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WISTLEBLOWERS ACT

Relevant for: Ethics | Topic: Challenges of corruption

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

Wistleblowers Act

Posted On: 12 DEC 2018 3:59PM by PIB Delhi

The Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011 (No. 17 of 2014) has been notified on 12th May, 2014. In terms of section 1(3) of the Act, the provisions of the Act shall come into force only on such date, as the Central Government may notify. The said Act requires some amendments aimed at safeguarding against disclosures affecting sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, etc., before it is brought into force. To make these amendments to the Act, the Government introduced the Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in the Lok Sabha on 11th May, 2015 which has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 13th May, 2015 and the said Bill is presently before the Rajya Sabha. Thus, the matter is presently under the domain of the legislature.

The Act does not provide any incentive to disclose any information under the private sectors.

This was stated by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

BB/NK/VK

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A MORAL CODE

Relevant for: Ethics | Topic: Ethical Concerns & Dilemmas in Government & Private institutions incl. issue of "Conflict of Interest"

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The writer is dean of the Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California.

Should technology companies establish a new C-suite position — that of a chief ethics officer? The question is not that far-fetched. We live in unprecedented times. Technological advances occur at an exponentially accelerating pace that changes our world as never before. And this rate of change is only expected to grow, as it is a consequence of the fundamental underpinnings of innovation. These changes can be immensely beneficial, as in healthcare or in helping to eliminate extreme poverty. They can also have unintended consequences that can be equally powerful and long-lasting.

I like the following very simple definition of technology, which I have paraphrased from Brian Arthur: "Technology is leveraging phenomena for useful purposes." A keyword in this definition is "useful". It connects technology to ethics. Technology is, by definition, amoral. It is intent that provides the missing link to ethics.

With this in mind, here are some points that future chief ethics officers must contemplate.

As a successful and powerful technology evolves, it first starts within the intersection of three circles — smart, legal and ethical — within which the core technology lives continuously. However, its evolution can be quite unexpected. One or more of that technology's branches may follow a path outside the intersection of those three circles.

A most obvious example is a deviation or a mutation due to a bad actor. Examples abound: Technology-enhanced violation of privacy rights, cybersecurity breaches, sabotage, etc. These are relatively easy to spot. Malfeasance has been encountered throughout the ages. It leads to deliberate actions, where the useful purpose of the bad actor is detrimental to society at large. It is reminding us that what is useful to someone may not be useful to another.

Less obvious, but no less important, are unintended consequences. These are the unavoidable outcomes of technologies that are ubiquitous, powerful and disruptive, as many of today's technologies are. The genesis of unintended consequences lies in two facts — that our world is not linear, hence, leading to unpredictable phenomena; and that organised society reacts much slower, through the legislative process, to technological change. How we react as a society to technological change has multiple dimensions. The ideal chief ethics officer would seek to meticulously strengthen the core technology that serves useful purposes, namely the branches that continue to reside in the three-circle intersection, and to prune the unwanted or undesirable branches that grow outside of it. This requires a culture of ethically-minded technologists that will discourage the growth of such branches, and much faster policy and legislative processes that are in step with technology and can create the new perimeter that is defining what is acceptable, legally and ethically.

Another crucial dimension for our imagined chief ethics officers is accurate and factual communication to the public of the existing unintended consequences. Through their leadership such officers could have a cascading effect on how we educate today's engineering students

about the importance of technology ethics, acquiring and maintaining of an internal moral compass, the process of decision-making in technology and innovation, and ultimately, the power of technology and its unintended consequences.

Tristan Harris, former design ethicist at [Google](#), once said: “Never before in history have such a small number of designers had such a large influence on two billion people’s thoughts and choices.”

It is likely that innovation and technology cannot wait for society to catch up. But nor can engineers and technologists simply outsource ethics to someone else. It is now becoming our own responsibility.

The writer is dean of the Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California

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NATIONAL MISSION ON GOVERNMENT E-MARKET (GEM) PORTAL

Relevant for: Ethics | Topic: Utilization of public funds

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

National Mission on Government e-Market (GeM) portal

Posted On: 13 DEC 2018 1:46PM by PIB Delhi

The National Mission on GeM (NMG) was launched on 5th September 2018 till 17th October 2018. The objective of the Mission was to accelerate the adoption and use of Procurement by Major Central Ministries, States and UTs and their agencies (including CPSUs/PSUs, Local Bodies) on the GeM platform. The objectives of the NMG were to:

- Promote inclusiveness by catapulting various categories of sellers and service providers
- Highlight and communicate 'value add' by way of transparency and efficiency in public procurement, including corruption free governance.
- Achieve cashless, contactless and paperless transaction, in line with Digital India objectives.
- Increase overall efficiency leading to significant cost saving on government expenditure in Procurement.
- Maximizing ease in availability of all types of products and services bought by Government buyers.

During the mission, 315 events and training programs conducted across 31 states in which there were 22,838 participants. For central Ministries and CPSUs 106 events were conducted in which there were 5,990 participants. In addition to this, there were 18 theme based events organized at National Level covering critical areas of intervention like GeM design and architecture, localization, quality assurance, legal frameworks GeM payments, credit facility, OEMS, education, health and power in which there were 2,222 participants.

The portal was launched on 9th August 2016 as a pilot and gradually scaled up. During the last 2 years and 4 months (till 2nd December 2018),

- Number of orders placed-1,015,519
- Value of orders placed - Rs. 14,959 Crore

GeM has brought transparency, efficiency, and inclusiveness in public procurement. It has reduced the time of procurements, reduced the process and enabled ease of doing business for both buyers and vendors. There is huge savings in the cost of

procurement, ranging from a minimum of 10% to 45% in different categories. The average saving based on the MRP/Listed price is about 28%.

This information was given by the Minister of State of Commerce and Industry, C. R. Chaudhary, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha yesterday.

MM/SB

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GEM TO SOON ONBOARD START-UPS

Relevant for: Ethics | Topic: Utilization of public funds

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

GeM to soon onboard start-ups

Posted On: 13 DEC 2018 1:45PM by PIB Delhi

The Government e-Market (GeM) and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) are in the process of developing a PoC (Proof of Concept) corner for start-ups and will soon be able to onboard start-ups on the GeM platform. This will be a launch pad for start-ups in the country to access government market and give them a chance to sell on the GeM platform. Government users will be able to try out the innovative products and services offered by start-ups on a trial basis and give feedback.

As start-up products and services are innovative, and cannot be compared with similar products and services, a buyer may use them for three months and thereafter they certify that the product is useful and the price is reasonable. Based on this user certification the product or service will be listed on GeM.

GeM is also working in a mission mode to onboard maximum number of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This is GeM's initiative for the MSME support and outreach programme which is running for 100 days covering 100 districts. This programme was launched by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in November 2018 as a national mission to support MSMEs.

GeM is part of this mission in 77 districts of the country and at half way of the 100-day mission, 26% of vendors on GeM are from the MSME sector and 781 registrations of MSMEs have been completed on the GeM platform.

Of the 1 lakh crore CPSE procurement being done by the 170 CPSEs that are procuring their requirements through GeM 25% is from MSMEs.

In order to encourage and support MSMEs to onboard on GeM in larger numbers, credit facility is being made available to MSMEs on GeM through TReDs, a bill discounting service supported by SIDBI for pre and post shipment of products. As small enterprises find it difficult to deal with payment delays, GeM is ensuring that this issue will be solved for MSMEs who can now avail the TReDs facility. Further, certain products are reserved for MSMEs on GeM. GeM also offers customized training modules in 13 languages to hand hold them to register on the platform.

GeM is now focusing on the services sector which was announced as a champion sector by the Union Cabinet this year. Services like transportation, inspection, webcasting and analytic services may be availed through GeM by government departments.

Products leasing is also available for users on the GeM platform. Thirty-three services like cloud, cab service, HR hiring, sanitation and security are available for leasing through the

GeM platform.

In order to improve quality of products and services, GeM is also offering QCBS based procurement for government departments.

In the recently concluded National Mission on GeM medical devices that are required by the health sector have been on boarded on the platform. An MoU has been signed with Kalam Institute of Health Technology, Visakhapatnam, which comes under the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. It will be a knowledge partner and help in creating the technical parameters and catalogue for medical equipment and devices.

GeM platform is also being used to place orders for World Bank projects up to USD 50,000.

The National Mission on GeM (NMG) was launched on 5th September 2018 by Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Suresh Prabhu, to accelerate the adoption and use of GeM by major Central Ministries, States and UTs and their agencies including CPSUs and PSUs.

The objectives for creating this platform was:

To promote inclusiveness, create transparency and efficiency in public procurement, achieve cashless, contactless and paperless transaction, increase overall efficiency leading to significant cost saving on government expenditure in procurement and maximize ease in availability of all types of products and services bought by Government buyers.

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MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS ORGANIZES “LEADING WITH EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE” WORKSHOPS

Relevant for: Ethics | Topic: Emotional intelligence - Concepts, and their utilities & application in Administration and Governance

Ministry of Railways

Ministry of Railways organizes “Leading with Emotional Intelligence” Workshops

GMs and DRMs participated in these Workshops for evolving effective, efficient and emotionally intelligent leadership in Indian Railways

Indian Railways also plans to train its trainers for conducting similar courses for the young officers joining Railways and at various levels of career development

Posted On: 14 DEC 2018 5:31PM by PIB Delhi

Decisive actions in an uncompromising pursuit of excellence have been the hallmark of Indian Railways top leadership in the recent past. Vision of driving change through process, structure and cultural reforms has been at the forefront to improve service delivery. An exceptional empowerment and delegation has been made over past 1 year in order to give complete autonomy to the field units in the areas of influence to manage transformative agenda of the Government of India.

The pursuit of emotionally intelligent leadership is one of the leadership strategies for dramatic turnaround of Railways that would stay in a cultural transformation to achieve aspirational goals.

Keeping in view of the above, Ministry of Railways organized three workshops with the main focus on module of ‘**Leading with emotional Intelligence**’ between November 10 to December 10, 2018 covering all General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers of Indian Railways at National Academy of Indian Railways(NAIR),Vadodara.

Workshops were arranged for top level leaderships — General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers using **MHS EQI 2.0** as the anchor instrument for driving emotionally intelligent leadership in measurable and replicable way. General Managers have also been empowered to organize these Workshops for the junior officers working in the Divisions, for a qualitative impact on productivity and well being of the large workforce that Indian Railways have with an intention to improve the overall work environment. Indian Railways also plans to train its trainers for conducting similar courses for the young officers joining Railways and at various levels of career development.

Indian Railways may be a trailblazer in the Government of India to launch the initiative of Emotional Intelligence for sustainable success of the organization with the aim of efficient

service delivery.

BACKGROUNDER:

MHS EQI 2.0 has been developed by Multi Health Systems, Canada based on rigorous research and validation. World's first scientifically validated Emotional Intelligence assessment test was created by Dr. Renven Bar-on and has been in use since 1997. Indian Railways also plans to train its trainers for conducting similar courses for the young officers joining Railways and at various levels of career development. EQI as a tool, helps in change management for helping mitigate stress, increase learning agility, promote employee recognition, make better decisions, take proactive actions and recover from adversity. Given the context of Railways, the challenges surrounding its leaders are managing people below them, managing conflict, maintaining relationships, influencing various other stake holders with or without authority making impactful decisions.

Emotional Intelligence refers to the capability of a person to manage his or her emotions and possess the capability to control the emotions of others as well.

Leaders with higher Emotional Intelligence are more effective in their work. This has five major components — self perception, self expression, intra-personal, problem solving and stress management. The Workshop on Emotional Intelligence allowed participants to deepen their understanding in areas like empathy, flexibility, assertiveness, stress tolerance and impulse control and gave them an opportunity for further development.

A culture of Emotional Intelligence is the most productive and positive culture and is the corner stone of innovation, efficiency and effectiveness. This is one of the major initiatives taken by Ministry of Railways.

SVS/MKV/AP/ENS

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