

NEXT IAS

AIM

ADVANCED INTEGRATED MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR CSE 2025

STUDENTS' ASSIGNMENTS

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DELHI CENTRE:

Old Rajinder Nagar: 27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar no. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro, New Delhi-110060 | Phone: 8081300200

Mukherjee Nagar: 1422, Main Mukherjee Nagar Road, Near Batra Cinema, New Delhi-110009 | Phone: 8081300200

BHOPAL CENTRE: Plot No. 46 Zone - 2, M.P Nagar, Bhopal - 462011 | Phone: 8827664612, 8081300200





JAIPUR CENTRE: A-1, Lion's Colony, Sitabari, Near The Theme Hotel, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302018 | Phone: 9358200511

PRAYAGRAJ CENTRE: 31/31 Sardar Patel Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh - 211001 | Phone: 9958857757

STUDENT'S ASSIGNMENT SAMPLE COPY

2. What are the main differences between the Nagara and Dravidian temple architectural styles?

Under the patronage of local rulers, different styles of architecture developed in different regions of India. Nagara school and Dravida school developed in the Northern & southern India respectively.

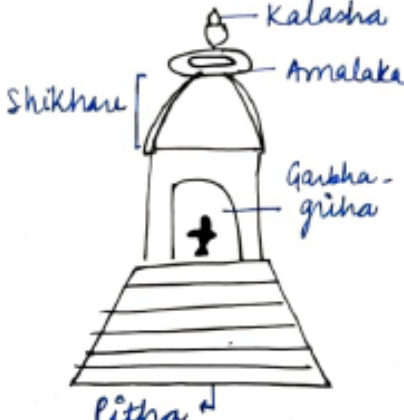
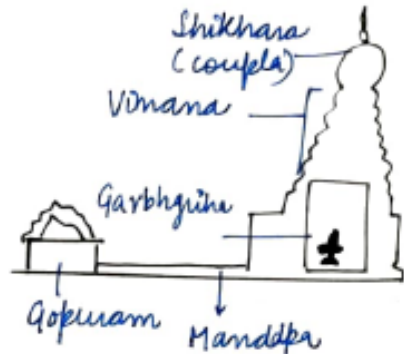
Dimensions	Nagara	Dravidian
1. Gateway	Modest or absent	Gopurum is stylized and big in size
2. Boundary	less emphasised or absent	Elaborated temple boundaries
3. Images outside Garbhgriha	Personified Ganga, Yamuna, crocodiles	Dwarapalas, Mithuna (erotic figures)
4. Tower	<u>Shikhara</u> • Curvilinear • Multiple Towers Eg: Khajuraho temple 	<u>Vimana</u> • Stepped Pyramid style • only on Vimana 
5. Water Tank	Mostly absent (presence of perennial rivers)	Mostly Present • Due to less perennial rivers • Ceremonies like Marriage (Kalyan mandapam)
6. Top of the tower	Dhwaya (sometimes) Kalash (absorbs lightning) Amalaka 	octagonal couple (called Shikhara) 

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Dimensions	Nagara	Dravida
7. Layout	Square or rectangular plan	concentric plan
8. Material used	Sandstone or locally available materials	Granite
9. Ornamentation	Elaborate <u>Exterior</u> (Sculpture & Carvings)	Intricate <u>Interior</u> carvings on pillars, beams & ceilings
10. Examples	 <p>↳ Kondaria Mahadeva Temple, Konark Sun Temple</p>	 <p>↳ Brihadeswara Temple, Meenakshi Temple</p>

Similarities:

- Garbhagriha; Vahana; Mandap; Upraised platform (adhithana); Pradakshinapath;
- Made of stone primarily (durable)
- Hybrid style: Vesara Architecture.

Relevance

Value Addition

Brevity

Keywords

Map/Diagram etc.

Mentor Comments:

2. Compare physiography of East and West coast of India. Why does the West coast have more natural harbours than the East coast?

The coastal plains of India are largely covered by excellent soils that are ideal for agriculture. Large and Small Ports at Indian coastlines help in trade and investment. India has a total of 7517 km of coastline.

The western and the Eastern coastal Plains are an important physical feature of India but are quite different in their geographical features.

WESTERN COAST	EASTERN COAST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are a huge stretch of landmass between Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea for a length of 5000 km. Small in centre but gain width. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are also a huge stretch of landmass but are located b/w the Eastern Ghats and Bay of Bengal. more levelled and is wider than the western coast.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater industrialisation than the eastern coast provides the <u>optimal prerequisites</u> for developing ports and harbours. Important ports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kandla Jun Port Mangalore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has fewer ports and harbours due to its emergent character.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coves (small bay), creeks, and a few estuaries scattered over the western coastal plain. Narmada - largest estuaries Tapti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant landmark on the eastern coast is <u>Chilika lake</u>. India's largest saltwater lake.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "<u>Kayals</u>" are a distinctive feature of the Malabar coast (backwaters). Vembanad lake - biggest lagoons. No delta formed by the rivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergent characteristics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bays, spits, lagoons, salt marshes, beaches, sea cliffs, arches. Rivers pour into the Bay of Bengal. From the east are <u>well-developed deltas</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Krishna, Kaveri, Godavari, Mahanadi

The west coast of India has more harbours than the east coast. The reasons for the variation in the location of the western and eastern coasts are as follows:-

① Colonial Past

- The arrival of European traders and the colonization of the country by the British, changed the size and quality of ports in India.
- The western port was more developed because the British needed more the eastern port.

② Geographical Factors

- The western coast is formed due to the submergence of land and it is the indented shore resulting in deep water on the coast,
- which is best suited for a natural harbour.
- In contrast, east coast formed due to emergence of landmass resulting in shallow water on the coast.

③ Economic Factors

- West coast are more developed and west coast states export more goods to the international market
- hence demand for ports on the West Coast is high.
- Eastern coastal states do not export many commodities,
- they do export and import minerals from the coast.

Mentorship review parameters:

Relevance

Value Addition

Brevity

Keywords

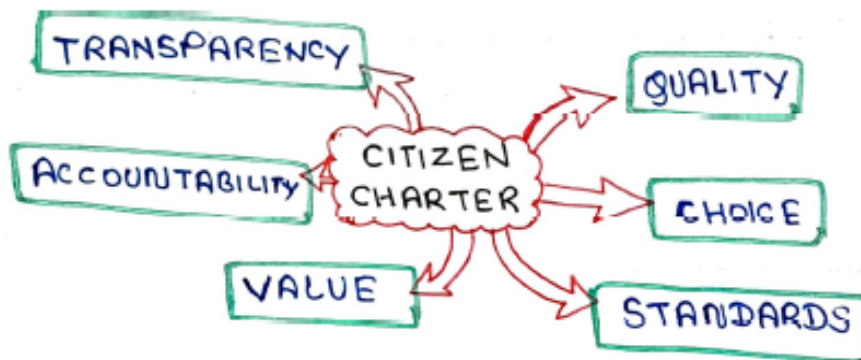
Map/Diagram etc.

Mentor Comments:

1. What are the basic principles of Citizen Charter? How has its evolution from a people's charter to the present Sevottam model helped bring accountability?

The citizen's charter is a document that outlines an organization's commitment to providing quality services to citizens. Its basic principles include transparency, accountability, accessibility and citizen participation.

The evolution from the people's charter to the Sevottam model, represents a shift towards a more comprehensive and citizen-centric approach.



Basic principles of citizen charter:-

- ① **Quality** :- Improving the quality of services.
- ② **Choice** :- Whenever possible.
- ③ **Standards** :- Specify what to expect and how to act if standards are not met.
- ④ **Value** :- For the taxpayers money.
- ⑤ **Accountability** :- Individuals and organisations.
- ⑥ **Transparency** :- Providing citizens with accessible, clear and real-time information about

Even though these promise are not enforceable in court of law, each organization should ensure that the promises made are kept and, in case of default, a suitable compensatory mechanism should be provided.

① Evaluation from people's charter to Sevattam Model:-

- Signifies a strategic evaluation that expands the scope of the citizens charter, making it more comprehensive and responsive to contemporary governance challenges

• Service delivery focus to holistic approach:-

- Primarily concentrated on improving service delivery.
- while, Sevattam model broadens it's perspective,
 - encompassing service delivery,
 - Public grievance redressal
 - benchmarking.

• Amalgamation of performance measurement:-

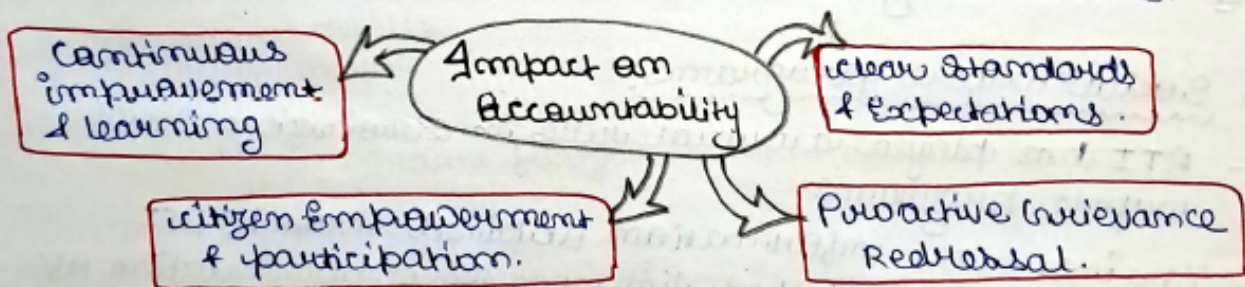
- Performance measurement becomes a tool for continuous improvement.
- aligning organizational goals with citizen expectations.

• Service-oriented culture:-

- People's charter focused on outcomes
- sevattam model = cultivating a service-oriented culture within public institutions.

• Citizen feedback mechanisms:-

- facilitates real-time assessments of public services.



Way forward - citizens' charter cannot be an end in itself, it is rather a means to an end - a tool to ensure that citizen is always at the heart of any service delivery mechanism. By adopting effective models like the Sevattam model, we can enhance the citizen-centric approach of citizen's charter.

Relevance	Value Addition	Brevity	Keywords	Map/Diagram etc.
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Mentor Comments:

1. The preamble is referred to as the "identity card of the constitution". In this light discuss the purpose and significance of the preamble. Also, discuss the significant verdicts that settled the debate on the status of the preamble

Ans

The term Preamble refers to the introduction or preface to the constitution.

N. A Palkhivala (eminent jurist & constitutional expert) called preamble as the "identity card of the cons"

Purpose of The preamble

Preamble to the constitution of India, speaks about four ingredients part

- i. source of the authority of the constitution: → i.e, from the people of India.
- ii. Nature of Indian State: → to be of Sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic and republican polity.
- iii. objective of the constitution: → specifies, Justice liberty, equality & fraternity.
- iv. Date of adoption of the const.: → i.e NOV 26, 1949.

Significance of the preamble

- The preamble embodied the basic philosophy and fundamental values - political morale & religious on which the constitution is based.

- It contains the grand & noble vision of the constituent assembly and reflect the dream & aspiration of the founding father of the constitution.

- "The preamble to our constitution expresses what we had thought or dream so long"
- Sir Alladi Krishnaswami

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- Preamble is the horoscope of our sovereign democratic republic - K.M. Munshi.
- Preamble is the keynote to the constitution - Sir Ernest Barker.

Significant verdicts

- Preamble - the philosophical key to the constitution
 - Ideals embodied in the objective resolution 1946 is faithfully reflected in the preamble to the constitution.
 - It is pointed out in several decision of our SC, though though by itself, it is not enforceable in a court of law, it also aid the legal intepretation of the constitution where language it is found to be ambiguous.
- Preamble as a part of the constitution
 - Besu - Bari Union Case (1960)
↳ SC opined the preamble is not a part of the constitution.
 - Keshwananda - Bhatti case (1973) & LIC of India case ¹⁹⁹⁵
↳ SC held that preamble is part of the const
 - It is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the power of legislature.
 - It is not justiciable.

Mentorship review parameters:

Relevance	Value Addition	Brevity	Keywords	Map/Diagram etc.
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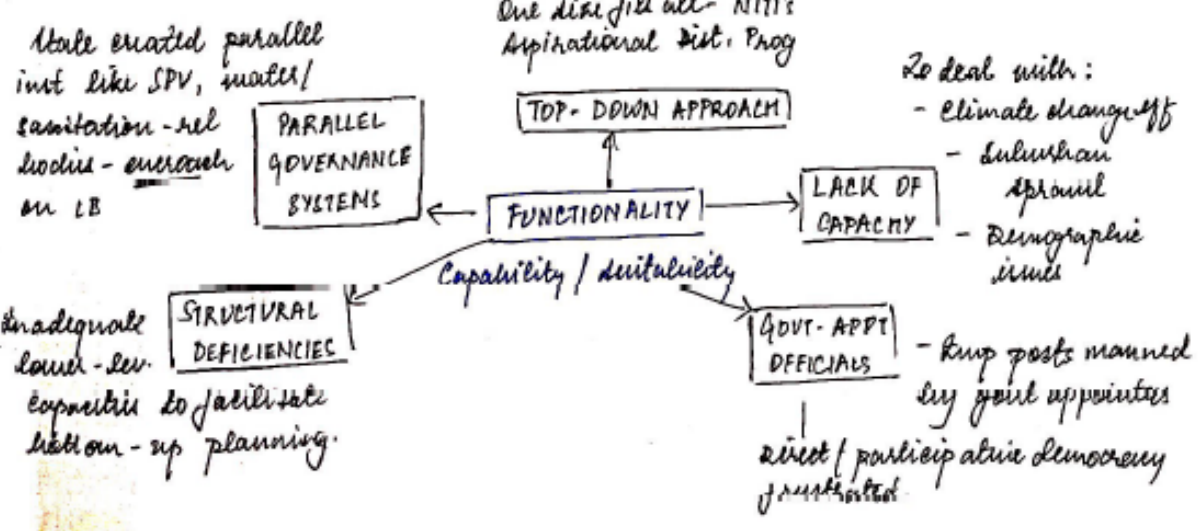
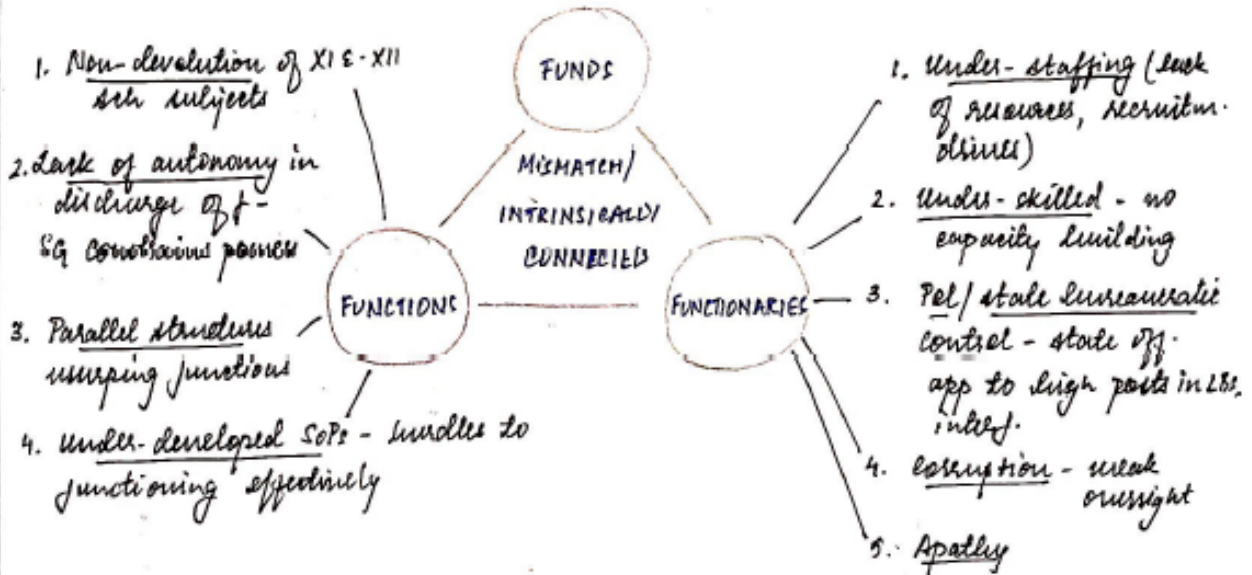
Mentor Comments:

8. Local self-government face constraints of Fund, Function, and Functionaries. Comment and suggest reform.

LOAD - The strength & sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'FFF' to contemporary stage of 'functionality'. Highlight critical chall. faced by LBs in terms of functionality in recent times.

Intro :- Former VP, M. Venkaiah Naidu recently called for devolving 3Fs - Funds, Functions & Functionaries to LBs.

While traditional chall. in terms of FFF remain quite relevant even today, a contemporary 'functionality' chall. has arisen.



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WEEK-4/DAY-5

NEXT IAS

WAY FORWARD

1. Integrated Planning - Nat/state-level plans
 - eg. Jarid Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan - engage Panchayat in providing employm^t to migrants
Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhi - Strengthen PRIs - achieve SDGs
 Odisha (during COVID) - PRIs assisted in PDS
2. Clarity Mapping - Incl ARC tree - clear out demarc^t of each tier's functions
3. Rationalise schemes + involve LBs - capacity building @ LBs, no new institu^t
4. Trainings + refresher courses + orientations
5. e-governance + tech solutions
6. Climate change sensitisation - involve LBs in adap + mitig. plans ^{heat waves} - disasters
7. Migrant + cooperative fiscal federalism
8. Penetration of competitive federalism → LBs. eg. NITI rankings @ LB level

Conc: Lgs shouldn't remain hamstring & ineffective - mere agents to do the bidding of higher level govt.
 Recognise transformative potential of LBs in governance - a vision already enshrined in Consti.

Mentorship review parameters:

Relevance	Value Addition	Brevity	Keywords	Map/Diagram etc.
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Mentor Comments:

NEXT IAS		WEEK-2/DAY-3	Geography 85
Describe the different types of forests found in India with their characteristic features.			
India has a diverse array of forest types, due to varied climatic conditions, topographical variations & soil compositions.			
<u>Different types of forests & their characteristics</u>			
TYPE	CHARACTERISTICS		
Tropical Rainy forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High rainfall & warmth \Rightarrow Western Ghats, NE states. Immense diversity, dense canopy \Rightarrow shaded undergrowth \Rightarrow forest remains green throughout the year Multi-layered canopy with tall trees, lianas, epiphytes & climbers. Endemic, rare plant & animal species Regulate climate, act as carbon sinks, support local communities. States, areas: Western Ghats, Assam, Arunachal, Meghalaya egs: Ebony, Mahogany, rosewood, Rubber, etc. 		
Tropical Deciduous forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees shed leaves during dry season to conserve water Mix of tall trees, shrubs, & grasses \Rightarrow allow sunlight to reach the floor. Rich wildlife \Rightarrow mammals, bird species Used for agriculture & timber production due to their fertile soils & valuable timber resources. Areas: Central India (M.P., Chhattisgarh), parts of Gangetic Plains, Eastern Ghats. egs: Teak, Sal, Peepal, Neem, etc. 		
Scrub forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought-resistant vegetation \Rightarrow thorny shrubs, hardy grasses Sparse vegetation \Rightarrow greater sunlight penetration \Rightarrow reduces competition among plants \Rightarrow adapted to survive in arid conditions. Unique flora \Rightarrow specialized wildlife \Rightarrow desert foxes, birds, etc. Scrub forests help in preventing soil erosion, maintaining ecological balance in arid areas Areas: Rajasthan, GJ, Deccan Plateau. egs: Babul, Khejri, Ber, etc. 		
Montane forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly generated in Northern middle Him. ranges 		

WEEK-2/DAY-3

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Required annual avg. rainfall → around 201 cm

Varies with altitude: coniferous forests (higher altitudes) mixed forests & grasslands (lower regions) → includes various trees, shrubs & flowering plants.

cold climate, ↑ altitude, rich biodiversity, rare endemic species (snow leopard, Him blue poppy)

Areas: HP, UK, Sikkim, Arunachal P., Western Yhals.

egs: Rhododendrons, ferns, oak, maple, deodar, juniper, chilgoza, etc.

Alpine Forests

- start at a height of above 3000m to the region just below snowline.
- low alpine grasslands → not higher than 1.5m
- climate → sub-arctic to arctic, snow cover → 5m
- stunted growth of plants → pastures grazed by migratory cattle
- Areas: main Himalayas, barren cold deserts of Trans Himalayas
- egs: Black juniper, drooping juniper, willow, honeysuckle

Mangrove Forests

- salt-tolerant mangrove tree, shrubs & halophytic plants.
- thrive in brackish water, act as barriers against soil erosion & storms, provide habitat → marine, avian species
- Some plants → highly impermeable roots → act as ultra-filtration system → reduces salt content by 90-97%
- Areas: Coastal areas of WB, OD, Andhra, TN, GJ.

Wetland Swamp Forests

- Grew in marshy & swampy areas, often near water bodies.
- Crucial role in preventing soil erosion, supporting aquatic life, habitat to diverse birds & aquatic species.
- Areas: Coastal regions, esp. in NE states & Western Ghats.

Each type of forest has unique characteristics, vegetation, ecological importance which contribute to

Relevance Value Addition Brevity Keywords Map/Diagram etc.

Mentor Comments: → India's cultural richness. They provide habitat to numerous species support livelihoods & are also an important conservation effort.

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WEEK-4/DAY-2

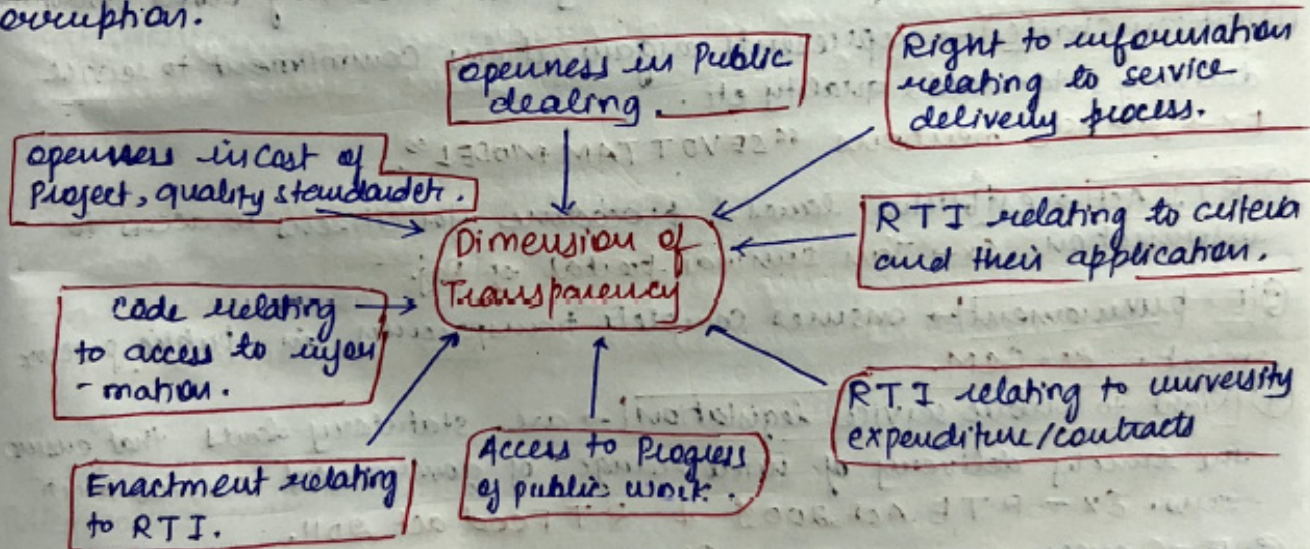
Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude 201

2. What do you understand by Transparency? Discuss its significance for Good Governance. Substantiate with examples.

Transparency means voluntary or involuntary disclosure of information to the other stakeholders so that the individual or organisation can be held accountable.

Ac to UN-ESCAP → UN-economic & social commission for asia and Pacific, Transparency means → Decisions taken and their enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules and regulations.

It ensures → better governance, more accountability and less corruption.



Significance of Transparency for Good Governance are:

1. Promotes openness in decision making which increases public trust & relationship.
2. Helps citizens gets involved in decision making & evaluating public policies.
3. Minimizes corruption & Maintains integrity of public Institutions.
4. Ensures the voiceless vulnerable gets voice in decision making

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- Helps to build the capacity of poor & marginalised to play role in policy formulation & implementation.
- Corner stone of accountability → ensure public office is responsible for their actions & decisions.
- Builds trust & credibility.
- Ensure government benefits are distributed equitably & fairly, i.e., prevents favouritism, nepotism and discrimination in resource allocation and service delivery.
- Ensures effective & efficient redressal of public concern.

CREATE PR

Examples → Roles of Transparency in ensuring Good Governance

1) Citizen Charter → represents organizations commitment to service delivery, standard, quality etc.
 Ex → 2nd ARC mentions "SEVOTTAM MODEL".

2) RTI Act → establishes laws & procedure for citizens to access to information. Ex → Jan Sunwai portal of Raj.

3) E-procurement → ensures complete transparency in public procurement. Ex - GEM.

4) Right to public service legislation → are statutory laws that ensure the timely delivery of wide range of government services to citizens. Ex - RTE Act, 2009 & RTI Act, 2011.

5) E-governance → Ex - e-Bhoomi, e-Choupal,

Transparency is core principle of good governance assumes that corruption is minimized.

Mentorship review parameters

Relevance

Value Addition

Brevity

Keywords

Map/Diagram etc.

Mentor Comments:

(Aptitude & foundⁿ
values of civil services)

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1. What do you understand by foundational values? Why are some values considered foundational public services over others? Illustrate with examples.

Foundational Values

Value are preferences and foundation refers to the base that holds the structure. Thus, **F.V.** are the values which must be preferred by civil servants to strongly uphold the steel frame i.e. Public Services of India.

Need for F.V. / Why foundational

- ↳ Strⁿ Public trust in Govt. → empower admin. to fill gaps in ^{trust} deficit.
- ↳ ↑ Alc of civil servants.
- ↳ Strⁿ rule of law.
- ↳ Basis for civil services - absence creates mistrust, breaks social ~~trust~~ contract.
- ↳ End-oriented - for fulfilling goals similar to DPSRs, FRs etc.
- ↳ Effective civil service, ensures actions of civil servants reflect policies of govt.
- ↳ ensure honesty, impartiality
- ↳ uphold ©, laws & underlying values - particularly in situations where discretionary decisions are needed.
- ↳ uphold Public Interest - C.S. fⁿ fairly, impartially, efficiently.

FV	Relevance	Example
<u>Neutrality</u> politically impartial & non-partisan	- prevent despotic rule - space for political opposition	A judge giving his decision based on facts rather than under influence

NEXT IAS		WEEK-1/DAY-6	Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude	69
FV	Relevance	Example		
<p><u>Integrity</u> - honesty + moral consistency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adherence to ethical principles under pressure. - Prevent corruptions → ↑ public trust 	<p>ret. IAS - Mahesh Zagade</p> <p>road tenders → flagged unnecessary expenditure by political leaders.</p>		
<p><u>Objectivity</u> - working in compliance with rules & decisions based on facts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prevent creeping of subjectivity, stereotypes, halo effect, primary effect 	<p>- Criminal Justice system works as per facts & rules.</p>		
<p><u>Impartiality</u> - decision based on facts & not bias.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promotes equality of oppor. - prevents breakdown of (C) governance due to bias & discrimination 	<p>- prevention of untouchability</p>		
<p><u>Dedication to Public Service</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - keeps C.S. motivated despite poor working condⁿ 	<p>- despite huge workload all bureaucrats work to provide amenities during Covid-19.</p>		
<p><u>Compassion</u> empathy + action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promotes interpersonal relationships with citizens - promotes trust b/w citizens & C.S. 	<p>- IAS Anilnash Sharan sent bike ambulance to tribal areas</p>		
<p><u>Honesty</u> → being trustworthy, loyal, fair & sincere</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creates credibility - promotes leadership - improves work culture - motivates subordinate officers 	<p>- IAS - Ashok Khemka</p> <p>↳ honest despite 50+ transfers</p>		
<p><u>Courage & Fortitude</u> face danger with confidence, self possession & resoluteⁿ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - character empowerment - promotes honesty & integrity of character 	<p>- IPS Sanjukta Parashar</p> <p>↳ 64 militants' encounters to protect civilians</p>		
<p>Mentorship review parameters:</p>				
Relevance	Value Addition	Brevity	Keywords	Map/Diagram etc.
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<p>Mentor Comments:</p>				

CASE STUDY:

5. You are a dedicated and principled civil servant who has always upheld strong morals and values throughout your career. However, you find yourself facing a challenging situation at home, where your spouse is expressing concerns about the impact of your work on your family life. Sarah is concerned about how frequent transfers due to your job have disrupted the peace and stability of the family, especially the education of your children, who have to change schools regularly. Sarah questions whether your dedication to your work and values primarily benefits the government and society while causing stress within the family. She feels that neither the government nor society appreciates your sacrifices and principles. She points out that even your junior colleagues seem to be in a better financial position than you. She expresses discomfort at feeling marginalized during social gatherings hosted by your senior colleagues, given your relatively modest lifestyle.
- A. After a small quarrel with her, at night you were thinking about the matter and were in a dilemma about it. You, yourself were convinced by her complaints to an extent.
- B. Explain how will you convince your wife and even yourself in this situation. Also, discuss how will you keep your conscience intact with your founding values.

The above case revolves around a dedicated & principled civil servant facing challenges at home. The protagonist, committed to their work and values, confronts a dilemma as their spouse Sarah, expresses concerns about negative impact of frequent job transfers on family stability. Sarah highlights the disruption to their children's education & family's overall stress. She feels that dedication to principles benefits govt. & society more than family & that financial disparities & social marginalization add to her discomfort.



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WEEK-2/DAY-1

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Ethical dilemmas

- Family v/s Career - personal & prof. commitment balancing. (work-life balance)
- Value of Dedication → evaluating true impact of one's dedication to principles on both personal & societal level
- Social Dynamics & Marginalization → Navigating ethical implications of social disparities within professional sphere

Plan of Action

