

**CSE 2026 – DAW**

**JUNE 27, 2026**

Subjects covered:

**GS-IV: ETHICS.**

**GS-IV: 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.

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Improve</b>
Understanding				
Structure				
Content				
Language				
Presentation				

**DETAILED FEEDBACKS**

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1. "Not everything that is technologically possible is ethically desirable." Examine this statement in the context of AI-driven infrastructure development. (Answer in 150 Words)

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2. The Government of India has identified Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a strategic driver of economic growth, digital governance and technological self-reliance. In line with the vision of Digital India, IndiaAI Mission and Viksit Bharat 2047, a State Government has approved the establishment of a large AI Data Centre Park in your district, expected to attract significant investments, generate employment and strengthen India's digital infrastructure.

As the District Collector, you are entrusted with coordinating the project's implementation. The proposed site is located in a region that has been experiencing chronic water scarcity, recurring droughts and frequent power shortages over the past several years. Agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood, and farmers already face declining groundwater levels, erratic rainfall and unreliable electricity supply for irrigation. Several villages also receive drinking water through tankers during summer months.

The proposed AI data centre is expected to consume millions of litres of water annually for cooling systems and require uninterrupted electricity, which may necessitate dedicated power allocation and additional transmission infrastructure. Environmental groups argue that diverting scarce water and electricity to private technology infrastructure would undermine the principles of equity, distributive justice and environmental sustainability. Local communities fear worsening groundwater depletion, increased electricity tariffs, displacement of small farmers and widening inequalities in access to basic resources.

On the other hand, the State Government and the investing company contend that the project would create high-skilled employment, enhance digital innovation, expand the tax base, attract ancillary industries and improve regional infrastructure. They have also assured that renewable energy integration, wastewater recycling and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives would mitigate environmental concerns. Meanwhile, pressure is mounting from political representatives to expedite project approvals, while civil society organisations demand a comprehensive public consultation before granting environmental clearance.

You are required to take an ethically sound and administratively balanced decision.

### **Questions**

- (a) What are the ethical issues and competing values involved in the above case?
- (b) As the District Collector, what options are available to you? Examine the merits and limitations of each.
- (c) What would be your most appropriate course of action? Suggest policy safeguards that can reconcile technological progress with environmental sustainability and social justice.

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***SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK***

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