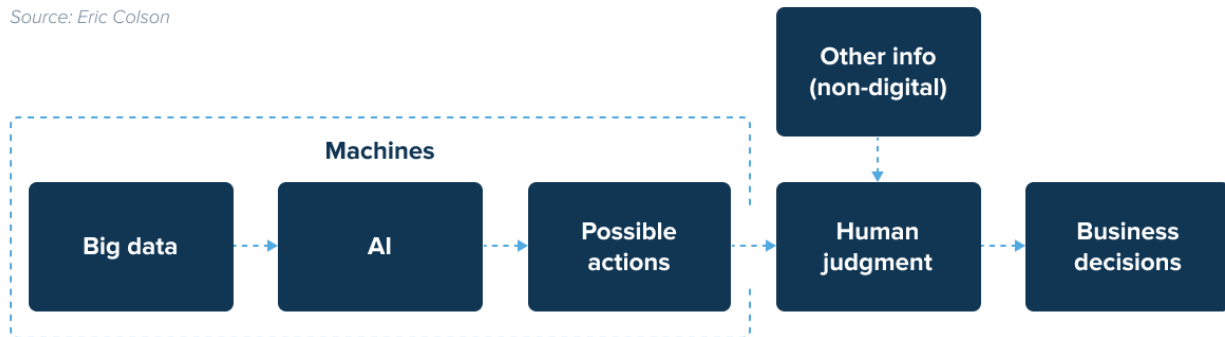**SECTION A**

Q.1 (a) The application of Artificial Intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative rational decision-making is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Answer:

The use of AI in administrative decision-making is gaining momentum due to its potential to enhance efficiency and objectivity. However, it raises ethical concerns around fairness, accountability, transparency, and privacy, especially in sensitive governance matters.
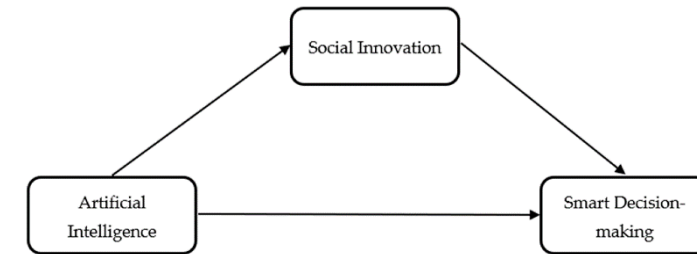
According to a report published by McKinsey a few years ago, artificial intelligence could increase global GDP growth by 16 percent by 2030.

Source: Eric Colson

AI in Administrative Decision-Making:

- **Enhanced Efficiency:** AI can process large amounts of data quickly, making administrative tasks faster and more efficient. For Example, AI chatbots used by governments, such as India's MyGov Corona Helpdesk, help streamline public inquiries, reducing the workload on human staff.
- **Objective, Data-Driven Decisions**: AI can analyze data without emotional bias, potentially leading to more rational and evidence-based decisions.
- **Predictive Analytics for Better Planning:** AI's predictive capabilities assist governments in identifying future trends and making proactive decisions. For Example, AI-driven climate models are being used for disaster management and urban planning, predicting floods and aiding in evacuation plans, such as in Japan.

Ethical Concerns in AI-based Decision-Making:

The delicate balance between opportunities and challenges associated with AI

MITIGATION

OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGES

Innovation and Efficiency for Businesses

Cost Efficiency and Sustainable Solutions in Public Services

Transforming Citizens' Everyday Life

Fortifying Democratic Processes

Transforming Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Government AI Policy

Corporate Self-Regulation

Public Education

Displacement in Employment

Civil Liability

"AI Divide" risk

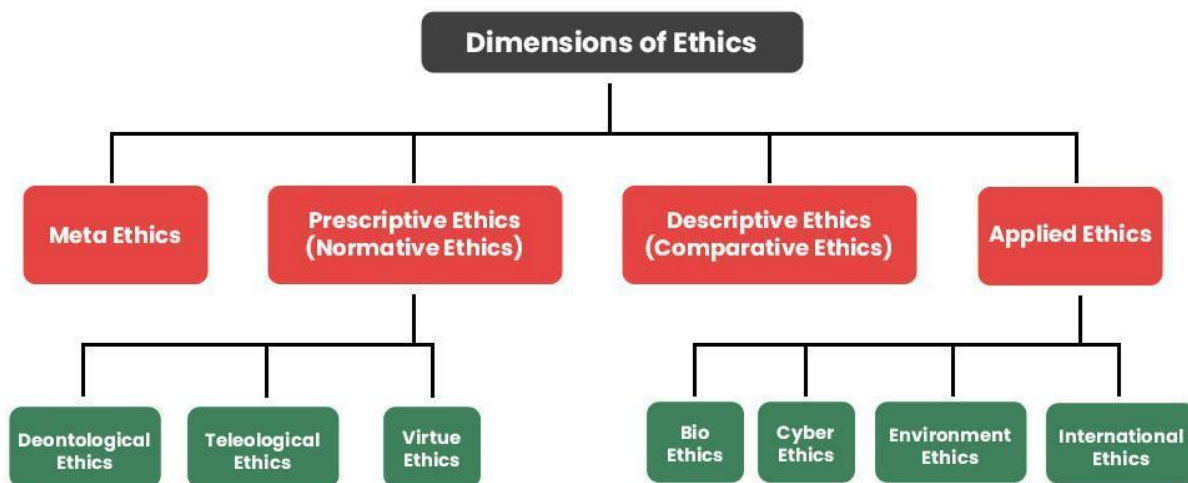Security Challenges

Transparency and Explainability

- **Bias and Discrimination**: AI systems can perpetuate societal biases present in the data used to train them. For instance, In 2019, Amazon scrapped an AI hiring tool that was found to be biased against women.
- **Transparency and Accountability**: Many AI systems function as "black boxes," making it difficult to understand how decisions are made. For example, AI-driven facial recognition systems, like those used in law enforcement, often lack transparency, raising concerns about wrongful identification and accountability.
- **Privacy and Data Security**: AI relies heavily on personal data, raising concerns about breaches and misuse. For example, The use of AI for contact tracing during the COVID-19 pandemic sparked debates on privacy, as governments collected sensitive health data.
- **Inequality and Digital Divide**: Unequal access to AI technology can worsen disparities. For instance, Rural or underdeveloped areas might not have the resources to leverage AI in public services, exacerbating the urban-rural divide in access to government benefits.

AI can undoubtedly enhance administrative decision-making, but its ethical challenges must be addressed. Striking a balance between leveraging AI for efficiency and ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability is crucial to prevent harm and build public trust in these systems.

(b) "Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour." Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions. Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in the professional context. (Answer in 150 words)
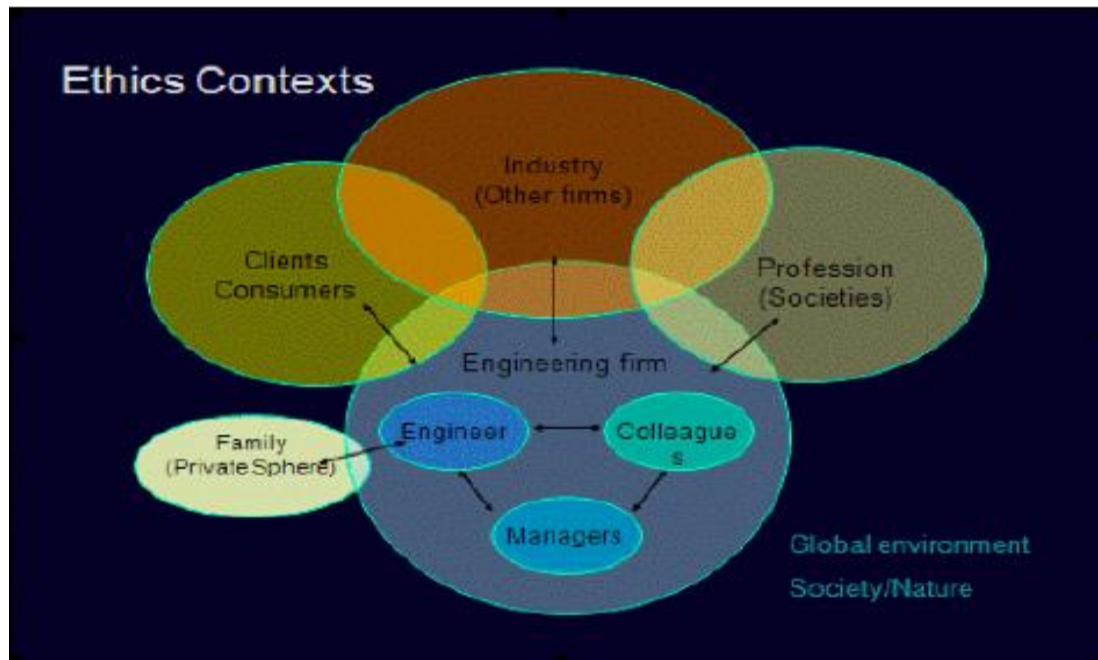
Answer:

Ethics, as a branch of philosophy, provides a framework for understanding and evaluating moral principles and conduct. It encompasses several key dimensions that guide individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behavior.

Dimensions of Ethics

- **Meta Ethics**
- **Prescriptive Ethics (Normative Ethics)**
  - Deontological Ethics
  - Teleological Ethics
  - Virtue Ethics
- **Descriptive Ethics (Comparative Ethics)**
- **Applied Ethics**
  - Bio Ethics
  - Cyber Ethics
  - Environment Ethics
  - International Ethics

Key Dimensions of Ethics	Explanation	Example
Moral Principles	Fundamental values like honesty, fairness, and integrity that guide behavior.	A lawyer maintaining client confidentiality upholds the principle of integrity.
Accountability	Taking responsibility for one's actions and decisions.	CEOs being held accountable for a company's decisions reflects ethical leadership.
Transparency	Openness in decision-making and processes.	Governments disclosing public spending builds trust and ethical governance.
Justice and Fairness	Ensuring equality and impartiality in treatment.	HR departments practicing non-discriminatory hiring ensure workplace fairness.
Respect for Individuals	Valuing human dignity and rights in every interaction.	Respecting employees' work-life balance promotes ethical management.

Influence on Professional Context:

- **Guides Responsible Actions:** Ethical dimensions ensure professionals make morally sound choices, balancing personal and organizational interests.
- **Fosters Trust:** Upholding ethics builds trust among clients, colleagues, and stakeholders, crucial for long-term relationships.
- **Ensures Compliance:** Ethical behavior ensures adherence to legal standards, reducing risks of misconduct and promoting organizational sustainability.

The key dimensions of ethics serve as a foundation for responsible decision-making in professional settings, fostering accountability, fairness, and respect. By adhering to these principles, individuals and organizations can build trust, ensure long-term success, and create ethical environments that benefit both society and stakeholders.
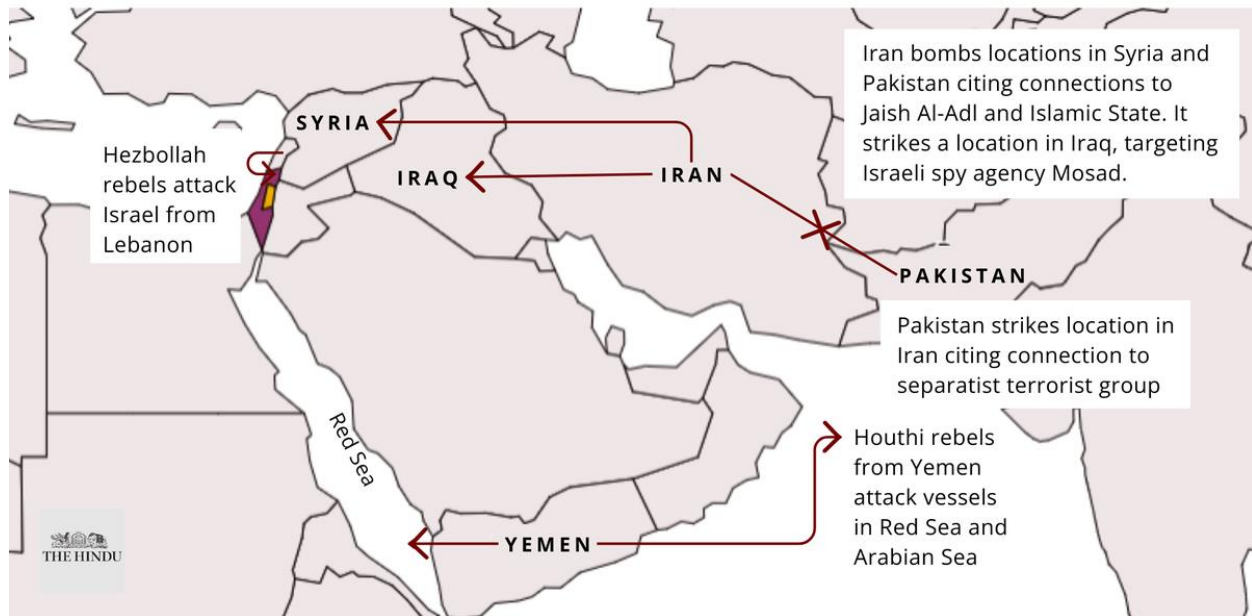
Q.2 (a) "It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it." In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest, all around the world. What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts? (Answer in 150 words)

Answer:

The quote by Mahatma Gandhi highlights the importance of not just talking about peace, but actively believing in it and taking concrete actions to achieve it. In today's world, the continued existence of numerous conflicts is often influenced by the self-interest of powerful nations and their arms industries.

For example:

Regional conflicts in West Asia

Hezbollah rebels attack Israel from Lebanon

Iran bombs locations in Syria and Pakistan citing connections to Jaish Al-Adl and Islamic State. It strikes a location in Iraq, targeting Israeli spy agency Mosad.

Pakistan strikes location in Iran citing connection to separatist terrorist group

Houthi rebels from Yemen attack vessels in Red Sea and Arabian Sea

Ethical considerations for these nations in stopping such conflicts include:

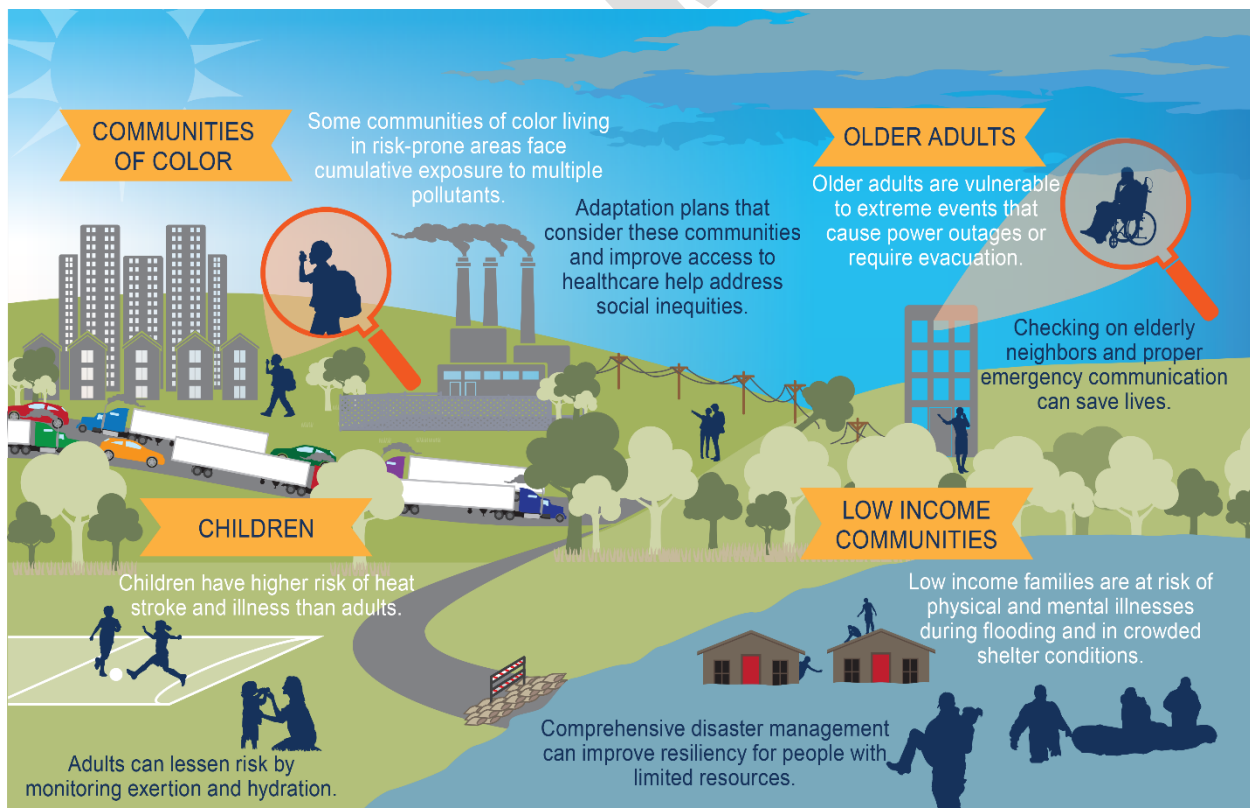| Key Principles	Explanation	Example
Responsibility to Protect	Powerful nations have a moral obligation to protect human rights and prevent atrocities.	The U.S. and its allies could prioritize diplomatic solutions and humanitarian aid in conflicts like Syria and Yemen.
Promoting Diplomacy and Negotiation	Nations should promote diplomacy and negotiation as the primary means of conflict resolution.	The nuclear agreement negotiations with Iran demonstrate the potential of dialogue over force.
Long-term Stability vs. Short-term Gain	Supporting armed groups may provide short-term benefits but can undermine long-term stability.	The U.S. involvement in Afghanistan led to prolonged conflict, as arms support undermined long-term peace efforts.
Economic Interests vs. Humanitarian Needs	Weapon industries often influence policies, prioritizing economic interests over humanitarian needs.	Criticism of arms sales to Israel due to the ethical concerns about civilian casualties in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
Accountability and Transparency	Ethical foreign policy should ensure accountability and transparency in arms sales.	Poor arms trade regulation in Africa and the Middle East has had severe consequences for civilians.

A shift towards a more ethical approach, focusing on peacebuilding and conflict resolution rather than arms sales, could significantly alter the dynamics of international relations and lead to more sustainable peace.

(b) Global warming and climate change are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development, indicating the direction in which extinction of organisms including human beings is heading towards loss of life on Earth. How do you put an end to this to protect life and bring equilibrium between the society and the environment? 10 (Answer in 150 words) 10

Answer:

Global warming and climate change are pressing issues that threaten the survival of countless species, including humans. The root causes are complex and intertwined, but human activities, driven by greed and a focus on short-term development, are undoubtedly significant contributors. The industrial revolution, driven by human greed for consumption, has led to a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide and methane.

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by about 49% since the pre-industrial era indicating the effect of human activities on earth.

Measures to bring equilibrium between society and the environment:

- **Transition to Renewable Energy:** Phasing out fossil fuels and investing in renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydro are key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring clean, sustainable energy.
- **Energy Efficiency**: Promoting energy efficiency in industries and households, along with investing in advanced energy-saving technologies, can significantly reduce consumption and emissions.
- **Forest Conservation and Reforestation**: Preserving forests and promoting sustainable forestry can absorb carbon dioxide and balance economic needs with environmental conservation.
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use:** Reducing deforestation, promoting sustainable land use, integrating agroforestry, and adopting precision agriculture techniques can enhance biodiversity, improve carbon sequestration, and optimize resource use while minimizing environmental impact.
- **International Cooperation:** Strengthening global agreements like the Paris Agreement to set ambitious emissions reduction targets and facilitating technology transfer among countries can promote sustainable development and enhance international cooperation.
- **Consumer Awareness and Behavior Change:** Educating consumers about climate change and promoting sustainable consumption. For example, The LiFE initiative (Lifestyle for Environment) launched by the Indian government.

Governmental Actions:

- **Enacting Policies:** Governments should implement policies that promote sustainable development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the environment.
- **Carbon Pricing:** Implementing carbon pricing mechanisms, such as carbon taxes or emissions trading schemes, can incentivize businesses and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint.
- **Supporting Research and Innovation:** Investing in research and development to develop new technologies and solutions for climate change can accelerate progress towards a sustainable future.
- **Protecting Biodiversity:** Governments should prioritize the conservation of biodiversity, as healthy ecosystems play a crucial role in mitigating climate change and providing essential ecosystem services.

By implementing these measures, we can effectively address global warming and climate change, protect life on Earth, and create a more sustainable and equitable future for generations to come. It requires a collective effort from governments, businesses, and individuals to make significant changes and transition towards a low-carbon economy.

Q.3 Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?

(a) "Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do not become others." - Swami Vivekananda (Answer in 150 words) 10
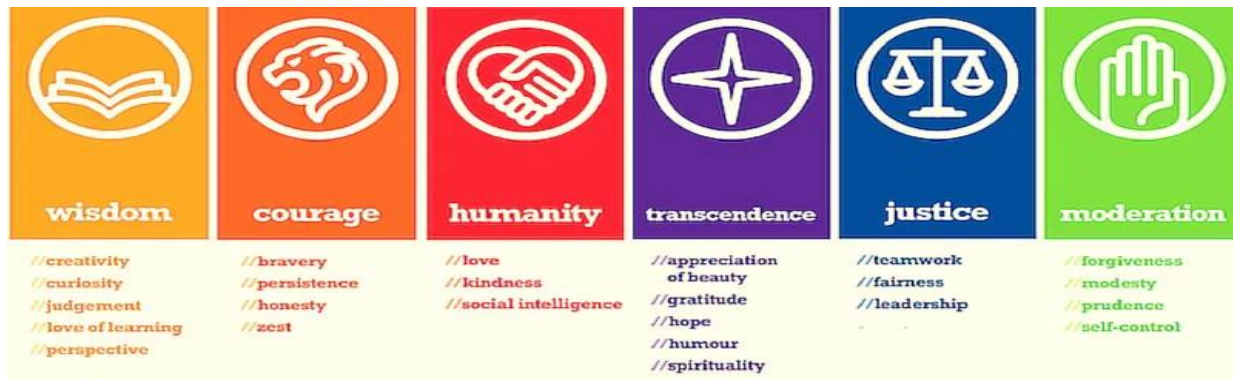
Answer:

The quotation by Swami Vivekananda conveys a profound message about the importance of learning, individuality, and authenticity.

- **Learning from Others**: Learning from others involves observing, understanding, and adopting the positive qualities, knowledge, and practices that others possess.
- **Absorbing in Your Own Way**: Absorbing in your own way means internalizing the learned knowledge and practices in a manner that aligns with your own values, beliefs, and unique identity.
- **Maintaining Individuality**: Maintaining individuality involves preserving one's unique identity, values, and perspectives while integrating new knowledge and practices.

Context	Learning	Absorbing	Individuality
Professional Development	Professionals can learn new skills, techniques, and methodologies from industry leaders and peers.	Adapt these learnings to their specific job roles and organizational contexts.	Bring unique insights and creativity to work, ensuring innovation and personal growth.
Personal Growth	Individuals can learn valuable life lessons from mentors, books, and experiences.	Internalize these lessons in a way that aligns with personal values and goals.	Personal growth should focus on becoming the best version of oneself, not a replica of someone else.

wisdom	courage	humanity	transcendence	justice	moderation

//creativity
//curiosity
//judgement
//love of learning
//perspective
	//bravery
	//persistence
	//honesty
	//zest
		//love
		//kindness
		//social intelligence
			//appreciation
			of beauty
			//gratitude
			//hope
			//humour
			//spirituality
				//teamwork
				//fairness
				//leadership
					//forgiveness
					//modesty
					//prudence
					//self-control

In the present context, this message is highly relevant as we navigate a world rich with diverse knowledge and experiences. By learning from others, absorbing in our own way, and preserving our unique identity, we can achieve personal and professional growth without losing our essence.

(b) "Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work." - Sardar Patel (Answer in 150 words) 10

Answer:

Faith and strength are two fundamental pillars in the pursuit of any significant achievement. Faith instills a sense of purpose and belief in the possibility of success, while strength provides the necessary means to turn that belief into reality. The statement underscores the symbiotic relationship between faith and strength, emphasizing that both are indispensable for accomplishing any great work.
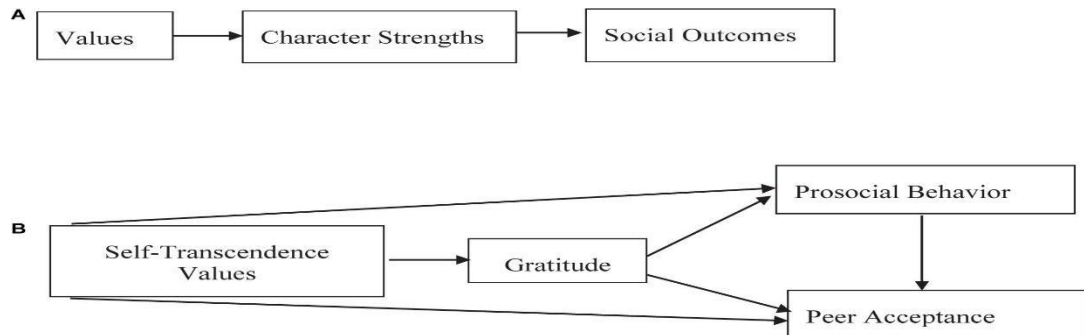
The Power of Faith in Unity

| 1 Shared Beliefs and Values | 2 Emotional Support and Empathy | 3 Practical Assistance | 4 Celebrating Diversity | 5 Encouraging Personal Growth |

Faith is crucial as it:

Provides Motivation	Helps Overcome Obstacles
Faith acts as a driving force, inspiring individuals to pursue their goals.	Faith enables individuals to remain resilient in the face of adversity.

For instance, Mahatma Gandhi's faith in non-violence and truth motivated millions to join the Indian independence movement.	Nelson Mandela's unwavering faith in justice and equality helped him endure 27 years of imprisonment and eventually lead South Africa to end apartheid.

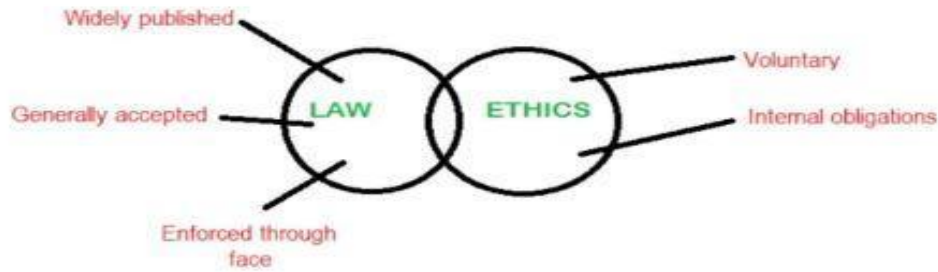**However, faith alone is not sufficient. Strength is equally important as it:**

- **Ensures Proper Planning**: Strength involves strategic planning and resource allocation.
  - **For example**, India's Green Revolution required meticulous planning and the strength of scientific research to achieve food security.
- **Facilitates Execution**: Strength is necessary for the effective implementation of plans.
  - The success of the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) by ISRO was not just a result of faith in India's space capabilities but also the technical strength and expertise of its scientists.
- **Monitors Progress**: Strength includes the ability to monitor and adapt strategies as needed.
  - The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan's success can be attributed to continuous monitoring and the strength of community participation and government support.

While faith provides the initial spark and motivation, it is strength that converts this belief into tangible outcomes. Both are essential; faith without strength is mere wishful thinking, and strength without faith lacks direction and purpose. Together, they form a powerful combination that can accomplish any great work.
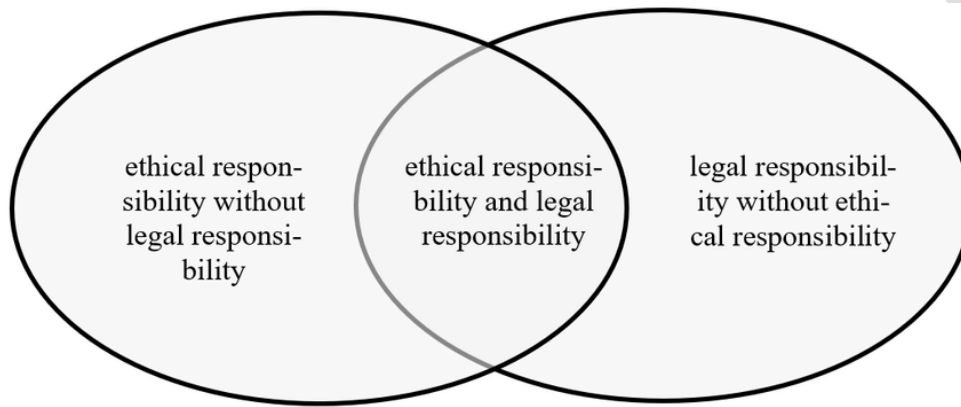
(c) "In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so." - Immanuel Kant (Answer in 150 words) 10

Answer:

Immanuel Kant's quote emphasizes the fundamental difference between law and ethics. While the law requires tangible evidence of a violation to hold someone accountable, ethics concerns not just actions but also thoughts and intentions. This reflects the deeper moral responsibility humans hold within themselves, beyond the external consequences that the law can enforce.

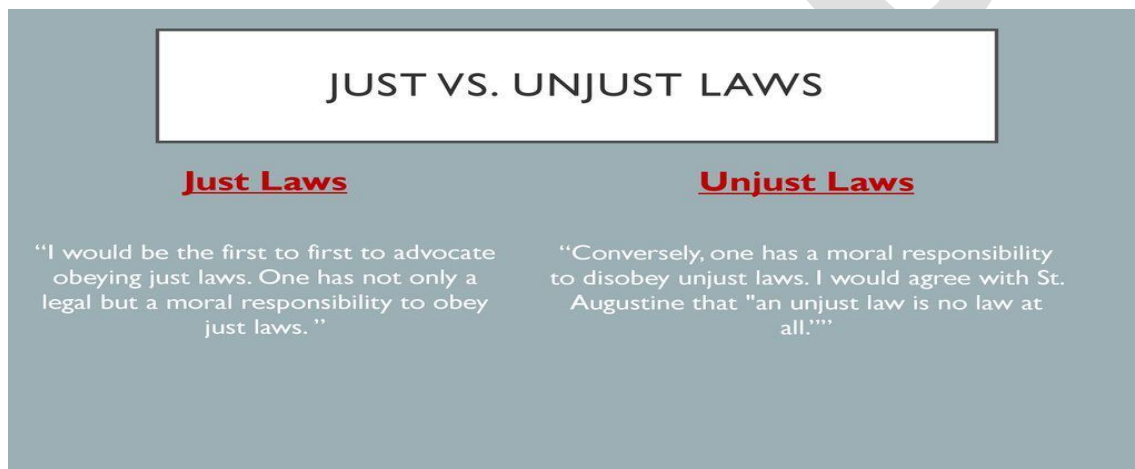**Key points in the present context:**

- **Legal Guilt;** In the legal context, guilt is established through actions that infringe upon the rights of others.
  - For instance, theft, assault, or fraud are clear violations of legal rights, and the perpetrator is held accountable through judicial processes. Legal systems are designed to maintain social order by penalizing actions that harm individuals or society.
  - For example, the Indian Penal Code (IPC) outlines specific offenses and corresponding punishments to deter and address rights violations.
- **Ethical Guilt**: As per Kant, involves the concept of "Moral Inhibition," where the mere intention or to maxims that can be universally applied. thought of committing a wrongful act is considered morally culpable. Kantian ethics emphasizes the importance of duty and the categorical imperative, which dictates that one should act only according.
  - **For instance**, even contemplating dishonesty or harm towards others violates one's moral duty, reflecting a breach of ethical standards. This internal moral compass is crucial for self-regulation and integrity.
- **Corruption:** While corruption is only illegal when proven with evidence, ethically, the mere intent to engage in corrupt practices is equally wrong.
- **Social Biases**: Legal frameworks may not address subtle biases or stereotypes, but ethically, having such thoughts about people based on race, gender, or religion is a moral violation.

Kant's quote encourages us to reflect on our inner thoughts and intentions, advocating for a higher ethical standard that goes beyond the limits of the law. True morality is measured not just by what we do, but also by what we think.

Q.4 (a) "The concept of Just and Unjusts contextual. What was just a year back, may turn out to be unjust in today's context. Changing context should be constantly under scrutiny to prevent miscarriage of justice." Examine the above statement with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Answer:

The notion of justice is not static; it evolves with societal norms, cultural shifts, and historical events. As contexts change, so too do the interpretations of what is just or unjust. This dynamic nature necessitates ongoing scrutiny to uphold justice effectively.

JUST VS. UNJUST LAWS

Just Laws

"I would be the first to first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws."

Unjust Laws

"Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that "an unjust law is no law at all.""

The concept of justice is inherently tied to the social, cultural, economic, and political context of a given society at a particular time. What is considered just or unjust can vary significantly based on cultural norms and values, economic conditions, political systems and ideologies, scientific and technological advancements, social movements and lastly public opinion.

But as societies evolve, so do their notions of justice. What was once considered just may be viewed as unjust in light of new information, changing social norms, or shifts in moral understanding. This evolution can occur gradually or rapidly, depending on various factors such as social movements and activism, technological advancements, economic changes, political reforms, educational progress and global influences.

For Example:

- Slavery once considered legal and economically justified in many countries is now universally recognized as unjust and prohibited by international law.
- Similarly, Child marriage was accepted practice in many communities of India but now it is prohibited by law (Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006).

Therefore, constant scrutiny of changing contexts is crucial for several reasons:

- Preventing the perpetuation of outdated or harmful practices.
- Ensuring that laws and policies reflect current societal values.
- Addressing emerging ethical challenges.
- Protecting vulnerable groups from discrimination or exploitation.
- Promoting social progress and equality.

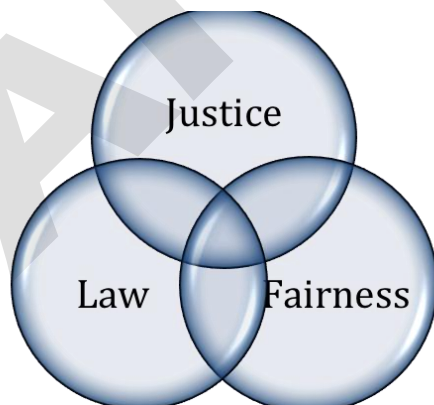**The following measures can be adopted to prevent the miscarriage of Justice:**

- Legal systems must be flexible enough to adapt to changing societal norms,
- Continuous education and public discourse are essential for reassessing and refining our understanding of justice,
- Historical injustices must be acknowledged and addressed to promote healing and progress
- Further, global cooperation and the exchange of ideas can help in identifying and addressing injustices across cultures.

In the ever-evolving scenario of human experience, justice must remain a vigilant guardian, adapting to the shifting sands of societal values. Only through perpetual examination and recontextualization can we hope to uphold a genuinely equitable society, safeguarding against the erosion of moral integrity.

(b) "Mindless addiction to Form, ignoring the Substance of the matter, results in rendering of injustice. A perceptive civil servant is one who ignores such literalness and carries out true intent." Examine the above statement with suitable illustrations. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Answer:

The above statement highlights the conflict between rigid adherence to rules (form) and the pursuit of justice and fairness (substance) in bureaucratic settings. It suggests that true public service requires looking beyond the letter of the law to fulfill its spirit and intent.

Dangers of Mindless Adherence to Form:

- Strict adherence to rules without considering their intent or context can result in unfair outcomes and a waste of resources.
  - **For example**, many poor families were excluded from PDS benefits due to lack of proper documentation, despite being eligible.
- This may result in outcomes that contradict the original intent of laws and policies.
  - **For example**, The RTE mandates 25% reservation in private schools for EWS, but some schools manipulate admissions or create separate classes, undermining the law's intent.
- Excessive focus on procedural compliance can lead to the creation of complex, time-consuming processes that hinder efficient service delivery.
  - **For example**, the process of obtaining a property title in many states takes months due to the regulatory hurdles, hindering EoDB.
- Civil servants may hesitate to implement innovative approaches for fear of deviating from established protocols.
  - **For instance,** in India have been slow to adopt cutting-edge technologies and alternative lending practices due to fears of deviating from traditional compliance frameworks.
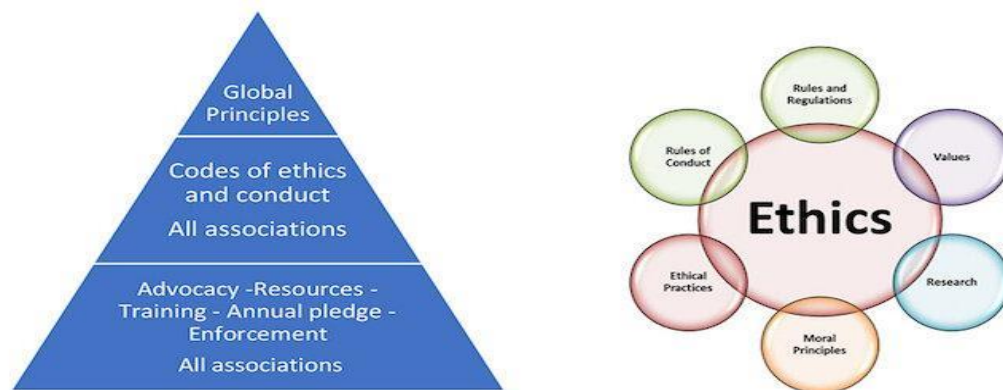
Benefits of Focusing on Substance:

- Allows for adaptive problem-solving.
  - **For example**, Shivendra Pratap Singh (IAS, Maharashtra) implemented a comprehensive approach to deal with farmer suicide.
- Better serves the public interest and the government's true objectives.
  - **For example**, P. Narhari's initiative to make Indore Divyang friendly.
- Emphasizing substance leads to policies that address real issues, resulting in better outcomes for the target population.
  - **For example**, the initiative of "Kan Sikul, Kan Huan" by Shashanka Ala of Mizoram to fight Malnutrition.
- A substantive focus allows for rapid adjustments in policies as societal needs evolve, ensuring relevance over time.
  - **For example**, Ira Singhal appointed a transgender in her office.
- By focusing on outcomes rather than procedural formalities, the compliance burden on citizens and businesses is reduced.
  - **For example**, the proposed single window system and plug-and-play system.

In navigating the intricate play between form and substance, true public service emerges not from rigid adherence to rules, but from a deep commitment to justice's evolving spirit. By prioritizing the essence of fairness over procedural formalities, we unlock the potential for transformative outcomes that resonate with the needs of society.

Q.5 (a) "The 'Code of Conduct' and 'Code of Ethics' are the sources of guidance in public administration. There is code of conduct already in operation, whereas code of ethics is not yet put in place. Suggest a suitable model for code of ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Answer:

In public administration, a Code of Conduct governs behavior by outlining specific rules, while a Code of Ethics focuses on broader principles guiding moral judgment and integrity. Establishing a well-defined Code of Ethics is essential for promoting transparency, accountability, and probity in governance, thereby fostering public trust.

Difference between code of ethics and conduct

- Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct are the standards that a group must adhere to, so as to remain the member of the organization
- **code of ethics** is a set of principles which influence the judgement
- **code of conduct** is a set of guidelines that influence employee's actions.

Basis for comparison	Code of Ethics	Code of Conducts
Meaning	An aspirational document, issued by the board of directors containing core ethical values, principles and ideals of the organization is Code of Ethics.	A directional document containing specific practices and behavior, that are followed or restricted under the organization is Code of Conduct.
Nature	General	Specific
Scope	Wide	Narrow
Governs	Decision making	Actions
Length	Short	Comparatively longer
Disclosure	Publicly disclosed.	Employees only
Focused on	Values or principles	Compliance and rules

Ethical Principle	Description	Example
Integrity	Public officials should uphold honesty, act without personal gain, and avoid conflicts of interest.	Transparent declaration of assets and abstaining from corrupt practices.

Accountability	Officials must be responsible for their actions and decisions, allowing for scrutiny by the public.	Regular public disclosure of decisions and adherence to audit processes.
Whistleblower Protection	Establish mechanisms for reporting unethical conduct without fear of retaliation.	A secure and confidential reporting system for corruption or malpractice.
Transparency	Ensure openness in decision-making processes and clear communication with the public.	Making government contracts and policies publicly accessible.
Impartiality and Fairness	Public servants should act without bias, ensuring equal treatment of all citizens.	Avoiding favoritism in public service delivery, such as hiring or resource allocation.
Respect for Law and Rights	Uphold the law while respecting the rights and dignity of all individuals.	Ensuring fair legal proceedings and protecting human rights in all administrative actions.
Commitment to Public Interest	Prioritize the welfare of the public over personal or sectional interests.	Avoiding lobbying pressures or any form of influence that detracts from public service goals.
Professional Excellence	Continuously enhance skills, knowledge, and competency to serve effectively.	Regular training and skill development in emerging governance practices.

A comprehensive Code of Ethics should emphasize integrity, fairness, and commitment to public service. By implementing such a model, public administration can maintain transparency, improve governance, and foster greater public confidence in government institutions.

(b) The soul of the new law, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is Justice, Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos. Discuss this in the light of major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice in the present judicial system. (Answer in 150 words)10

Answer:

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) reflects a paradigm shift in the Indian judicial system, emphasizing justice, equity, and impartiality. This new law moves away from a strict doctrine of punishment towards a more restorative and rehabilitative approach that aligns with Indian culture and ethos.

Changes proposed in criminal laws

Union home minister Amit Shah has introduced three key bills in the Lok Sabha that, if approved, will overhaul India's criminal justice system. A look at key aspects of the bills

THE BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA (BNS) BILL, 2023
Proposed to replace **Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860**

The IPC, which was framed by the British, is the official criminal code of India that lists various crimes and its punishments

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- Sedition deleted, but another provision **penalising secessionism**, separatism, rebellion and acts against sovereignty, unity and integrity of India brought in
- Provision of **death penalty** for gang rape of minors and for mob lynching
- **Community service introduced** as one of the punishments for the first time

THE BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA, 2023
Proposed to replace **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973**

The CrPC lays down the procedure for investigation, arrest, court hearing, bail and punishment in criminal cases

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- **Time-bound investigation**, trial and judgment within 30 days of the completion of arguments
- **Video-recording** of the statement of sexual assault victims to be made mandatory
- New provision for **attachment of property and proceeds** of crime

THE BHARATIYA SAKSHYA BILL, 2023
Proposed to replace the **Indian Evidence Act, 1872**

The IEA applies to all judicial proceedings in the country and defines the particulars of evidence produced and admissible in courts

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- **Documents to also include** electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smart phones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mails, messages on devices
- **Digitisation of all records** including case diary, FIR, charge sheet and judgement
- Electronic or digital record shall have the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as paper records

Major Shifts in the Judicial System:

- **Focus on Justice Over Punishment**: The BNS prioritizes justice as a fundamental principle, promoting fairness and ethical considerations.
  - For Example, Instead of imposing harsh penalties, the system encourages solutions that restore the victim's dignity.
- **Restorative Justice:** Emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior through reconciliation and rehabilitation.
  - For Example, Community service or mediation between the victim and the offender, fostering healing rather than mere retribution. account circumstances and intent.
- **Equity in Sentencing**: Ensures that all individuals receive fair treatment under the law, taking into
  - A study by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) indicates a growing trend towards alternative sentencing, like probation for first-time offenders.
- **Impartiality in Legal Proceedings**: Upholds the principle of impartiality, ensuring that judgments are made without bias or influence.
  - For Example, Establishing special courts for vulnerable groups, such as women and children, to ensure sensitivity in handling cases.
- **Cultural Context:** The BNS incorporates traditional Indian values of justice and social harmony, promoting community-based solutions.
  - For Example, The use of local panchayats to resolve disputes reflects the integration of indigenous practices into the legal framework.
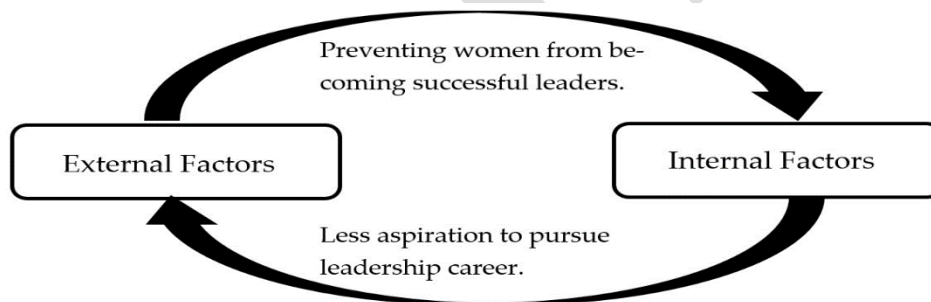
- **Emphasis on Rehabilitation**: Focuses on reforming offenders rather than simply punishing them, reducing recidivism.
  - Example: Initiatives like skill development programs in prisons aim to reintegrate offenders into society as productive citizens.
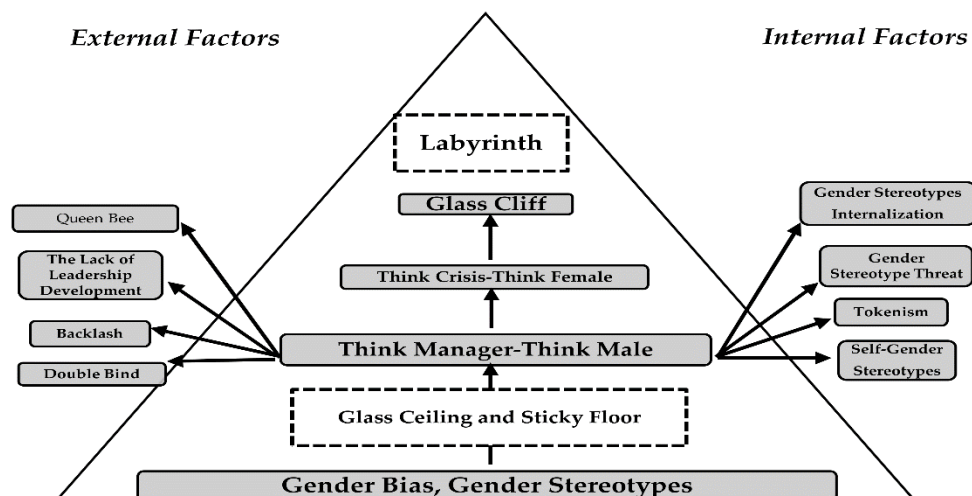
The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita is a landmark piece of legislation that has the potential to transform the Indian judicial system. Its emphasis on justice, equality, and impartiality, grounded in Indian culture and ethos, represents a major shift away from a doctrine of punishment. By prioritizing restorative justice and ensuring that all individuals are treated equally before the law, the BNS aims to create a more just, equitable, and harmonious society.

Q.6 (a) "In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years." Examine the gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants and suggest suitable measures to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Answer:

In Indian culture, gender inclusion is rooted in the value system, promoting equal opportunities for all. Despite this cultural backdrop, the representation of women in public service remains disproportionately low. While the number of women in public service has increased, significant barriers still hinder their progress and effectiveness.

Gender-Specific Challenges Faced by Female Public Servants:

- **Workplace Discrimination**: Women often encounter biases that question their competence and decision-making abilities. As per World Economic Forum, women hold only 28% of leadership roles in public administration globally, indicating significant underrepresentation.
- **Work-Life Balance**: Societal norms place a disproportionate burden of family responsibilities on women, making it challenging to balance professional duties with personal obligations.
- **Safety Concerns and Harassment**: Female public servants may face harassment in the workplace, creating an environment of fear and anxiety. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in India, reported cases of workplace harassment increased by 60% from 2016 to 2019.
- **Limited Support Networks:** A lack of mentorship and networking opportunities for women in public service can hinder their professional growth, making it difficult to navigate organizational structures and advance in their careers.

Measures to Increase Efficiency and Maintain High Standards of Probity:

- **Diversity and Inclusion Training**: Implementing training programs on diversity and inclusion can sensitize employees to gender biases, fostering an inclusive workplace culture that values all contributions equally.
- **Flexible Work Arrangements**: Offering flexible work options, such as remote work and adjustable hours, allows female public servants to better manage their personal and professional lives, enhancing their productivity and job satisfaction.
- **Mentorship and Networking Programs**: Establishing formal mentorship programs can connect women with experienced leaders, providing guidance and support that facilitates career advancement and skill development.
- **Strict Anti-Harassment Policies**: Enforcing robust anti-harassment policies like the POSH Act and creating safe reporting mechanisms can help protect women from harassment, ensuring a secure work environment that promotes focus and efficiency.
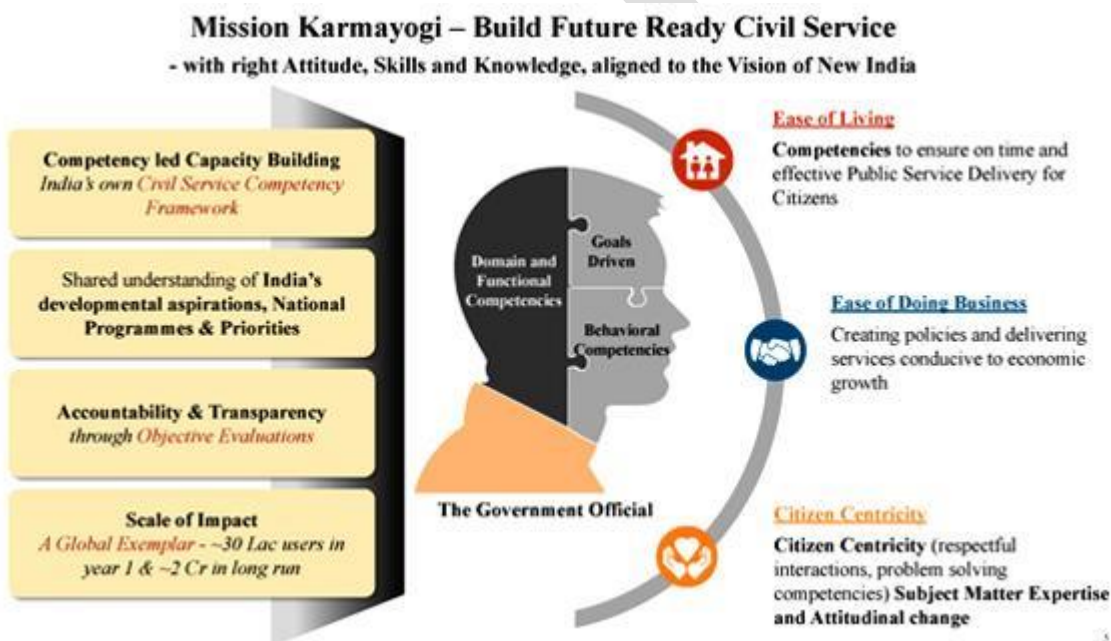
- **Regular Assessments of Workplace Culture**: Conducting regular evaluations of workplace culture can help identify areas of concern related to gender equality, enabling organizations to implement necessary changes to enhance the work environment.

Addressing the gender-specific challenges faced by women in public service is vital for fostering an equitable work environment. By implementing supportive measures, organizations can empower female public servants to excel, thereby upholding high standards of probity and enhancing the overall integrity of public service.

(b) Mission Karmayogi is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn developing oneself. How will this scheme empower the civil servants in enhancing productive efficiency and delivering the services at the grassroots level? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Answer:

Efficiency and integrity are paramount for civil servants, as they are entrusted with the responsibility of serving citizens and implementing government policies. In a rapidly changing socio-economic landscape, maintaining high standards of conduct and behavior is essential for building public trust and ensuring effective service delivery at the grassroots level.

Mission Karmayogi – Build Future Ready Civil Service
- with right Attitude, Skills and Knowledge, aligned to the Vision of New India

Empowering civil servants in increasing efficiency and grassroots delivery through Mission Karmyogi:

- **Skill Development Programs**: Tailored training initiatives equip civil servants with contemporary skills, enhancing their ability to address citizens' needs efficiently.
- **Performance Accountability**: Clear standards of conduct encourage civil servants to take ownership of their roles, leading to improved productivity and service delivery.

- **Citizen-Centric Approach**: Emphasizing engagement with the community ensures that services are relevant and responsive to grassroots requirements. and encourages civil servants to act in the best interest of citizens.
- **Promotion of Ethical Governance**: Instilling values of honesty and transparency builds public trust
- **Interdepartmental Collaboration**: Encouraging teamwork among various departments leads to efficient problem-solving and better resource utilization.
- **Feedback Mechanisms**: Continuous feedback from citizens fosters a culture of improvement, enabling civil servants to adapt services effectively

Mission Karmayogi's emphasis on maintaining a high standard of conduct and behavior is a crucial step towards empowering civil servants to deliver effective services at the grassroots level. By fostering trust, improving efficiency, and promoting a citizen-centric approach, this initiative has the potential to transform the Indian Civil Service into a more effective and responsive organization.

SECTION B

Q.7 There is a technological company named ABC Incorporated which is the second largest worldwide, situated in the Third World. You are the Chief Executive Officer and the majority shareholder of this company. The fast regulalogical improvements have raised worries among environmental activists, regulatory authorities, and the general public over the sustainability of this scenario. You confront substantial issues about the business's environmental footprint. In 2023, your organization had a significant increase of 48% in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the levels recorded in 2019. The significant rise in energy consumption is mainly due to the surging energy requirements of your data centers, fuelled by the exponential expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI-powered services need much more computational resources and electrical energy compared to conventional online activities, notwithstanding their notable gains. The technology's proliferation has led to a growing concern over the environmental repercussions, resulting in an increase in warnings. AI models, especially those used in extensive machine learning and data processing, exhibit much greater energy consumption than conventional computer tasks, with an exponential increase.

Although there is already a commitment and goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, the challenge of lowering emissions seems overwhelming as the integration of AI continues to increase. To achieve this goal, substantial investments in renewable energy use would be necessary. The difficulty is exacerbated by the competitive environment of the technology sector, where rapid innovation is essential for preserving market standing and shareholders' worth. To achieve a balance between innovation, profitability and sustainability, a strategic move is necessary that is in line with both, business objectives and ethical obligations.

(a) What is your immediate response to the challenges posed in the above case?

(b) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.

(c) Your company has been identified to be penalized by technological giants. What logical and ethical arguments will you put forth to convince about its necessity?

(d) Being a conscience being, what measures would you adopt to maintain balance between AI innovation and environmental footprint?

(Answer in 250 words) 20

Answer:

The case study involves ABC Incorporated which faces a 48% increase in greenhouse gas emissions since 2019 due to rising energy demands from AI services. It highlights the need to address these environmental concerns while balancing profitability and innovation.

Stakeholders	Ethical Values
CEO (You) and Majority Shareholders	Accountability, Integrity, Commitment to Public Interest: Balancing profitability, innovation, and sustainability.
Environmental Activists	Environmental Stewardship: Advocating for the reduction of the company's environmental footprint and promoting sustainability.
Regulatory Authorities	Compliance and Responsibility: Ensuring adherence to environmental regulations and promoting policies for sustainable practices.
General Public	Transparency and Fairness: Expecting honest communication regarding the company's environmental impact and progress towards net zero.
Company (ABC Incorporated)	Long-Term Sustainability and Innovation: Committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030 while staying competitive in the market.
Employees and AI Development Teams	Professional Excellence and Ethical Innovation: Ensuring that AI development aligns with both business goals and environmental impact.
Technology Sector Competitors	Fair Competition and Corporate Responsibility: Maintaining innovation while adhering to ethical standards of sustainability.
Data Center Operations	Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection: Addressing the high energy consumption of AI-powered data centers with renewable energy solutions.
Shareholders/Investors	Ethical Profitability: Ensuring business growth and shareholder value while meeting sustainability targets and reducing emissions.

Ethical Issues Involved:

- **Profitability vs. Environmental Responsibility**: The conflict between maximizing profits and fulfilling ethical obligations to minimize ecological impact.
- **Lack of Transparency**: Ethical transparency requires companies to provide honest and clear information about their environmental impact, fostering trust with stakeholders.
- **Environmental Injustice**: Ethical responsibility extends to ensuring that operations do not harm vulnerable communities, emphasizing the need for equitable environmental practices.
- **Innovation vs. Sustainability Trade-off**: The rapid pace of innovation in AI can lead to increased resource consumption and waste.
- **Intergenerational Equity:** Ethical obligations extend to future generations, ensuring that current business practices do not deplete resources that will affect their quality of life.

Immediate Response as CEO:

- **Establish a Cross-Functional Task Force**: Form a team comprising experts in sustainability, AI technology, and business strategy to assess our current environmental impact and develop actionable plans.
- **Conduct a Comprehensive Emissions Audit:** Initiate an in-depth analysis of greenhouse gas emissions across all operations, focusing on data centers and AI processes, to identify key areas for improvement.
- **Invest in Renewable Energy Solutions**: Explore partnerships with renewable energy providers to transition our data centers to sustainable energy sources, thereby reducing our carbon footprint.
- **Engage with Stakeholders**: Open channels of communication with stakeholders, including employees, customers, and investors, to share our sustainability vision and gather feedback on proposed initiatives.
- **Develop a Public Sustainability Report:** Commit to transparency by publishing a sustainability report that outlines our current emissions, efforts to reduce them, and progress towards our goals.

By taking these actions, we can address immediate challenges while laying the groundwork for long-term sustainability and ethical responsibility.

Logical and Ethical Arguments Against Penalties:

- **Proactive Commitment to Sustainability**: The company has demonstrated a proactive commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2030, investing significantly in renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies, which reflects its ethical responsibility toward the environment.
- **Industry-Wide Challenge**: The environmental impact of AI technologies is a widespread challenge faced by the entire tech industry. Penalizing one company undermines collective efforts to address these significant sustainability issues, hindering progress across the sector.
- **Transparency and Accountability**: The company is committed to transparency in its sustainability reporting and actively seeks stakeholder input, demonstrating accountability and a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue.

- **Long-Term Benefits Over Short-Term Punishment**: While penalties may lead to short-term financial repercussions, they can hinder ongoing efforts to implement sustainable practices that promise long-term benefits for the environment and society.
- **Potential for Positive Change**: The initiatives undertaken by the company in sustainability can serve as a model for others in the industry, illustrating that ethical responsibility and business success can coexist, thereby promoting a culture of accountability and improvement.

By articulating these arguments, the company can advocate for a supportive environment that encourages all organizations to enhance their sustainability efforts rather than imposing penalties that may stifle progress.

Measures to Balance AI Innovation and Environmental Footprint:

- **Invest in Renewable Energy**: Transition data centers to 100% renewable energy sources, reducing the carbon footprint associated with AI operations.
- **Enhance Data Center Efficiency**: Upgrade cooling and power systems in data centers to improve energy efficiency, utilizing advanced technologies to optimize performance.
- **Implement Sustainable Practices**: Adopt sustainable business practices, such as reducing electronic waste, recycling materials, and using eco-friendly packaging for products.
- **Promote a Culture of Sustainability:** Foster an organizational culture that prioritizes sustainability by encouraging employees to engage in green initiatives and participate in training on environmental best practices.
- **Collaborate with Environmental Experts:** Partner with environmental organizations and experts to develop innovative solutions that align AI development with sustainability goals.

The situation tests ethical values of responsibility, integrity, and accountability. Balancing profitability with environmental stewardship is essential, and by committing to sustainable practices, we can meet our ethical obligations while navigating industry challenges.

Q.8 Raman is a senior IPS officer and has recently been posted as D.G. of a state. Among the various issues and problems/challenges which needed his immediate attention, the issue relating to recruitment of unemployed youth by an unknown terrorist group, was a matter of grave concern.

It was noted that unemployment was relatively high in the state. The problem of unemployment amongst graduates and those with higher education was much more grave. Thus they were vulnerable and soft targets.

In the review meeting taken by him with senior officers of DIG Range and above, it came to light that a new terrorist group has emerged at the global level. It has launched a massive drive to recruit young unemployed people. Special focus was to pick young people from a particular community. The said organisation seemed to have the clear objective of utilising/using them for carrying out militant activities. It was also gathered that the said (new) group is desperately trying to spread its tentacles in his state.

A definite/reliable intelligence tip was received by the State EID and Cyber Cell that a large number of such unemployed youth have already been contacted by the terrorist outfit/group through social media and local communal organisations and other contacts. The need of the hour was to act swiftly and to check these elements/designs before they assume serious proportions.

Discrete inquiries made by the police, through the Cyber Cell, revealed that good numbers of unemployed youth are very active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. On an average, many of them were spending 6-8 hours each day, using electronic devices/internet, etc. It also came to light that such unemployed youth were showing sympathy and endorsing the messages received from certain persons, allegedly the contact persons of that global terrorist group. Their social media accounts revealed their strong affinity to such groups inasmuch as many of them started forwarding anti-national tweets on their WhatsApp and Facebook, etc. It seemed that they succumbed to their ploy and started propagating secessionist ideology. Their posts were hyper critical of the government's initiatives, policies and subscribing to extreme beliefs and promoting extremism.

(a) What are the options available to Raman to tackle the above situation?

(b) What measures would you suggest for strengthening the existing set-up to ensure that such groups do not succeed in penetrating and vitiating the atmosphere in the state?

(c) In the above scenario, what action plan would you advise for enhancing the intelligence gathering mechanism of the police force? (Answer in 250 words) 20

Answer:

The recruitment of unemployed youth by terrorist organizations is a serious issue, driven by factors like unemployment and vulnerability. Raman, as D.G. of the state, must tackle the situation swiftly while balancing security measures and ethical responsibilities. Ethical theories can guide his actions to ensure both short-term and long-term resolutions.

Stakeholders	Ethical Values Involved
Raman (Senior IPS Officer, D.G. of State)	Integrity, accountability, responsibility to maintain law and order, protect the vulnerable, and promote social harmony.
Unemployed Youth	Vulnerability, susceptibility to radicalization, dignity, need for economic security and guidance towards positive engagement.
Police Officers (DIG Range and Above)	Responsibility, vigilance, professionalism, coordination, duty to prevent terrorism, and ensure public safety.
State Intelligence and Cyber Cell	Confidentiality, diligence, strategic intervention, ethical use of technology, protection of national security.
Terrorist Group	Malice, exploitation, unethical manipulation of vulnerable populations for harmful purposes, violation of human rights and laws.

Community and Society at Large	Safety, social harmony, national security, need for economic and social development to prevent extremism.
Government/Policy Makers	Duty to address unemployment, promote welfare, inclusive governance, and create policies to protect the vulnerable.
Social Media Platforms	Responsibility to prevent misuse, ensure ethical use of technology, privacy, and avoid facilitating extremist activities.

(a) Options available to Raman:

- **Enhanced Cyber Surveillance**: Raman can strengthen social media monitoring to track recruitment attempts, balancing it with privacy concerns, as per John Stuart Mill's Harm Principle.
- **Community Outreach:** Engaging with local communities and influencers to de-radicalize youth and foster positive engagement, following Gandhian principles of peaceful conflict resolution.
- **De-radicalization Programs**: Setting up counseling and rehabilitation for individuals affected by extremist ideologies to reintegrate them into society. process and human dignity as suggested by Kant's deontological ethics.
- **Immediate Law Enforcement Action**: Arrest key figures responsible for recruitment, ensuring due
- Employment Initiatives: Collaborating with government departments to provide employment opportunities, based on Aristotle's virtue ethics, ensuring personal growth through meaningful work.

(b) Measures to strengthen the existing set-up:

- **Advanced Cybersecurity Training:** Equip the police with advanced training in cybersecurity to better handle online recruitment activities.
- Strengthen Community Policing: Build trust between local communities and law enforcement, following Hobbes' social contract theory, to encourage intelligence sharing.
- **Collaborate with Social Media Firms**: Work with platforms like Facebook to track extremist content, leveraging the Intermediary Guidelines for better control over online spaces.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Educate youth about the dangers of extremist ideologies, aligning with Amartya Sen's capability approach to expand informed decision-making.
- **Job Creation and Skill Development**: Address unemployment by launching job initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, providing youths an alternative to radicalization.

(c) Action plan for enhancing intelligence-gathering:

- **AI and Data Analytics:** Use AI tools to monitor social media and predict recruitment trends, improving real-time responses.
- **Strengthen Humint Networks**: Develop local informants within communities to gather intelligence on radicalization efforts, applying Plato's knowledge theory.
- **Collaboration with Central Agencies**: Work closely with national agencies like IB and RAW for better coordination and intelligence sharing.

- **Cross-Border Intelligence:** Engage with international partners to prevent cross-border terrorism influences.
- **Anonymous Reporting Channels:** Establish anonymous tip lines and apps for the public to report suspicious activities easily.

Raman must balance strict enforcement with preventive measures. A combination of law enforcement, ethical engagement, and providing economic opportunities will ensure long-term peace. By focusing on both immediate threats and root causes, the state can prevent the spread of radicalization while preserving societal harmony.

Q.9 With multipronged strategy of the Central and State Governments specially in the last few years, the naxalite problem has been resolved to a large extent in the affected states of the country. However, there are a few pockets in certain states where naxalite problem still persists mainly due to involvement of foreign countries. Rohit is posted as SP (Special Operations) for the last one year, in one of the districts which is still affected by the naxalite problem. The district administration has taken a lot of developmental works in the recent past in the naxalite affected areas to win the hearts and minds of the people. Over a period of time, Rohit has established an excellent intelligence network to get the real time information regarding the movement of naxalite cadre. To instill confidence in the public and have moral ascendancy over the naxalites, a number of cordons and search operations are being conducted by the police. Rohit who himself was leading one of the contingents got a message though his inteligence source that about ten hard core naxalites were hiding in a particular village with sophisticated weapons. Without wasting any time, Rohit reached the target village with his team and laid out a foolproof cordon and started carrying out a systematic search. During the search, his team managed to overpower all the naxatites along with their automatic weapons. However, in the meantime, more than five hundred tribal women surrounded the village and started marching towards the target house. They were shouting and demanding the immediate release of insurgents since they are their protectors and saviours. The situation on the ground was becoming very critical as the tribal women wors extremely agitated and aggressive. Rohit tried to contact his superior officer, IG (Special Operations) of the state on the radio set and on mobile phone, but failed to do so due to poor connectivity. Rohit was in great dilemma since out of the naxalites apprehended, two were not only hard core top insurgents with prize money of ten lakhs on their heads, but were also involved in a recent ambush on the security forces. However, if he did not release the naxalites, the situation could get out of control since the tribal women were aggressively charging towards them. In that case, to control the situation Rohit might have to resort to firing which may lead to valuable loss of lives of civilians and would further complicate the situation.

(a) What are the options available with Rohit to cope with the situation?

(b) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Rohit?

(c) Which of the options, do you think, would be more appropriate for Rohit to adopt and why?

(d) In the present situation, what are the extra precautionary measures to be taken by the police in dealing with women protesters?

(Answer in 250 words)

Answer:

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) data, Naxal violence dropped by 77% between 2010 and 2022, and affected districts have decreased from 126 in 2010 to 46 in 2023. Despite progress, some areas still face sporadic insurgencies fueled by local grievances and external influences.

Stakeholders	Ethical Values Involved
Rohit (SP - Special Operations)	Integrity, Responsibility, Courage, Leadership, Decision-making under pressure, Accountability, Lawfulness.
Tribal Women (Local Population)	Right to protest, Emotional attachment to the naxalites, Perception of protection by insurgents, Potential harm to civilians.
Naxalites (Insurgents)	Criminal accountability, Justice, Public safety, Respect for law, Right to a fair trial.
Government (State and Central)	National security, Law enforcement, Public safety, Respect for rights of individuals, Maintaining order, Ethical governance.
Security Forces (Rohit's Team)	Duty to uphold law, Courage, Safety of civilians, Professional conduct, Avoiding unnecessary violence.
Superior Officers (IG Special Operations)	Accountability, Responsibility for guidance, Communication, Authority, Strategic oversight.
Local Administration	Trust-building with the community, Social justice, Developmental responsibility, Ensuring long-term peace and stability.
General Public	Public interest, Safety, Trust in law enforcement, Stability of the region, Protection of civilians, Ethical handling of conflict.

(**a) Options Available to Rohit: time until reinforcement arrives. the crowd while ensuring minimal harm.**

- **Negotiate with the Tribal Women:** Engage the women in dialogue to de-escalate tensions and buy.
- **Use Non-Lethal Force**: Employ non-lethal measures such as tear gas or water cannons to disperse
- **Release Some Insurgents:** Consider releasing low-level insurgents to temporarily pacify the crowd, ensuring the safety of officers and civilians.
- **Stand Ground and Wait for Reinforcements**: Hold the current position and prevent the situation from escalating further, hoping the women will disperse with time or after negotiations.

- **Retreat Temporarily:** Fall back to a safer position and regroup with reinforcements, avoiding a direct confrontation.

(b) Ethical Dilemmas Faced by Rohit:

- **Safety of Civilians vs. National Security:** Rohit must balance protecting civilians from potential harm during a confrontation and ensuring dangerous insurgents do not escape, which would jeopardize future security.
- **Law Enforcement vs. Humanitarian Considerations**: Adhering to legal obligations to apprehend insurgents conflicts with humanitarian concerns about using force against civilians, especially women.
- **Public Trust vs. Tactical Success**: Using force might undermine the developmental efforts and damage public trust, while letting the insurgents go could affect the police's credibility and morale.

(c) Most Appropriate Option:

- The most appropriate option for Rohit would be negotiation and de-escalation.
- Engaging the tribal women in dialogue offers a non-violent approach, minimizing the risk of civilian casualties.
- This option aligns with the long-term strategy of winning hearts and minds through development work, maintaining public trust while avoiding the use of force.
- At the same time, it allows Rohit to hold the insurgents and wait for further instructions or reinforcements.

(d) Precautionary Measures in Dealing with Women Protesters:

- **Non-Lethal Crowd Control:** Use non-violent methods such as tear gas, water cannons, or loudspeakers to calm the crowd without causing harm.
- **Female Police Officers:** Deploy female officers to engage with the protesters, as they may handle the situation more sensitively and with less likelihood of escalation. concerns and de-escalate tensions without resorting to violence.
- **Continuous Dialogue**: Keep communication lines open with community leaders to understand their.
- **Avoid Use of Force:** Refrain from using lethal force unless absolutely necessary to prevent further alienation of the local population.

Rohit's dilemma involves balancing national security with the protection of civilian lives. A strategic, non-violent approach that emphasizes negotiation and de-escalation is most appropriate in maintaining public trust and reducing the likelihood of further conflict.

Q.10 Sneha is a Senior Manager working for a big reputed hospital chain in a mid-sized city. She has been made in-charge of the new super speciality center that the hospital is building with state-of-the art equipment and world class medical facilities. The building has been reconstructed and she is starting

the process of procurement for various equipment and machines. As the head of the committee responsible for procurement, she has invited bids from all the interested reputed vendors dealing in medical equipment. She notices that her brother, who is a well-known supplier in this domain, has also sent his expression of interest. Since the hospital is privately owned, it is not mandatory for her to select only the lower bidder. Also, she is aware that her brother's company has been facing some financial difficulties and a big supply order will help him recover. At the same time, allocating the contract to her brother might bring charges of favouritism against her and tarnish her image. The hospital management trusts her fully and would support any decision of hers.

(a) What should be Sneha's course of action?

(b) How would she justify what she chooses to do?

(c) In this case, how is medical ethics compromised with vested personal interest?

Answer:

This case study presents a classic conflict of interest scenario involving Sneha, a Senior Manager tasked with procuring equipment for a new hospital center. She faces a moral and ethical dilemma: favor her brother's company, which is struggling financially, or maintain transparency and fairness in procurement. Her decision has implications for her reputation, professional integrity, and medical ethics.

Stakeholders involved:

1. Sneha: Senior Manager and head of the procurement committee, responsible for decision-making.

2. Sneha's brother: A supplier whose financial future depends on winning the contract.

3. Hospital management: Trusts Sneha's judgment and relies on her for an ethical decision.

4. Other bidders: Reputed vendors who expect a fair selection process.

5. Patients: Indirect stakeholders, as the quality of equipment impacts their healthcare.

6. Public: The community whose trust is at stake due to potential favoritism in procurement.

(a) What should be Sneha's course of action?

Sneha's ideal course of action should be to recuse herself from the procurement process, given her conflict of interest. She must inform the hospital management of her brother's involvement and request to hand over decision-making responsibility to another neutral member of the procurement committee.

Reasons to reject other courses of action:

1. **Awarding the contract to her brother**: This would create an appearance of favoritism and potentially tarnish her reputation. It goes against deontological ethics (Kant's theory), which emphasizes duty and adherence to rules without considering outcomes.

2. **Rejecting her brother's bid solely to avoid suspicion:** This would be unfair if his bid is competitive, violating principles of fairness and justice outlined in Rawls' theory of justice.

By recusing herself, Sneha would ensure that the process remains transparent and ethical, protecting her reputation and maintaining fairness to all parties involved.

(b) How would she justify what she chooses to do?

Sneha can justify her recusal by citing conflict of interest. She must explain that, while she has no intention of favoritism, her family connection could lead to perceptions of bias, which would undermine the integrity of the process.

This aligns with the utilitarian principle of ensuring the greatest good for the greatest number, as it maintains trust in the procurement process and prevents ethical lapses. Additionally, by promoting transparency, she would uphold the virtue ethics of honesty and fairness, key traits expected of a leader in a healthcare setting.

(c) How is medical ethics compromised with vested personal interest?

Medical ethics prioritizes patient care, transparency, and public trust. If Sneha were to prioritize personal interests over professional duties, it could compromise the integrity of the hospital and affect patient care.

Selecting a vendor based on personal benefit rather than merit can lead to suboptimal equipment procurement, potentially impacting the quality of medical services provided. Hippocratic ethics, which emphasize "do no harm," would be violated if patients were indirectly harmed by equipment that may not be of the highest quality. Aristotle's virtue ethics would suggest that by allowing vested interests to influence decisions, Sneha would act against virtues such as integrity, justice, and responsibility, which are crucial in medical and public service fields.

Sneha should prioritize transparency and fairness by recusing herself from the decision-making process. This would align with ethical theories and principles, ensure that medical ethics are upheld, and preserve public trust in the institution. A strong ethical foundation in decision-making ensures the long-term sustainability of public and professional trust, which is vital in the healthcare sector.

Q. 11 With the summer heat being exceptionally severe this year, the district has been facing severe water shortage. The District Collector has been mobilizing his subordinate officials to conserve the remaining water reserves for preventing the district from plunging into acute drinking water crisis. Along with an awareness campaign for conserving water, strict measures have been taken for stopping the over-exploitation of ground-water. Vigilance teams have been deployed to tour the villages and find the farmers who are drawing water from deep borewells or from the river reservoir for irrigation. The farmers are agitated by such action. A delegation of farmers meets the District Collector with their issues and complains that while they are not being allowed to irrigate their crops, big industries located near the river are drawing huge amounts of water through deep borewells for their industrial processes. The farmers allege that their administration is anti-farmer and corrupt, being bribed by the industry.

The district needs to placate the farmers as they are threatening to go on a prolonged protest. At the same time, the District Collector has to deal with the water crisis. The industry cannot be closed as this would result in a large number of workers being unemployed.

(a) Discuss all options available to the District Collector as a District Magistrate.

(b) What suitable actions can be taken in view of mutually compatible interests of the stakeholders?

(c) What are the potential administrative and ethical dilemmas for the District Collector? (Answer in 250 words) 20

Answer:

In the above case study, The District Collector (DC) faces a challenging situation, balancing between the need to manage a water crisis, address farmers' concerns, and avoid shutting down industries. A careful approach that considers both short-term relief and long-term water management is needed.

Stakeholders	Ethical Values
District Collector	Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Justice, Commitment to Public Interest, Impartiality
Farmers	Equity, Fairness, Right to Livelihood, Transparency, Protection of Rights
Industries	Accountability, Social Responsibility, Fair Use of Resources, Economic Stability
Vigilance Teams	Integrity, Impartiality, Accountability, Enforcement of Law
General Public (Citizens)	Right to Access Essential Resources (Water), Justice, Welfare, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
Workers in Industries	Right to Employment, Economic Stability, Fairness in Decision-Making
Government/Administration	Public Interest, Rule of Law, Environmental Sustainability, Fairness

The District Collector faces several administrative and ethical dilemmas in managing this situation:

Administrative Dilemmas:

- **Public Unrest**: Farmers threaten protests, which could escalate into social and economic instability, especially in a rural district dependent on agriculture.
- **Economic Consequences:** Closing industries could lead to unemployment, further compounding the crisis.
- **Enforcement of Restrictions**: Ensuring that water conservation laws are enforced uniformly across sectors.

- **Monitoring Corruption**: Allegations of corruption must be addressed, requiring a transparent process that ensures fairness while maintaining the morale of officials.

Ethical Dilemmas:

- **Fairness and Equity:** The District Collector must ensure that water distribution is fair, and that no group feels unjustly treated or discriminated against.
- **Sustainability vs. Livelihoods**: Weighing the long-term sustainability of water resources against the immediate need for livelihoods.
- **Trust and Transparency:** The administration must act transparently to regain the trust of the farmers and avoid perceptions of favoritism toward industries.
- **Environmental Responsibility**: Balancing economic activities with environmental conservation and preventing long-term damage due to over-extraction of water resources.

Navigating these dilemmas requires the District Collector to prioritize equitable solutions, maintain social stability, and ensure transparency and accountability in the administration's actions.

Below are the various options available to the District Collector:

Option 1-Enforcing Equal Restrictions on Water Use for Both Farmers and Industries:

Merits	Demerits
Fairness and Public Trust	Restricting industries could lead to economic consequences
Resource Conservation	Immediate restrictions could cause unrest among workers dependent on industries for their livelihoods.

Option2-Implementing a Tiered Water Allocation System

Merits	Demerits
Balanced approach keeping all needs in mind	Complex to Administer and could lead to inadequacy
Allows Flexibility and reduces conflict	May lead to Farmer Dissatisfaction.

Option3-Negotiating with Farmers for Temporary Compromises

Merits	Demerits
Creating Long Term Partnerships	Might lead to delay in action
Dialogue Based Approach and Avoid Crisis	It is a temporary relief measure and might create mistrust in long run.

Option4-Mandating Water Recycling and Efficiency Measures for Industries

Merits	Demerits
Will ensure economic continuity and sustainability	High initial Investment
Eco-friendly initiative that can be supported by industries and garner public goodwill	It might not bring immediate relief.

Here's a set of actions that could help address the issue:

- **Equitable Water Management**: By rationing of Water Usage while prioritizing drinking water.
- **Transparent Allocation of Water**: A Water Allocation Committee can be formed with representation from all stakeholders involved, which should take data-driven decisions based on real-time analysis.
- **Alternate Water Sources and Efficiency Improvements**: By promoting Water-Saving Technology such as drip irrigation and sprinklers. Industries to recycle water and also invest in rainwater harvesting.
- **Enforce Regulations Fairly**: By stricter Monitoring of All Users and taking anti-corruption measures.
- **Crisis Support for Farmers:** by providing compensation for crop losses and parallely encouraging less water intensive crops.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Continue the campaign for water conservation, but broaden it to target both farmers and industries, emphasizing the long-term benefits of sustainable water use for the entire district.

The District Collector needs a multipronged approach that balances immediate crisis management with long-term sustainability. A combination of tiered water allocation, strict water-use restrictions on industries, and dialogue with farmers is likely to yield the best short-term results. Simultaneously, the District Collector can seek State and Central Government's assistance in promoting rainwater harvesting, micro-irrigation, crop diversification and drought resistance crops that will help create a more sustainable water management system for the future.

By taking these actions, we can foster an environment of collaboration, ensure fair water distribution, and prevent the district from descending into conflict or economic instability. Communication, transparency, and engaging with all stakeholders (farmers, industries, and government) are essential to avoid escalation into protests and economic losses while addressing the critical water crisis.

Q.12 Dr. Srinivasan is a senior scientist working for a reputed company known for its cutting-edge research in pharmaceuticals. Dr. Srinivasan is heading a research team working on a new drug aimed at treating a rapidly spreading variant of a new viral infectious disease. The disease has been rapidly spreading across the world and the cases reported in the country are increasing. There is huge pressure on Dr. Srinivasan's team to expedite the trials for the drug as there is significant market for it, and the company wants to get the first mover advantage in the market. During a team meeting, some senior team members suggest some shortcut for expediting the clinical trials for the drug and for getting the

requisite approvals. **These include manipulating data to exclude some negative outcomes and selectively reporting positive results foregoing the process of informed consent and using compounds already patented by a rival mpany, rather than developing one's own component. Dr. Srinivasan is not comfortable taking such shortcuts, at the same time he realises meeting the targets is impossible without using these means.**

(a) What would you do in such a situation?

(b) Examine your options and consequences in the light of the ethical questions involved.

(c) How can data ethics and drug ethics save humanity at large in such a scenario?

(Answer in 250 words)

Answer:

In this scenario, Dr. Srinivasan faces a classic ethical dilemma where the pressure to deliver results conflicts with the integrity of the scientific process and professional ethics.

Stakeholders	Ethical Values
Dr. Srinivasan	Integrity, Responsibility, Professionalism, Accountability, Adherence to ethical scientific practices
Research Team Members	Ethical Conduct, Transparency, Honesty, Accountability, Respect for Research Guidelines
Pharmaceutical Company	Profit vs. Ethics, Corporate Responsibility, Transparency, Fair Competition
Patients/Public Health	Informed Consent, Right to Safe Treatment, Trust, Safety, Patient Welfare
Regulatory Authorities	Accountability, Regulatory Compliance, Safety Standards, Public Trust
Rival Pharmaceutical Company	Intellectual Property Rights, Fair Competition, Respect for Patents
Global Medical Community	Scientific Integrity, Public Trust, Adherence to Ethical Research Practices
Society at Large	Trust in the Healthcare System, Public Safety, Fairness, Equity in Access to Safe and Effective Treatment

Ethical Questions Involved

Integrity in Scientific Research: Does altering data undermine the fundamental ethical principle of honesty in science?

Patient Rights and Safety: How do shortcuts compromise the rights of patients to informed consent and to receive a treatment that is safe and thoroughly tested?

Intellectual Property and Fair Competition: How does violating patent laws affect the ethics of competition and innovation in the biotechnology field?

Social Responsibility: How does Dr. Srinivasan's decision impact society at large, especially given the public's dependence on safe pharmaceuticals to combat a dangerous viral disease?

Options Available

1. Option 1-Manipulating Data

Merits	Demerits
Ensures faster approvals	compromises the safety of the drug and misleads regulatory bodies
Quicker market entry	patient harm, legal liability, reputational damage, and a loss of public trust in science and medicine.

2. Option 2-Using Patented Compounds

Merits	Demerits
Ensures faster approvals	Intellectual property violation, risking legal consequences
Quicker market entry	Undermining the integrity of the scientific community.

3. Option 3-Adhering to Ethical Standards

Merits	Demerits
Maintain Data Integrity and scientific trust	May delay the drug's release and become a loss for the company
Ensure patient safety	Dr. Srinivas's job might be at stake

4. Option 4- Respecting Intellectual Property and develop one's own original compound

Merits	Demerits
respects the rules of fair competition and avoids legal risks	May not get the first mover's advantage
potentially greater success through a safe and effective product	Short-term delays in drug development

In such a situation, as Dr. Srinivasan, I would reject the proposed shortcuts and uphold the highest ethical standards. Even though the pressure to expedite the process is intense, and the company's desire for a first-mover advantage is significant, compromising on ethics could have severe and long-term consequences for both patients and the company itself.

Here's how I would approach the situation:

- **Reaffirm Ethical Responsibilities** by: Rejecting data manipulation, Insisting on Informed Consent as its a patient's right, Respecting Intellectual property laws as using patented compounds from a rival company without proper licensing could lead to legal ramifications and damage the company's reputation. Institutions, Seeking Expedited Review from Regulators.
- **Propose Alternative Solutions**: like requesting Additional Resources, Collaborating with Other
- **Communicate Risks of Unethical Actions**: I would clearly communicate the potential long-term consequences of unethical behavior to both my team and company leadership, emphasizing that Patient Safety is paramount, there may be regulatory backlash which could lead to long term loss of trust and credibility.
- **Leverage Ethics as a Competitive Advantage**: While the pressure to be first to market is real, I would argue that maintaining ethical integrity can be a differentiator. If the public and medical community know the company values patient safety and follows rigorous ethical standards, this could lead to stronger long-term trust, brand loyalty, and a better reputation than competitors.
- **Establish an Ethical Culture within the Team**: I would use this as an opportunity to set a clear precedent for my team that ethical behavior is non-negotiable, even under pressure. This could involve reinforcing ethical training, establishing whistleblower protections for anyone who sees unethical behavior, and encouraging an open dialogue about ethical concerns.

How Data Ethics and Drug Ethics Save Humanity

Data Ethics	Drug Ethics
Emphasizes the responsible handling of information, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and accountability.	Focuses on moral principles guiding pharmaceutical research and the duty to "do no harm."
Avoiding data manipulation protects the integrity of research, fosters trust, and ensures reliable decisions.	Following ethical protocols like informed consent and rigorous clinical trials ensures patient well-being.
Trust in healthcare and science is fragile; once eroded, it is difficult to regain.	Prioritizing patient safety over profit serves the greater good of humanity.

While meeting the drug development targets may seem impossible without shortcuts, compromising on ethical standards is never the solution. By adhering to data integrity, respecting patient rights, and following intellectual property laws, I would protect patients, preserve the company's long-term reputation, and maintain my personal and professional integrity.