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Q7

Case study. Sunil is a young civil servant and has a reputation for his competence, integrity, dedication, and relentless pursuit of difficult and onerous jobs. Considering his profile, he was picked up by his bosses to handle a very challenging and sensitive assignment. He was posted in a tribal-dominated district notorious for illegal sand mining. Excavating sand from river belts and transporting it through trucks and selling them in the black market was rampant. This illegal sand mining mafia was operating with the support of local functionaries and tribal musclemen who in turn were bribing selected poor tribals and had kept the tribals under fear and intimidation. Sunil being a sharp and energetic officer immediately grasped the ground realities and the modus operandi followed by the mafia through their devious and dubious mechanism. On making inquiries, he gathered that some of their own office employees are in hand and glove with them and have developed close unholy nexus. Sunil initiated stringent action against them and started conducting raids on their illegal operations of the movement of trucks filled with sand. The mafia got rattled as not many officers in the past had taken such steps against the mafia. Some of the office employees who were allegedly close to mafia informed them that the officer is determined to clean up the mafia's illegal sand mining operations in that the district and may cause them irreparable damage. The mafia turned hostile and launched a counter-offensive. The tribal musclemen and mafia started threatening him with dire consequences. His family (wife and old mother) were stalked and were under virtual surveillance and thus causing mental torture, agony, and stress to all of them. The matter assumed serious proportions when a muscleman came to his office and threatened him to stop raids, etc., otherwise, his fate will not be different than some of his predecessors (ten years back one officer was killed by the mafia). - Identify the different options available to Sunil in attending to this situation. - Critically evaluate each of the options listed by you. - Which of

the above, do you think, would be the most appropriate for Sunil to adopt and why?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · GS IV · 20 marks · Ethics Case Studies

Case Studies on above issues.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2021/case-study-sunil-is-a-young-civil-servant-and-has-a-reputation-for-his-competence-integrity-dedication-and-relentless-pursuit-of-difficult-and-onerous-jobs-considering-his-profile-he-was-picked-up-by-his-bosses-to-handle/>

Illegal sand mining

Extraction without lawful permit injures rivers, revenue and often bonded tribal labour; it is a crime, not a local custom.

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

Applies where public servants in the office or local bodies take a bribe to bless trucks.

National Green Tribunal

A forum for environmental injury to river belts when administrative raids are being politically slowed.

National Human Rights Commission

A channel when an officer's family is stalked and when tribals are held under intimidation.

Witness and officer protection

Threats to a public servant in the course of duty are a State security task; they are not a private family problem to be settled by withdrawing the case.

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