

From the Editor's Desk



English: *It is the window to knowledge and the West...Without knowing English, our children will be good only to pull bullock-carts.* — Justice Markendeya Katju

There is no enemy outside of your soul. The real enemies live inside you and they are anger, pride, greed, attachment and hate. — Lord Mahaveera

COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS: *Meet together, speak together, let your minds be of one accord, as the gods of old, being of one mind, accepted their share of the sacrifice....Let your aims be common and your hearts of one accord, and all of you be of one mind, so you may live well together* — Rig Veda

The totality of beliefs and sentiments common to the average members of a society forms a determinate system with a life of its own. It can be termed the collective or creative consciousness. — Emile Durkheim.

Happy is the unity of the Sangha. Happy is the discipline of the united ones. — Dhammapada 194

There are several cases, where our Govt does not take any action even if the citizen's life is at risk or when facing injustice owing to unfair practices, which is despite relevant authorities informed of the same. Our Govt does not care to view citizen's welfare, herein said particularly of seafarers. All relevant Authorities of national governance need to be committed and responsible to the genuine needs of help to their national citizen. For e.g. in the Indian real estate sector. The rules are so free and loose that anyone can fool the public. People make money and get away, this has been brought to Govt notice now and then but they have done nothing about it, harming innocent people. Hence, is the Govt not indulging in criminal practice? After the Govt approves the projects and if the party does not comply with rules and guidelines, should the Govt not punish those who are not eligible to run such business but rather they sit negligent in spite of complaining. So, one wonders why at all they should exist? There are so many educated citizens who want to flee the country because of the casual attitude of the Govt. Government cannot just be run with money, but for good Policies and Practices, meeting to the times. hey need to adopt a uniform code of professional ethics. Though, one can hold the government- employees by online complaint to ministry of public grievance and redressal department Or visit to www.pgportal.com and register your complaint in 4000 words, in English. This is though the bound action to hold the government servant and punish by departmental enquiry. SAME ALSO DOESN'T WORK. In continuance, to my reference to the functioning of Public- libraries, in March 2012 Issue, not a single response from authorities concerned, but for neglecting the submission of valued suggestions in the common-interest of the readers. Readers, using the libraries are very much aware that a Public library is a library that is accessible by the general public, funded from public sources (such as tax money) and managed by civil-servants, trusted Bureaucrats, for commitment and responsibility towards public services administration, though they are directly governed by a Library- Committee, supposedly to serve the public's general-interest; hence expected to be fair and just, open to transparency more particularly after RTI 2005 Act. Public libraries exist in many countries across the world and are often considered 'an essential part of having an educated and literate population'. Public libraries are distinct from Research/School /College libraries, and other special libraries, which is to serve the general public's information needs (rather than the needs of a particular school, institution, or research population). Dis-interested staff who wanted to while-away the time, cannot make the services good to the public. Service-oriented personnel manned with good policies and procedures make "The Public-Library, an excellent model of the ruling government, at its best. Public libraries provide reference and research support help as well to the general public, at a reference desk. As online discussion and social networking allows remote access, reference is becoming available virtually through the use of the Internet and e-mail. Depending on the size of the library, optimal space utilisation and resources, there may be more than one desk; at some smaller libraries all transactions may occur at one desk, while large urban public libraries may employ subject-specialist librarians with the ability to staff multiple reference or information desks to answer queries about particular topics at any time during regular operating hours

As more commercial and governmental services are being provided online (e-commerce and e-government), public libraries increasingly need to provide Internet access for users, who otherwise would not be able to connect to these services. This role of libraries as part of "access to information"[6] and "equity of access "library profession's ethical commitment that "no one should be denied information because he or she cannot afford the cost of a book or periodical, have access to the internet or information in any of its various formats. Internationally, public libraries offer information and communication technology (ICT) services, giving "access to information and knowledge" the "highest priority." While different countries have their own requirements, general services offered include free connection to the Internet, training in using the Internet, and relevant content in appropriate languages. In addition to typical public library financing, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and business fund services that assist public libraries in combating the digital divide.[10] An ever growing middle class, increased commercial activity, new radical ideas, massive population growth and higher literacy rates forged the public library into reforms that is expected today. Public libraries are common all over the world and not a new idea. The ill-conceived Directorate of Public Libraries, TN, can now self-assess themselves, as to where they stand in the library services, considering performance rating-efficiency, lacking basically an updated website with the requisite network of its infra-structure with contacts, or else it is high time, government services wherever feasible are outsourced, for increased performance efficiency. Service-oriented personnel, with a will to work, be retained in the government for necessary services and those name-sake for employment/statistical reasons be chucked-off, under 'no work no pay' principle.

THE International Maritime Organization's maritime safety committee is expected to meet for its long-awaited 90th session, which we hope will tackle two of the most hotly debated issues in shipping; private maritime security and passenger ship safety.

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Council. The use of both missile strikes and the deployment of ground troops were prohibited by the Council's decision. The Council's plan has not received unanimous support, with Germany's opposition parties offering the most vocal criticisms.

Charting the Wrong Course: Somalia's coastal communities have been largely supportive of both local and international efforts to curb piracy, but aggressive military action and the prospect of civilian casualties threatens to erode this good will and feed into the counter-narrative that pirates are 'coast guards' protecting Somali waters (and now shores) from illegal foreign fishing and waste dumping. Many EU members—such as Spain, Italy, and Greece—have been accused of these acts, but Atalanta's new mandate does nothing to address this grievance.

As the EU moves towards a more aggressive counter-piracy strategy it also runs the risk of sacrificing its previous commitments. Naval resources are costly and scarce, as Atalanta is already tasked with patrolling 2-million square nautical miles with between four and seven warships and two to three reconnaissance aircraft, depending on the season. While the operation's continuing mandate entails protecting and escorting WFP shipments to Somalia, it now appears to be stretched too thin to accomplish this. Chartered vessels delivering WFP aid have recently had to hire private security teams for protection, causing delays when the legality of the teams needs to be questioned at stops in ports such as Djibouti.

Blowback and Mission Creep: Though Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo assured skeptics that "much care" will be taken to avoid civilian casualties, history teaches that even the best intentioned interventions in Somalia tend to go awry. Pirate bases are not the sprawling "lair" that the media often paints them to be. In reality, they are temporary and mobile camps made up of little more than a few tents, vehicles, and moored boats. Heavy weapons, ladders and other boarding equipment are some of the only things differentiating fishermen from pirates, but these distinctions cannot always be identified through aerial surveillance. Given the visual similarity between the two groups, experts from Germany's foreign intelligence agency warned that the EU's new strategy runs the risk of misidentification and civilian deaths.

Coalition naval forces mistaking fishermen for pirates has already resulted in several deaths at sea. At least eight Somali fishermen are still missing from vessels that were allegedly attacked by foreign warships in mid February. Fishermen operating close to Mogadishu exclaimed that their "jobs are in jeopardy," telling Somalia Report that they fear attacks by coalition warships. On February 15, Italian marines protecting a cargo vessel shot dead two Indian fishermen they believed to be pirates off the coast of southern India, sparking a diplomatic incident between the two countries. On March 12, two Somali fishermen were killed after an unknown naval vessel (later reported to be a US Navy ship) opened fire on

their boat. While the EU's inland strategy has received a great deal of press coverage, this incident is yet to be picked up by the international media, nor has a statement been made by the US or any other naval coalition member.

Critics of the new mandate have warned that even with the most careful of targeting, Atalanta's planned onshore operations escalate the risk of EU forces stumbling into "a high intensity conflict" with armed gangs in Somalia. This threat is heightened by the fact that many pirate gangs have moved south and are now operating out of areas controlled by the Islamist militia al-Shabaab. Somalia's pirates have proved themselves very adaptive, and it is likely that they would move their bases further inland into civilian areas in order to complicate the EU's efforts to target them. Though ground troops have been excluded from Atalanta's expansion, soldiers may still need to go ashore in the event of a helicopter being shot down or malfunctioning. The results of the infamous 1993 "Black Hawk Down" incident should serve as a sobering reminder of the unintended consequences of mission creep.

Is There a Better Way? Members of the Council of the European Union are correct in recognizing that piracy at sea cannot be separated from its bases on land, but their approach to tackling this issue is misguided. As this author has previously argued, a lasting solution to the piracy problem requires the international community to begin shifting resources away from a military-centric strategy and towards a program for regional maritime security capacity building. In particular, the EU, NATO and other counter-piracy actors must deepen their engagement with, and support for, authorities in Somalia's pirate prone areas, primarily the autonomous states of Puntland and Galmudug.

With little international assistance, the newly created Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF) has cleared pirate gangs from their stronghold in Eyl and a number of other coastal towns. Local understanding and intelligence has reportedly endeared the PMPF, who also engage in fisheries protection and humanitarian assistance, to the communities in which they operate. While they have had their successes, the PMPF lacks the resources to confront the pirate gangs across the wide expanse of the region's coast. Puntland's annual state budget was a reported \$20-million in 2010, while the pirates took in an estimated \$160-million in ransoms.

A similar problem exists in neighbouring Galmudug, where authorities have expressed plans to launch operations in the pirate hub of Hobyo, but lament that "there are no international organizations sponsoring us."

There are numerous ways that the international community can support local counter-piracy initiatives. Coastal infrastructure such as roads, docks, and radar stations need to be developed, while maritime police forces require training, vessels, and (most importantly) paychecks. Investing in maritime security capacity building for Somalia's sub-state regions does not sound as sexy as 'bombarding pirate lairs,' but it remains the best way forward for a long-term strategy.

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