **Stalled Reforms** - Despite the need for critical reforms like citizen charters, Right to Information (RTI), and e-governance, political resistance and bureaucratic hurdles have hindered their implementation.
 - ❖ **Low Public Sector Compensation:** Public sector wages are often less competitive than those in the private sector, particularly at lower levels, resulting in difficult working conditions and limited career growth opportunities.
 - ❖ **Judicial Challenges:** The difficulties faced by the judicial system in pursuing cases against corrupt officials, including politicians, are compounded by the constitutional safeguards outlined in Articles 309 and 310, which mandate government authorization before initiating prosecution.
- **Social and Ethical Factors:**
 - ❖ **Changing Values** - Shifting societal values towards individualism and materialism fosters a desire for a luxurious lifestyle, encouraging officials to resort to corrupt practices without regard for ethics.
 - ❖ **Social Vulnerability** - Due to their lack of awareness and dependence on state services, the poor and marginalised often become easy targets for exploitation by corrupt officials.
 - ❖ **Education Deficiencies** - The education system in India has failed to instil essential values such as empathy, compassion, integrity, and equity, and the impact of globalization has further eroded moral values within society.

Consequences of Corruption:

- **Lack of Quality in Services** – Corrupt practices by the service provider led to the degraded quality of the services.
 - ❖ E.g., electricity cuts, lack of availability of water, poor infrastructure like roads, bridges, etc.
- **Erode Trusts of the Public** – Corruption eroded the public trust in bureaucracy and the government.
- **Tax Evasion** – Corruption within the tax administration fosters significant tax evasion, giving rise to the creation of unreported income, which in turn fuels corruption.
 - ❖ According to various estimates, the informal economy in India could be as large as 50% of its GDP.
- **Hinder Ease of Doing Business** - Corruption hinders ease of doing business in India, as noted by the Global Competitiveness Index.
 - ❖ This deters private investments, job creation, and innovation, contributing to brain drain from the country.
- **Threatened National Security** – Corruption is one of the major challenges to the national security of the country.
 - ❖ E.g., Past corruption in defence deals has delayed armed forces modernization amid rising regional hostility, posing security challenges for India.
- **Adversely Affects Economic Development and Achievement** - It promotes inefficiencies in the utilisation of resources, distorts the markets, compromises quality, and destroys the environment.
- **Decline in Foreign Investment** - Corruption within government institutions has driven away foreign investments from developing countries.
- **Impoverishment of the Poor** – Corruption led to the unequal distribution of resources and diversion of resources

for personal greed, leading to the destitution of the vulnerable section of society.

- ❖ E.g., PDS ratio diversion, Fake ID creation in MGNREGA, etc.
- **Lack of Proper Justice** - Police corruption leads to underreported crime, encouraging criminals. Corruption within the judicial system results in unjust outcomes, causing suffering for victims of crimes.

Various Initiatives Started by Government to Curb Corruption:

➤ Legislative Actions

- ❖ **Implementation of the Right to Information Act (RTI)** - The Act aims to ensure citizens' access to public information, promoting transparency and accountability in government operations.
- ❖ **The Prevention of Corruption Act of 1988** - The act criminalizes the act of giving bribes and will help check big-ticket corruption by creating a vicarious liability in respect of senior management of commercial organizations.
- ❖ **The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act of 2013** - An act aimed at creating an institution known as the Lokpal at the national level and Lokayuktas at the state level to investigate accusations of corruption against specific public officials and associated or related matters.
- ❖ **The Prevention of Money Laundering Act of 2002** - The act aims to prevent money laundering and prohibits using the 'proceeds of crime' in India.
- ❖ **The Companies Act of 2013** - The act provides for corporate governance and prevention of corruption and fraud in the corporate sector.
- ❖ **The Whistleblowers Protection Act of 2014** - It enables any person (i.e., a whistleblower) to report an act of corruption, wilful misuse of power or discretion, or criminal offence by a public servant.

➤ Anti-Corruption Bodies:

- ❖ **Central Vigilance Commission** - The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an apex Indian governmental body created in 1964 to address governmental corruption.
- ❖ **Central Bureau of Investigation** - It plays an important role in the prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration.
- ❖ **Lokpal and Lokayuktas** - Established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act of 2013 they provide a uniform vigilance and anti-corruption road map for the nation both at the centre and at the states.

➤ Schemes:

- ❖ **Faceless Assessment Scheme** - Under the faceless assessment system, a taxpayer or an assessee is not required to visit an I-T department office or meet a department official for income tax-related businesses. It will curb the activities related to corruption.
- ❖ **Geo-MGNREGA** - Geo MGNREGA revolutionizes MGNREGA by using space tech for geo-tagging assets, boosting planning, monitoring, visibility, and transparency.
- ❖ **Biometric Authenticated Public Distribution System (PDS)** - It will ensure transparency in PDS and prevent smuggling.
 - ❖ Unauthorised persons cannot use the ration cards of others and it will largely reduce fake entries.
- ❖ **Direct Benefit Transfer** - DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) has been instrumental in streamlining social safety net payments, minimizing leakages, combating corruption, and expanding coverage by delivering government funds directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Why have these efforts failed to yield results?

- **Lack of Political Will** - Lack of political will to initiate strict measures and reforms to curb corruption.
- **Poor Implementation of Laws and Policies** - Inadequate policy and law enforcement contribute to anti-corruption measures' failure.
- **Level of Penetration** - Corruption has deeply entrenched itself within the bureaucratic system in India, making it a formidable challenge for the government to eradicate.

- **Excessive Government Control** – Excessive government control over the bureaucracy and frequent interference in their operations have impeded anti-corruption efforts.
- **Tolerative Culture** – The public also has become habitual to corruption, that they feel more comfortable paying a bribe to get the service rather than to complain about it.
- **Inefficient Judicial System** – The sluggish pace of the judiciary, lengthy court processes, and immunity granted to officials bolster the confidence of corrupt individuals.
- **Lack of Awareness** – Insufficient citizen awareness about laws and their rights further exacerbates corruption.

Way Forward:

- **Strengthening Anti-Corruption Agencies** - Bolster organizations like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to enhance their capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption cases.
- **Transparency and Accountability** - Promote transparency in government operations and decision-making processes. Implement mechanisms for accountability, such as audits and oversight bodies.
- **Whistleblower Protection** - Enact strong laws and safeguards to protect whistleblowers who expose corruption within government and private sectors.
- **Digitization** - Implement e-governance solutions to reduce direct interactions between citizens and bureaucrats, minimizing opportunities for corruption.
- **Simplifying Regulations** - Streamline bureaucratic processes, licenses, and permits to reduce red tape and opportunities for bribery.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns** - Educate citizens about their rights, the consequences of corruption, and how to report corrupt activities.
- **Judicial Reforms** - Expedite the judicial process, reduce the backlog, and ensure swift trials for corruption cases.

The fight against corruption in India remains an ongoing challenge, and addressing it comprehensively requires a concerted effort across all sectors of society. Education and awareness programs, coupled with ethical reforms, are essential to instil values of integrity and accountability in the nation's collective consciousness.

Professionalism in Public Services

Professionalism in public services and governance refers to the consistent adherence to high ethical standards, competence, accountability, and a focus on the public interest by individuals working within government or public-sector organizations.

Key Aspects of the Professionalism in Public Services/Governance:

- **Ethical conduct and integrity** - Upholding honesty and transparency while serving the public interest.
- **Accountability** - Taking responsibility for actions, decisions, and public resources.
- **Competence and expertise** - Possessing the necessary skills for effective public service.
- **Impartiality and fairness** - Treating all fairly and making decisions based on merit and the law.
- **Public interest focus** - Prioritizing the well-being of the public in decision-making.
- **Communication and transparency** - Clear, open communication with stakeholders.
- **Respect and courtesy** - Treating everyone with consideration and respect.
- **Teamwork and collaboration** - Collaborating for effective public service delivery.
- **Continuous improvement** - Ongoing learning and development.
- **Adherence to legal frameworks** - Complying with laws and regulations.
- **Resource stewardship** - Responsible management of public resources.
- **Adaptability and flexibility** - Being open to change and flexible in problem-solving.

Role of Professionalism in Public Services and Governance:

- **Enhancing Trust** - Professionalism builds trust between the government and the public.
- **Effective Service Delivery** - Professionals in public services are more likely to provide efficient and high-quality

services.

- **Curb the Corruption** - Professionalism in public service promotes ethical decision-making that prioritizes the public interest, reducing corruption and unethical behaviour.
- **Promote Social Justice and Equality** - Professionalism requires public servants to treat all citizens fairly and impartially, regardless of their background or status. This promotes social justice and equality.
- **Effective Communication** - Professionals in public services are often better at communicating with the public and stakeholders.
- **Efficient Conflict Resolution** - Professional public servants adeptly resolve conflicts impartially, preserving societal peace and order.
- **Resource Management** - Professionalism in managing public resources ensures that taxpayer money is used efficiently, and effectively and minimizing wastage.
- **Adaptability to Change** - Professionals adapt to change, enabling effective government responses to crises and evolving needs.

Ultimately, professionalism in public services and governance is a cornerstone of good governance, helping to create a more just, transparent, and efficient government that serves the best interests of its citizens.

Political Pressure

Political pressure in public services is the influence and demands from elected officials, political groups, and the wider political climate that impact how public service organizations make decisions, allocate resources, create policies, and deliver services.

- Political pressure impacts the decision-making process within public service agencies.

Various Factors Responsible for the Political Pressures:

- **Policy Alignment** - Elected officials push public agencies to match their party's agenda, leading to changes in priorities and goals.
- **To Secure Vote Bank** - Politicians exploit public services for electoral gain, urging popular project announcements and resource allocation to secure voter support, sometimes diverting from urgent needs.
- **Role of Media** - Media increases political pressure by highlighting issues or scandals, compelling public officials to react to public scrutiny or outrage.
- **Lobbying and Interest Groups** - Special interest groups and lobbyists use their influence and resources to pressure public service organizations to support policies or initiatives that benefit their members or industries.
- E.g., Farmer's Organisation. Trade Groups, etc.
- **Public Opinion** - Public sentiment and public pressure significantly impact public services. Politicians often respond to popular demands or concerns, which can lead to rapid policy changes and resource reallocation.
- E.g., the Jhangi-Thopan HEP project dispute.

Consequences of the Political Pressures:

- **Negative Consequences:**
 - ❖ **Undermining Objectivity and Impartiality** - This leads to favouritism, discrimination, or the prioritization of political interests over the public good.
 - ❖ **Reduced Effectiveness** - Decision-making becomes slow and cumbersome due to the need to navigate political considerations.
 - ❖ **Diminished Accountability** - Elected officials are less inclined to investigate or address issues within these organizations if they align with their political interests.
 - ❖ **Erosion of Public Trust:** - When the public perceives that these organizations are heavily influenced by political considerations, it erodes trust in their ability to serve the public impartially and professionally.
 - ❖ **Inconsistent Policies and Practices** - Frequent changes in leadership or policies driven by political pressures lead to inconsistent and constantly shifting approaches within public service organizations.

- ❖ **Short-Term Focus** - Political pressures often prioritize short-term gains and immediate political objectives over long-term planning and sustainable solutions.
 - ❖ **Boost Corruption** - Politicians shielding corrupt public servants for loyalty fosters a culture of impunity, where corruption remains unchallenged.
 - ❖ **Loss of Expertise** - Political pressure may replace experts with unqualified appointees, hindering effective public service management.
- **Positive Consequences:**
- ❖ **Citizen-Centric Development** - Pressure from public demands led the government to initiate development projects, based on the needs of the people.
 - ❖ **Ensure Accountability** - Political pressure on the government and its agencies makes them provide various data to the public, ensuring accountability and transparency.
 - ❖ E.g., RTI Act Of 2005.
 - ❖ **Protect the Interest of the People** - Pressure from various pressure groups helped to curb the negative consequences on the environment and the livelihood of the people.
 - ❖ E.g., protest against the Jhangi-Thopan HEP project, which led to the loss of the endangered species Chilgoza, an important cash crop of the region.
- **Participation of People in Governance** - Through the help of pressure groups, people directly or indirectly take part in the governance.
- **Social Change** - Political pressures can drive positive social change by pushing for reforms in areas like criminal justice, healthcare access, and educational equity.
- **Upliftment of the Marginal Section of the Society** - Political pressure promotes marginalized community representation in government, ensuring policies align with their needs.

Steps to be Taken to Eliminate the Negative Consequences of the Political Pressure:

- **Established Strong Ethical Guidelines** - Establish and uphold ethical guidelines prioritizing integrity, honesty, and the best interests of the public and stakeholders in all organizational decision-making processes.
- **Promote Transparency** - Prioritize transparency by publicly sharing operational, decision-making, and financial information for accessibility by the public, stakeholders, and regulators.
- **Community Participation** - To minimize corruption and to make officials responsible, community participation must be enhanced more.
- **Formation of Special Courts** - Special courts should be created to expedite the resolution of cases involving corrupt officials and politicians within a set timeframe.

In addressing the challenges posed by political pressure, it is incumbent upon governments, public service organizations, and civil society to work together to create an environment where the influence of politics serves the greater good rather than detracting from it.

Code of Conduct in Civil Services

The Civil Service Code, or Code of Conduct in Civil Services, comprises a set of guidelines and principles that civil servants must adhere to while fulfilling their roles as public servants.

- Civil Services in INDIA, recruited by UPSC, are classified into two categories, i.e., All India Services (IAS) and Central Services.
 - ❖ The All-India Services, such as the IAS, IPS, and IFS, are governed by Article 312 of the Indian Constitution.
 - ❖ The central government selects officers for these services, who are then assigned to various state cadres. Bureaucrats from each state can also serve the central government on deputation.
- Central Civil Services, including the Indian Foreign Service, the Indian Revenue Service, Customs and Central Excise Service, among others, operate directly under the central government without a state cadre system.

Code of Conduct for Civil Services:

There are two distinct sets of rules in place for civil servants, differentiating between AIS and CCS employees.

- **All India Services Conduct Rules of 1968** - The AIS Conduct Rules of 1968 govern the behaviour and ethics of All India Services officers.
- **Central Civil Services Conduct Rules of 1964** - Central Civil Services officers adhere to the CCS Conduct Rules of 1964, outlining their code of conduct.
- **Roots in Anti-Corruption Efforts** - Both sets of rules find their origins in the recommendations of the 1962 Committee on Prevention of Corruption, led by K Santhanam.

Rules and Regulations for Civil Servants under the Acts are:

- **Appropriate Conduct** - Under the rules, the Civil Servants must act appropriately and maintain personal integrity, being honest and morally upright.
- **Appropriate Use of Public Resources** - They must use public resources wisely, declare conflicts of interest, and always act in a manner befitting their role in the Service.
- **Being Politically Neutral** - Rule 5(1) emphasizes that civil servants must remain politically neutral and should not engage with or support any political parties.
- **No Use of Power for Personal Favour** - Civil Servants are not allowed to utilize their position to obtain job opportunities for any of their family members at a private company or non-governmental organization (NGO).
- **Restriction on Personal Opinion** - The AIS Conduct Rules, places limitations on expressing personal opinions through any public media if it involves strong criticism of government actions.
- **Prohibition on Dowry** - Under the AIS Rules, both offering and accepting dowry are strictly forbidden.
- **Reporting of Gifts** - Rule 11(1) mandates that a civil servant must inform the Government when receiving a gift exceeding the value of Rs. 25,000.

Repercussions for Breaking Rules:

- **Major and Minor Penalties** - Violations may result in either major or minor penalties, with major penalties potentially leading to dismissal from the service.
- **Penal Provisions** - Additionally, there exist penal provisions outlined in the Prevention of Corruption Act (POCA).
- **Coverage** - Officers are subject to the rules from the moment they commence training, and some rules remain applicable even after retirement.

Significance of the Code of Conduct in the Civil Services:

- **Ensure Ethical Conduct** - Though, there is no ethical code for Civil Services, the Code of Conduct, under various rules, ensures the ethical conduct of the Civil Servants.
- **Ensure Objectivity and Impartiality** - The code of Conduct ensures that public servants don't use their position for personal gains or favours.
- **Maintain Public Trust** - Code of Conduct ensures that Civil Servants acts with integrity, objectivity and professionalism, which boost the confidence and trust of the public in government institution.
- **Curb the Corruption** - It also helps to curb the activities of corruption in bureaucracy and also provides reasonable penalties for such activities.
- **Ensure Accountability** - A code of conduct holds civil servants accountable by defining expected behaviour and making acceptable and unacceptable conduct clear.
- **Keep Consistency in Policies** - A code of conduct prohibits civil servants from supporting political parties or criticizing government policies, ensuring policy consistency during power transitions.

Challenges Relate to the Code of Conduct Rules of Civil Services:

- **Vague Rules** – Some rules are quite vague.
 - ❖ E.g., Even though there may not be specific rules against promoting casteism, acting in a casteist manner can still be considered unprofessional for a civil servant.
- **Unclear Concepts** - The concept of personal integrity is often unclear and open to interpretation.
- **No Ethical Code** - There is no ethical code for civil servants in India, despite similar standards exist in other nations.

Difference Between Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics:

Code of Conduct	Code of Ethics
➤ A legally binding set of rules for behaviour within a specific context (e.g., workplace) and covers things like dress code, punctuality, and respectful communication.	➤ A Code of Ethics guides moral decision-making, emphasizing principles like integrity, honesty, fairness, and moral responsibility across various situations.
➤ Prescribes the required behaviour for employees.	➤ Describes the decision-making process.
➤ It has a broader scope.	➤ It has a narrower scope.
➤ Codes of Conduct are often subject to change and adaptation based on the specific needs and circumstances of the organization.	➤ Codes of Ethics are stable, and enduring, and require infrequent, deliberate changes to their ethical principles.
➤ In India, the existing ethical guidelines are outlined in the Central Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, and similar rules for All India Services and State Government employees.	➤ Unlike some other nations, India does not have a prescribed Code of Ethics for civil servants.

Way Forward:

- **Clarity and Specificity in Rules:** The vague rules can be clarified and made more specific. This involves identifying areas where ambiguity exists and providing clear guidelines on what is considered acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
- **Ethical Code Development:** Developing a comprehensive ethical code specifically tailored to civil servants in India is essential.
- **Mechanisms for Reporting Unethical Behaviour** - Promote transparency by creating a clear reporting mechanism for unethical behaviour and establishing an efficient complaint investigation process.
- **Periodic Review** - Regularly review and update the Code of Conduct to adapt to changing societal norms and challenges. This ensures that the rules remain relevant and effective over time.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns** - Launch public awareness campaigns to inform citizens about the Code of Conduct and the expected behaviour of civil servants. This can help foster a culture of accountability and ethical behaviour.

In conclusion, a robust and well-defined Civil Service Code of Conduct is instrumental in upholding the integrity of the civil services, ensuring that they remain accountable to the public they serve, and curbing corruption.

GANDHIAN THOUGHT

Gandhian thought refers to the philosophical and ideological principles associated with Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi's thoughts and teachings have had a profound and lasting impact, not only in India but also on the global stage.

Some Key Aspects of Gandhian Thought:

- **Satya (Truth)** - Of all the moral principles, Gandhi placed truth as the first and foremost. He called it "the sovereign principle", which included numerous other principles.

- ❖ **Compared Truth with God** - Gandhi believed that God and truth were the same. He said, "I worship truth as my God. I'm still searching for Him, but I'm determined to find Him."
- ❖ **Truth in Thought and Action** - He asserted to follow truth not only in one's speech but in thoughts and actions.
- ❖ **Conflict Resolution** - Gandhi believed that conflicts could be resolved through the pursuit of truth and dialogue. He advocated for open and honest communication as a means of finding common ground and resolving disputes.
- **Ahimsa (Non-Violence)** - Non-violence was another fundamental principle of Gandhi's philosophy. He defined ahimsa as the complete absence of violence in thought, word, and deed.
- **Nonviolent Resistance** - Gandhi's most well-known application of nonviolence was in the form of nonviolent resistance, or satyagraha. He believed that nonviolent action was a powerful means of confronting oppression and injustice without causing harm to others.
- **Compassion and Empathy** - Ahimsa urged people to develop compassion and empathy for all beings and to tackle the underlying causes of conflict and violence.
- **The notion of Courage and Sacrifice** - Gandhi knew that nonviolence demanded courage and sacrifice, and he and his followers endured hardship, even violence, from oppressors while upholding this principle.
- **Political and Social Change** - Gandhi believed that nonviolence could bring about powerful political and social change.
- **Satyagraha** - Satyagraha is a Sanskrit term that combines "satya" (truth) and "agraha" (insistence or holding firmly to). Satyagraha involves obtaining rights through personal suffering rather than causing harm to others. The various key features of Gandhi's Satyagraha were:
 - **Use of Non-Violence** - He attributed to the use of Ahimsa or non-violence to tackle the oppressor and achieve the goals.
 - **Adhered to Truth and Morality** - Satyagraha is rooted in truth and morality. Gandhi believed that individuals must be truthful and honest in their dealings and that truth is the ultimate force that can lead to social and political change.
 - **Passive Resistance** - Gandhi saw Satyagraha as proactive and positive, aiming to transform the oppressor's heart and mind, rejecting the notion of passive resistance with its negative connotations.
 - **Love and Compassion** - Gandhi stressed love and compassion toward adversaries, advocating for winning them over through love and understanding rather than hatred or harm.
 - **Self-Suffering** - Gandhi practised self-suffering as a means of achieving change. He often went on hunger strikes and endured physical hardship to demonstrate his commitment to the cause and to encourage others to join the struggle.
 - **Ends and Means** - End is the ultimate goal and Mean is the methods adopted to achieve that goal. According to Mahatma Gandhi, Means are as important as the Ends.
 - **Good Means to Achieve Ends** - He asserted that one should pursue the good means to achieve the goals because it is not the end that we can work with but only means. Different Means led to the different Ends.
 - **Focus on Satya and Ahimsa** - In Gandhi's moral and political beliefs, he valued two key principles; Satya (Truth) and Ahimsa (Non-Violence). He believed that Ahimsa is the way to achieve Satya, which is the ultimate truth.
 - **Satyagraha as a Mean** - He employed Satyagraha as a means to achieve Independence because, in his view, violent approaches create a nation based on violence.
 - **Principle of Trusteeship** - According to Gandhi, the wealthy people are the trustees of the wealth of the poor and unprivileged section of society, and they should employ their riches for the betterment of society.
 - ❖ The reason, he put forward, is that rich people earned this wealth with the help of workers and the poor, hence it should be used for their upliftment as well.
- **Religion and Politics** - According to Gandhi, serving the higher truth or what he perceived as God evolved, resulting in a continuous growth process.
 - ❖ **Main Purpose of Religion** - According to Gandhi's view, the main purpose of religion is the transformation of human existence from self-centeredness to reality-centeredness.

- ❖ **Universal Religion** – Gandhi didn't aim to merge various religions, instead, he focused on the underlying principles and discovered truth within all of them.
- ❖ **Cantered on Humanity** - His religion centred on humanity, where he believed serving others was serving God. He emphasized cultivating virtues like love, understanding, and peace through religion.
- **Karma yoga Bhakti** - Gandhi believed in the ethical core of religion, emphasizing Karmayoga and Svadharma from the Gita, which entailed fulfilling one's God-given duties.
- **Relationship with Politics** – As per his views, religion and politics are inseparable and religion and morality are the foundation of politics.
 - ❖ His religion was the religion, which infused morality and ethical behaviour in his persona and motivated him to live a virtuous life.
 - ❖ As politics is a service of mankind, as per his ideas, no politics can promote welfare which has no morality, kindness, or ethics.
 - ❖ He said, "I don't accept a politics without religion, polity is a servant of religion, a polity without religion leads to doom, as it kills one soul".

Relevance of Gandhi's Teaching in the Contemporary World:

- **Nonviolence and Peaceful Resistance** - Gandhi's advocacy for nonviolent resistance remains highly relevant, even in today's world
 - ❖ E.g., Farmers protest to repeal three farms' laws, Anna Hazare's movement for Lokpal Bill, etc.
- **Social Justice and Equality** - Gandhi emphasized the importance of social justice and equality and these are needed in relevant society as well.
 - ❖ E.g., Dalit rights, rights of LGBTQ+, etc.
- **Sustainable Living and Environmentalism** - Gandhi's emphasis on simple living and sustainability is highly relevant in today's environmentally conscious world.
 - ❖ E.g., Lifestyle for Environment Movement (LiFE).
- **Community and Self-Reliance** - Gandhi's vision of self-reliant villages and strong communities is crucial in tackling poverty, rural development, and the challenges posed by globalization.
 - ❖ E.g., Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Cooperative Societies, promotion of Khadi industries, etc.
- **Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding** - Gandhi's approach to resolving conflicts through dialogue and reconciliation is relevant in international diplomacy.
 - ❖ E.g., the Russia-Ukraine war.
- **Promote Communal Harmony** – Gandhi's idea of acceptance and respect of all religions is a need of the day.
 - ❖ E.g., Hindu-Muslim conflicts in India, Muslim-Jewish conflict in Middle-East region, Muslim-Buddhist conflict in Myanmar, etc.
- **Upliftment of the Poor** – Gandhi's principle of Sarvodaya is quite relevant today as well to empower and promote the welfare of the weaker section of society.

In a world facing numerous challenges, from social injustices to environmental crises and global conflicts, Gandhi's teachings continue to offer valuable guidance towards a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future.

MODEL ANSWERS**1. Transparency in government organizations is an essential pre-condition for good governance. Elucidate.**

Transparency refers to the availability of information to the general public and clarity about functioning of governmental institutions.

In India, the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act), Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, Citizen's Charter, social audit, digitization of records, etc. are tools of transparency.

Transparency an essential pre-condition for good governance.

1. The government is obliged to keep its citizens informed. This helps citizens to hold their public officials accountable, which is important to ensure good governance.
2. As per the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission, transparency in a democracy allows bidirectional information flow, which allows citizens to participate in governance.
3. It empowers the citizens to demand and get information about public policies and programmes, keep themselves informed about their rights as well as duties. Thus, it promotes efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness in public administration.
4. When the process of decision-making is transparent, decisions are taken objectively in a fair manner. This ensures equality before law, just allocation of resources, cutting down on discretionary and arbitrary decisions etc.
5. It leads to reduction in corruption. For example, e-auctions of coal blocks by Coal India in 2018-19 made the auction process more transparent and fetched 44% higher prices.

Issues related with transparency in India:

1. There are several issues in the implementation of the RTI Act such as low level of awareness, poor quality of information, increased attacks on RTI activists etc.
2. Further institutions such as the judiciary, political parties etc. remain outside the purview of the RTI Act, hence, it is difficult to monitor their functioning.

Thus measures should be taken to improve transparency in government organizations, accountability of public servants and involve more citizens in the governance process. The government should proactively and voluntarily make information public as per Section 4 of RTI act to promote transparency in governance. It will ensure just and good governance.

2. What do you understand by the term accountability in administration? Bring out its relationship with transparency.

Accountability in administration means the answerability of the decision makers for their decisions and actions. It means they must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

The government is accountable to the Parliament for its various actions and parliamentarians are accountable to their constituencies for their performance

An officer should also hold himself morally responsible for his actions. It builds public trust in governance.

For Example: IES E. Sreedharan "Metro Man" offered voluntary resignation in case of an accident due to collapse of bridge under his leadership.

Relationship between transparency and accountability.

Transparency and accountability share a complementary relationship. On one hand, accountability defines the type of transparency needed and on the other hand, the quality of information decides the type of accountability possible.

Effect of transparency on accountability:

If there is transparency in the working of an authority, it will aid people to uphold accountability. For e.g. the disclosure of information under Right to Information Act, aids the citizens to uphold the accountability of public officials.

Effect of accountability on transparency:

If there is an accountability mechanism in place, it will force the public authority to maintain transparency in the decision-making. For e.g. the audit and scrutiny conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India makes way for the departments and authorities to maintain transparency in their record keeping.

To ensure a positive influence, transparency and accountability systems should be designed to support each other. Both the concepts reinforce each other and contribute towards good governance, rule of law and improving the citizen's trust in the government.

3. Analyse the reasons responsible for wide spread corruption in India.

Corruption has assumed gigantic proportions in our country and its acceptance as a part and parcel of life across many sections and sectors is an alarming sign.

There are mainly two types of corruption

1. Coercive corruption: bribes asked by officials to get basic services like pension
2. Collusive Corruption: nexus between officials and businessmen to get government contracts.

Reasons responsible for wide spread corruption in India

1. Complex regulatory regime a legacy of the 'inspector raj' which drives Red Tapism and corruption
2. Weak enforcement paradigm like tax enforcement lacks financial data, inefficient sharing of information among enforcement agencies
3. Lack of transparency in political funding elections are known to be the biggest source of black money transactions ; political parties have continued to not disclose sources of income
4. Ineffective implementation of existing anti-corruption laws and regulations.
5. Pending cases of corruption with courts defeats the purpose of legal and legislative reforms as they do not prove deterrent to the wrong doers
6. Inadequate resources with the anti-corruption functionary for e.g. lack of trained police officials
7. Public tendency and culture to circumvent routine process by bribing government officials
8. Lack of technological penetration to bring transparency in service delivery and increase the speed of providing services as well.

There is need of structural and procedural reforms like bringing political parties under RTI, strengthening the current legislative mechanisms instead of making new ones and promotion of E-governance to fight against the menace of corruption.

4. Analyze the significance of adopting a code of ethics for creating a healthy work culture in an organization.

A code of ethics is a framework that outlines the mission and values of an organization and highlights the ethical principles based on the organizations' core values.

A code of ethics would represent the character and personality of an organization and thereby represent its work culture. Its adoption would help create a healthy work culture in an organization.

Significance of adopting a code of ethics for creating a healthy work culture

1. It helps in identifying the common values that underlie strategic planning and the goals to be achieved from an ethical perspective.
2. It promotes certain traits like cooperation, transparency and integrity at workplace which enhances the work culture.
3. It improves work environment with respect to their rights, pay, promotion, fair treatment by management etc.
4. It also increases level of trust in employees with respect to organization.

5. It would make decision-making easier at all levels of an organization by reducing ambiguity and considerations of individual perspectives in ethical standards. Thereby, reducing arbitrariness as well as conflicts on moral levels in workplace.
6. It would help establish accountability in workplace with respect to adherence to the ethical considerations which is essential for a healthy work culture.
7. It would ensure equal treatment of all the employees be it female or male or belonging to any caste or religion, thereby tackling issues of harassment, bias, sexism etc., thereby promoting inclusive and ethical work culture.

However, it needs to be ensured that code of ethics document does not remain just on paper and become a living document that guides all activities and decision making. A regular enforcement of the code by being consistent in meting out consequences to people who violate the code is a must.

Further, other than adoption of code of ethics there are areas like development of emotional intelligence, gender sensitivity, open communication, ethical leadership and capacity building which also need to be worked upon for a healthy work culture in any organization.

5. **What do you understand by Gandhian ethics. Discuss the role of Gandhian ethics in conflict resolution.**
6. **Discuss the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhiji on religion.**

Gandhi was primarily a man of religion. His religion was based on truth and love, and non-violence. It is his religion that became his philosophy of life, and it gave him strength.

1. Gandhi expressed the opinion that religion can become a basis for friendship among all mankind. He strongly believed that religion does not teach mutual enmity.
2. Gandhiji in consonance with his religious beliefs, considered that different religions as the different roads going towards the same destination.
3. Gandhi believed in the concept of Sarvadharmā Samanātva, which means equal respect for all creeds and faiths. But he very clearly stated that equal regard does not mean that one should adopt other's religion. It only refers to understanding the opinions expressed by other religions while adhering to one's own views.
4. He did not believe in idol worship.
5. Gandhi was also against animal sacrifice though prescribed in the Vedas as it went against his concept of non-violence.
6. Gandhiji was deadly against untouchability. According to him it is the greatest plague of the Hindu society and it is the duty of every true Hindu to combat it.

Though deeply religious by nature, Gandhi did not believe in rituals, customs, traditions, dogmas and other formalities observed for the sake of religion.

Like Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore, Gandhi's religion was not confined to Temples, Churches, books, rituals and other outer forms.

7. **Examine the relevance of Gandhian concepts of 'Sarvodaya' and 'Trusteeship' in modern India.**

Gandhiji's concept of Sarvodaya means 'progress of all'. In the Sarvodaya society, conceptualized by Gandhiji, every member will be free from greed for limitless acquisition of material wealth and will get equal opportunities to earn sufficiently through honest work.

Gandhiji's concept of Trusteeship means that the wealthy would hold wealth and property, not by virtue of being owners but by virtue of being trustees who look after the welfare of the people in general.

Relevance of Gandhian concepts of 'Sarvodaya' and 'Trusteeship' in modern India.

1. Extreme inequality may damage trust on the government and can lead to problems like Naxalism Movement in India.

2. Gandhiji's concepts of 'Sarvodaya' and 'Trusteeship' can avoid these situations.
3. Trusteeship concept would help in phasing out income inequality and reducing poverty .
4. As the Sarvodaya society is based on the basic tenets of socio-economic equality and individual liberty, it rules out any form of unhealthy competition, economic exploitation and class-hatred.
5. It helps in maintaining balance of political and economic power.
6. It can increase the ability of lower-income households to accumulate physical and human capital.
7. It can avoid situations of conflict and unrest like Communalism.

Gandhiji's concepts of 'Sarvodaya' and 'Trusteeship' have huge relevance in modern India since they advocate equality and fairness.

Though, difficult to implement but if implemented, these concepts provide alternate dimensions to alleviate the problem of inequality and introduce new tools to distribute wealth symmetrically to all classes. They will not only help in reducing economic equality, but also foster social equality and political stability in the long run.

8. Briefly explain the Gandhian idea of end and means.

The Means vs. Ends Debate of an action has been so prominent that it led emergence many schools of thought in ethics. But Gandhiji's idea of Ends and Means is unique and different from other schools like Consequentialism (focussing only on ends) and Deontological ethics (focussing only on means).

Gandhiji's idea of Ends and Means

1. "Noble Goals can be achieved only through Noble Means" .It is similar to Immanuel Kant's philosophy of moral command that action should be end in itself.
2. That's why Gandhi advocated that people should reform themselves and then preach to people i.e. more focus in the cultivation of self.
3. Means always take precedence over ends According to Gandhi our attention should be primarily focused on means. He liked usage of Non-violence over violence to establish Peace. He believed in very famous adage, as we sow so shall we reap. He was a strong believer of the rule of Karma.
4. This is why in his moral and political thought, Gandhi gave Satya and Ahimsa the highest importance and said that ahimsa is the means to reach satya, which is the end. The pursuit of satya leads to the recognition of the need for ahimsa to a point where we hold to ahimsa as the immediate, tangible part of the ultimate Truth.
5. Different means lead to different ends Violence and non-violence cannot be different means to secure the same end; since they are morally different in quality and essence, they must necessarily achieve different results.
6. According to him, country created will be violent one if the means are violent and pacific if the means are non-violent.
7. Gandhiji believes that noble ends can't be achieved through dishonest or foul means.
8. Although we can choose our ends, we do not have much control over it. Hence the only thing that is completely within our control is the means with which we approach our various ends.
9. The Seven Sins philosophy of Gandhiji also emphasises on importance of Means. For example, in the list of sins – Politics without Principles, Wealth without Work, Worship without Sacrifice, etc., the former are the ends whereas the latter symbolises means which imply that Ends are of lesser value without the desired means.

Relevance of these thoughts in today's world

The world currently faces numerous problems like climate change, terrorism, increasing violence among people, inflating disparities, increasing distrust, species getting extinct, etc.

If we dig out the real cause of all these problems, it is increasing greed and using corrupt ways for reaching ends. For example, for fulfilling the greed of the people (for building factories, houses, mines, etc.), acres of forests are being cut causing habitat loss to lakhs of species, reducing number of trees, etc.

Mahatma Gandhi was not only a capable leader but a great thinker as well. His Philosophy can be summed up in his words-“Means are after all, everything’. As the means so the end”The philosophy is of great importance in today’s situation mired with a lot of pains and conflicts.

These principles are instrumental in holding the society together.

10. Mahatma Gandhi created a moral system which also served as the framework for his political practice. Elucidate.

Gandhian philosophy’s objective is to transform the individual and society simultaneously, in accordance with the principles inspired from various sources like Bhagavad Geeta, Jainism, Buddhism, Bible, Thoreau, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Tolstoy, John Ruskin among others.

Gandhian thought cannot altogether be separated from ethics. His ideas are generally expressed in moral categories or terminology. Ethical theories provide the underpinnings for Gandhian thought in any sphere.

Major Principles of Gandhian Ethics:

- a) Satyagraha: It is the continuous realisation for truth. It mainly includes self-sacrifice, peace and non-violence. Only a person with will and determination can follow satyagraha.
- b) Trusteeship: Wealthy people should act as Trustees of trust that look after the welfare of the people.
- c) Ends and Means: Gandhi always emphasised on purity of means. Improper means cannot be adopted to achieve proper ends. As a wrong path cannot take you to the right destination.
- d) Concept of seven sins: Wealth without work, Pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, Commerce without morality, Science without Humanity, Religion without Sacrifice, Politics without Principle are seven sins in a society that should be rectified.
- e) Sarvodaya: It means Universal Upliftment of all. By inclusiveness many evils of society can be removed.
- f) Dignity of Labor: Gandhi tried to establish equality among all by making bread labor compulsory to all.
- g) Role of Gandhian Ethics in conflict resolution:

The Gandhian technique of conflict resolution is through satyagraha which has been interpreted as passive resistance, nonviolent resistance etc. Satyagraha according to Gandhi is holding on to Truth.

A satyagrahi enjoys a degree of freedom not possible for others, for he becomes a truly fearless person. Once his mind is rid of fear, he will never agree to be another’s slave. Having achieved this state of mind he will never submit to any arbitrary action.

Satyagraha is more than a method of conflict resolution that lends itself easily to scientific analysis. It is in fact an ethical system that places heavy emphasis on the quality of the relationship between individuals.

According to Gandhian ethics the sense of mutual satisfaction with the outcome needs to be stressed for conflict resolution.

Nonviolent action is the most important method in the process of conflict resolution. The technique of nonviolent action conducts protest, resistance and intervention without physical violence.

In today’s world conflict is complex and further, incorporates the utilization of physical and psychological violent instruments. The Gandhian approach addresses conflict at the individual level. Gandhi’s approach is still highly important in modern complicated conflict resolution, and there is a need to revitalise and resurrect the concept at the level of conflict resolution institutions.