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(To be filled by candidate)

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NEXT IAS Roll No.:

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Date of Examination :

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Bhopal ☐

Online ☐

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TC267

Program : Prelims to Prelims ☐

Prelims to Mains ☒

[Written 2 Mains already - Please evaluate strictly
E
advisory
on how
to improve
marks]

MTS CSE 2023-2024 (TEST-17)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This Question-cum Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 28 pages. Immediately on receipt of the booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.

Candidates must read the instructions on this page and the following pages carefully before attempting the paper.

Candidates should attempt the questions strictly in accordance with the instructions specified in the question paper and in the space prescribed under each question in the booklet. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.

Question paper will be provided separately and can be taken by the candidates after conclusion of the exam.

SUBJECT/PAPER

GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. :

[To be filled by the STUDENT]

Student's Queries for the Evaluator (if any write them below)

Written & Marked already - Please evaluate
strictly with advisory on how to increase
the marks

[To be filled by the EXAMINER]

Evaluator's response

(For filling by Examiners only)

Evaluator Code :

Q.No	Pg No.	Maximum Marks	Marks	Total
1 (a)	1			
1.(b)	3			
2. (a)	5			
2. (b)	7			
3. (a)	9			
3. (b)	11			
4.	13			
5.	18			
6.	24			
Grand Total				

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS

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2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
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2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
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SECTION-A

1.(a)

"The State took taxes from the people only to ensure their prosperity in return like the sun takes moisture from the earth only to give it back in thousand fold measure." — Kalidasa

Explain the Indian concept of 'giving it back' and its relevance as a guiding value for civil servants.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Kalidasa is one of the greatest Indian poet of Gupta period who has showcased Indian values & ethos in his ^{timeless} ~~eternally~~ cherishable works of literature.

Indian Concept of 'giving it back'

- o 'Giving it back' in its essence refers to performance of public service or working towards the end goal of 'public interest' over & above self interests.
- o The concept encapsulates Obligatory duty upon every individual to serve the society of which they are part of as every member has received the benefit or fruits of social charity.
- o Greatest Indian monk philosopher, Swami Vivekananda propounds that 'Service' & 'renunciation' are the greatest national ideals of India.

- o Various Indian ^{Scriptures} cultural texts and art ~~have~~ like Mahabharata, Shukla Yajurveda, Bhagavad Gita, 'Adi Granth' of Sikh have highlighted service to the public as a means to one's own salvation & fulfillment of life.

Relevance of the concept for Civil servants

- 1) Civil servants who inculcate the value of 'giving it back' to the society place their self interest way below the public interest, i.e. they shall give primary to giving in whatever capacity rather than extracting from the society.
- 2) It nurtures 'positive attitude' of civil servants towards society ex: Persevere through hurdles of society.
- 3) It enhances required 'foundational values' of civil service ex: Dedication to service, responsibility, etc.
- 4) Enforce laws or ethical principles both in letter & spirit going extra mile.
ex: Praharaj Nair - 'Operation Sula-mani'

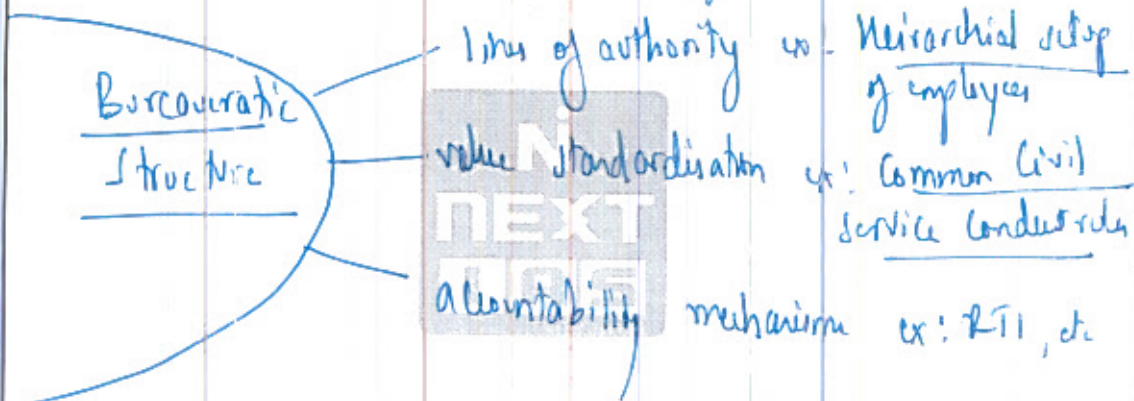
Therefore, the concept of 'giving it back' transforms & revitalises 'rusted steel frame' of bureaucracy into 'citizen centric' bureaucracy.

1.(b)

Public service takes place in a bureaucratic structure with clear lines of authority, value standardisation, and accountability mechanisms. Working within such a structure, what do you think are the influences that impact the public servant's ethical decision-making?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

In contemporary bureaucratic setup, roles & expectations from public servants are becoming increasingly complex that requires them to make ethical decisions actively after taking into consideration numerous factors.



Influences that impact the public servant's ethical decision making

i) Laws, rules & regulations

these are enactments of legislative & executive subordinates that provide for prescription & prohibition as determined by sovereign political authority → It both induces & restrains certain type of decision making

ex: Protection of Human rights act, 1993

↳ upheld take decision that upheld human dignity

2) Organisational ethics

This determines the principles or standards for the fulfillment of which an organisation strives for. → It act as 'motto' behind every decision taken by civil servant
ex: "Sheelam paroma bhushanam"

3) Work culture, Code of ethics & Code of Conduct

These have immense influential power through mechanism of peer pressure

4) Ethics of Panopticon society

It refers to system of surveillance & control especially in modern digital age.

↳ such external mechanism of vigilance influences public servants to choose appropriate course of action

5) Conscience, Morality & Ethics

↳ These act collectively as 'inner light of guidance' that sheds light upon righteousness an individual has to follow in moment of crisis

Therefore, bureaucracy deserves an active & dynamic minded public servant to maintain 'probity in governance'.

- 2.(a) As professionals, civil servants are career-focused and are also self-interested. At the same time, their service ethos imposes an obligation to serve the public interest selflessly. Is it possible for a civil servant to reconcile career and service obligation? Explain your position.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

"Atmano mokshartham jagadhitayacha"

(For the salvation of our individual self
& for the well-being for all)

This motto of Ramakrishna Mission can be equally applied for civil services as it provides unique & excellent opportunity for both individual growth & societal development.

Possibility to reconcile both
career & service obligations

- 1) Dedication to public service acts as both end in itself & also as a means for career growth in Indian civil service
- 2) The excellent public servants who achieve unthinkable are always recognised by the government
ex: Civil service annual awards
- 3) Companionate & efficient civil servants doing their service selflessly are always

- supported & complemented by civil society organisations, NGOs, etc
- 4) The media too recognises their admirable selfless service and project them as role models for younger generation.
- 5) There are sufficient internal mechanisms within service itself like selection committees, department of personnel which keep tab on selfless civil servants & choose them for higher positions.

However, career & service obligation doesn't always reconcile

- acting in public interest over political interest might irk political executives
- Marginalisation of or cornering of idealistic civil servants ex: Ashok Kumar - multiple transfers
- presence of numerous civil servants who like to work anonymously without expectations in return

Although, it is possible to reconcile both career & service obligations, in times of disharmony, public service obligation should take priority over career obligations.

- 2.(b) Public service requires legal and morally principled action. Public service requires the public servant to place loyalty to the constitution, laws, and ethical principles. Among the three, which must acquire primacy while carrying out official functions? Why? Discuss.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Over the course of public service tenure, constitution, laws & ethical principles acts as sources of ethical guidance for the public servant across diverse situations.

It might be ideal for public servant to maintain balanced loyalty towards all three sources. But for all practical purposes, it is wiser to show primary loyalty to Constitution.

Constitution as primary loyalty

1) India follows 'constitutionalism' - a doctrine that government's authority is determined by body of constitution.

2) Constitution provides for 'constitutional morality' i.e. it provides for progressive set of principles & values that must guide the action of government & citizen

ex: Abolition of triple talak as against social morality

3) The framers of constitution were no ordinary ~~man~~ people. They were nationalist leaders who inculcated very essence of Indian values & ethos.

4) Constitution itself is based on ethical principles which can be collectively implemented in society
ex: Abolition of untouchability → sanctity of government
U/A A.17

5) Limitations of Laws

- ↳ static & ~~dynamic~~ dynamic
- ↳ incomplete by nature
- ↳ Interpretation of law can vary
- ↳ can only prescribe 'moral minimum'
- ↳ need to be enforced by external authority

6) Limitation of ethical principles

- ↳ Ethical principles are unwritten or uncodified
- ↳ Not enforceable
- ↳ can vary across societies like rural/urban, etc.

However, a country is ~~not~~ strong not because it has great legislation/laws, rather it has people with good character. Therefore, Character based on Indian Constitution is the way ahead.

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3.(a)

Explain the meaning of the following quotations and discuss their contemporary relevance.

The senses deceive from time to time, and it is prudent never to trust wholly those who have deceived us even once.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

The above quote provides us with practical wisdom that we should not ~~make~~ repeat the mistake of being victimised from those who have already cheated upon us beforehand.

"It's always difficult to rebuild the trust once it's broken"

Trust is built over very long time especially if the other side is completely "stranger" to us. As it is said "proverbs of local Indian languages, it might take hundreds of minutes to build the pot but just less than a minute is enough to break it.

Although rebuilding of trust can happen in some situations, with whom it's broken, it is wise to always maintain some vigilance in relationship so as to avoid any kind of loss.

Consider the case of Indo China War of 1962
 India showcased immense trust in China as
 a development partner in international affairs.
 India even signed pact after independence
 over border disputes. But as a consequence
 of trusting China wholly, India was
bestowed with destructive war.

- Never trusting wholly makes us diligent partner in foreign affairs.
 - It makes it difficult for others to hamper our growth & development at individual, societal & national level.
- ex : Steve Jobs' career growth after pushback from his own company

However, not always this prohibitionary attitude towards others is necessary. Because as it is said to err is human, to forgive is divine. The act of mercy & forgiveness can provide the other person to grow ethically. Therefore, instead of going by such dictums, better to employ our emotional intelligence.

3.(b) "The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men."

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

"The only thing necessary for triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing"

Society is a complex intermix of both good and bad people. Evil men are those who are guided by selfish motives while good men are those who are guided by ethical motives.

The 'dys-equilibrium' or the role of evil men happens when the force of good men remain silent.

When the good men pay indifference to public affairs, they are taken out of equation of the society. Their indifference also acts as passive conformity towards the actions of evil men, as if they agree to them in silence.

For ex: Catastrophe of anti semitism engulfed Germany not because of Nazism of Hitler, rather because of millions of citizens of Germany who remained as 'silent spectators'.

The indifference provides an opportunity for evil men to further propagate their vested interests without facing any challenges. This makes it easy for them to even influence the ambiguous (ethically) citizenry.

Only when even an individual a single right (ethically) man stands against such oppression & suppression of evil men does the transformation or the revolution of the society begin.

For ex: Gandhiji's 'Satyagraha' against apartheid govt of South Africa

Therefore, it is imperative for every human being to not just avoid oneself from doing wrong but also to stand up for what is right.

SECTION-B

4. A certain State government was running a welfare scheme for promoting safe motherhood among rural landless labourers' families. The scheme involves the transfer of funds to the beneficiaries to enable them to mitigate income loss due to maternal care responsibilities. Since its implementation, the scheme has done reasonably well on maternal health and economic indicators.

You are the Director of the Department responsible for implementing and operating the scheme. Recently you have been receiving reports of welfare fraud being committed by families by producing fake bona fide. The families committed the fraud with the help of local officials responsible for scrutinizing the bonafide.

You were concerned because the fraud was seriously undermining the scheme's efficiency. You called for a departmental meeting to discuss and find a solution to the problem. In the meeting, it was decided to merge several available government data sets such as Aadhar cards, voter ID cards, marriage certificates, birth certificates, bank details, and other personal assets. By merging all the data sets, the department would be able to develop the beneficiary's economic profile. This will help the department scrutinize the documents and detect fraud. This was a comprehensive strategy, but it risked violating an individual's data privacy. As a Department head, you wanted to detect and prevent fraud, but at the same time, you were apprehensive about violating the Data privacy of the stakeholders.

- What are the issues involved in the above case?
- Do you think violating data privacy is justified to prevent welfare fraud? Why/Why not?
- What, according to you, can be the reasons for such welfare frauds happening in the country?
- Are there any ways and means to prevent such fraud? Give your suggestions.

(Answer in 250 words) 20 marks

ap The debate over risking data
privacy of beneficiaries for the sake
of implementation of welfare measures
has been long standing one and
further accelerating in the modern
digitised world.

Recently, breach of data of patients at AIMS hospital, Delhi is the case in point.

Stakeholders involved

- 1) State government
- 2) Laiden labourers' families
- 3) Myself (Director of Department of Implementation)
- 4) Local officials
- 5) Society at large

Issues involved in above case

- 1) Right to privacy under Article 21 of the constitution
- 2) Diversion of welfare fund to welfare fraud
- 3) Nexus & lack of responsibility wst scrutiny by local officials
- 4) Challenges to balance privacy v/s welfare issue
- 5) Question over possible corruption & ghost beneficiaries

b) Violation of data privacy Cannot be used
to justify prevention of welfare fraud
because

1) Supreme court in Aadhar Case has
given '3 test of reasonableness' to ensure
data privacy which must be considered
over & above the intention of welfare
schemes

2) The immense potential of exploiting
data breach for vested interest
outweighs any kind of benefit it might
arise.

3) Right to Privacy especially data privacy
is fundamental right under supreme
law of the land

However, with necessary precautions
taken, following supreme court guidelines
like Test of proportionality, etc, data
can be collected to implement welfare

measures to fulfill directive principles of State

c) Reasons for Welfare frauds in the country

- 1) Lack of inclusive development in the country ex: Indian per capita ranking is one of the lowest (140/190) in the world
- 2) Rising income inequalities & lack of opportunities for social empowerment especially for vulnerable sections like rural landless labors, etc
- 3) Lack of accountability and transparency in government machinery functioning
- 4) Breach of integrity & probity by government officials for the sake of their personal interests
- 5) Lack of 3rd party integrity parts like social audit mechanism, etc
ex: less than 6 states have completed more than 50% of social audit under MGNREGS scheme

dy Ways & means to prevent such frauds

- 1) Development of positive work culture in government institutions that focuses on dedication to public service over self enhancement
- 2) Social awareness about the frauds & implementation of 'targeted beneficiary' approach in welfare scheme implementation
- 3) Participatory governance via implementation of good governance principles of world bank
- 4) Socio economic development and human resource development at grass root levels
- 5) Capability approach of development followed in order to provide beneficiaries an opportunity to earn their own livelihood

Ethical governance that provides ladder of social mobility over sankinization of corruption is the way ahead

5. You are posted in the Department of Mines and one of your roles is to help your Department Head negotiate mining leases with private contractors.

Recently, the state government demarcated a new mining zone and planned to invite bids for the mining blocs. You were instructed to oversee the bidding process and speed up the contract negotiations. As planned, the tenders were released, bids came in, and tenders were allocated as per the norms. All this happened at a breakneck speed. You wondered, why the hurry? But it was not your place to think and question; you quietly went about your work.

As the contractors were about to start operations, you had to instruct them on environmental concerns to watch out for. And to do that, you read the environmental impact assessment report submitted by a consulting firm hired by the department. To your surprise, the report was shoddy and looked cooked up. You got suspicious and raised the issue with your Head, who politely instructed you to do what you were told, and he reminded you that the Department had revenue targets and was under pressure from the Ministry.

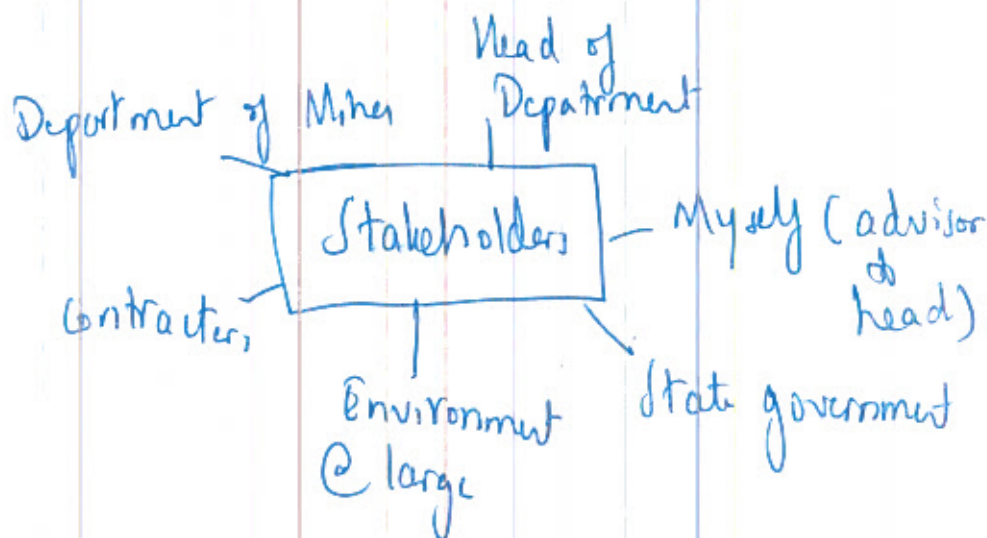
After the meeting, you, on your own accord, did some digging and found out that the report was fraudulent and the mining activity that was about to start would lead to a massive environmental disaster which the State could not afford.

- What are the issues and value violations you notice in the above case?
- What are the options available to you?
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each option and identify your chosen course of action.
- Do you think that environmental considerations are sometimes overrated at the cost of development?

(Answer in 250 words) 25 marks

The above case belongs to environmental ethics which advises us to follow 'Biocentrism' not 'Human centricism'

The issue of environmental ethics is getting complex with its overlap over developmental arena.



ap Ethical issues & values violated

in the case are

- 1) Developmental v/s Environmental sustainability
- 2) No probity in governance - w/ allocation happening at breakneck speed
- 3) Report [EIA] with malafide intent or Misinformation
- 4) Following ethical values of oneself v/s superior organisational pressure to subside
- 5) Environmental disaster possibility
↓
effect on marginalised / down trodden

action of people althought not ~~involved~~
the cause for it

b) Options available to me are

1) Option 1: Listen to the instruction
of the senior / Department head to
Keep silent

2) Option 2: Whistleblow the issue with
necessary evidence to the concerned
department & media publications

3) Option 3: Take the stand by myself,
create awareness & publicly go take
~~against~~ the report to National
Green tribunal or Judiciary

c) Option 1:
Merit

i) Job security &
no actions against me

Demerit

i) Against my
integrity

ii) Not my accountability
as I am not the
head of department

∴ I'll, my
responsibility to
act

Option 2:

Merit

- i) Perform my responsibility
of taking right action
- ii) Save the state from
environmental disaster
situation

Demerit

- i) Go against
senior advise
- ii) Probability of
personal attack or
false allegations
against myself

Option 3:

Merit

- i) Courage of conviction
at time of adversity
- ii) Right of every citizen
to prevent illegalities
at court of law

Demerit

- i) More than
required public
nuisance ~~can~~ may
be created

I would go for option 2
as it would allow me to take proportionate

measures to tackle the situation. without the need to go overboard.

My chosen course of action would be

- Report to the senior my personal findings once again to make him aware about the seriousness of the situation
- If senior ^{do not} agree to stop the project from going ahead, ^{record} ~~report~~ my minority dissent to the report documented
- Approach a renowned public media outlet ^{unanimously} as a whistleblower to showcase the issue to the public
- If even media don't take required action, approach the NAT or High court for justice

dp Environmental considerations are not always overrated because

17 Environment is the source of life & livelihood for all human beings. As Mahatma Gandhiji said, there is space for

Weapons need not greed.

- 2) The consequences of neglecting environmental consideration are catastrophic and disastrous to our society at large
- 3) Indian ethical value of worshipping mother nature in all its aspects is crucial for our way of life.
- 4) Adaptation to the environment and not going against imposition of self interests is the way ahead.

However, sometimes it might seem overrated because

- Interference of 3rd party countries or organisations preventing genuine development in form of environmental activism
- Identifying the welfare of indigenous & tribal communities that have become scapegoats

Therefore, following Madhyam -
margin of Buddha is the way forward
 in such cases.

6. Mr Sharma was the All India Sales Head of a pharmaceutical company with a turnover of 400 crores. The company's main markets were small towns and tier 2 cities. Further, the company did a sizeable amount of business with state government hospitals and health centres.

Mr Sharma had given a lot of freedom to field sales agents to strike deals and negotiate prices with clients. This strategy worked well for the company.

Recently Mr Sharma received word that three company employees were selling products to government hospitals and health centres at a higher price than they were selling to other private hospitals and health centres. The employees were with the company for over five years and were good performers. A few sales staff informally raised the issue of the three getting relatively higher commissions because of their inflated deals. And this was creating a sense of unease among the sales staff. A cursory review of the accounts of the three showed that, in many instances, the government hospitals were paying more than other private institutions.

Under procurement rules, the government is supposed to pay a fair price, one that other cost-conscious customers pay. On inquiry, Mr Sharma found that the three were not alone; government purchase department officials were helping them scam the Department. Mr Sharma realized that his sales staff and some corrupt government staff had been defrauding the state exchequer for quite some time.

Mr Sharma immediately reported it to his CEO, and the two discussed how to deal with the sales staff and whether to inform the government about the scam and the involvement of their staff. The issue was informing the government means that there was every possibility that they might be blacklisted, thereby losing a lot of business. Mr Sharma and the CEO were caught in a dilemma regarding how to proceed with the case.

- What are the ethical and business issues involved in the case?
- What are the options available to Mr Sharma and the CEO?
- Do you think the organizational culture of giving freedom to the sales force led to the issue or was the individual's corrupt nature that led to the problem? Discuss.
- What ethics mechanisms and steps can the company create and implement to prevent unethical behaviour, as mentioned in the case?

(Answer in 250 words) 20 marks

■■■■

ay

Ethical Issues

involved

1/

Economic performance of the company

v/s

Corporate ethical

norms to be followed

- 2) Disruption of positive work culture
by the act of few
- 3) Damage to high morale of other
employees
- 4) Corruption of the government officials
↳ expanding of Government
exchequer
- 5) Transparency & accountability of company
to public v/s Business interests

Business Issues involved

- 1) Risking of damage to 'brand' value
- 2) Risking of blacklisting → loss of business
- 3) Short term gain in form of loss of
public trust, etc
- 4) Cost involved in overhauling company or
reforming it

by Options available

1) Option 1: Hide the report of scam &
maintain status quo

- 2) Option 2! Just take some internal action without involvement of government or public
- 3) Option 3! Inform the government of the scam taking moral responsibility & avoid future such mishappenings
- c) Organisational culture as cause of the issue
- i) Giving freedom without reasonable accountability is always recipe for wrongdoings
- 2) Acting on individual term taken away 'team spirit' or working towards given motto of the company disturbing the work culture
- 3) Freedom based on economic performance of the workers takes away holistic competence necessary
- However, Individual corrupt nature is also the cause
- i) Not every employee engaged in such activity implying the role of & need for individual morality

2) Inner conscience is ultimate monitor of our actions.

3) It's impossible to have external monitoring at all circumstances for every employees.

4)

Ethical steps & mechanisms
to be implemented by company

1)

Focus on stakeholder ~~shareholder~~ capitalism not just shareholder ~~stakeholder~~ capitalism i.e. company to

serve interests of the society in entirety

2) Rethink on companies policies & practices for ~~recruit~~ recruitment of right candidates based on 'holistic' competence not just professional competence

3) Inculcate practices for professional recognition & appreciation of ethically acting performers & warn those involved in

unethical mean

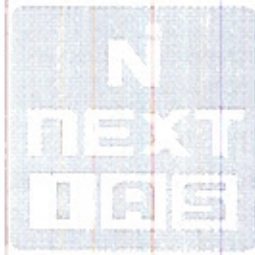
4) Regular meetings, conference or appraisal activities that evaluate the mean taken by all the employees in achieving their targets

5) Uphold the principle of transparency & responsibility by proactively disclosure of any corrupt happening & take corrective measures necessary to earn the trust of public on long term basis

The increased role of corporate post neoliberalism period in working towards welfare of the public can only be justified with adoption of 'Compassionate capitalism' norm.

Space for Rough Work

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Space for Rough Work



