Mains PYQs - GS-IV (2025) (Q. 4 & 5)

4. (a) "For any kind of social re-engineering by successfully implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework." Justify this statement with suitable examples. (150 words, 10 marks)

Directions: Intro------ reason and critical thinking essential + ethical framework------ Conclusion.

Introduction:

Describe reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework.

Main Body

Why are reason and critical thinking essential?

- Understanding the root cause of the issue
- Evidence-based implementation
- Predict consequences
- Building public trust
- Balancing competing interests.

Role of ethical framework

- Justice and equity
- Empathy
- Integrity
- Dignity
- Accountability
- Rights-based approach
- No political and personal bias

Examples

- MGNREGA wage rates balanced to avoid agricultural labour migration.
- Implementing infrastructure/land-pooling schemes - relies on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act.
- Consent-based data use in health IDs.

Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion.

Ethical framework is the broader framework for civil servants, in that reason and critical thinking act as a major pillar.

(b) What are the major teachings of Mahavir? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world. (150 words, 10 marks)

Direction: Intro------Major teaching + Relevance in the contemporary world------Conclusion.

Introduction:

Describe Mahavira and his major teachings - His core philosophy is summarised by the five great vows and Triratna.

Main Body

Major teachings of Mahavir & contemporary relevance

- Ahimsa (Non-violence) – Russia-Ukraine & Iran-US war.
- Satya (Truthfulness) – Fake news, hate speech.
- Asteya (Non-stealing) – Corruption, exploitation, hoarding.
- Aparigraha (Non-possession)
- Brahmacharya (Chastity) – Enhances mental well-being - Suicide, anxiety.
- Anekantavada (Multiplicity of Viewpoints) – Ideological conflicts.
- Syadvada (Relativity of Judgments)

Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion.

5. (a) "One who is devoted to one's duty attains highest perfection in life." Analyse this statement with reference to sense of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a civil servant. (150 words, 10 marks)

Directions: Intro----- sense of responsibility + personal fulfilment------Conclusion.

Introduction:

Give the basic meaning of the statement (or) describe duty in ethics.

Main Body

Sense of responsibility as a civil servant

- Commitment to public service
- Constitutional morality over personal urges
- Accountability
- Empathy towards citizens
- Impartiality
- Resilience in crisis
- Courage of conviction
- Excellence in administration

Personal fulfilment through duty

- Serving society provides a sense of purpose beyond material rewards.
- Self-respect
- Creates moral confidence and professional dignity.
- Inner satisfaction
- Self-development – Like patience, courage, empathy, judgement and leadership.



Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion and mention some quotes.

(b) To achieve the holistic development goal, a civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal? (150 words, 10 marks)

Direction: Intro----- Measures to achieve this goal-------Conclusion.

Introduction:

Describe holistic development & goals (or) start like – A civil servant must act as a transition from a traditional "command-and-control" regulator to a proactive enabler and active facilitator of growth.

Holistic development goals include

- Economic well-being
- Social well-being
- Human development
- Environmental sustainability
- Good governance
- Empowerment

Main Body

Measures to achieve this goal

- Simplify regulations
- Promotes evidence-based measures
- Strengthen citizen participation
- Promote ease of doing business
- Empower local institutions
- Converge government schemes
- Leverage technology as an enabler
- Build partnerships
- Focus on capacity building

Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion.

A facilitator-civil servant must balance efficiency with accountability, innovation with legality, and flexibility with fairness. Being an enabler does not mean weakening regulation; rather, regulation should protect public interest while avoiding unnecessary barriers.

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