

## TACKLING NEW CHALLENGES

In an increasingly digital world, cyber crime has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges facing individuals, organizations, and governments alike. As technology continues to evolve, so do the tactics employed by cyber criminals, making it essential for stakeholders to adopt proactive measures to mitigate risks and enhance cybersecurity. This multifaceted problem requires a comprehensive approach involving education, policy reform, collaboration, and technological advancements.

Cyber crime encompasses a wide range of illicit activities carried out via the internet, including identity theft, data breaches, financial fraud, and ransomware attacks. According to various studies, the cost of cyber crime is projected to reach trillions of dollars globally, making it a significant threat to both economic stability and personal security. The anonymity afforded by the internet enables criminals to operate across borders, complicating enforcement efforts and making it difficult for law enforcement agencies to track and apprehend offenders.

One of the most effective strategies in combating cyber crime is to increase awareness and education among the general public. Many individuals lack a basic understanding of cybersecurity principles, making them vulnerable to phishing scams, malware, and other threats. Educational initiatives should focus on teaching users about safe online practices, such as recognizing suspicious emails, using strong and unique passwords, and understanding the importance of regular software updates.

Organizations can implement training programs that emphasize the significance of cybersecurity in the workplace. By fostering a culture of vigilance and accountability, employees can become the first line of defense against cyber threats. Moreover, educational institutions should incorporate cybersecurity courses into their curricula, equipping future generations with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the digital landscape securely.

Governments play a crucial role in addressing cyber crime through the establishment of robust legal frameworks and regulatory policies. Legislation must keep pace with the rapidly changing technological environment to effectively deter cyber criminals. This includes defining cyber crimes clearly, establishing penalties for offenders, and ensuring that law enforcement agencies are equipped with the necessary tools and training to combat these crimes.

International collaboration is also vital in tackling cyber crime, as many offenses occur across national borders. Organizations like INTERPOL and EUROPOL have initiated global efforts to share intelligence and coordinate operations against cyber criminals. Bilateral agreements between countries can further facilitate cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of cyber crime, creating a united front against this global menace.

Advancements in technology can serve as both a tool for cyber criminals and a defense mechanism for combating cyber crime. Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning can be harnessed to analyze patterns of behavior and detect anomalies indicative of cyber threats. These technologies can automate threat detection and response, significantly reducing the time it takes to identify and mitigate attacks.

Moreover, organizations should invest in cybersecurity infrastructure, such as firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and data encryption, to protect sensitive information. Regular security audits and penetration testing can help identify vulnerabilities and ensure that systems are fortified against potential attacks.

Tackling cyber crime requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments, private sector organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the general public. Public-private partnerships can enhance information sharing and resource allocation, fostering a collective approach to cybersecurity.

Furthermore, industry leaders can collaborate to establish best practices and standards for cybersecurity, ensuring that organizations remain vigilant against emerging threats. Sharing threat intelligence can help organizations understand the landscape of cyber crime and adapt their defenses accordingly.

As cyber crime continues to evolve, so too must our strategies for combating it. By focusing on education, strengthening policies, leveraging technology, and fostering collaboration, we can create a more secure digital environment. The fight against cyber crime is a collective responsibility that requires active participation from individuals, organizations, and governments alike. Only through a united and proactive approach can we hope to mitigate the risks and safeguard our digital future.

## Very Short Range Air Defence System

Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORAD) are crucial components of modern military arsenals, designed to protect ground forces and critical assets from low-flying aerial threats such as drones, helicopters, and fast-moving aircraft. These systems fill a vital gap between short-range and close-in air defense solutions, providing quick response capabilities to counter immediate threats.

VSHORAD systems typically have a range of about 1 to 15 kilometers and can engage targets at altitudes up to around 3,000 meters. This range allows them to effectively cover the last line of defense for tactical units.

VSHORAD systems are often mounted on mobile platforms, such as vehicles or trailers, enabling them to be repositioned quickly in response to changing battlefield conditions. This mobility is essential for protecting maneuvering forces.

These systems are equipped with advanced sensors, including radar, electro-optical, and infrared systems, which allow for target detection, tracking, and engagement. Many VSHORAD systems can operate in all weather conditions, ensuring reliable performance.

Modern VSHORAD systems employ sophisticated fire control technologies that enhance targeting accuracy. This includes automated tracking and targeting algorithms that reduce response time and improve hit probabilities.

Many VSHORAD systems can engage multiple targets simultaneously, which is vital in scenarios where swarms of drones or multiple aircraft might attack at once.

Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) are lightweight, shoulder-fired missile systems, such as the Stinger or Igla, designed for individual soldiers. They are effective against low-flying aircraft and are highly mobile.

Vehicle-Mounted Systems are integrated onto military vehicles, providing greater firepower and enhanced radar capabilities. Examples include the Pantsir-S1 and the German Ozelot, which combine guns and missiles for effective air defense.

Some VSHORAD systems utilize rapid-fire autocannons or Gatling guns to engage aerial threats. These systems can track and engage fast-moving targets with high accuracy and rate of fire.

Many modern VSHORAD platforms combine missile and gun capabilities, providing versatility in responding to different types of aerial threats.

The primary role of VSHORAD systems is to protect critical assets such as military bases, command centers, and supply depots from aerial attacks. They are particularly effective in scenarios involving asymmetric warfare, where non-state actors use drones or light aircraft to conduct surveillance or attack missions.

## ■ SURJIT SINGH FLORA

World Teachers' Day takes place every year on 5 October to honor teachers worldwide.

Teachers are a vital resource for every nation. A country or nation that possesses qualified leading teachers is always on the path to progress. A teacher illuminates himself like a lamp, dispelling the darkness of ignorance from his students' minds and enriching their lives with the light of knowledge. He also guides them at every step toward success in life.

The teacher has a significant impact on our lives. He serves as a guide, coach, demonstrator and facilitator. An excellent teacher helps us to become decent members of society and good citizens. Teachers understand that pupils are the country's future. So, teachers hold the key to a country's progress.

What we become in life is determined by our instructors. Teachers instill facts and knowledge in pupils' minds for them to examine.

The most essential thing we learn from instructors is how to analyse a situation and determine what is feasible. Teachers' ought to be appreciated more as they are the most important individuals.

## ■ HIMANGSHU RANJAN BHUYAN

Teachers are often regarded as the backbone of society, playing a crucial role in shaping the minds and futures of individuals. Their influence extends beyond the classroom, impacting communities and contributing to the fabric of society itself. In an ever-evolving world characterized by rapid changes in technology, culture, and social dynamics, the role of teachers has become increasingly integral. This discussion explores the multifaceted contributions of teachers to society, emphasizing their responsibilities, challenges, and the profound impact they have on future generations.

At the heart of a teacher's role is the mission of education. Teachers are entrusted with the responsibility of imparting knowledge and skills to their students. However, their influence goes far beyond merely teaching subjects. They are tasked with fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities in their students. In a world that demands adaptability and innovation, teachers play a vital role in preparing young minds to navigate complex challenges. They inspire curiosity and a love for learning, encouraging students to explore ideas and concepts that shape their understanding of the world.

Moreover, teachers are key figures in instilling social values and ethical principles. In addition to academic instruction, teachers have the opportunity to promote values such as respect, empathy, responsibility, and integrity. These values are essential for nurturing well-rounded individuals who can contribute positively to society. Teachers model appropriate behavior and create an environment where students learn the importance of treating others with kindness and respect. By emphasizing character development alongside academic achievement, teachers play a significant role in shaping the moral compass of their students.

The impact of teachers extends beyond individual students; they are also instrumental in fostering a sense of communi-

ty. Schools serve as microcosms of society, where students from diverse backgrounds come together. Teachers facilitate interactions among students, encouraging collaboration and teamwork. By promoting inclusivity and celebrating diversity within the classroom, teachers help students develop cultural awareness and understanding. This, in turn, fosters a sense of belonging and community spirit, essential for social cohesion.

In addition to fostering social values, teachers are critical in preparing students for active citizenship. Education is not solely about acquiring knowledge; it is also about empowering individuals to participate meaningfully in society. Teachers encourage students to engage in civic activities, such as volunteering, community service, and advocacy for social issues. By instilling a sense of social responsibility, teachers cultivate future leaders who are aware of the challenges facing their communities and motivated to make a positive impact.

The role of teachers in society is not without its challenges. They often navigate complex classroom dynamics, balancing the needs of diverse learners while addressing varying abilities and learning styles. Additionally, teachers face the pressures of standardized testing and curriculum mandates, which can limit their ability to tailor instruction to meet the unique needs of their students. Despite these challenges, dedicated teachers strive to create engaging and meaningful learning experiences. Their resilience and commitment to their profession are commendable, as they often go above and beyond to support their students academically and emotionally.

Teachers also play a crucial role in the mental and emotional well-being of their students. In an age where mental health concerns are increasingly prevalent among young people, teachers are often among the first to recognize signs of distress. They provide a safe and supportive environment where students feel comfortable expressing their emotions and seeking help. By fostering strong

relationships with their students, teachers create a sense of trust that allows for open communication. This supportive atmosphere is vital for students' overall well-being and academic success. Furthermore, the role of teachers extends to advocacy for education and social justice. In a society marked by inequality and systemic challenges, teachers often become advocates for their students and communities. They raise awareness of the need for equitable access to quality education, resources, and support services.

Teachers may engage in discussions about educational policies, lobbying for changes that benefit their students and the education system as a whole. Their voices are essential in shaping the future of education and ensuring that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

Collaboration among teachers is also crucial for the overall development of students and the community. When teachers work together, they create a network of support that enhances the learning experience. Collaborative teaching practices, such as co-teaching or team-based projects, allow teachers to share expertise and resources, benefiting both students and educators. This collaboration fosters a sense of community among teachers, promoting professional growth and enhancing the overall quality of education.

The integration of technology in education has further transformed the role of teachers in society. In the digital age, teachers are not only facilitators of knowledge but also guides in navigating the vast amount of information available. They equip students with digital literacy skills, teaching them how to critically evaluate sources, discern credible information, and engage responsibly online. As technology continues to evolve, teachers play a critical role in preparing students for a future where digital skills are paramount.

Moreover, teachers are often involved in the continuous improvement of educa-

tion. So it is essential that we should use soil friendly agricultural practices to keep soil healthy. Soil needs to be covered under vegetation, whatever kind - plants, trees, shrubs, etc. We may own the lands. But the soil is not our property. It's a legacy that has come to us from previous generations in its living condition. It is our fundamental responsibility that we pass it on to the next generation in living conditions, otherwise, we will be taking away the basic source of life for future generations.

Vivek Koul (Gole Gujral Jammu)

## Teachers have the power to change society

But people are changing, and their thinking and ideals are more anti-natural. In the eyes of the rest of the world, a teacher is simply a teacher. Politicians give a speech on Teachers' Day and then forget about it. People write a few posts about the teacher on social media and then forget about them. People forget more than they are taught.

Reward for teachers  
God gave us two eyes to perceive the world, but knowledge is our third eye to see the unseen.

In an educated country, there is no poverty since after reading and writing, people must work. These countries have no gender disparity issues because women are educated, work, and make money.

They roam fearlessly in society. Their freedom is free. Society respects them like men. Every government must give free education and health care to its residents so they can receive the education they need and live a healthy life without suffering.

Younger generations don't appreciate and value their gurus and teachers as much. We worry about such behavior because a disciple must respect the Guru to learn. No one can learn without

respect. We should respect a teacher who helped us succeed. In addition to serving, retired teachers should be respected in society. We should constantly appreciate our professors because without them, our lives would be different today. Only by following their advice can we succeed in life. Traveling to our destination.

Teachers' Day is observed by schools and students to recognise and appreciate the huge contribution of teachers. This is great if students follow their teachers' instructions.

The true reward for teachers is when their pupils grow up to be nice people who are successful in their careers and businesses.

However, schools are increasingly becoming businesses, with an emphasis on increasing revenues.

They are providing scientific and sophisticated instruction to youngsters while disregarding their role in society.

Students are unmotivated to attend school just because they are not given an atmosphere in which they are comfortable attending on a daily basis to express their views.

(The writer is a veteran journalist and freelance writer based in Brampton)

## The Integral Role of Teachers in Society

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Vivek Koul (Gole Gujral Jammu)

## Human Wildlife Conflict and delicacy of Nature

## ■ GL KHAJURIA

The oldest part of the framework goes back to the very beginning of human civilization in India (4000-5000 years ago) when a unique ethic of animal welfare and protection evolved to protect life other than human. Chanakya exposed the need to protect elephant forests in the Arthashastra and Asoka forbade the killing of animals for sport. And these are too of the several interventions that contributed to the preservation of nature in ancient and medieval India. The post-independence era saw the birth of the Indian wildlife protection act, 1972. A forward thinking law which is probably the single most important reason why we still have as much as we do today the active political support that wildlife conservation as a cause drew made the frame work of protection stronger.

If the frame work got its contours from the Indian populace and its elected representatives, it got its grain from the front line forest guards that protect wildlife through much of its

range. More than 20,000 forest guards, foresters and range officers form the guardians of our wild, the van rakshak who toil day in day out to protect our wildlife. Though, like all government departments, this department too has been hit by corruption, the sloth and inefficiencies, it has remained on the who a hardworking and honest service that has protected wildlife from poachers, smugglers and sheer of neighboring villages. Finding the binding glue for the frame is providing by the innumerable men and women, tiger wallahs, herds-men, elephant conservationist and amateur nature enthusiasts to formed the clubs, conservation trusts and charitable societies to ensure that the official frame work was buffered and enhanced.

Because of all these varied networks and support structures and despite a billion people crowding out nature the country still has more the half of the world's wild tigers not with understanding the current crises 655 of the Asian elephants, 855 of the greater one-horned rhinos and

1005 of the Asian lion.

India- the land of natural wonders and heavenly resources. India has about 2% of the total forest area of the world. However, the forests here are home to millions of flora and fauna. According to IUCN Red Book, out of 63837 species living in Indian forests, 19817 species are on the verge of extinction. In the present scenario where many species of flora and fauna are thriving for their existence, more number of threatened species is continuously getting added to the list. The situation is very tense. More than 10000 species are vulnerable, 5766 species are endangered and 3947 species are critically endangered. Here we are talking about the species and not the individual. The total population of endangered species is in the millions.

Most endangered species in India include Asiatic Lion, Bengal Tiger, Snow Leopard, Nilgiri Tahr, Kashmiri Red Stag, black buck, One-horned Rhinoceros, Malabar Mahogany, Muesli, Red sandalwood, Assam Catkin Yew, ebony and Hinkley

Oak.

The main reason for such disastrous condition of plants and animals is the loss and destruction of habitat are over-hunting and over-harvesting. Excessive exploitation of resources, Introduction of invasive species, Deforestation, Human population growth, pollution, Industrialization, Urbanization, Climate Change and Global Warming and acid rain

Nitrogen pollution

Such a growth rate of species loss is not a good sign. Destroying the habitat of millions of flora and fauna is an inhumane act. Just think about being homeless for a while. The condition of wildlife is really pathetic.

Our future generations will not be so lucky to see many of the species that we can easily see around us today. Natural resources are not just for our personal benefit. We should be morally bound and have a proper conscience about what we are doing. We are destroying the right to life of many species just because we are bound by our

greed and false sense of superiority.

All this is causing the breakdown of the ecosystem. Rare herbs of medicinal value are becoming difficult to find, it is a matter of great shame for the medical field.

Crop yields are decreasing because the higher the number of species in an ecosystem, the higher the crop yields. This also affects the economy of the country. Ecosystem chains are badly disturbed.

Appropriate measures should be adopted to reduce the speed of extinction loss. Various national parks, sanctuaries, conservation reserves, community reserves and wildlife reserves should be established. Appropriate environment should be created in the in-situ conservation sites. Deforestation and tree plantation programs should be campaigned. Let us work together to create a healthy environment where every species and every organism has the right to live and the right to habitat.

(The writer is former Deputy Conservator, J&K Forests)

## YOUR COLUMN

## NEED TO PREVENT SOIL EXTINCTION

Dear Editor,

Soil is the basic entity on which all terrestrial life depends. It is a well known fact that around ninety five percent of all the food that is consumed by human comes from soil. Further, as much as 95% of all antibiotics taken by human and animal also came from soil & this clear-

ly shows that soil and life have evolved together. Soil is the epitome of miracle, not just on earth but in the entire known universe. Over 87% of all depend on it, including us, humans. We come from the soil, feed upon soil and go back to the soil. Global warming, climate change, water shortages, deforestation, and pollution are all hot topics in today's environmental discussions and debates worldwide. But there is one massive, immediate problem that humanity is facing today that is the "Extinction of Soil". Soil is losing its organic content these days and is turning into sand. This needs immediate atten-

tion. So it is essential that we should use soil friendly agricultural practices to keep soil healthy. Soil needs to be covered under vegetation, whatever kind - plants, trees, shrubs, etc. We may own the lands. But the soil is not our property. It's a legacy that has come to us from previous generations in its living condition. It is our fundamental responsibility that we pass it on to the next generation in living conditions, otherwise, we will be taking away the basic source of life for future generations.

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