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MAINS ANSWER WRITING APPROACH ANSWERS

Topic- ETHICS DAY 10



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Q.1 Do you believe that civil servants should be impartial and nonpartisan, especially when officials are cold, neutral, and objective? If yes, then why? (10 marks) (150 words)

Civil servants are responsible for implementing government policies and programs, and their decisions can have profound effects on society. To ensure that their decisions are based on merit and not influenced by personal biases or political affiliations, it is crucial that civil servants remain impartial and nonpartisan in their work.

Role of impartiality and nonpartisanship

- Impartiality and nonpartisanship are essential characteristics for a successful public servant. An impartial SDM/DSP, for example, will command the respect of the people and obtain their cooperation in a variety of conflict management scenarios.
- Likewise, nonpartisanship guarantees an effective/professional relationship between the elected representative and the civil servants and enhances/maintains the chief secretary's credibility, regardless of the party in power.
- In addition, impartiality and nonpartisanship ensure that civil servants make decisions based on constitutional principles and without fear or favor for any political party. During elections, for instance, nonpartisanship will assist a DM/DC in performing the duties of a RO effectively.
- In addition to fostering an attitude of equality toward everything and everyone, impartiality ensures a cordial and productive relationship between civil servants and society/citizens.

In conclusion, civil servants who remain impartial and nonpartisan in their work can earn the public's trust and respect and make decisions that benefit society as a whole, thereby contributing to the development of a robust and stable democracy.

Q.2) Why should integrity and objectivity be regarded as foundational principles in public service, particularly in today's socio-political

environment? Give examples to support your argument. (10 marks) (150 words)

Integrity means the quality of **being honest, having strong moral principles** and the state of **being whole and undivided**. While being **objective** means **taking the right decision at the right time in the right manner based on facts, merit**.

Today's Socio-political environment

- Today's socio-political environment is marred by **Left wing extremism, religious extremism, corrupt governance, decline of public institutions, growing gap between the rich and the poor, environmental degradation, apathy of the media**.
- Concerns among Indian citizens about **their rights, privacy and personal privileges** run deeper now than earlier. **Apprehensions about democracy** in India are growing.
- The latest **Mood of the Nation (MOTN)** survey shows that **45 percent of respondents** believe **democracy is in danger**. **51 per cent** of those surveyed feel **people are scared to protest or offer views publicly**, which reflects a **disturbing trend**.

Role of Integrity

- An institution with integrity will **recruit** only that person who is of impeccable integrity. If it finds a person has compromised on the integrity, it has a zero tolerance towards such defaulters. This swift action not only ensures the highest integrity but reinforces faith and boost to employees. It also enhances **public trust in the institution**. Eg. **Union public service commission**
- Person with integrity is **incorruptible**, she **can't be bribed**, she is **upright**. So, the **issue of corruption in governance** will be addressed.
- She is **consistent in her thoughts, words, behavior and actions**. So, issues of policy paralysis will be addressed.

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- She will not do anything that goes against the **conscience of the people**. She is **immune to favors, fear or ill-will** and keeps the **public interest** above all.
 - She **stands by her oath, civil service rules and code of conduct among other laws of land**.
 - She is **very clear about conflict of interest**.

OBJECTIVITY

- **No space for personal biases, subjectivity based on** caste, religion, sex, region, place of birth etc. So, objectivity will help to solve issues like **casteism, communal disharmony**.
- Ensuring **fairness, justice, equality, efficiency**.
- **Emotional intelligence**: a civil servant should not allow emotions to take over **facts, merit**.
- Practicing being **rational** at all times- advising policies, implementing policies, reviewing policies.
- Promotes **critical thinking, scientific temper** (fundamental duty)
- Implementing schemes, policies in an **objective manner**. It leads to **better allocation of resources and benefits** to intended beneficiaries.
- When beneficiary gets their due, their trust in the state and **democratic institution increases** which leads to institutional building.

So, integrity and objectivity are the fundamental values of any civil service. Without these, it is not possible to carry out the public administration where civil servants hold the public office in the trust of the public.

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In recent times, there has been an increasing concern in India to develop effective civil service ethics, code of conduct, transparency measures, ethics and integrity systems and anti- corruption agencies. In view of this, there is a need being felt to focus on three specific areas, which are directly relevant to the problems of internalizing integrity and ethics in the civil services. These are as follows:

- 1. Anticipating specific threats to ethical standards and integrity in the civil services,**
- 2. Strengthening the ethical competence of civil servants and**
- 3. Developing administrative processes and practices which promote ethical values and integrity in civil services.**

**Suggest institutional measures to address the above three issues. (20mark)
(250 words)**

The following are specific threats to ethical standards and integrity in the civil services:

- Conflict of interest
- Nepotism and favoritism
- Bribery and corruption
- Lack of transparency
- Misuse of power
- Red-tapism
- Culture of Secrecy

Anticipating specific threats to the integrity and ethical standards of the civil service:

- Developing a code of conduct outlining ethical standards and expectations for government employees.
- Providing civil servants with training and support to help them comprehend and adhere to ethical standards and expectations.
- Establishing independent oversight bodies to investigate and respond to allegations of unethical conduct.

Strengthening the ethical competence of government employees:

- Giving professional merit precedence over political and personal considerations when making management decisions for the civil service.
- Ensuring that performance evaluations are based solely on merit and not on personal preferences or political affiliations.

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- Conducting ongoing training and development programs to improve the ethical competence of government employees.

Developing administrative procedures and practices that promote moral values and integrity in the public sector:

- Establishing agencies to investigate and prosecute corruption cases.
- Strengthening transparency measures to guarantee disclosure of information and decisions that ought to be made public.
- Promoting a culture of integrity and accountability by recognizing and rewarding ethical conduct and punishing unethical conduct.

Overall, these institutional measures can aid in fostering a culture of honesty and responsibility in the Indian civil service. By anticipating specific threats to ethical standards and integrity, bolstering the ethical competence of civil servants, and developing administrative processes and practices that promote ethical values and integrity, civil service organizations can assist in preventing unethical behavior and fostering a culture of accountability in the civil services.
