

From the Editor's Desk



Use of Computer Based Training modules within a Learning Management System in optimizing efficiency and training outcomes, when we speak about combining technologies such as learning management systems and CBTs, we recognize that the same argument applies. Learning the management systems and CBTs, each provide benefits that the others cannot provide. In some sense they are two different tools, that when used together produce a far broader and more complete array of benefits than either could alone. The last few years have been nothing short of an education. Humbled by my experiences, I've been floored by the wisdom and achievements of the vibrant mix of people I've met across the country in my amazing journey of discovery, at Media and iGovernment. If there's one thing I've learnt it is that there is more in this country that works than we give ourselves credit for. It's very easy to criticise, but be constructive. Much more difficult to change - both ourselves and everything we don't like around us. Navigating the intricacies of administration and governance in India is no easy task and I, salute all those who do it, with such finesse and with so much personal integrity - both within and outside the Government - even as they set about to make a small difference. We hope we can tell their stories here in the days to come, honest people are noticeable by their acts. I have been closely associated with many professional institutions. We grow with knowledge and experience depending more upon our personal initiative, acquaintance and interest. I, thank one and all associated with me, which made me think differently as well, instead of my views being lopsided, after keen insights.

I wish everyone success, reading and keeping abreast with exciting new horizons for inner happiness to follow in the days ahead, as I set sail to discover a few of my own, and hope that our paths will cross again.

*We know each of the three key state organs, namely Judiciary, Executive and Parliament, are the three pillars of democracy, each having separate functions, as spelt out in our Constitution. They need to give their best, towards public interest and welfare of the people of India. Similarly, we call upon the " Judiciary " to stick to their work of interpreting the law and respect the Constitution and mandate of the assemblies to carry out their oversight and investigative roles, to their best in an unbiased manner to make it fair and just, more particularly for the arrests made on foreigners in our country. Hence, Legal professionals, to primarily instil 'Justice' and to safeguard the sanctity of courts, in the public eyes. Readers would agree, " Feedback is very essential ", without which there is no scope for improvement or development in any discipline, i.e. in any field of profession. Necessity is the mother of invention, followed by research to development. Irrespective of any discipline, whether it is medicine, engineering, catering technology, Law, Administration etc. it is therefore the feedback that matters more important, so that early, timely, corrective, appropriate measures be taken, towards perfection. We, find not only pollution of air and water but of all kinds, including the polluting of the mind, who only try to envy, see greed, be jealous or view short-cuts; who do not try to seek the truth or reality in good sense, instead of love with each other with the basic instinct of live and let live others but instead, try to exploit one's situation, even at the cost of others being hired, to harass, humiliate and make him give-up, influencing through money and muscle-power, without the fear in god the almighty who is watching one's action/deeds. The Government has decided to introduce a Bill titled "The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010" in the current session of the Parliament. The Bill incorporates a mechanism for enquiring into individual complaints against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, enables declaration of assets and liabilities of Judges and lays down judicial standards to be followed by the Judges. At present the complaints filed by the public against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are received and examined by the Chief Justice of India or the Chief Justices of the High Courts, as the case may be. Piling up of cases in courts, encourages criminals to grow. Lack of research in Legal arena. Common men know that owing to poor Law and Order * for various reasons, biased actions of the police, political lien, etc same is the case when lands up in the courts, with additional lapses. The Supreme Court Justice, Shri. MarkendeyaKatju, had said seven years ago that "Everywhere, we have corruption. Everybody wants to loot this country. The only solution for this menace, is to hang a few to the lamp post in public, so that it acts as a deterrent on others". Ego and Desire, are two evils, let a man lift himself by himself; let him not degrade himself; for the self alone is the friend of the self and the self alone, is the enemy of the self. Adhereto ethical norms in all dealings of government, industry, institutions, customers, suppliers, employees etc. Sort out differences within ourselves, instead of allowing it to grow, wasting the precious time for e.g. confusing others of COC's in place of basic academic maritime studies in shipping. There is always scope to enhance knowledge to meet the changing times, as knowledge is infinite. There are many related areas that can be touched upon in shipping, e.g. Port, Coastal & Ocean Management, Cargo and vessel survey, Ship's Security and Carriage of Hazardous materials relying only on the outward labelling and the bill of lading, how to identify a hazardous material shipment, loading and unloading rules for all hazardous materials shipment, Class of shipments: Explosives, Flammable liquids, Gases, Corrosive liquids, poisonous materials/gases, oxidisers, radio-active materials, how the Law affects you and how to comply with the Law etc. Knowledge based training will allow specialisation and growth for indepth study. A certified Officer or Engineer will then be nevertheless than a graduate level and a Captain or a Chief Engineer(COC holder) be in par with that of Masters of international standards, carrying the good image of the nation, overseas.*

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bases of operation on land that they threaten the preeminence of clan elders. Often, however, clan elders have been implicated in and often support and benefit from maritime piracy. At the same time, local populations often embrace the pirates who bring in otherwise-lacking money, increase consumption, grow local economic activity and even create job opportunities.

Why Is It Important? Maritime piracy poses multiple threats to global and state security and human safety. The maritime domain—which includes defense, commerce, fishing, seabed mineral resources, laws governing navigation and sea-based transportation constitutes—is the backbone of the globalized world. Disruption of maritime transportation and access can reduce economic investment in particular regions, constrict energy flows, global trade, critical infrastructure, and the protection of marine resources as well as hamper security, law enforcement and humanitarian operations. Both the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Guinea lay on crucial energy transportation routes and the Gulf of Guinea is not only a large source of fossil fuels, but also the region's major consumer market. Via the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa also exports minerals (such as diamonds), timber and agricultural products (such as cacao and sorghum), which underlie its economic output. Crises in the maritime realm can also hamper access to undersea domains and resources, such as fiber optic cables, and energy and mineral reserves such as oil and gas.

Conceivably, profits from maritime piracy can also increase the physical resources of militant groups, international terrorists, and highly destabilizing and potent criminal groups. Although the extent to which Somalia's jihadist al-Shabab or Nigeria's Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, an insurgent group based in the south, have benefited from maritime piracy is frequently exaggerated, in both cases connections and linkages between pirates and militants appear to be somewhat on the increase. Not least, pirate attacks also critically endanger the human security of seafarers and cause psychological distress to their families.

What Should Be Done in 2014: Options for suppressing piracy in the Gulf of Guinea are more constrained than policy options available off of Somalia. Nonetheless, some important short-term measures are available and need to be deployed in conjunction with determined efforts to address some of the long-term and deeply rooted causes of piracy and the lack of rule of law off the coast of West Africa.

Several factors explain the drop in the incidence of piracy off the coast of Somalia. The expansion of international naval patrols, such as NATO's Operation Ocean Shield, the European Union's Operation Atalanta, and naval deployments by Russia, China, India and other countries have both increased situational awareness and radically shortened the response time of anti-pirate naval forces. The use of best management practices and layers of defenses, such as citadels and barriers against pirates boarding ships, makes attacks considerably more difficult. The highly controversial presence of armed guards on ships has further increased the capacity of ships to resist attacks and have increased the deterrent effects of these various measures.

European and U.S. naval deployments have also become more

effective at collecting legal evidence on captured pirates, facilitating their effective prosecution in special courts established in the region and again enhancing deterrence. For a variety of reasons, actions by land forces against pirates—such as those by the Putland Maritime Force (PMF) or by Kenyan law enforcement units against pirates in hiding or enjoying recreation in Kenya—have been limited for the most part. As a result, many areas of safe haven and hiding remain. Moreover, the PMF now principally functions as a praetorian guard of the president of Puntland. Arresting and prosecuting pirate financiers and enablers in Kenya, the United Arab Emirates and among the Somali diaspora in Europe and other regions have also remained an elusive and largely unfulfilled promise.

The combination of the above factors has created an atmosphere of far greater fear among pirates that they will face punitive action. Many pirates have thus switched to working as protection guards for illegal fishing and other vessels off the coast of Somalia, which until recently would have been the targets for their attacks. But while the number of piracy incidences have dropped dramatically, the level of violence against hostages has increased considerably since pirates fear and resent military actions by armed guards and naval forces.¹

Deploying some of these same methods in the Gulf of Guinea is not easy. First of all, there are finite resources that countries can devote to far-flung naval patrolling. Thus, redeploying international naval patrols from the Gulf of Aden to the Gulf of Guinea risks an escalation of pirate activity off the Horn, undermining whatever deterrent effect has been created among Somali pirates.

Nonetheless, expanding international naval presence in the Gulf of Guinea would help suppress the incidence of piracy off the coast of West Africa. For many of West Africa's trading partners outside the region, such as the United States and Western European countries, the economic benefits of unhampered trade may well justify the substantial costs of such an expensive, far-flung naval presence in the Gulf of Guinea. The development of capable and uncorrupted naval patrol capacities among West African countries would ultimately be far more effective from both economic and security perspectives than foreign patrolling. However, while outside assistance to build up local naval assets should continue to be provided, all such efforts need to be undertaken very cautiously. Outside partners and donors need to expect that at least some of the units trained and equipped from outside will end up corrupt and rogue. Hence, diligent outside monitoring and rollback capacity need to be in place as a condition of any assistance.

Second and even more problematic is the fact that most piracy off the Horn has taken place in international waters where both international naval patrols and armed guards on ships are legally permitted to operate. In the Gulf of Guinea, in contrast, most pirate attacks take place within territorial waters, often close to harbor. Local laws and political and sovereignty sensitivities often prohibit or complicate the deployment of armed guards or international naval forces. Moreover, as the region is a major area of drug and human smuggling, wildlife trafficking and illegal arms shipping—often involving local law enforcement and top politicians and

¹ Author's interviews with captured pirates, Hergeisa, Somaliland, April 2013 and pirate interlocutors, Mombasa, Kenya, May 2013.

⁸ Foresight Africa: Top Priorities for the Continent in 2014