Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when

(a) official duties,

(b) public interest, and

(c) personal interest

are taking priority one above the other.

How can this conflict in administration be resolved?

Describe with an example.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Conflict of interest; public service ethics; disclosure; recusal; transparency; codes of conduct; independent oversight; impartial decision-making

Model Answer

Introduction

Conflict of interest arises when a public servant's personal interests interfere with official duties and the public interest, threatening impartiality and public trust.

Resolution in Administration

- **Disclosure:** Officials should declare financial, familial or personal interests relevant to their decisions.
- **Recusal:** They should withdraw from decisions involving personal interests.

- **Codes of conduct:** Clear ethical rules and penalties should discourage favouritism.
- **Transparency:** Documented decisions, audits and public scrutiny reduce arbitrary action.
- **Independent oversight:** Vigilance bodies and grievance mechanisms help detect violations.

Example

If a district officer's relative owns a company bidding for a government contract, the officer should disclose the relationship and withdraw from the selection process. An independent committee should evaluate all bidders using objective criteria.

Conclusion

Conflicts of interest can be managed through transparency, accountability and impartial procedures. Public duty must always take precedence over private benefit.

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