



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

**Model Answers
for UPSC Mains
2026**

GS Paper 4



GS4 QUESTION

SECTION—A

1. (a) Owing to paucity of time, a university professor generates a Ph.D. evaluation report using Artificial Intelligence and submits it with some modifications. Discuss this from the perspective of accountability and integrity.

1. (b) A business house is working on a project that could displace a forest community from their habitat. As the administrative officer of that district, what ethical challenges are you likely to face?

2. (a) An endangered tribe has developed a severe skeletal deformity. A university research has identified a mineral supplement as a possible remedy, though clinical trials are yet to be conducted. Should the District Magistrate (DM) use this research on the tribe? Discuss from the perspective of medical and administrative ethics.

2. (b) Discuss how national security can be balanced with concerns of human rights.

3. (a) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had cautioned that employing civil disobedience within a constitutional democracy equates to endorsing ‘anarchy’. How should modern democracies navigate the ethical dilemmas posed by civil disobedience movements that aim to promote social justice against policies that may raise genuine concerns?

3. (b) In what ways can an Indian Administrative Officer apply Gandhi’s notion of ‘trusteeship’ to ensure fairness in governance?

3. (c) Shakespeare in Henry IV says, “The arms are fair when the intent of bearing them is just”. What ethical implications does this have in governance?

4. (a) Citing the serious adverse effects of long-term medication, a doctor convinces the family of a female patient for surgery. This led the patient to reluctantly consent for the surgery, though her original choice was to opt for medication. Explain the concepts of paternalism and beneficence by analysing the doctor’s action.

4. (b) Efficiency is doing things right, while effectiveness is doing the right thing. How do you strike a balance between the two to enhance productivity?

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5. (a) Usually schools, working in remote areas, do not fully comply with government regulations. However, if the rules are enforced strictly, it would lead to most schools closing down. How should an administrator strike a balance between enforcement of rules and educational rights of children?

5. (b) In international relations, ethical considerations are often subjugated to the strategic interests of nation-states. Discuss this from an ethical perspective.

6. (a) On the request of his Personal Assistant (PA), the District Magistrate (DM) stops the transfer of a schoolteacher who takes private tuition for his daughter diagnosed with learning disability. In this context, discuss the aspects of empathy versus compliance with rules.

6. (b) Some moral philosophers argue that spending some of your resources—without significantly affecting your financial stability—to help other people who badly suffer is our moral duty and not merely a matter of charity. Justify this claim by explaining the distinction between duty and charity.

SECTION—B

7. Lata, a mother of two children, was admitted to a hospital for acute abdominal pain. Her sister-in-law, Sujatha, accompanied her. Dr. Mansi examined Lata and recommended a diagnostic laparoscopy. Lata's consent was taken to conduct the medical procedure under general anesthesia.

During the laparoscopy, Dr. Mansi's team discovered a tumor in Lata's uterus. A closer examination suggested that the tumor could be malignant.

One option before Dr. Mansi was to extract a sample for biopsy. In that case, if the tumor was malignant, Lata would have to undergo another surgery for removal of the uterus. An alternative was to remove the uterus immediately. Dr. Mansi had to take a quick decision.

As Lata was under general anesthesia, Dr. Mansi explained the situation to Sujatha. Sujatha agreed with Dr. Mansi's recommendations for a hysterectomy, wherein Lata's uterus would be removed to avoid the risk and pain of undergoing another surgery. Dr. Mansi removed Lata's uterus after receiving Sujatha's consent in writing. Lata was informed of this the next day. She was very upset and felt betrayed as she had not consented to the removal of her uterus.

Lata complained to the police who tried to convince her that Dr. Mansi had acted with good intention to help a patient. Sujatha was of the same opinion, however Lata was not convinced and decided to approach the court.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.

(b) Discuss the moral conduct of the doctor in this situation.





8. Ravi is a senior police officer with vast experience in riot control and cyber-policing. Since one year, he has been the Superintendent of Police (SP) of a district with a history of frequent rioting.

Last year, Ravi had sought installation of an AI enabled software for predictive policing. This system has been operational for approximately six months. This new system employs advanced algorithms for capturing the biometric data of persons in a crowd and swiftly relating it to a data library. This has enabled the police to identify the persons involved in various crimes.

The system has identified an immigrant and low-income neighbourhood as a centre for gang violence and drug trafficking. Aided by this AI analysis, the local police has focused its patrolling, preventive detentions and establishing checkpoints. Consequently, public order and law enforcements has visibly improved.

Last week, some community leaders, civil rights lawyers and human rights activists visited Ravi's office. They submitted a memorandum that the new system is faulty as it is based on incorrect historical data caused by social biases and discriminatory policing. The memorandum also alleges that the increased surveillance has created a climate of tension amongst residents. This feeling is aggravated by the fact that the residents are not aware of the data noted against their names.

- (a) What are the ethical issues including biases involved in the use of AI in data-driven policing?
- (b) Place yourself in Ravi's role and discuss the alternatives available. Justify the action that optimises compliance with ethics.

9. Seema is a senior bureaucrat with a reputation of honesty and professional efficiency. She has recently been posted as the District Collector (DC) to Surinder Nagar, where a large industrial area is being established.

The new industrial area had caused many farmers to submit applications for change of land use (CLU) to convert their farmlands into residential areas. There is an unusually large backlog of these applications awaiting processing. Seema noticed that some applications had been approved selectively with no visible chronological pattern. The case files showed a few complaints of some approvals being subject to receipt of large bribes from the applicants.

On further fact-finding, Seema realized that a small group of touts was controlling this illegal activity through some subordinate officials in the Collectorate. This had created a fear in the other employees who were reluctant to process any application. The resultant backlog has been piling up thereby hindering local economic progress and causing public dissatisfaction.

Seema was faced with a major moral and administrative challenge of dismantling this corruption network without hampering daily administrative operations. An aggressive internal investigation would result in institutional resistance and, possibly, a backlash from labour unions. Conversely, ignoring this situation would encourage the wrongdoers and unnecessarily continue this avoidable harassment to the populace.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- (b) Discuss the options open to Seema. Identify the recommended option and justify it.

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10. Vikas is a government officer with over a decade of service in public administration. He has recently moved as the District Collector (DC) of Nainipura, a remote hilly district bordering a forest. Due to Nainipura's low levels of economic development, one of his major duties is to ensure proper functioning of the public distribution system (PDS) amongst the economically weaker sections (EWS).

During his on-site visits, Vikas was apprised of a typical administrative challenge in operating the PDS. To prevent leakages, all distributors were required to carry out real-time biometric identification of the beneficiaries, whose fingerprints were tallied with identity card records. This was creating problems as the operating system sometimes rejected fingerprint matching in the cases of growing children, manual labourers and senior citizens. The problem was further compounded in periods of low WIFI connectivity. The distributors, in such cases, resorted to personal discretion when they could identify the recipient.

Vikas had to address this problem on priority. Strictly adhering to 'government regulations' would ensure fiscal probity but would greatly trouble the proposed beneficiary, i.e., EWS. It may even impinge on their fundamental right to life as per Article 21 of the Constitution. Conversely, leaving the resolution solely to the discretion of the distributors could lead to misuse and leakages.

(a) What are the options open to Vikas? How should he balance fiscal probity with empathy towards the designated beneficiaries?

(b) Discuss the ethics of using technology as a gatekeeper for welfare schemes.

11. Rajapuram is a border district. Jhara and Biru, its two major communities are in continual conflict with each other. The social fabric is fractured and demands mending.

Ethnic tensions between the two communities have erupted into violence resulting in a large number of deaths. The stated causes are conflicting land claims, uneven resource allocation and inadequate political representation in government bodies. Separate relief camps had to be created for the two communities. The situation is volatile and appears to be getting out of control.

Rajan has been appointed the District Magistrate (DM) of Rajapuram and tasked to quickly get the situation under control. His immediate tasks include restoring administrative authority, reopening the highway and initiating peace talks. On taking over his appointment, Rajan realized that the inter-community rivalry had even seeped into the local administration and police. With functional neutrality being the immediate casualty, it had made both communities distrustful of the government. The neighbouring country could utilize the opportunity to spur insurgent activity and further aggravate the situation. Rajan favoured a controlled approach starting with opening the highway to restore food and medical supplies. He toyed with the idea of requisitioning CRPF units to help restore administrative control.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues that need to be addressed in this case.

(b) What are the options open to Rajan? Which option would ensure protection of his non-partisan image without compromising ethics?





12. Ajit has been recently promoted as the Head of the Department of Weapon Sales (DWS) in the Ministry of Defence Production (MDP). His charter of duties includes international sales of weapons produced domestically by MDP.

In two recent wars, MDP weapons have performed admirably, resulting in many countries showing interest in buying them, particularly long-range artillery and missiles. Country A and country B have asked for these weapons. However, production constraints restrict DWS to accept only one purchase order.

Country A is a developing nation with a sound technology base. MDP is planning R&D collaboration with it for the next generation of weapons. It is not part of any security alliance and needs weapons for protection from a troublesome neighbour. It seeks a large acquisition on a long-term loan.

Country B is also a developing nation. Military strength is its priority, with the military budget often ingressing into allocations for human resources and infrastructure development. It is in security alliance with a superpower who has a large military base there and periodically allots it financial grants. It is a member of an economic bloc with which the government is currently negotiating a free trade agreement. It is not a signatory of NPT but possesses smaller nuclear weapons and delivery systems. It supports some guerrilla forces abroad. It has sought a smaller acquisition and is prepared to make some advance payment. It is currently negotiating arms purchases from another nation too.

Ajit discussed this case with his counterparts in the related departments. Therein, the significant economic benefits, employment generation and stronger diplomatic relations arising from this sale were highlighted. It was also emphasized that refusing the deal could result in country B purchasing weapons from some other supplier.

Ajit was aware that in arms sales, due diligence at each stage was pivotal to ensure conformity to national policy and international treaties.

(a) Discuss the options available to Ajit. Which option should he select and why?

(b) How can Ajit balance nation's economic and strategic interests with ethical considerations?

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SECTION—A

1. (a) Owing to paucity of time, a university professor generates a Ph.D. evaluation report using Artificial Intelligence and submits it with some modifications. Discuss this from the perspective of accountability and integrity.

Answer

Using AI to generate a Ph.D. evaluation report may improve efficiency, but submitting it with minimal modifications raises serious questions of professional accountability, academic integrity and ethical responsibility.

Perspective of Accountability

1. **Responsibility cannot be delegated:** The professor remains personally accountable for the accuracy and fairness of the submitted evaluation.
2. **Professional judgement is non-transferable:** A Ph.D. evaluation requires expert assessment of originality, methodology, evidence and scholarly contribution, which cannot be mechanically outsourced.
 - a. **Example:** An AI may identify methodological weaknesses but cannot substitute the evaluator's disciplinary expertise in judging their significance.
3. **Duty must prevail over convenience:** Kant's deontological ethics emphasizes performing one's duty irrespective of convenience or consequences.
4. **Accountability includes procedural fairness:** An evaluator owes the scholar an independent, reasoned, and unbiased assessment since the report can determine academic progression.
 - a. **Example:** A superficial AI-generated report may unfairly influence the decision to award or reject a doctorate.
5. **Institutional trust must be preserved:** Academic evaluation is a position of epistemic authority making integrity essential for institutional credibility.
 - a. **Example:** Repeated dependence on unverified AI reports can undermine confidence in the university's doctoral evaluation system.

Perspective of Integrity

1. **Breach of academic honesty:** Presenting AI-generated intellectual work substantially as one's own creates a misrepresentation of authorship.
2. **Conflict between efficiency and integrity:** Paucity of time explains the action but does not ethically justify it expediency cannot replace duty.
3. **Erosion of trust:** Academic institutions function on epistemic trust; fabricated or insufficiently scrutinized evaluation weakens the credibility of the entire doctoral system.
4. **Violation of fiduciary duty:** The evaluator occupies a position of trust and epistemic authority, requiring independent judgment.
5. **Virtue ethics perspective:** Aristotle's integrity, honesty and practical wisdom (phronesis) demand that professional competence be exercised rather than merely simulated.
6. **Transparency deficit:** If AI assistance is permissible under institutional rules, its use should be disclosed and critically supervised, rather than concealed.

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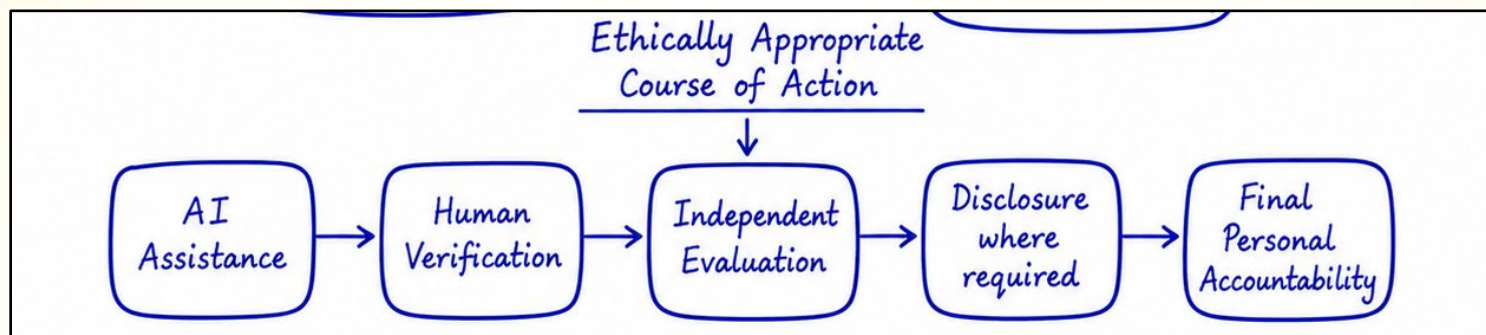
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AI use is not inherently unethical

1. AI may be used for grammar, formatting, literature organisation or preliminary checks.
2. The professor should independently verify facts, originality, methodology and conclusions.
3. Institutional guidelines should clearly define permissible AI use and require disclosure where appropriate.
4. Sensitive thesis material should be protected from unauthorised disclosure, reflecting confidentiality and data responsibility.



Technological aids must remain **subordinate to human conscience** to ensure efficiency never corrupts the meritocratic foundations of knowledge.

1. (b) A business house is working on a project that could displace a forest community from their habitat. As the administrative officer of that district, what ethical challenges are you likely to face?

Answer

As a district administrator, navigating the displacement of a forest community for corporate development presents a classic ethical dilemma of **economic growth versus environmental and social justice**.

Ethical challenges as the District Administrative Officer

1. **Utilitarianism vs. Communitarianism:** Balancing the utilitarian pursuit of economic goals against communitarian ethics that focus on communal responsibilities and protecting the vulnerable from disproportionate developmental costs.
2. **Violation of Teleological Ends:** Bypassing the teleological goal of the '**Common Good**' (Sarvodaya) by passing the true costs of development to helpless forest dwellers.
3. **Erosion of Stewardship Ethics:** Valuing corporate expansion over the moral obligation of environmental stewardship, which demands safeguarding natural resources.
4. **Distributive and Procedural Injustice:** Imposing distress migration on indigenous people and destroying their traditional ways of community living for industrial benefits.
5. **Fiduciary Duty vs. Corporate Greed:** Navigating the conflict between an administrator's fiduciary responsibility as a public trustee and systemic corporate pressures driven by greed.

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Administrative Actions and Ethical Justifications

Administrative Action	Ethical Theory & Justification
Ensure strictly consent-based land acquisition recognizing tribal communities as genuine stakeholders.	Deontological Ethics: Upholding the universal human right to liberty and property, treating individuals as ends in themselves.
Draft a rehabilitation policy guaranteeing adequate compensation and a share in developmental benefits.	Communitarian Ethics: Ensuring no one falls through the cracks and the vulnerable are protected from becoming worse-off.
Mandate rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to minimize deforestation.	Stewardship Ethics: Fulfilling the responsibility to safeguard the ecological trust and preserve natural resources for future generations.
Employ cognitive agility to adopt flexible, community-based relief rather than rigid bureaucratic SOPs.	Virtue Ethics: Harmonizing intellectual competence (objectivity) with moral righteousness and compassion
Utilize <u>corporate CSR funds</u> to address residents' socio-economic concerns and ensure social equity.	Teleological Ethics (Utilitarianism): Achieving the greatest good for the greatest number as the ultimate moral end of the project.

Good administration is not choosing development over people or people over development; it is ensuring that development itself remains compatible with dignity, justice and ecological responsibility.

2. (a) An endangered tribe has developed a severe skeletal deformity. A university research has identified a mineral supplement as a possible remedy, though clinical trials are yet to be conducted. Should the District Magistrate (DM) use this research on the tribe? Discuss from the perspective of medical and administrative ethics.

Answer

The DM faces a dilemma between urgently relieving a suffering, endangered tribe and safeguarding it from an unproven intervention. The ethically sound course is not to administer the untested supplement directly but to pursue relief through a rigorous, consent-based scientific process.

Core Ethical Issues At Stake

- Welfare versus risk:** Urgency to help against the danger of an untested mineral supplement.
- Vulnerability and consent:** Whether an isolated tribe can give genuine informed consent.
- Experimentation on humans:** The risk of treating people as means to a research end.

Medical Ethics Counsels Caution and Rigorous Safeguards

- Non-maleficence first: "Do no harm"** - an untried supplement could worsen health, violating the foremost medical duty.

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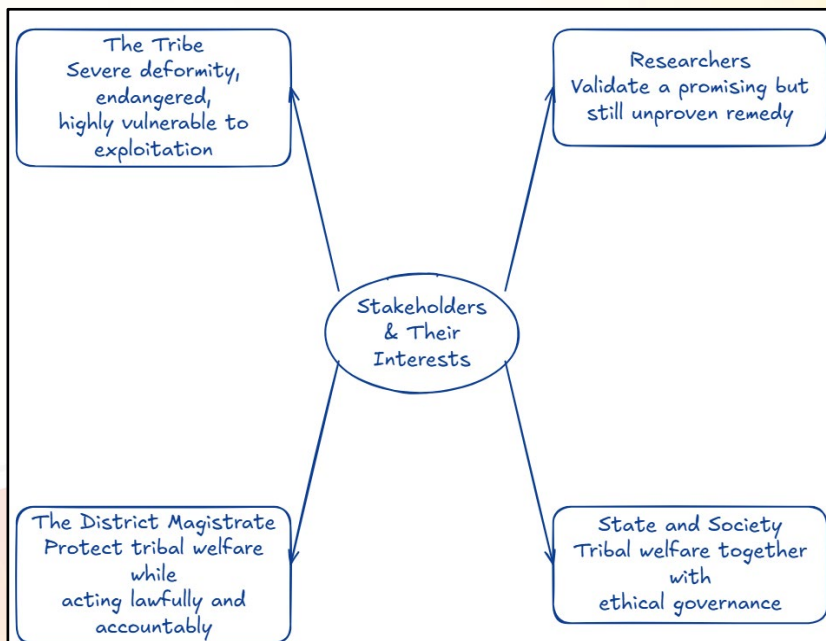


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2. **Informed consent is mandatory:** The Nuremberg Code and Declaration of Helsinki make voluntary, informed consent non-negotiable; illiteracy and isolation make this hard to secure genuinely.
3. **Clinical equipoise:** Without clinical trials, safety and efficacy are unknown, so administering it is experimentation, not treatment.
4. **Protection of the vulnerable:** ICMR ethical guidelines demand heightened safeguards for vulnerable groups against being used as convenient research subjects.
5. **Beneficence properly pursued:** Genuine benefit requires validated science, not a well-intentioned gamble.



Administrative Responsibility, Not Haste **Ethics** **Demands**

1. **Duty of care:** The DM must protect citizens' lives, not expose them to avoidable risk.
2. **Precautionary principle:** Where harm is uncertain but possible, restraint is the prudent administrative choice.
3. **Non-exploitation:** Using a powerless tribe as test subjects would breach constitutional values of dignity (Article 21) and justice.
4. **Accountability:** The DM is legally and morally answerable for any adverse outcome from an unauthorized intervention.
5. **Avoiding paternalism:** Acting "for their own good" without consent undermines autonomy and public trust.

The ethically balanced course of action for the DM

1. **Do not administer directly:** Reject unsupervised use of the untested supplement.
2. **Fast-track ethical trials:** Facilitate ICMR-approved clinical trials with Ethics Committee clearance and expert medical oversight.
3. **Provide interim relief:** Offer proven palliative care, nutrition, and specialist medical support meanwhile.
4. **Secure genuine consent:** Use interpreters and community elders to ensure culturally sensitive, informed participation.
5. **Protect and monitor:** Safeguard the tribe's health, dignity and habitat throughout, with continuous evaluation.

Compassion and caution are not opposites here. The DM best serves the tribe by channelling urgency into ethical, consent-based science, upholding both the healer's creed of "do no harm" and the administrator's duty to protect the most vulnerable with dignity and accountability.

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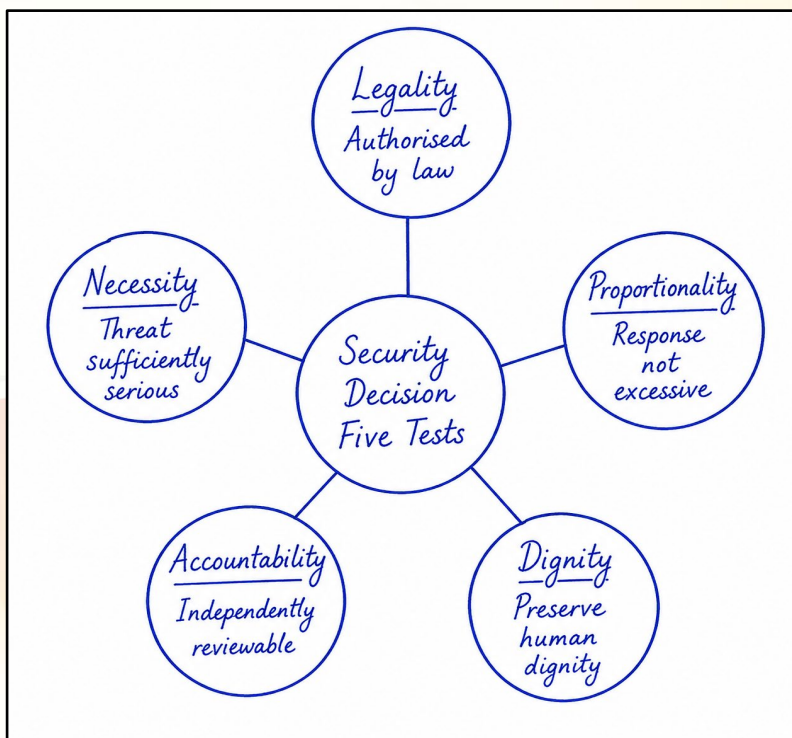
2. (b) Discuss how national security can be balanced with concerns of human rights.

Answer

National security protects collective existence, while human rights protect human dignity; ethical governance therefore requires balancing security imperatives with liberty, proportionality and justice.

The Ethical Tensions

1. Relying purely on utilitarianism for state security risks treating individuals as mere means, explicitly violating Kant's Categorical Imperative.
2. Sacrificing individual liberty under the guise of state realism contradicts John Locke's foundational theory of inviolable natural rights.
3. Ignoring human rights for national defense triggers moral myopia and ethical fading, ultimately eroding the Public Trust Doctrine.
4. Blind adherence to security protocols creates a robotic amoralism that fundamentally subverts Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of constitutional morality.



Ethical Framework for Balancing Both

1. **Doctrine of Proportionality:** State action restricting liberties must be legitimate, necessary, and the absolute least intrusive option available.
 - a. **Example:** The Supreme Court mandated in the Anuradha Bhasin case that internet and telecom suspensions must strictly pass the proportionality test.
2. **Preventing Arbitrariness:** Exceptional security laws must have strict judicial safeguards so state power does not become tyrannical.
 - a. **Example:** Courts actively reviewing preventive detentions under laws like UAPA to ensure citizens are not jailed without due process.
3. **Protecting Non-Derogable Core Rights:** Basic human rights, such as freedom from torture, cannot be compromised under any security justification.
 - a. **Example:** Adhering to the D.K. Basu guidelines to strictly prohibit third-degree custodial torture during counter-terrorism interrogations.
4. **Independent Democratic Oversight:** Covert intelligence and security agencies must be accountable to external checks to prevent moral hazard.
5. **Human-Centric Security Paradigm:** A nation is only deeply secure when its citizens are not alienated and feel trusted by the state.
 - a. **Example:** The Indian Army's Operation Sadbhavana in border regions, which focuses on education and welfare to build local public trust.

True national security is not merely the absence of threats; it is a social order where citizens remain secure without becoming subjects of unchecked state power.





3. (a) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had cautioned that employing civil disobedience within a constitutional democracy equates to endorsing 'anarchy'. How should modern democracies navigate the ethical dilemmas posed by civil disobedience movements that aim to promote social justice against policies that may raise genuine concerns?

Answer

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, in his 25 November 1949 Constituent Assembly speech, argued that once constitutional methods are available, extra-constitutional methods such as civil disobedience, non-cooperation and satyagraha amount to the "grammar of anarchy." Yet, modern democracies in today's age resort to such methods when lawful policies may seem to cause injustice and serious rights concerns.

Ethical Dilemmas in Civil Disobedience Movements

1. **Legal Duty vs. Justice** : The fundamental conflict between a citizen's obligation to obey the law of the land and their inner drive to oppose laws they find unjust.
 - a. **Example:** Mahatma Gandhi breaking the colonial Salt Act in 1930, prioritizing moral justice over legal obedience.
2. **Means vs. Ends Justification**: The dilemma of whether achieving a noble social goal justifies the use of disruptive, illegal, or coercive methods.
3. **Protesters' Rights vs. Public Convenience**: The friction between a group's democratic right to protest and the general public's fundamental right to free movement, peace, and livelihood.
 - a. **Example:** The Shaheen Bagh and farmer protests, where prolonged highway blockades disrupted the daily lives of local commuters.
4. **Moral Conscience vs. Democratic Majority**: An elected government has democratic legitimacy to make policy, but individuals also possess a moral responsibility to resist serious injustice.
5. **Institutional stability vs transformative change**: Frequent resort to civil disobedience can weaken institutions, Ambedkar's "grammar of anarchy" concern. Yet, historically, civil resistance has also challenged entrenched discrimination and expanded social justice.

Modern democracies navigating the dilemma

1. **Exercising Proportionality**: The state must balance maintaining public order with the ethical duty to use only the absolute minimum, non-lethal force against its own citizens.
 - a. **Example:** Police protocols mandating the use of water cannons and tear gas before resorting to lathi charges during student protests.
2. **Fostering Dialogue over Coercion**: Democracies ethically resolve protests by treating dissent as a demand for negotiation rather than an act of criminal rebellion.
3. **Protecting Dissent as a Democratic Virtue**: Recognizing that peaceful civil disobedience acts as a necessary moral safety valve that corrects systemic flaws and strengthens constitutional morality.
 - a. **Example:** The Supreme Court of India consistently upholding the "Right to Peaceful Protest" under Article 19, provided it does not lead to violence.
4. **Demarcating Civil Disobedience from Anarchy**: The ethical necessity for democratic institutions to draw a strict line between peaceful moral protest and the violent destruction of public property.

The true test of constitutional democracy is not the absence of dissent, but its capacity to transform dissent into reform without allowing either majoritarian power or popular passion to eclipse justice.

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3. (b) In what ways can an Indian Administrative Officer apply Gandhi's notion of 'trusteeship' to ensure fairness in governance?

Answer

Gandhi's concept of trusteeship holds that **those entrusted with wealth or power** are not its **owners but custodians**, bound to use it for the common good. For an IAS officer, this transforms authority into a sacred trust exercised for citizens, especially the weakest.

Understanding the essence of Gandhian trusteeship

1. **Custodianship, not ownership:** Power and resources are held in trust for society, not for personal or partisan benefit. (e.g., **public office as custodial duty**.)
2. **Voluntary moral duty:** It rests on conscience and self-restraint rather than mere legal compulsion. (e.g., **U. Sagayam's public asset declaration**.)
3. **Welfare of all (Sarvodaya):** The trustee must serve the "last person"—Gandhi's talisman of Antyodaya. (e.g., **PM-JANMAN for PVTG upliftment**.)
4. **Ethical stewardship:** It fuses authority with accountability, humility, and service. (e.g., **PM Awards for Excellence recognition**.)

Trusteeship shapes the officer's orientation towards public resources.

1. **Guardian of public funds:** Treating the exchequer as citizens' money demands economy, probity and zero tolerance for waste. (e.g., **DBT and JAM plugging leakages**.)
2. **Steward of natural resources:** Managing land, forests, and water sustainably for present and future generations. (e.g., **Mission Amrit Sarovar** reviving waterbodies.)
3. **Custodian of public office:** Using discretionary powers transparently, never as personal privilege. (e.g., **e-office ending file-level discretion**.)

Trusteeship ensures fairness towards citizens

1. **Antyodaya as compass:** Prioritizing the marginalized—SC/ST, women, poor in policy and delivery reflects distributive justice. (e.g., **Divya Devarajan aiding Kolam tribe**.)
2. **Impartiality:** Serving all citizens equally, resisting favouritism, nepotism and political pressure. (e.g., **Durga Shakti Nagpal curbing sand mafia**.)
3. **Empathy and accessibility:** Being approachable to the weakest, echoing Gandhi's "wipe every tear from every eye." (e.g., **Prasanth Nair's Operation Sulaimani, Kozhikode**.)
4. **Participatory governance:** Involving communities as partners, not passive recipients, in decisions affecting them. (e.g., **Armstrong Pame's crowdfunded People's Road**.)

Trusteeship demands ethical conduct in the exercise of power

1. **Self-restraint over discretion:** Voluntarily limiting the use of power, checking corruption at its root. (e.g., voluntary recusal from conflicting decisions)
2. **Means as sacred as ends:** Ensuring fair, non-coercive processes, consistent with Gandhian ethics. (e.g., persuasion over coercion in rehabilitation)
3. **Leading by example:** Personal integrity and simplicity inspiring subordinate honesty—"be the change." (e.g., **Ashok Khemka's unyielding personal integrity**.)

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4. **Moral accountability:** Answering to conscience and citizens beyond formal rules. (e.g., suo-motu disclosure of official decisions)

Concrete application in day-to-day administration

1. **Welfare delivery:** Ensuring schemes like PDS, MGNREGA and pensions reach intended beneficiaries without leakage. (e.g., One Nation One Ration Card).
2. **Grievance redressal:** Prioritising responsive, time-bound resolution of citizens' complaints. (e.g., Smita Sabharwal's "Your Voice" feedback)
3. **Transparent decisions:** Upholding RTI, social audits and open processes to build public trust. (e.g., Tukaram Mundhe's public citizen charters).
4. **Crisis stewardship:** Distributing scarce relief fairly during disasters, protecting the vulnerable first. (e.g., Rajendra Bharud's pre-emptive oxygen plants)
5. **Sustainable development:** Balancing growth with ecological and community interests as a long-term trustee. (e.g., Sikkim's fully organic farming model)

Limitations and the balanced view

1. **Idealism versus reality:** Trusteeship depends on individual conscience, which institutional checks must reinforce. (e.g., Lokpal and vigilance mechanisms needed).
2. **Risk of paternalism:** Well-meaning stewardship can override citizens' own agency and choices. (e.g., participatory Gram Sabhas preventing top-down decisions).
3. **Complement, not substitute:** It works best alongside rule of law, accountability mechanisms and citizen vigilance. (e.g., RTI and social audits reinforcing conscience).

For an IAS officer, trusteeship converts power into service and office into stewardship. By treating authority as a trust held for the people—guided by Antyodaya, integrity and self-restraint—the officer ensures governance that is not only lawful but genuinely fair, humane and just.

3. (c) Shakespeare in Henry IV says, “The arms are fair when the intent of bearing them is just”. What ethical implications does this have in governance?

Answer

“If you want peace, prepare for war (Si vis pacem, para bellum)” reflects deterrence through credible strength. Shakespeare similarly argues that arms become legitimate when their **intent is just**, implying that governance must align **power with justice, legality, proportionality and restraint**.

Ethical implications in governance: Just intent legitimises the exercise of power

1. **Pursuit of a Morally Legitimate End (Just Cause):** State power should be exercised only to protect **life, liberty, justice, public order** and constitutional values.
 - a. **Example:** 1971 Bangladesh intervention—genocide and refugee crisis, provided a compelling humanitarian and security rationale for force.
2. **Legitimate Authority (jus ad bellum of lawful power):** Even a noble objective cannot legitimise action beyond **constitutional/statutory authority**.
 - a. **Example:** UN-authorized Gulf War (1991)—coalition military action against Iraq followed UN Security Council authorisation, strengthening its legal legitimacy.

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3. **Proportionality (jus in bello principle):** The means and collateral harm must remain proportionate to the public objective; unnecessary suffering is unethical.
 - a. **Example:** Operation Sindoor—India emphasized targeted strikes on terrorist infrastructure, rather than indiscriminate attacks.
4. **Discrimination Between Legitimate And Illegitimate Targets:** State action must distinguish between wrongdoers and innocent citizens, avoiding collective punishment.
 - a. **Example:** Bulldozer action cannot lawfully punish an entire household for one person's alleged offence.
5. **Last Resort (Ultima Ratio):** Coercion should follow the exhaustion of dialogue, mediation, persuasion and less-restrictive alternatives.
 - a. **Example:** Naga peace process prioritised negotiations over prolonged coercion.
6. **Accountability For The Use Of Power:** Exercise of coercive authority requires transparency, reason-giving, review and sanctions for abuse.
 - a. **Example:** D.K. Basu guidelines imposed safeguards against custodial abuse.
7. **Reasonable Prospect of Success (Prudential Ethics):** State power should not be used when costs are disproportionate and success is implausible.
 - a. **Example:** Operation Green Hunt-era approach demonstrated the limits of purely security-centric responses to Maoism.

However, just ends do not automatically justify unjust means

1. **Dictatorial abuse of “just cause”:** Regimes may invoke national security or public order to legitimise repression, censorship and violence against citizens.
 - a. **Example:** Saddam Hussein's Anfal campaign against Kurds.
2. **Arms-race spiral:** One State's pursuit of security through military build-up can trigger a security dilemma, reciprocal stockpiling and regional instability.
 - a. **Example:** India–Pakistan nuclear competition.
3. **Danger of weapon proliferation:** Arming proxies or weak actors for a “just cause” may create blowback when weapons reach extremist groups.
 - a. **Example:** U.S. arms to Afghan mujahideen, later proliferation among militant networks.
4. **Arms falling into malign hands:** State collapse or weak controls can allow weapons to reach terrorist/non-state actors, turning short-term security gains into long-term threats.
 - a. **Example:** Pakistan-based militant groups exploiting illicit weapons networks.
5. **Humanitarian cost of “necessary” force:** Even legitimate military objectives become unethical when civilian immunity, proportionality and distinction are compromised.
 - a. **Example:** Gaza conflict—international scrutiny over civilian casualties and proportionality.

Shakespeare's insight establishes the morality of purpose, while constitutional governance adds the morality of method; power is ethical only when its cause, authority, means, and consequences are just.

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4. (a) Citing the serious adverse effects of long-term medication, a doctor convinces the family of a female patient for surgery. This led the patient to reluctantly consent for the surgery, though her original choice was to opt for medication. Explain the concepts of paternalism and beneficence by analysing the doctor's action.

Answer

“First, do no harm; then, respect the patient’s choice.” The case reflects a classic ethical tension between **beneficence (doing good)** and **autonomy (letting the patient decide)**, with paternalism emerging when the former overrides the latter.

Concepts of Paternalism and Beneficence

1. **Paternalism:** Restricting/substituting an individual’s choice **for their perceived welfare**, without adequate regard to autonomy.
 - a. **Example:** Doctor choosing surgery despite patient’s preference.
2. **Beneficence:** Duty to **promote patient welfare and maximize** therapeutic benefit.
 - a. **Example:** Surgery prevents long-term medication toxicity.

Analysis of the Doctor’s Action

A. Ethically justified: Beneficence and professional duty

1. **Clinical expertise:** Doctor’s specialised **knowledge, experience, and risk assessment** may justify recommending surgery.
 - a. **Example:** Evidence favors surgery over chronic medication.
2. **Clinically superior option:** If surgery offers **better prognosis, fewer adverse effects and greater net benefit**, recommending it fulfils **beneficence** and **non-maleficence**.
3. **Professional responsibility:** Deontological duty of care requires the doctor to **prevent foreseeable harm**, not merely endorse every patient preference.

B. Ethically concerning: Paternalism over autonomy

1. **Bypassing the patient:** Convincing the **family rather than directly counselling** the competent patient undermines autonomy and **informed choice**.
2. **Familial paternalism:** Involving family as the effective decision-maker can create **substitution of family preference for patient agency**.
3. **Gender paternalism:** Bypassing a female patient may reflect **gendered assumptions about her decisional capacity** - a form of benevolent sexism.
4. **Means matter:** A good intention does not justify an autonomy-denying process - **“good ends, unjust means”** remain ethically problematic.

C. Reluctant assent: Consent without genuine autonomy

1. **Undue influence/coercion:** The doctor’s duty was to secure **voluntary, informed consent**, free from pressure.
2. **Incomplete disclosure:** Patient should understand the **risks, benefits, alternatives and consequences** of both medication and surgery.
3. **Shared decision-making:** The ethically preferable approach is **“recommend, inform, respect”**, rather than **“decide, persuade, obtain assent.”**

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Ethically appropriate course: Beneficence balanced with Autonomy

1. **Counsel the patient first:** Explain **risks, benefits and alternatives** of both treatments. (Informed autonomy).
2. **Recommend, not impose:** Present surgery as the **clinically preferable option**, but leave the decision to the patient i.e., beneficence without paternalism.
3. **Ensure voluntary consent:** Eliminate **coercion, undue influence and familial pressure**. (Kantian principle of treating persons as ends).
4. **Document informed choice:** Record the **options explained, medical rationale and patient's preference**. (Accountability & professional integrity).
5. **Respect the final decision:** If competent and adequately informed, honour even a choice **contrary to medical advice**. (Mill's liberty principle).

The doctor's intent may be beneficent, but the method is paternalistic. Ethical medical practice requires beneficence balanced by autonomy - **"guide, don't override"** - so that the patient remains the agent, not merely the recipient, of medical care.

4. (b) Efficiency is doing things right, while effectiveness is doing the right thing. How do you strike a balance between the two to enhance productivity?

Answer

Peter Drucker's distinction captures the dilemma: efficiency is **"doing things right"**, while effectiveness is **"doing the right things."** Thus, productivity requires **right goals, optimal processes** and **meaningful outcomes**.

Core Concepts

1. **Efficiency:** Maximising output with minimum time, cost and resources. (e.g., faster disposal of cases through Lok Adalats).
2. **Effectiveness:** Achieving the intended substantive outcome. (e.g., ensuring that settlements are fair, voluntary and enforceable).
3. Efficiency asks "How well?"; effectiveness asks "For what purpose?"

Why Imbalance Between the Two Is Harmful

1. **Speed can sacrifice substance:** **"Justice hurried is justice buried"** — excessive emphasis on disposal targets may **compromise due process and natural justice**.
 - a. **Example: Lok Adalats' enormous disposal** numbers show efficiency, but quality and voluntariness of settlement must remain the ultimate test.
2. **Wrong goals, perfectly executed:** An organisation may optimise a dysfunctional process rather than question its purpose — **a classic "means-ends inversion."**
3. **Quantification bias:** **What gets measured gets prioritised**; easily measurable outputs can crowd out difficult outcomes such as equity, trust and citizen satisfaction.
4. **Cost-cutting can create future costs:** Excessive efficiency may produce short-term savings but long-term social costs.
 - a. **Example:** Cutting preventive expenditure can increase **disaster-response costs** later. This violates the principle of intergenerational justice.
5. **Centralisation breeds rigidity:** Pursuit of uniform efficiency can suppress local knowledge and contextual solutions, weakening subsidiarity and responsiveness.

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6. **Effectiveness without efficiency wastes public resources:** A welfare programme may achieve its social objective but become fiscally unsustainable due to leakages, duplication and excessive transaction costs.
- a. **Example:** leakages in the Public Distribution System violate stewardship of public resources.

How to Strike the Balance

1. **Define outcomes, not merely outputs:** Set outcome-oriented KPIs combining speed, cost, quality and citizen impact.
 - a. **Example:** Swachh Bharat should measure ODF sustainability and waste management, not merely toilets constructed.
2. **Establish non-negotiables:** Efficiency must operate within ethical red lines—legality, safety, equity, dignity and due process.
 - a. **Example:** Fast-track justice - speed without compromising hearing and evidence.
3. **Create feedback loops:** Use citizen feedback, audits, grievance redressal and social audits to continuously correct processes. (Deming's PDCA cycle — Plan - Do - Check - Act)
 - a. **Example:** Social audits under MGNREGA expose implementation gaps that output statistics may conceal.
4. **Decentralise decisions; democratise outcomes:** Give frontline institutions discretion and local participation, while retaining common outcome standards.
 - a. **Example:** Amul's cooperative model combines decentralised farmer participation with professional processing, procurement and marketing.
5. **Simplify the process, not the purpose:** Remove red tape, duplication and unnecessary approvals, while preserving essential safeguards.
 - a. **Examples:** Delhi Metro - standardised systems & modular construction—faster execution without compromising safety.
 - b. **Examples:** UPI: simplified payment interface → lower transaction friction + wider financial inclusion.

The goal of public administration is neither maximum activity nor minimum expenditure, but maximum public value. Thus, effectiveness chooses the right destination; efficiency ensures we reach it with least waste, the two together convert productivity into public purpose.

5. (a) Usually schools, working in remote areas, do not fully comply with government regulations. However, if the rules are enforced strictly, it would lead to most schools closing down. How should an administrator strike a balance between enforcement of rules and educational rights of children?

Answer

Education is a fundamental right under Article 21A, operationalized by the RTE Act, 2009. But in remote areas, rigid enforcement of norms risks shutting schools and denying that very right, forcing the administrator to reconcile legality with the child's substantive right to learn.

The dilemma involves competing ethical and legal demands

1. **Rule of law:** Regulations on infrastructure and teacher norms exist to ensure quality and safety.
2. **Right to education:** Strict closure denies access, violating the child's constitutional entitlement. (e.g., RTE Section 19 norms).
3. **Administrative discretion:** The officer must choose between rigid compliance and pragmatic accommodation.

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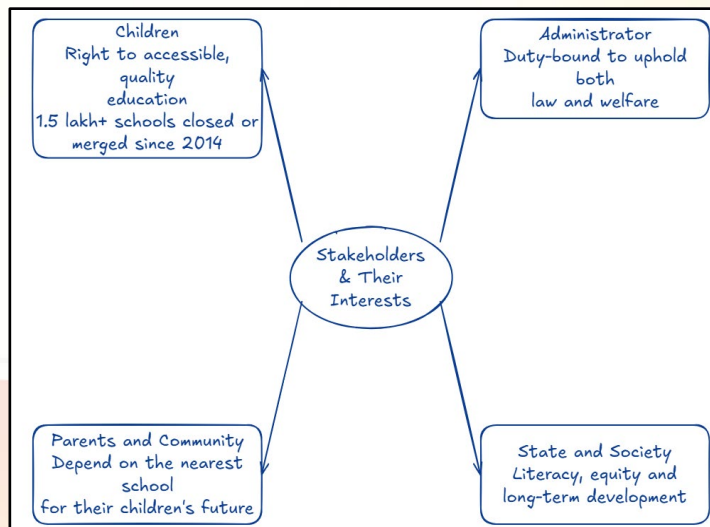
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Ethical principles guiding the balance

1. **Substantive over formal justice:** The spirit of the law—learning—must prevail over mere technical compliance.
2. **Best interest of the child:** The paramount consideration in all decisions affecting children. (e.g., UNCRC child-first principle).
3. **Proportionality:** Enforcement must be graded, not disproportionate to the harm of closure. (e.g., SC's proportionality doctrine).
4. **Compassion with accountability:** Empathy for constraints, without abandoning quality goals.



A balanced course of action for the administrator

1. **Avoid abrupt closure:** Never shut a functioning school where no alternative exists nearby.
2. **Graded compliance:** Allow a time-bound roadmap to meet norms progressively. (e.g., phased RTE compliance timelines).
3. **Prioritise learning outcomes:** Focus first on teachers and teaching, not just buildings. (e.g., ASER 2023 learning-gap findings).
4. **Leverage resources creatively:** Use CSR, MGNREGA, panchayat and convergence funds for upgradation. (e.g., Samagra Shiksha infrastructure support).
5. **Context-sensitive norms:** Advocate relaxed, area-specific standards for remote and tribal regions. (e.g., special provisions for hilly/tribal areas).
6. **Innovative models:** Deploy multi-grade teaching, digital classrooms and residential schools. (e.g., Eklavya Model Residential Schools).

Long-term systemic measures

1. **Flexible policy framework:** Push for differentiated norms recognising geographic realities.
2. **Community participation:** Empower School Management Committees for local monitoring. (e.g., RTE-mandated SMCs - School Management Committee).
3. **Sustained investment:** Bridge the funding gap to meet the 6% GDP education goal.

The administrator must enforce rules as an enabler, not a barrier, to learning, choosing upliftment over shutdown. As the Kothari Commission observed, "the destiny of India is now being shaped in her classrooms." Protecting these remote classrooms is thus not leniency, but the highest fidelity to the child's right to education.

5. (b) In international relations, ethical considerations are often subjugated to the strategic interests of nation-states. Discuss this from an ethical perspective.

Answer

Contemporary geopolitics—from the Gaza humanitarian crisis to the Ukraine conflict—frequently reflects Realpolitik, where Kantian cosmopolitan ethics are systematically subordinated to Machiavellian state survival.

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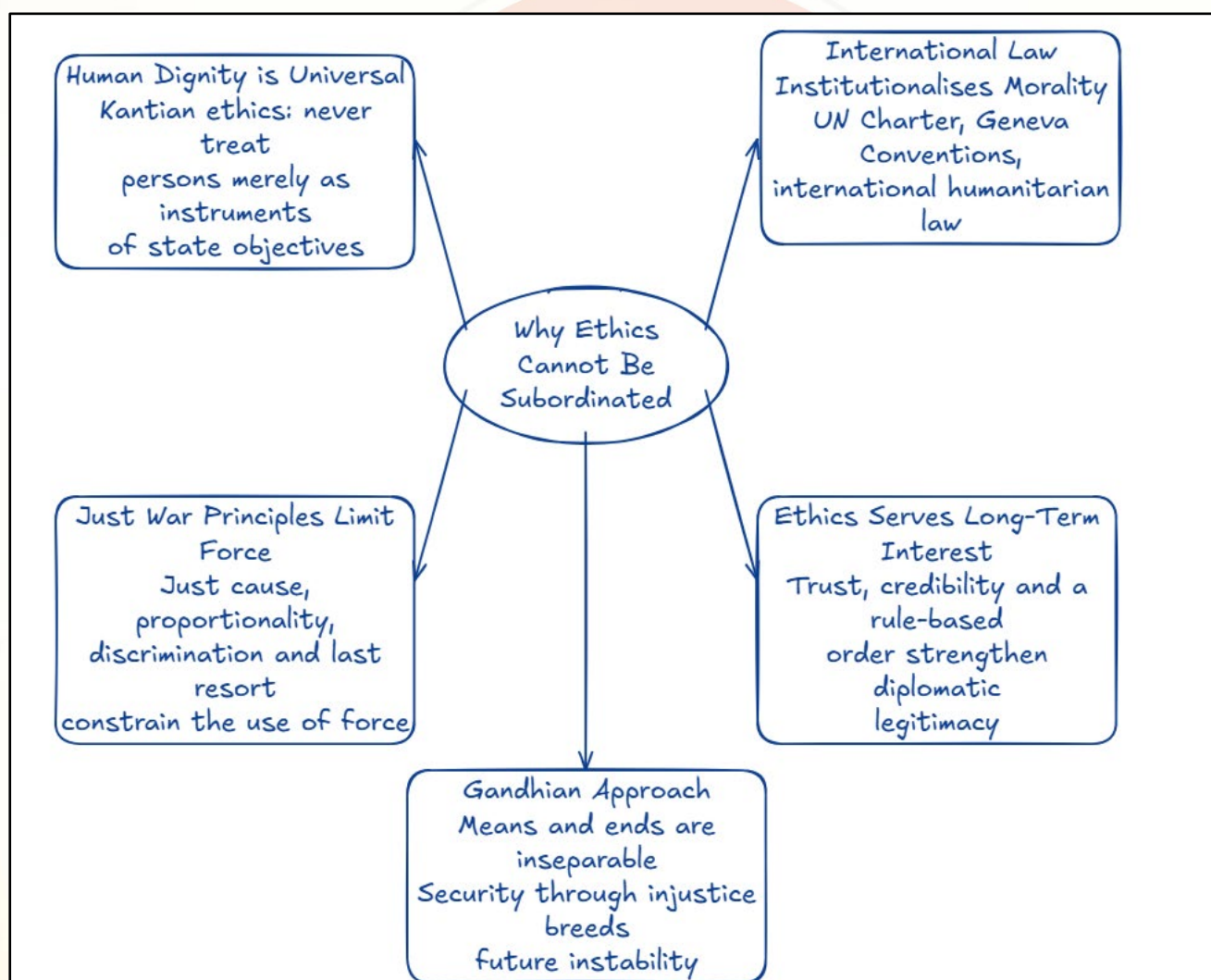
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The Subjugation of Ethics to Strategic Interests

1. **Primacy of National Survival:** A state's highest moral obligation is the security of its own citizens, often rendering external altruism a liability.
 - a. **Example:** India purchasing discounted Russian crude oil despite Western moral pressure, prioritizing domestic energy security over global sanctions.
2. **Utilitarian Security over Absolute Rights:** States frequently rationalize human rights violations or collateral damage by citing the "greater good" of long-term national stability.
3. **Selective Enforcement of Moral Norms:** International ethical frameworks are often weaponized by powerful states to police weaker nations while granting themselves immunity.
 - a. **Example:** Superpowers bypassing the UN to launch unilateral military attacks
4. **Economic Pragmatism Trumps Ideology:** In a hyper-globalized economy, resource acquisition and trade dependencies consistently override human rights advocacy.
 - a. **Example:** The weak global diplomatic response to human rights issues in Xinjiang due to the world's heavy reliance on Chinese manufacturing.



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Way Forward: Harmonizing Ethics with Strategic Interests

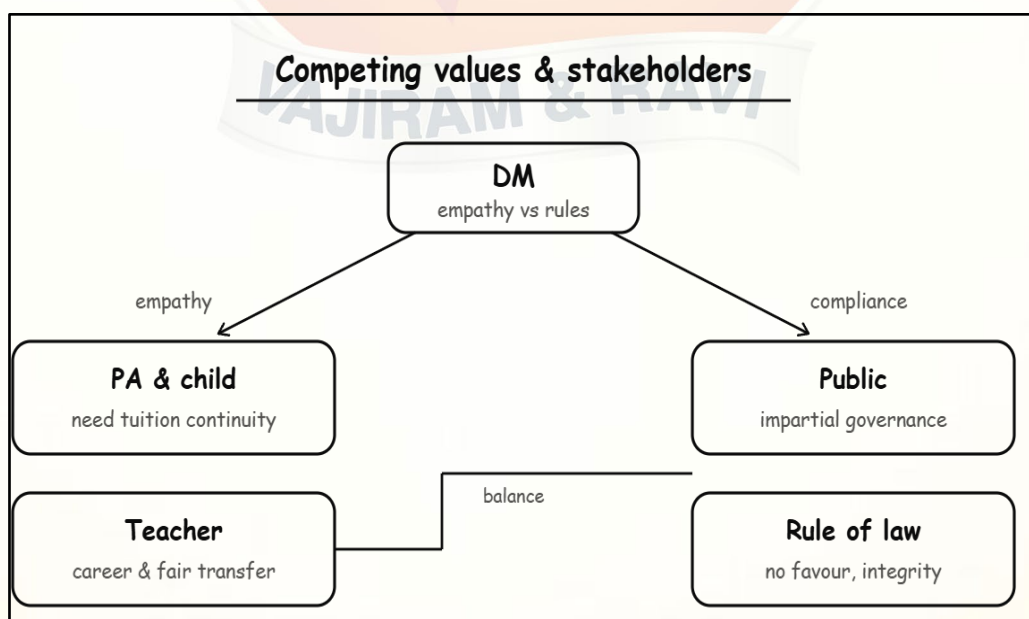
- Ethic of Responsibility:** Foreign policy must transcend rigid moralism to balance noble intentions with the practical consequences of state survival.
 - Example:** India providing humanitarian assistance (Vaccine Maitri) during global crises.
- Rules-Based International Order:** States must anchor global engagements in universally binding treaties to prevent raw coercive power from dictating terms.
 - Example:** Universal compliance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to ensure freedom of navigation in global waters.
- Democratizing Global Governance Institutions:** Reforming decision-making bodies to dismantle arbitrary hegemony and provide genuine moral representation to the Global South.
- Adopting Enlightened Self-Interest:** Treating national progress and global welfare as interconnected, realizing that helping others ultimately helps oneself.
 - Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
- Preserving the Global Commons:** Shared global resources like oceans and space must be protected as human heritage, not fought over as strategic assets.
 - Example:** Gandhian concept of Trusteeship.

The ethical objective is not to eliminate national interest, but to civilise it—ensuring that sovereignty becomes a means for human welfare, rather than a shield against moral accountability.

6. (a) On the request of his Personal Assistant (PA), the District Magistrate (DM) stops the transfer of a schoolteacher who takes private tuition for his daughter diagnosed with learning disability. In this context, discuss the aspects of empathy versus compliance with rules.

Answer

The DM acts out of genuine empathy for his PA's daughter with a learning disability, but by stopping a lawful transfer for personal reasons, he compromises rule-based governance. The case tests whether compassion can be pursued without sacrificing fairness, legality and public trust.





Ethical issues involved in the case

1. **Conflict of interest:** The DM uses official authority to benefit his own subordinate, blurring public duty and private favour.
2. **Nepotism and favouritism:** Halting a lawful transfer for personal proximity denies others equal, fair treatment.
3. **Abuse of discretion:** Discretionary power is exercised for an extraneous, personal reason rather than public interest.
4. **Empathy versus rule of law:** Genuine compassion for a disabled child clashes with impartial, rule-based administration.
5. **Distributive justice:** Privileged access to relief violates fairness towards unconnected citizens in similar need.
6. **Integrity and public trust:** A single favour-based exception erodes institutional credibility and invites precedent.

The case for empathy

1. **Compassionate governance:** Administration must be humane, not mechanical. (e.g., Article 21 dignity; Nolan's "leadership with compassion.")
2. **Special needs deserve consideration:** Learning disability warrants continuity of support. (e.g., RPwD Act, 2016; RTE inclusive-education mandate).
3. **Emotional intelligence:** Sensitivity to human situations is a core administrative virtue. (e.g., Goleman's emotional intelligence; care ethics (Carol Gilligan)).
4. **Ethics of care over rigid rules:** Relationships and human context carry moral weight. (e.g., Gandhi's talisman—"recall the weakest person.")

The case for compliance

1. **Impartiality:** A public office cannot bend rules for personal proximity. (e.g., conflict-of-interest norms; Weber's rational-legal authority)
2. **Precedent risk:** One exception invites countless favour-based demands. (e.g., Kant's universalisability test)
3. **Distributive justice:** Privileged access denies equal treatment to the unconnected. (e.g., Rawls' fairness; Article 14 equality).
4. **Accountability:** Discretionary favours erode institutional trust and invite scrutiny. (e.g., 2nd ARC probity norms; CVC vigilance oversight)
5. **Integrity as non-negotiable:** Duty must override personal sentiment in public office. (e.g., Rohini Nayyar - honest-officer exemplars).

Empathy without abandoning rules is the ethical resolution

1. **Reject arbitrary favour:** Do not halt the transfer solely on personal request. (e.g., conflict-of-interest recusal)
2. **Seek a rule-based route:** Explore lawful options like mutual or request transfers if norms permit. (e.g., transparent transfer-policy provisions).
3. **Address the real need:** Arrange special-education support or resource teachers for the child. (e.g., Samagra Shiksha inclusive resources; RPwD Act, 2016).
4. **Transparency:** Any accommodation must be documented, objective and available to all. (e.g., RTI-based openness)
5. **Institutional solution:** Strengthen systemic provision for children with disabilities district-wide. (e.g., district inclusive-education cells).

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Broader principle: reconciling head and heart

1. **Empathy channels, rules constrain:** Compassion should guide how rules are applied, not whether they apply. (e.g., Gandhi's talisman for the weakest)
2. **Universalisability:** A fair decision is one extendable to every citizen in like circumstances. (e.g., Kant's categorical imperative).
3. **Means as sacred as ends:** A just goal cannot justify an unfair, favour-based process. (e.g., Gandhian purity of means)
4. **Compassion within justice:** True empathy uplifts all in need, not merely the connected few. (e.g., Rawls' priority to the least advantaged)

Public office demands that compassion flow through fairness, not around it. The DM should reject the arbitrary favour yet meet the child's needs lawfully and transparently, proving empathy and integrity are partners, not rivals, in just administration.

6. (b) Some moral philosophers argue that spending some of your resources—without significantly affecting your financial stability—to help other people who badly suffer is our moral duty and not merely a matter of charity. Justify this claim by explaining the distinction between duty and charity.

Answer

Peter Singer's principle of effective altruism argues that when we can prevent serious suffering without sacrificing anything of comparable moral significance, helping becomes a moral obligation, not mere generosity.

Duty versus Charity

Duty	Charity
• Rooted in obligation, justice, rights and universal moral principles. • Failure may constitute moral culpability. • Seeks to uphold minimum conditions of human dignity.	• Rooted primarily in benevolence, compassion and voluntary generosity. • Failure generally does not constitute wrongdoing. • Often provides assistance beyond these minimum obligations.

Justifications for Helping as a Moral Duty

1. **The Principle of Preventable Harm:** If one can prevent absolute bad without sacrificing something of equal moral weight, inaction is unethical.
2. **Corrective Justice:** Extreme poverty often results from historically exploitative global systems, making resource transfer an act of restitution.
 - a. **Example:** Developed nations paying climate funds to vulnerable islands as compensation for carbon emissions.
3. **Restoring Human Dignity:** Extreme deprivation destroys a person's ability to make rational choices; helping them survive is necessary to treat them as human beings.
4. **The Principle of Trusteeship:** Surplus wealth belongs to society; affluent individuals are merely custodians morally bound to use it for the marginalized.
 - a. **Example:** Using corporate profits to fund rural drinking water projects as a social debt.

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5. **Capabilities Approach to Human Rights:** Freedom from starvation is not a favor but a **fundamental entitlement** requiring a corresponding duty from those with surplus.
- a. **Example:** Transitioning from ad-hoc food charity to a legally binding Right to Food Act.

Limits to the duty

1. Duty is **proportionate, not limitless**; assistance should not threaten one's basic needs or legitimate obligations.
2. It should preserve dignity and agency, avoiding **paternalism or dependency**.

A humane society should move from a "culture of charity" to a "culture of responsibility", where compassion inspires generosity but justice determines what we owe to one another.

SECTION—B

7. Lata, a mother of two children, was admitted to a hospital for acute abdominal pain. Her sister-in-law, Sujatha, accompanied her. Dr. Mansi examined Lata and recommended a diagnostic laparoscopy. Lata's consent was taken to conduct the medical procedure under general anesthesia. During the laparoscopy, Dr. Mansi's team discovered a tumor in Lata's uterus. A closer examination suggested that the tumor could be malignant. One option before Dr. Mansi was to extract a sample for biopsy. In that case, if the tumor was malignant, Lata would have to undergo another surgery for removal of the uterus. An alternative was to remove the uterus immediately. Dr. Mansi had to take a quick decision.

As Lata was under general anesthesia, Dr. Mansi explained the situation to Sujatha. Sujatha agreed with Dr. Mansi's recommendations for a hysterectomy, wherein Lata's uterus would be removed to avoid the risk and pain of undergoing another surgery. Dr. Mansi removed Lata's uterus after receiving Sujatha's consent in writing. Lata was informed of this the next day. She was very upset and felt betrayed as she had not consented to the removal of her uterus.

Lata complained to the police who tried to convince her that Dr. Mansi had acted with good intention to help a patient. Sujatha was of the same opinion, however Lata was not convinced and decided to approach the court.

- (a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.
(b) Discuss the moral conduct of the doctor in this situation.

Answer

Recent debates over **informed consent in medical procedures** highlight the ethical conflict between beneficence and patient autonomy, particularly when doctors make irreversible decisions without explicit consent.

(a) Ethical Issues Involved

1. **Autonomy vs. Paternalism:** The doctor substituted the patient's sovereign self-determination with authoritarian medical paternalism.
2. **Deficit of Specific Informed Consent:** Consent given solely for diagnostic laparoscopy was unlawfully stretched to execute an irreversible organ excision.
3. **Invalidity of Surrogate Consent:** An adult of sound mind cannot have their bodily agency delegated to an accompanying relative absent emergency guardianship.

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4. **Beneficence vs. Non-Maleficence:** The well-intentioned desire to prevent a second surgery (beneficence) inflicted permanent anatomical and emotional harm (maleficence).
5. **Absence of Intra-Operative Emergency:** A suspected tumor without biopsy confirmation posed no imminent threat to life requiring immediate hysterectomy.
6. **Breach of Fiduciary Trust:** Performing unauthorized surgery while the patient is anesthetized destroys the foundational doctor-patient moral contract.

(b) Moral Conduct of the Doctor

Dr. Mansi's moral conduct reflects a well-intentioned but fundamentally flawed exercise of clinical judgment, where subjective beneficence overrode deontological duty and patient rights.

Arguments supporting the doctor's conduct

1. **Benevolent intention:** She sought to prevent a potentially malignant tumour from progressing.
2. **Avoidance of repeated surgery:** Hysterectomy could spare Lata another anaesthesia, surgical procedure and associated pain.
3. **Professional judgement:** As an experienced physician, Dr. Mansi may have believed immediate intervention was medically safer.
4. **Emergency considerations:** If intraoperative findings indicated a substantial and immediate risk to Lata, delaying treatment might have conflicted with non-maleficence.

Thus, the doctor's intention appears morally oriented towards patient welfare, rather than personal gain or negligence.

However, the conduct remains ethically problematic

1. **Intention cannot replace consent:** Under Kantian ethics, Lata must be treated as an end in herself, capable of determining what happens to her body.
 - a. Dr. Mansi's good intention cannot justify treating Lata's autonomy as secondary.
2. **Proportionality was insufficiently established:** The more irreversible and consequential the intervention, the stronger the justification required for overriding consent.
3. **Less intrusive alternatives existed:** The doctor could have considered biopsy first, provided that doing so would not create an unacceptable immediate medical risk.
4. **Surrogate consent was ethically inadequate:** Sujatha could communicate Lata's wishes if appropriately authorised, but there is no indication that Lata had previously expressed a preference for hysterectomy in such circumstances.
5. **Procedural justice was compromised:** The decision-making process lacked adequate transparency, patient participation and accountability.
 - a. The fact that Lata was informed only after surgery further aggravates the ethical concern.

Preferred course:

1. Take the biopsy, stabilise Lata, explain the findings and possible outcomes after she regains capacity, and obtain specific informed consent for any subsequent hysterectomy.

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2. If, however, the surgical team had compelling evidence that immediate hysterectomy was essential to prevent imminent death or serious irreversible harm, the emergency doctrine could provide ethical justification—but that necessity must be demonstrable, not merely assumed.

As **Immanuel Kant** reminds us, “Respect for humanity” requires recognising every person as an autonomous moral agent. In medicine, healing must never eclipse the patient's right to choose.

8. Ravi is a senior police officer with vast experience in riot control and cyber-policing. Since one year, he has been the Superintendent of Police (SP) of a district with a history of frequent rioting.

Last year, Ravi had sought installation of an AI enabled software for predictive policing. This system has been operational for approximately six months. This new system employs advanced algorithms for capturing the biometric data of persons in a crowd and swiftly relating it to a data library. This has enabled the police to identify the persons involved in various crimes.

The system has identified an immigrant and low-income neighbourhood as a centre for gang violence and drug trafficking. Aided by this AI analysis, the local police has focused its patrolling, preventive detentions and establishing checkpoints. Consequently, public order and law enforcements has visibly improved.

Last week, some community leaders, civil rights lawyers and human rights activists visited Ravi's office. They submitted a memorandum that the new system is faulty as it is based on incorrect historical data caused by social biases and discriminatory policing. The memorandum also alleges that the increased surveillance has created a climate of tension amongst residents. This feeling is aggravated by the fact that the residents are not aware of the data noted against their names.

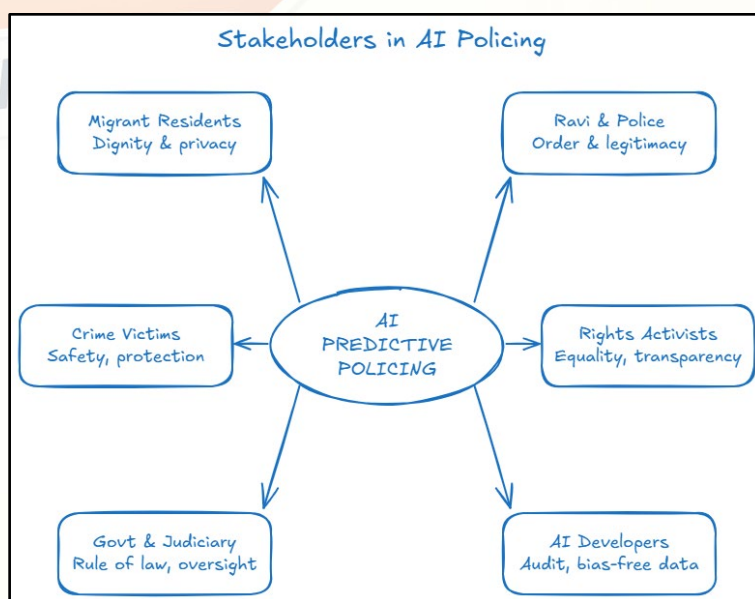
- (a) What are the ethical issues including biases involved in the use of AI in data-driven policing?
(b) Place yourself in Ravi's role and discuss the alternatives available. Justify the action that optimises compliance with ethics.

Answer

Recent debates over facial recognition and predictive policing (Jantar Mantaar protest) highlight a conflict between administrative efficiency and constitutional values of privacy, algorithmic fairness, and non-discrimination.

(a) Ethical Issues and Biases in Data-Driven AI Policing

- Historical data bias:** AI trained on discriminatory historical policing data may reproduce past prejudices through a feedback loop.
- Algorithmic bias:** The system may disproportionately identify certain communities because socioeconomic or demographic patterns become proxies for criminality.



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3. **Violation of privacy:** Mass biometric surveillance can infringe the individual's informational privacy and autonomy.
4. **Lack of transparency:** Residents are unaware of what information is stored against them, undermining procedural fairness and accountability.
5. **Threat to presumption of innocence:** Predictive policing risks treating people as potential criminals based on probabilities rather than actual conduct.
6. **Accountability deficit:** It becomes difficult to determine responsibility when an AI-generated prediction results in wrongful detention or harassment.
7. **Chilling effect:** Constant surveillance can create fear and discourage legitimate assembly, expression and interaction.

(b) Alternatives available to Ravi

1. Continue the system unchanged

Merits	Demerits
- Preserves the crime-prevention gains already achieved. - Enables efficient allocation of scarce police resources through data-driven policing. - May prevent further riots, trafficking and gang violence.	- Perpetuates algorithmic and historical discrimination. - Violates privacy, transparency and procedural fairness. - Can institutionalise a self-reinforcing surveillance-feedback loop, further labelling the neighbourhood as criminal.

2. Immediately suspend the AI system

Merits	Demerits
- Prevents further potentially discriminatory surveillance and wrongful action. - Demonstrates precaution, accountability and respect for rights. - Creates space for an independent audit and correction of flawed datasets.	- May cause a temporary decline in crime-prevention capability. - Could undermine protection of residents who genuinely face gang violence. - Abrupt suspension may waste legitimate technological capabilities and resources.

3. Retain the system with safeguards and independent audit

Merits	Demerits
- Balances public safety with fundamental rights through proportionate surveillance. - Corrects biased datasets through independent algorithmic and data audits. - Restores public trust through transparency, human oversight and grievance mechanisms.	- Auditing and recalibration require time, expertise and resources. - Some discriminatory outcomes may persist despite safeguards. - Greater transparency must be balanced against operational security and data protection.





I would choose **Option 3**, but initially place a temporary restriction on high-risk applications, particularly automated identification leading directly to detention or coercive action.

I would undertake the following measures:

1. Conduct an independent algorithmic audit of the training data, accuracy and false-positive rates.
2. Introduce human-in-the-loop decision-making, ensuring that no detention or coercive action is based solely on an AI prediction.
3. Apply data minimisation and purpose limitation to biometric information.
4. Establish mechanisms through which residents can access, correct and challenge erroneous data.
5. Constitute an independent oversight group comprising police officials, legal experts, technologists and community representatives.
6. Periodically assess whether particular communities are being disproportionately targeted.
7. Complement predictive policing with community policing and conventional intelligence, rather than treating algorithmic predictions as conclusive evidence.

Ethical justification

1. **Kantian ethics:** Every resident must be treated as an end in themselves, not merely as a data point or means to achieving crime statistics.
2. **Utilitarianism:** Ravi must maximise overall welfare; therefore, genuine crime reduction should be retained, but not at the cost of systematic harm to an entire community.
3. **Rawlsian justice:** A fair system would protect the least advantaged from disproportionate burdens; socioeconomic disadvantage cannot become a proxy for criminality.
4. **Aristotle's virtue ethics:** Practical wisdom, justice and temperance require Ravi to avoid both technological absolutism and complete rejection of useful innovation.
5. **Constitutional morality:** Four-fold proportionality test (Legitimacy, Suitability, Necessity, and Balancing) laid down in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India treats individuals as moral agents possessing inviolable rights.
6. **Proportionality principle:** Surveillance should have a legitimate aim, be necessary and effective, and impose no greater intrusion than required to achieve public safety.

"Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master." — Christian Lous Lange.

In modern policing, technological curiosity must remain subordinate to human dignity, justice and responsible state power.

8. **Seema is a senior bureaucrat with a reputation of honesty and professional efficiency. She has recently been posted as the District Collector (DC) to Surinder Nagar, where a large industrial area is being established.**

The new industrial area had caused many farmers to submit applications for change of land use (CLU) to convert their farmlands into residential areas. There is an unusually large backlog of these applications awaiting processing. Seema noticed that some applications had been approved selectively with no visible chronological pattern. The case files showed a few complaints of some approvals being subject to receipt of large bribes from the applicants.

On further fact-finding, Seema realized that a small group of touts was controlling this illegal activity through some subordinate officials in the Collectorate. This had created a fear in the other employees

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who were reluctant to process any application. The resultant backlog has been piling up thereby hindering local economic progress and causing public dissatisfaction.

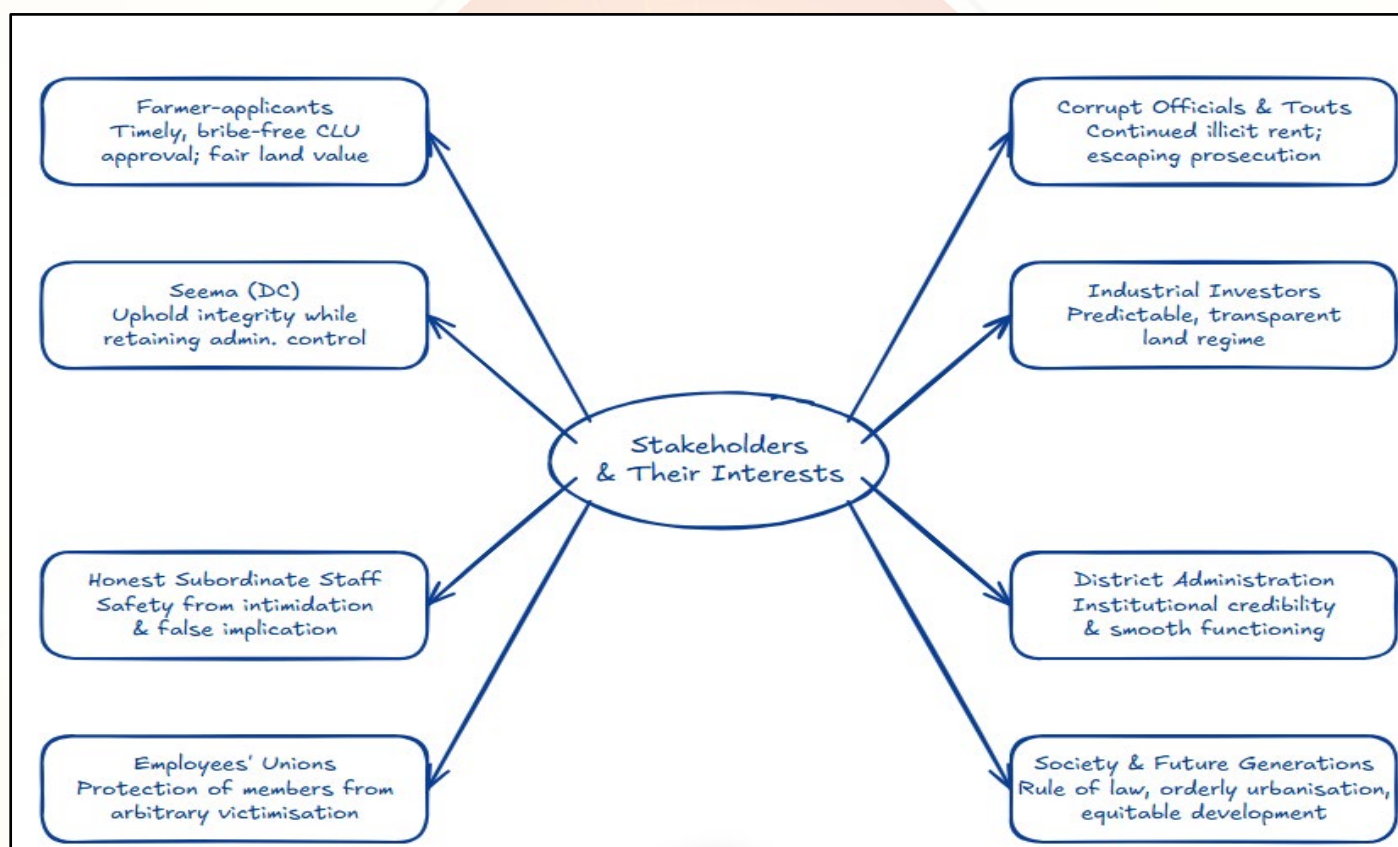
Seema was faced with a major moral and administrative challenge of dismantling this corruption network without hampering daily administrative operations. An aggressive internal investigation would result in institutional resistance and, possibly, a backlash from labour unions. Conversely, ignoring this situation would encourage the wrongdoers and unnecessarily continue this avoidable harassment to the populace.

(a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?

(b) Discuss the options open to Seema. Identify the recommended option and justify it.

Answer

Land-use conversion remains a notorious rent-seeking node in district administration. The case highlight a severe ethical crisis in land administration, where systemic corruption undermines public probity and transparency.



(a) Ethical issues involved

1. **Corruption and abuse of public office:** Accepting bribes for CLU approvals represents misuse of entrusted authority for private gain, violating probity and the fiduciary character of public office.
2. **Violation of equality and fairness:** Selective approvals without a chronological or objective basis undermine procedural justice and create unequal access to government services.





3. **Exploitation of vulnerable citizens:** Farmers are being forced to pay bribes for legitimate administrative services, amounting to coercive rent-seeking and abuse of power.
4. **Institutionalisation of corruption:** The involvement of touts and subordinate officials indicates that corruption has evolved from individual misconduct into an organised institutional network.
5. **Erosion of public trust:** When citizens believe that government decisions can be purchased, the legitimacy and credibility of the state are weakened.

(b) Options available to Seema

1. Conduct an aggressive investigation and immediately suspend suspected officials

Merits	Demerits
• Sends a strong message of zero tolerance towards corruption. • Can quickly dismantle the corrupt network and deter future misconduct. • Restores citizens' trust in administrative impartiality.	• May generate strong institutional and union resistance. • Premature action without sufficient evidence could violate natural justice. • Mass suspension or investigation could disrupt routine administration and further increase the backlog.

2. Ignore the irregularities temporarily and focus on clearing the backlog

Merits	Demerits
• Prevents immediate disruption of administrative functioning. • Enables faster disposal of pending applications and supports economic development. • Avoids confrontation with employees and labour unions.	• Allows corruption and rent-seeking to continue. • Encourages wrongdoers through a culture of impunity. • Further erodes public trust and normalises unethical conduct.

3. Phased investigation with systemic reforms and simultaneous backlog clearance

Merits	Demerits
• Balances probity with administrative continuity. • Protects honest employees while ensuring evidence-based accountability. • Addresses both the individual corruption network and structural causes of rent-seeking.	• The process may take longer than immediate punitive action. • Corrupt actors may attempt to destroy evidence or influence witnesses. • Requires sustained monitoring, inter-departmental coordination and administrative capacity

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Recommended course of action

I would choose Option 3, combining investigation, protection of whistleblowers and systemic administrative reform.

Immediate measures

1. Initiate a **confidential preliminary inquiry** to identify the corrupt officials, touts, financial transactions and modus operandi.
2. Secure relevant files and digital records to prevent **tampering or destruction of evidence**.
3. Refer cases involving prima facie criminal misconduct to the appropriate **vigilance/anti-corruption agency**.
4. Ensure that disciplinary action follows **due process and natural justice**, rather than collective punishment.
5. Protect honest employees and create a safe channel for **whistleblowing**.

Administrative reforms

1. Introduce **first-in-first-out and transparent criteria** for CLU applications.
2. Digitise applications and enable applicants to track their status.
3. Reduce unnecessary human interfaces through **faceless/online processing** wherever feasible.
4. Introduce time-bound disposal and automatic escalation of delayed cases.
5. Conduct periodic **randomised audits** of approvals.
6. Display clear fees, timelines and procedures publicly to reduce opportunities for touts.
7. Establish a grievance-redressal mechanism for applicants facing demands for bribes.

Ethical justification

1. **Kantian ethics:** Kant's principle of treating persons as **ends in themselves** is violated when officials exploit farmers as sources of illicit income.
 - a. Seema therefore has a duty to restore citizens' dignity and equal treatment.
2. **Aristotle's virtue ethics:** A good administrator requires **courage, justice, prudence and temperance**.
 - a. Seema must have the courage to confront corruption but the prudence to avoid indiscriminate action.
3. **Rawls' theory of justice:** The CLU system should operate according to **fair procedures**, irrespective of wealth or connections.
 - a. Preferential approval to those who can pay violates the principle of **fair equality of opportunity**.
4. **Utilitarianism:** The recommended approach maximises overall welfare by simultaneously reducing corruption, restoring administrative efficiency, protecting honest employees and facilitating legitimate economic activity.
5. **Gandhian ethics:** Gandhi's emphasis on **means being as important as ends** is relevant. Seema cannot justify arbitrary or vindictive action merely because the objective of eliminating corruption is desirable.
6. **Nolan principles of public life:** **Selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership** provide an appropriate ethical framework for Seema's conduct.

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As Sardar Patel observed, **“The civil service must be above all political and personal considerations.”** Seema must therefore make integrity institutional, accountability impartial and administration citizen-centric, thereby converting an ethical crisis into an opportunity for administrative reform.

10. Vikas is a government officer with over a decade of service in public administration. He has recently moved as the District Collector (DC) of Nainipura, a remote hilly district bordering a forest. Due to Nainipura’s low levels of economic development, one of his major duties is to ensure proper functioning of the public distribution system (PDS) amongst the economically weaker sections (EWS).

During his on-site visits, Vikas was apprised of a typical administrative challenge in operating the PDS. To prevent leakages, all distributors were required to carry out real-time biometric identification of the beneficiaries, whose fingerprints were tallied with identity card records. This was creating problems as the operating system sometimes rejected fingerprint matching in the cases of growing children, manual labourers and senior citizens. The problem was further compounded in periods of low WIFI connectivity. The distributors, in such cases, resorted to personal discretion when they could identify the recipient.

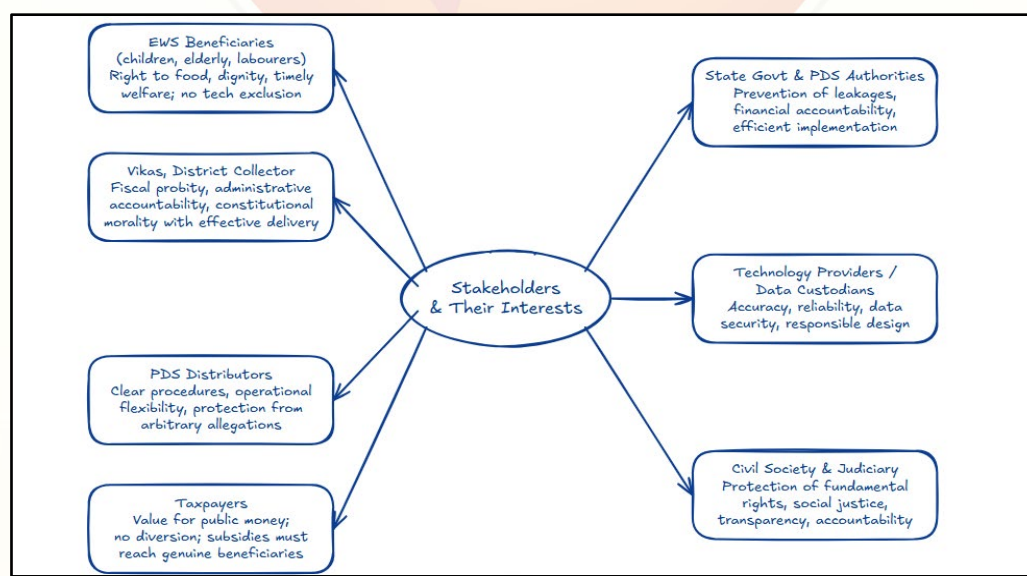
Vikas had to address this problem on priority. Strictly adhering to ‘government regulations’ would ensure fiscal probity but would greatly trouble the proposed beneficiary, i.e., EWS. It may even impinge on their fundamental right to life as per Article 21 of the Constitution. Conversely, leaving the resolution solely to the discretion of the distributors could lead to misuse and leakages.

(a) What are the options open to Vikas? How should he balance fiscal probity with empathy towards the designated beneficiaries?

(b) Discuss the ethics of using technology as a gatekeeper for welfare schemes.

Answer

Recent reports of welfare exclusion and starvation deaths due to biometric authentication failures highlight the acute ethical conflict between **administrative fiscal probity** and the **fundamental right to life under Article 21**.



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(a) Options Open to Vikas and Balancing Probity with Empathy

1. Strictly enforce biometric authentication

Merits	Demerits
- Minimises leakages, duplication and fraudulent claims, strengthening fiscal probity. - Creates an objective and auditable mechanism for PDS transactions. - Reduces distributors' discretionary power and opportunities for corruption.	- Genuine beneficiaries may be excluded from essential food assistance because of technological failure. - Converts an administrative verification mechanism into a barrier to substantive equality. - May violate the constitutional commitment to dignity and the right to life, particularly where beneficiaries have no reasonable alternative.

2. Allow distributors unrestricted discretion

Merits	Demerits
- Ensures greater accessibility and continuity of food distribution. - Accommodates genuine biometric failures caused by age, occupation or connectivity. - Builds upon local knowledge and community familiarity.	- Creates significant scope for favouritism, corruption and diversion. - Makes welfare delivery dependent upon subjective judgement rather than transparent criteria. - Weakens auditability and fiscal accountability.

3. Introduce a technology-plus-human fallback mechanism

Merits	Demerits
- Balances fiscal probity with compassion and inclusion. - Prevents genuine beneficiaries from being denied essential welfare because of technological failure. - Retains accountability through exception registers, transaction records and periodic audits.	- Additional verification mechanisms increase administrative complexity. - Human intervention may still create limited opportunities for discretion and corruption. - Requires investment in offline functionality, connectivity and grievance-redressal mechanisms.

(b) Ethics of Using Technology as a Gatekeeper for Welfare Schemes

Technology can improve welfare governance, but its ethical legitimacy depends upon **how it is designed and deployed**.



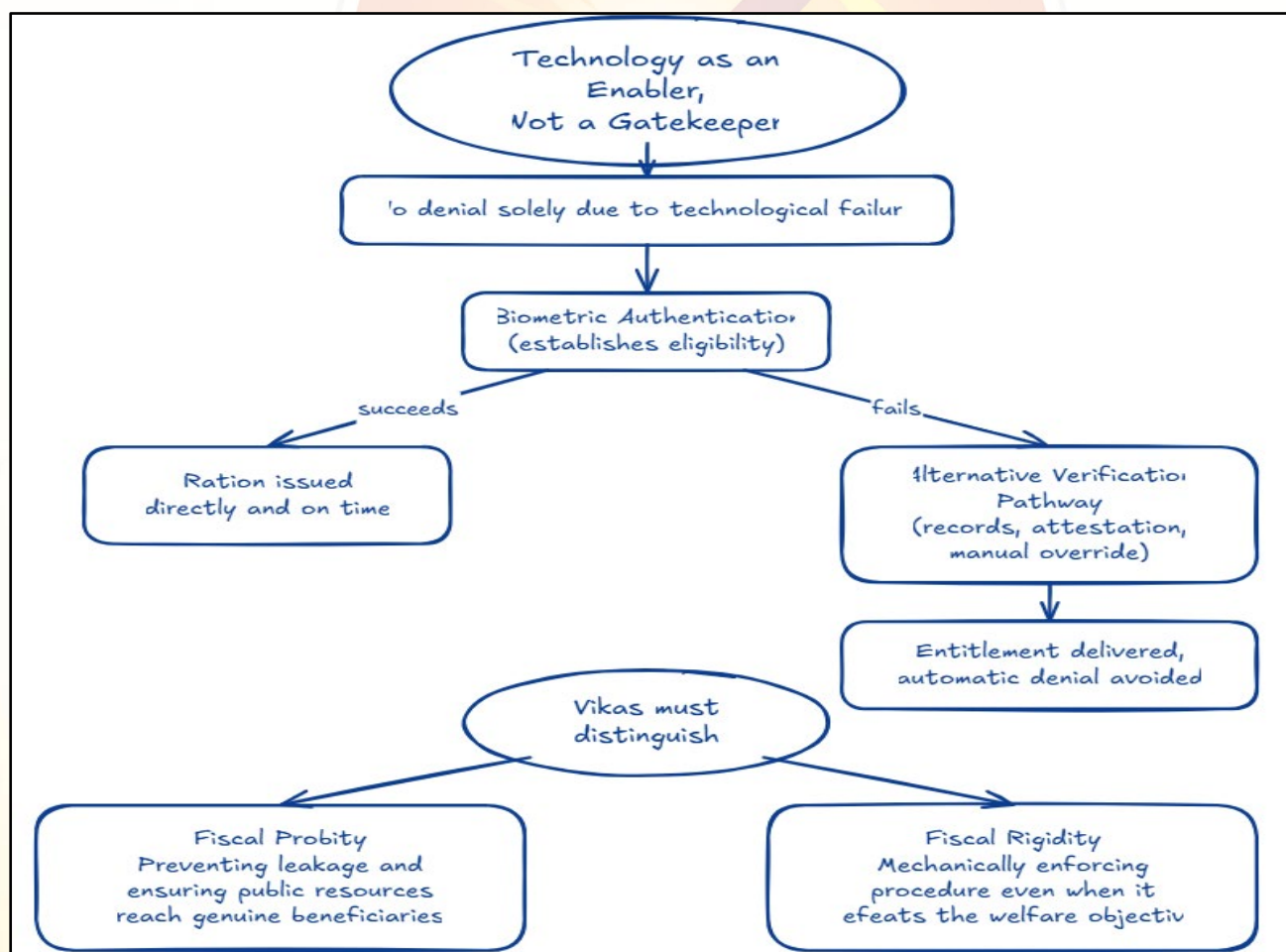


Ethical advantages

1. **Transparency:** Digital records create an audit trail and reduce opaque transactions.
2. **Efficiency:** Automated authentication can reduce duplication and fraudulent beneficiaries.
3. **Accountability:** Digital transactions make diversion easier to detect.
4. **Objectivity:** Technology can reduce arbitrary human discretion.

Ethical concerns

1. **Digital exclusion:** People with worn fingerprints, disabilities, age-related changes or poor connectivity may be wrongly excluded.
2. **Automation bias:** Officials may treat technological rejection as an unquestionable determination of ineligibility.
3. **Distributive injustice:** The poorest citizens may bear the highest cost of technological imperfections.
4. **Privacy:** Biometric databases involve sensitive personal information and require strong **purpose limitation and data protection**.
5. **Opacity:** Beneficiaries may not understand why authentication failed or how to challenge the decision.
6. **Accountability gap:** When an algorithm or device causes exclusion, responsibility may become diffused between the government, distributor and technology provider.
7. **Procedural versus substantive justice:** A technically uniform rule can produce **substantively unequal outcomes**.



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"Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him." — Mahatma Gandhi

Development must be understood in terms of expanding people's real freedoms and capabilities. Technology should therefore strengthen welfare delivery without allowing technical failure to become human exclusion

11. Rajapuram is a border district. Jhara and Biru, its two major communities are in continual conflict with each other. The social fabric is fractured and demands mending.

Ethnic tensions between the two communities have erupted into violence resulting in a large number of deaths. The stated causes are conflicting land claims, uneven resource allocation and inadequate political representation in government bodies. Separate relief camps had to be created for the two communities. The situation is volatile and appears to be getting out of control.

Rajan has been appointed the District Magistrate (DM) of Rajapuram and tasked to quickly get the situation under control. His immediate tasks include restoring administrative authority, reopening the highway and initiating peace talks. On taking over his appointment, Rajan realized that the inter-community rivalry had even seeped into the local administration and police. With functional neutrality being the immediate casualty, it had made both communities distrustful of the government. The neighbouring country could utilize the opportunity to spur insurgent activity and further aggravate the situation. Rajan favoured a controlled approach starting with opening the highway to restore food and medical supplies. He toyed with the idea of requisitioning CRPF units to help restore administrative control.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues that need to be addressed in this case.

(b) What are the options open to Rajan? Which option would ensure protection of his non-partisan image without compromising ethics?

Answer

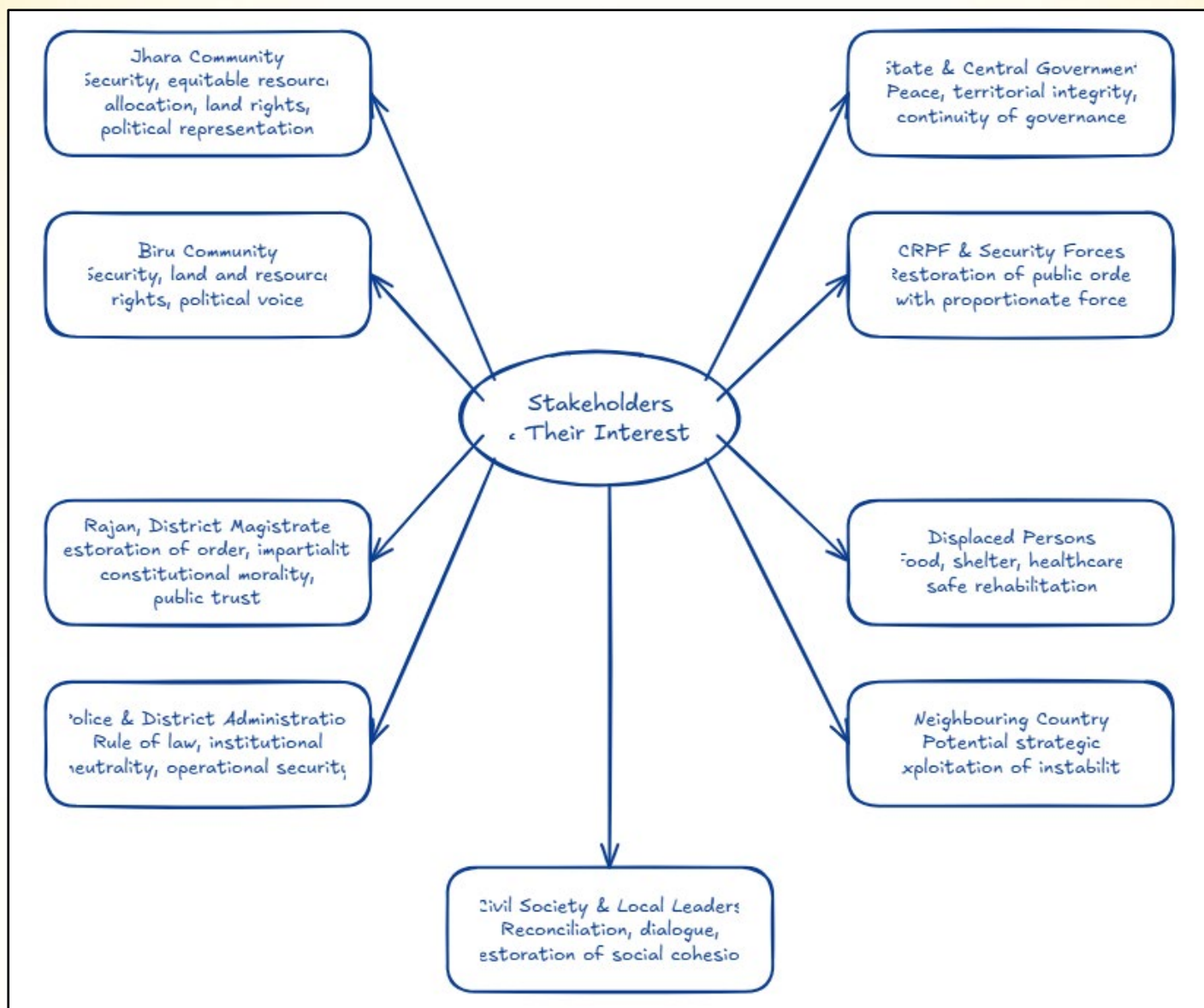
Recent ethnic conflicts in India's border regions show how administrative partisanship, resource inequity and weak reconciliation can convert social tensions into threats to peace and national security.

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(a) Ethical Issues to be Addressed

1. **Conflict between order and liberty:** Rajan must restore law and order without allowing coercive state power to become excessive or discriminatory.
2. **Administrative neutrality:** Communal penetration of the police and administration compromises objectivity, impartiality and institutional integrity, eroding citizens' trust in the State.
3. **Equality and distributive justice:** Uneven resource allocation and political under-representation raise questions of fairness, substantive equality and distributive justice.
4. **Humanitarian responsibility:** Separate relief camps reflect the immediate need to protect life, dignity and basic necessities without institutionalising communal segregation.
5. **Proportionality in use of force:** CRPF deployment may be necessary, but force must remain minimum, proportionate, accountable and targeted.
6. **Reconciliation versus retribution:** The administration must distinguish between criminal accountability for violence and collective punishment of communities.

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7. **National security:** A prolonged ethnic conflict may provide opportunities for cross-border insurgency, radicalisation and destabilisation, creating an ethical duty to secure the border district.

(b) Options Available to Rajan

1. Rely solely on local administration and police; avoid central forces

Merits	Demerits
- Signals confidence in local institutions and avoids the optics of "outside occupation." - Local officials possess ground knowledge, language and social networks. - Preserves federal comity and avoids alienating the state political leadership.	- The very neutrality of these institutions is compromised — the instrument is defective. - Any enforcement action will be read as partisan, deepening distrust. - Risks failure to reopen the highway, prolonging humanitarian suffering — a dereliction of the duty to protect.

2. Immediate, force-led restoration — requisition CRPF, impose curfew, clear highway by coercion

Merits	Demerits
- Rapidly restores administrative authority and deters insurgent exploitation from across the border. - Central forces are ethnically neutral; both communities may accept them as disinterested. - Reopens supply lines quickly, meeting the immediate humanitarian imperative.	- Force without consultation can trigger confrontation and casualties, converting a law-and-order problem into a legitimacy crisis. - Militarised governance addresses symptoms, not the underlying grievances of land, resources and representation. - Prolonged coercion breeds alienation — precisely the soil in which cross-border insurgency takes root.

3. Phased, consultative approach — neutral force as backstop, humanitarian first, dialogue in parallel, administrative cleansing alongside

Merits	Demerits
- Restores order and legitimacy simultaneously; humanitarian access is a morally uncontestable first step both communities can accept. - Neutral central forces used in aid-of-civil-power mode, with local police in support, restores functional impartiality without abdicating civilian primacy. - Creates institutional architecture — peace committees, transparent grievance redressal.	- Slower; may invite criticism of indecisiveness from superiors demanding quick results. - Consultation can be captured by hardliners or spoilers who benefit from continued conflict. - Requires sustained resources, personnel and political backing.





Option selected

Rajan should adopt **Option 3: a phased, consultative approach**, using CRPF as a neutral enabling instrument rather than as the primary strategy. This preserves his non-partisan image precisely because impartiality is demonstrated through *visible, symmetrical process*, not merely asserted.

Course of action

1. Reopen the highway as a **humanitarian corridor escorted by CRPF**, with representatives of both communities present at the announcement, framing it as relief for all, not victory for one.
2. Transfer officials with proven partisan conduct, constitute mixed-community policing teams, place a written record of every such decision on file to withstand scrutiny.
3. Every visit, every relief consignment, every meeting mirrored across both camps; publish relief data openly.
4. **District Peace Committee** with equal representation, including women's groups, elders and youth; a neutral facilitator; a time-bound agenda on land records, resource allocation and representation.
5. Initiate transparent land-record survey and a public resource-allocation audit; refer representation issues to the State Government with a reasoned recommendation.
6. Daily verified bulletins in both languages; calibrated, judicially defensible restrictions rather than blanket shutdowns.

Justification through ethical reasoning

1. **Rawlsian justice as fairness:** Decisions on land, relief and representation must be defensible from behind a veil of ignorance — Rajan should ask whether he would accept the arrangement without knowing which community he belonged to. This is the operational test of impartiality.
2. **Gandhian means-end unity:** Peace imposed by force is not peace. "Mending the social fabric" is a moral end that can only be reached through non-violent, dialogic means.
3. **Kantian deontology:** Every displaced person is an end in himself. Relief distributed by need, not by identity, honours the categorical imperative; a maxim of ethnically weighted relief cannot be universalised.
4. **Weber's ethic of responsibility, over the ethic of conviction:** Rajan cannot simply do what feels righteous; he must weigh **foreseeable consequences**—including cross-border exploitation of a security vacuum.
5. **Ambedkar's constitutional morality:** Fraternity is not sentiment but a constitutional obligation. Political representation and resource grievances must be routed through lawful institutional channels, not street power.
6. **Aristotle's phronesis and the golden mean:** Neither reckless force nor paralysing inaction — practical wisdom lies in calibrated firmness.
7. **Emotional intelligence (Goleman):** Empathy, self-regulation and social skill are Rajan's principal tools; he must listen to grief before he issues orders.

As Martin Luther King Jr. observed, **"Peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."** Rajan must therefore convert restored order into lasting, equitable peace.

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12. Ajit has been recently promoted as the Head of the Department of Weapon Sales (DWS) in the Ministry of Defence Production (MDP). His charter of duties includes international sales of weapons produced domestically by MDP.

In two recent wars, MDP weapons have performed admirably, resulting in many countries showing interest in buying them, particularly long-range artillery and missiles. Country A and country B have asked for these weapons. However, production constraints restrict DWS to accept only one purchase order.

Country A is a developing nation with a sound technology base. MDP is planning R&D collaboration with it for the next generation of weapons. It is not part of any security alliance and needs weapons for protection from a troublesome neighbour. It seeks a large acquisition on a long-term loan.

Country B is also a developing nation. Military strength is its priority, with the military budget often ingressing into allocations for human resources and infrastructure development. It is in security alliance with a superpower who has a large military base there and periodically allots it financial grants. It is a member of an economic bloc with which the government is currently negotiating a free trade agreement. It is not a signatory of NPT but possesses smaller nuclear weapons and delivery systems. It supports some guerrilla forces abroad. It has sought a smaller acquisition and is prepared to make some advance payment. It is currently negotiating arms purchases from another nation too.

Ajit discussed this case with his counterparts in the related departments. Therein, the significant economic benefits, employment generation and stronger diplomatic relations arising from this sale were highlighted. It was also emphasized that refusing the deal could result in country B purchasing weapons from some other supplier.

Ajit was aware that in arms sales, due diligence at each stage was pivotal to ensure conformity to national policy and international treaties.

- (a) Discuss the options available to Ajit. Which option should he select and why?
(b) How can Ajit balance nation's economic and strategic interests with ethical considerations?

Answer

Amid escalating **global arms exports and proxy conflicts**, this case highlights the dilemma of balancing economic-strategic gains against international ethics, non-proliferation norms, and just war stewardship.

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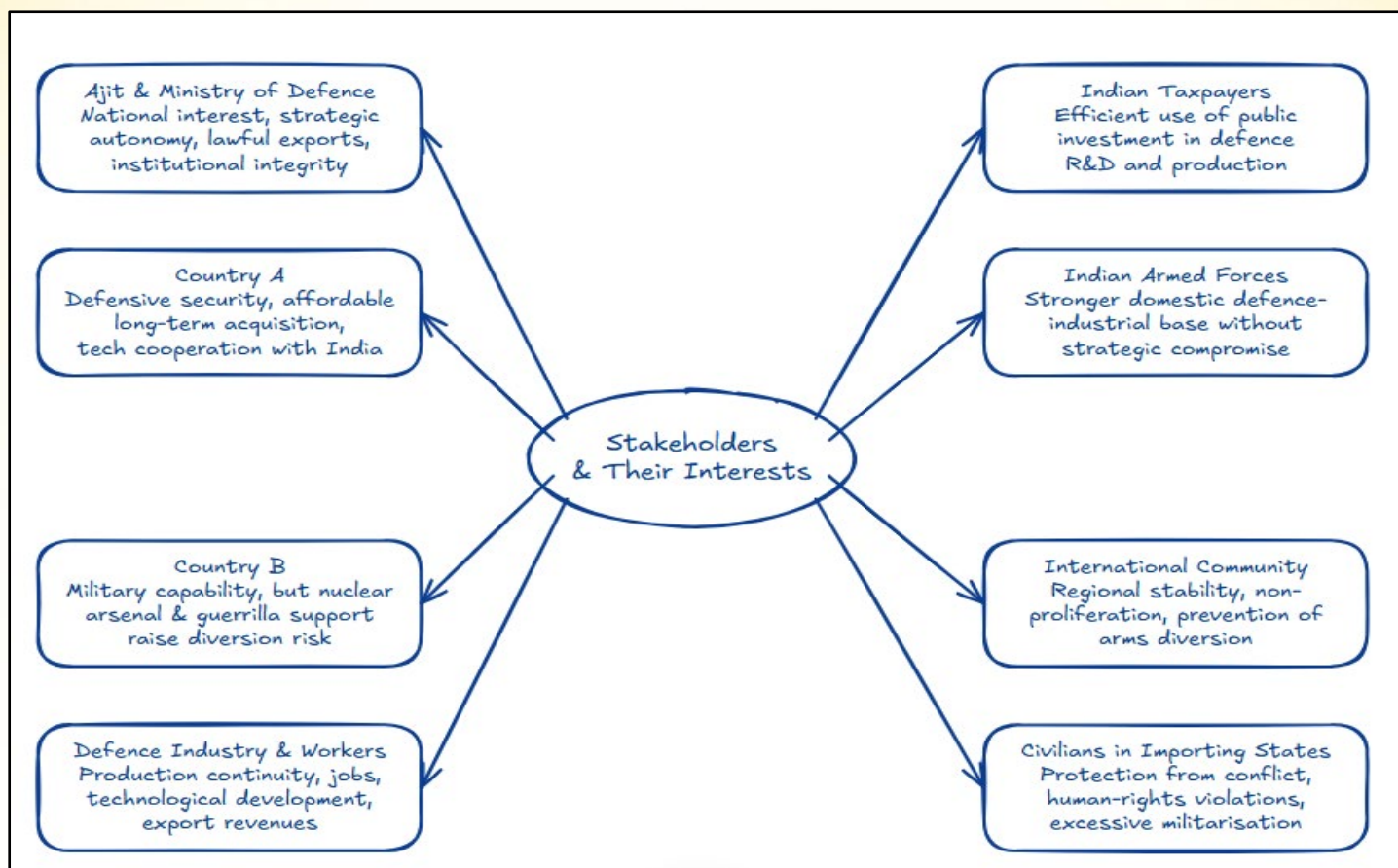
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(a) Options Available to Ajit

1. Accept Country A's order

Merits	Demerits
• Strategic prudence: Supports a defensive requirement without directly strengthening a nuclear-armed state or guerrilla networks. • Long-term strategic partnership: R&D collaboration can generate <u>technology transfer, innovation and defence self-reliance</u>. • Ethical proportionality: A defensive sale on long-term credit better aligns commercial interests with <u>human security and regional stability</u>.	• Financial burden: Long-term loan may delay returns and create greater credit exposure for India. • Opportunity cost: India may lose the immediate advance payment offered by Country B. • Diplomatic costs: Rejecting B could weaken relations and push it towards another supplier.

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2. Accept Country B's order

Merits	Demerits
• Economic efficiency: Advance payment provides immediate revenue and supports <u>employment and industrial capacity</u>. • Diplomatic leverage: Defence exports can deepen bilateral relations and create strategic influence. • Commercial opportunity: Refusing B could allow competing suppliers to capture the market and weaken India's defence-export footprint.	• Proliferation risk: Its possession of nuclear weapons and delivery systems raises <u>non-proliferation concerns</u>. • End-use risk: Support to guerrilla forces creates possibilities of <u>diversion and misuse</u>, potentially causing civilian harm. • Strategic uncertainty: Its military-first priorities and existing alliance with a superpower may make Indian weapons indirectly serve wider geopolitical competition.

3. Option 3: Defer both

Merits	Demerits
• Preserves procedural rectitude and collective responsibility. • Buys time for end-use verification and risk assessment. • Avoids premature commitment of scarce capacity.	• Indecision at the top signals unreliability to all buyers. • Both orders may lapse — loss of revenue and credibility. • Abdicates the responsibility his office was created to discharge.

Recommended option: Select Country A, subject to enhanced due diligence

I would recommend **Country A**, provided comprehensive due diligence confirms its legitimate end-use and compliance with India's export-control framework.

The decision should not be based merely on which country offers greater immediate economic benefit. The character of the buyer, intended use, regional consequences and possibility of diversion must form part of the ethical assessment.

Conditions attached to the sale

1. Verify **end-user certificates** and final recipients.
2. Conduct comprehensive **strategic and security due diligence**.
3. Include strict **no-transfer/no-re-export clauses**.
4. Establish mechanisms for **end-use monitoring**.
5. Assess possible implications for regional stability.
6. Ensure conformity with India's **national export-control policy and applicable international obligations**.
7. Create safeguards against diversion to non-state actors.
8. Review the transaction periodically if the regional security situation changes.





India itself has emphasised that conventional arms transfers must be controlled in accordance with **national and international obligations**, alongside legitimate security and foreign-policy interests

Ethical justification

1. **Just War tradition:** The distinction between **jus ad bellum** and **jus in bello** highlights that legitimate self-defence does not automatically make every means of warfare ethically acceptable.
 - a. Similarly, an arms exporter bears responsibility for foreseeable consequences of transfers.
2. **Kant's categorical imperative:** Arms that may reach guerrillas treat distant civilians as mere means; the maxim fails universalisability.
3. **Rawls' Law of Peoples:** No duty exists to arm an outlaw regime that abets cross-border violence; duties of assistance favour A.
4. Rule utilitarianism (Mill over Bentham): B's advance payment is **short-term hedonic gain**; A's partnership maximises enduring aggregate welfare.
5. Doctrine of trusteeship: Ajit is not the owner of the public defence capability; he is its trustee.
 - a. Therefore, national resources and technological capabilities must be deployed for the **broader public interest rather than short-term departmental or commercial gains**.

(b) Balancing Economic and Strategic Interests with Ethical Considerations

1. **Rigorous end-use certification:** Obtain binding assurances against transfer, re-export or diversion.
2. **Post-sale verification:** Conduct inspections and monitoring throughout the weapon's lifecycle.
3. **Human-rights assessment:** Evaluate the recipient's conflict behaviour and record of civilian protection.
4. **Treaty compliance:** Ensure conformity with India's export-control regime and applicable international obligations.
5. **Strategic assessment:** Examine the impact on India's regional security, alliances and strategic autonomy.
6. **Economic safeguards:** Prefer secure payment mechanisms, insurance and commercially viable financing.
7. **Institutional oversight:** Maintain documented, transparent and auditable decision-making to prevent conflict of interest and arbitrary discretion.
8. **Technology protection:** Ring-fence sensitive technologies and impose appropriate technology-security clauses.

As Immanuel Kant observed, **"Act only according to that maxim whereby you can, at the same time, will that it should become a universal law."** For Ajit, responsible arms trade must make national interest compatible with global responsibility.

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