

CSE 2026 – DAW

JUNE 20, 2026

Subjects covered:

GS-I: GEOGRAPHY.

GS-IV: ETHICS (CASE STUDY).

Name:

State:

Mode:

Time taken:

Question Paper Specific Instructions

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

- I. **All** the given questions are to be attempted.
- II. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- III. All parts of a question shall be attempted at the place designated for them in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet. Attempts of questions/parts shall be counted in sequential order.
- IV. Unless struck off, attempt of a question/part shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Improve
Understanding				
Structure				
Content				
Language				
Presentation				

DETAILED FEEDBACKS

ADHIKAAR IAS

1. The impact of El Niño on the Indian Summer Monsoon has become increasingly complex in the context of climate change. Examine the geographical mechanisms through which El Niño influences the Indian monsoon. Why can El Niño no longer be considered a reliable predictor of monsoon performance? (10 Marks, 150 Words)

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2. You are an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer recently appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). Soon after assuming office, you receive the findings of a performance audit conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the implementation of a flagship skill development programme executed through an autonomous implementing agency.

The audit reveals widespread procedural and ethical lapses over several years. These include approval of training centres without proper verification, weak accreditation processes, manipulation of beneficiary and attendance records, inadequate market-based assessment before selecting job roles, delayed payments despite poor performance, weak monitoring mechanisms, and failure to ensure data integrity on the digital portal. The audit also points to poor coordination between the Central and State Governments, resulting in ineffective oversight and significant losses to the public exchequer.

Following the audit, the implementing agency has issued show-cause notices to several serving and former officials, alleging negligence, procedural violations, and possible financial misconduct. While some employees admit that institutional controls were weak, many former officials argue that they are being unfairly targeted for decisions taken collectively under ambiguous guidelines and severe administrative pressures. Employee associations have accused the organisation of selective accountability, whereas civil society organisations have demanded criminal prosecution of all officials involved. At the same time, millions of youth continue to depend upon the scheme for skilling and employment, and any disruption could adversely affect the country's human capital development.

As the officer responsible for overseeing corrective action, you must ensure accountability without compromising fairness, institutional morale, or the continuity of public service delivery.

Questions:

- (a) Identify the key ethical issues and the stakeholders involved in the above case.
- (b) What are the options available before you? Evaluate their merits and demerits.
- (c) As the officer concerned, what course of action would you adopt? Justify your decision with reference to the principles of public accountability, natural justice, integrity, and good governance. Also suggest systemic reforms to prevent recurrence of such failures in future.

20

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SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

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