

NEED FOR STRONG ACTION

Bovine smuggling, the illegal transportation of cattle across regions or borders for purposes such as slaughter or trade, has emerged as a significant concern in several parts of India. It poses serious threats to animal welfare, law and order, communal harmony, and even national security, especially along sensitive international borders such as those shared with Bangladesh.

One of the major reasons behind the rise in bovine smuggling is the high demand for cattle, particularly for beef and leather production. Smugglers often transport cattle in inhumane conditions, crammed into trucks or hidden in vehicles without food or water for long durations. This not only causes immense suffering to the animals but also often results in their death before reaching the destination.

In states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, and Jammu & Kashmir, bovine smuggling has become a rampant issue. In border states such as West Bengal and Assam, smuggling across the Indo-Bangladesh border has been a long-standing problem. Criminal networks operating in these areas have become increasingly organized, with links to cross-border syndicates that profit heavily from the illegal cattle trade. Law enforcement agencies have taken several steps to address the problem. These include setting up special task forces, increasing patrolling at night, installing CCTV surveillance on highways, and strengthening border fencing and check-posts. The Border Security Force (BSF) has also intensified its operations to intercept smuggled cattle along the international border.

However, the problem persists due to challenges such as corruption, lack of adequate infrastructure for monitoring, and involvement of politically or socially influential persons in some regions. Moreover, the enforcement of laws related to cattle transportation and slaughter varies from state to state, making coordinated action more difficult.

To effectively curb bovine smuggling, a multi-pronged approach is essential. This includes stricter enforcement of existing animal protection and anti-smuggling laws, better coordination between states and central agencies, and stricter punishment for offenders. Additionally, the use of technology such as GPS tracking of transport vehicles, drones for surveillance, and digital record-keeping of cattle ownership can greatly enhance monitoring efforts.

Operation Shield: A New Era in National Security and Defense

■ BAIKAR CHAWALGAMI

We have become conversant with "Operation Sindoor" the Indian defence forces well thought out strike at the terrorists infrastructure and then in retaliation after Pakistan's direct missile and drone strikes and our response was with restraint and full responsibility and our "Operation Sindoor" was a total success. Now our civil defence, NCC, NSS and other volunteers of self-defence are embarking on the another operation called "Operation Shield" as a preparatory strategy well before the actual conflict and through the "Operation Shield" our civil defence, home guards, NCC, NSS etc are training people how to remain safe during a war.

Operation Shield is aimed at testing response against possible hostile attacks. The civil defence mock drill, "Operation Shield" is planned to be conducted across four states and UT's bordering Pakistan were planned to be held in all the border districts of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat on May 29, but it was later postponed due to some administrative reasons. Mock drill in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted in Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla and Kupwara districts. India in fact prepares for future threats with massive civil defence drills across border states. In a move to boost preparedness amid rising regional hostilities, India is launching an expansive civil defence exercise titled "Operation Shield" across states and UT's bordering Pakistan.

The exercise is a direct response to the escalating security situation following the April 22 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which killed 26 civilians. The

tragedy triggered Operation Sindoor -a series of Indian military strikes on terror camps across Pakistan and PoK on May 7, followed by a four -day exchange of fire and drone activity between the two sides of India and Pakistan. The Ministry of Home has tasked the Directorate of General of Fire Services and Home Guards with overseeing the drill aiming to close critical gaps in civil defence revealed during a preliminary exercise on May 7.

The upcoming round, dubbed Operation Shield, will stimulate large-scale emergency responses in border districts across Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat Haryana and Chandigarh. The drills will test coordination and response time across agencies through blackout, protocols, air raid siren activations, and mock executions. Scenarios will stimulate drone or missile strikes, with deployment of emergency medical teams, blood transport units, and hotlines between local administrations and Indian Air Force. Civil defence volunteers from NCC, NSS and the Bharat Scouts and Guides will be mobilized.

The exercise will mirror real-time war -like conditions, with centrally controlled air sirens blaring, families being evacuated from military zones, and urban areas plunged into stimulated blackouts -all designed to train civilians and authorities in high -alert scenarios. In fact, the mock drill will include the activation of centrally controlled air raid sirens, blackout, protocols in civilian areas, and mock evacuation of families from military stations in the event of a drone attack.

The mock drill will further involve the deployment of medical teams, transportation and readiness to be ready for emergency. The

MHA said the second edition of the nationwide civil defence mock drill 'Operation Shield' will be conducted on May 31, 2025 in the bordering states as mentioned above. The mock drill is aimed at enhancing readiness against potential hostile attacks and will take place under Section 19 of the Civil Defence Rules, 1968. The mock drill is being coordinated by the Additional DG of civil defence. The Operation Shield has been planned in the wake heightened tensions with Pakistan after the terrorist attack at Pahalgam on April 22 which killed 26 civilians.

In its strong response India launched 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7, targeting terror camps at nine locations across Pakistan and PoK.

The mock drill on May 31 will be carried out to enhance readiness against potential hostile attacks from Pakistan. The drill will be conducted to help identify key preparedness gaps that the defence forces came across .post May 7 drills in high -risk areas. This mock drill follows observations made during the first drill on May 7, where officials identified critical gaps in civil defence preparedness in vulnerable regions.

Based on those findings, the Home Ministry issued directives on May 9 to address the shortcomings, invoking emergency powers and arranging funding support through SDRF.

Operation Shield is a nationwide civil defence exercise aimed at assessing and enhancing India's preparedness against aerial threats such as air raids, drone attacks, and missile strikes.

These drills involve coordinated efforts among local administration, police, military, and civil defence units to stimulate emergency

response scenarios.

Activities will include activating air raid sirens, conducting communication drills with the Indian Air Force ,and implementing blackout measures in designated areas.

The original date of May 29 was postponed due to "administrative reasons" as confirmed by the MEA. Although specific details were not disclosed ,such delays are typically due to logistical challenges or the need for better coordination among participating agencies.

The new date of May 31 allows for improved preparation and ensures the smooth execution of the drills.

As part of mock drill, preparedness would be tested on how to face air strikes from enemy aircrafts, drones, missile attacks among other things.

It also involves public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about emergency procedures and safety protocols.

Authorities have urged the public to remain calm and cooperate during the drills. Residents are advised to follow safety instructions and avoid spreading rumours. To conclude it is clear that security agencies will conduct Operation Shield, a civil defence exercise, on May 31 across districts bordering Pakistan. The mock drill is scheduled to be conducted across districts bordering Pakistan on May 31 from 5PM onwards.

The Operation Shield will make public aware about the safety protocols which are to be necessarily followed and adhered by the public.

Operation Shield is a opportune and good move of the government and it will prepare our civil defence, NCC, NSS,BSAG and NVK and other volunteers to be prepared for any emergency situation in case of a war.

E-governance means performance not pretense by employees

■ SHIV KUMAR PADHA

Aceording to an old proverb 'Handsome is he who handsome does' which, in Hindi, means Kaam Pyara Hai Na Ki Chaam. There is no dearth of sermons available in the scriptures of all the religions where work is given more importance than pretence. Our elders are always heard saying 'where words fail the work speaks'. But hats off to the present social media which, many times, impress the viewers with the fabricated information and concocted stories , instead of the factual one. These days the social media has become an instrument for portraying a corrupt as an honest person, a truant as a regular person, a shirker as a worker, an atheist as a theist, a miser as a philanthropist, a communal as a secular, a pretender as a committed and a true member of the organizations and the department one works. Any how one cannot deny about the multifaceted uses and importance of the social media which has converged

the knowledge and information about the whole world on a small screen which can retrieved within the twinkling of an eye.

Though performance and the development appear two different words literally yet both are supplementary and complementary to each other in term of their goals and objectives in the long run. Where performance goals enable employees, public representatives and the members of various organizations contribute to their teams, companies and organizations success, the development goals focus on the achieving of the aspirations of the people and often align with the organization's and governments ultimate goals. The onset of NDA 1 and 2 under the capable leadership of Narendra Modi brought with it a new work culture in the country known as e- governance. The ultimate aim of this type of governance was to take the governance to the portals of the masses living in different parts of the country. The basic purpose of the e-

governance is to simplify processes for all, i.e. government, citizens. Businesses at national, state and local level. Also, the purpose of e-governance is to bring SMART governance implying; simple, moral, accountable, responsive and transparent governance. For the successful and flawless functioning of the e-governance in the country, it has been made obligatory for all the government functionaries to keep their respective departments updated and well informed regarding their daily performances, qualitative and time bound execution of the developmental schemes and projects, about their individual achievements, regularities and truancy in their offices and regarding the completion of their daily assignments and pendency, if any, through, uploading their photos, videos and progress on face book, instagram or e mails.

Prior to the introduction of system of e-governance in the country the common man was bearing the brunt

of corruption, pendency, red tapeism, injustice, adamant and non cooperative behavior of the government functionaries, but after the introduction of e-governance in the country the people heaved a sigh of relief because the complicated system of governance was made easy and accessible to an ordinary man in the country. It is reality that the schemes and the development projects of the nation cannot be executed or implemented without the joint, cooperative and concerted efforts of the entire governmental machinery. Dereliction carelessness and lack of sense of duty on the part of the implementing agencies can prove a great hindrance and impediment in the process of making the life of the masses comfortable and easy in respect of deliverance of social justice, education, health, employment and life amenities.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the entire governmental machinery, enforcing agencies are following the norms of the e-governance to the

letter and spirit. Now it seems people have got rid of the bureaucrats who used to get on their nerves always. But as in India and anywhere in the world there are certain blacksheeps and hard skinned public functionaries who are expert hands in inventing alternate ways to dodge the government and their task masters through the social media considered as the fool proof instrument of monitoring. As already explained the social media is, now, being used as a double edged sword which can assure and misinform their task masters sitting in higher offices simultaneously by feigning their performance on the facebook. There is one folk tale where an ox (a plodder) yoked in an oil mill (kohlu) used to pretend as working by shaking its neck in order to keep the bells, around its neck, ringing. Similarly in many cases it is noticed that many departments including health instead of working on ground dramatize the functioning of hospitals. On many occasions many departments manage

big school children rallies with placards indicating the purpose of the rally and uploading it to their higher authorities. It is every day practice in majority of the departments where the officers are shown planting saplings on the Van Mahotsav, cleaning of the surroundings of their offices with the brooms, kickstarting the developmental projects, which are never completed, laying of the foundation stones, distributing the relief or other material to the beneficiaries and taking pledge for the honesty, cleanliness and deliverance of good governance before the lens of the camera.

It is, therefore , requested to condemn and discourage such practices developing among the bureaucrats and their subordinates where they portray themselves as the most capable and dedicated organs of the government in order to remain in the good books of their superiors for the loaves and fishes of the offices.

(The writer is a social activist from Basohli)

Career counseling for college students

■ SHIV KUMAR PADHA

Our educational institutes are the bows from where the educated aspirant arrows are shot, while many of them hit the target and the rest are lost in the mist of times." Before I proceed I feel it worthwhile to cite few lines of Ayodhya Sing Upadhaya's Hindi poem Ek Boond, the story about the Journey of a rain drop apprehensive and scared of being destroyed. Instead it falls into a Seep (Oyster) and turns into a pearl. A simple effective and moving poem, that assuages the fear of unknown in us when we are going to start a new phase of life. The poet says, Jiyun Nikal Kar Badlon Ki gode Se Thi Abhi Ek Boond Aage Badi, Sochnay Phir Yahi Man Mein Lagi, Aah Kyun Ghar Chhod Kar Mein Yun Badi- Dev Mere Bhagya Mein Hai Kya Bata-Mein Bachoongi Ya Miloongi Dhool Mein Ya Jaloongi Gir Angare Par Kisi, Ya Padoongi Kisi Kamal Ke Phool Mein- Veh Gayee Us Kaal Kuehh Aisi Hawa, Veh Samunder Ore Aye Anmani, Ek Sunder Seep Ka Tha Munh Khula Veh Usi Mein Ja Giri Moti Bani.

Likewise many educated aspirants, passing out from the colleges and universities are beset with the such situations as the rain drop has been depicted in the poem. In the journey of life, few decisions hold as much weight and significance as choosing a career path. For the college students, this decision often feels like standing at the cross roads where every direction seems both promising and daunting. It is during these pivotal moments that the role of Career counseling becomes indispensable. A well guided career counseling session can illuminate the path, clarify doubts and empower students to make informed decisions that align with their passion, skills and aspirations.

By the way please try to answer my question honestly,- Do you really want to study the subjects you have chosen or the job which you are currently pursuing? I will feel happy if your answer is affirmative but even if your answer is negative don't be surprised, you are among the 85% of the people who also feel like this. We seek advice for each and everything in our day to day lives like what to wear, which phone to buy, what to watch, where to go to hang out, then why not seek guidance for such a crucial decision of our lives. Most of the developed countries have a strong structure for career guidance, at school and professional level which helps students decide their further course of action. It is a high time that India recognizes the importance of career counseling not for the students career development but for the nation's development too!

According to Gardian, "About 600 million people more than Indias half population are under 25 years old, no country has a higher number of young people". Hence there is a need for this youth to be guided and led on a career path that is right for them which can in turn help India walk towards a developed economy. Mindler conducted a survey on more than 10,000 students. The findings indicate that 93% of the students were aware of just 7 career options while there are more than 250 career options available in present India.

Career counseling

Career counseling is a process which focuses on helping one understand one's own self, as well as work trends, so that one can decide about one's career and education.



Process

The career counseling process involves taking psychometric assessment and meeting career counselor. The students make an assessment that help them assess their current interests, aptitude, emotional quotient, personality characteristics and orientation style. Once the assessment process is over the students can meet a career counselor to plan further. He will listen you and help you and solve your career problems.

Your aptitude

Your aptitude is the key element in career counseling. One can have a number of interests but may not have aptitude for them. Aptitude refers to one's current skills set and based on their ability to learn specific skills. The Mindler Aptitude test measures a set of 10 different aptitudes such as numerical, Verbal, spatial, creative etc. These aptitude tests assess your ability based on specific questions under each aptitude.

Importance of choosing the right career path

No one in the world is endowed with complete knowledge. Each one of us requires guidance at some point in our life at personal and professional levels. It makes us more aware, allows us to learn more from other's experiences and helps us make a well informed decision.

The right career

Career counseling can help the students explore a range of careers and evaluate all options in a structured way so the students know what they are getting into. The counselors are

experts at assessing the personality, interests and other aspects for them.

Provide expert resources

Career counseling provides access to rich repository of the resources and knowledge that makes the students more aware so that their decisions are not driven by gut or heresy.

Changing unwanted behavior patterns

A career counselor helps break behavioral patterns such as, not keeping updated on the latest developments in their chosen career paths, neglecting emotional and mental health, not trying to self motivate etc.

Helps removing career related frustration

Non fulfillment of aspirations add to the existing frustrations among the both the parents and the children. Career counseling helps remove and reduce such frustrations.

A role model

Career counseling helps students connect to experts who have enough life experience to share. Such career counselors are the role models who have helped people in their life in the matters of selection of the careers.

In conclusion career counseling plays a pivotal role in empowering college students to make informed and confident career solutions. So we urge to everyone who is going to move into the phase of their life where they are going to make a career choice, make it is the right one.

(The writer is Retd Senior Lecturer)

Investing in Peace Around the World

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025 is observed on May 29th. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is a tribute to people who serve or have served in UN peacekeeping operations. The peacekeepers are honoured for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. People who died for peace are also remembered. United Nations Organization is the outcome of the desire of the world people. Peacemaking is necessary and important in cases of protracted violence that do not seem to burn themselves out and in cases where war crimes and other human devastation demand the attention of outside forces. Over 70 years, over 1 million men and women have served under the UN flag. Today, more than 100,000 troops, police and civilian personnel from 125 countries serve in 14 peacekeeping operations on four continents. World peace is defined as an ideal of freedom, peace, and happiness among and within all nations and/or people. UN peacekeeping operations mark the Day by strengthening bonds with the local populations that they have been deployed to serve. The UN is working for world peace by persuasion, conciliation, arbitration and by fighting against the culprit country in acute case. Without peace a nation cannot make any progress. So peace is ever desirable. But now-a-days if there be no peace, the whole human race will be destroyed. Because modern war involves atom bomb and hydrogen bomb. So, war should always be avoided for world peace. Peace can never be achieved by one-dimensional and unilateral talks or efforts. On would find that even today there have been present several hindrances in way of securing a stable, healthy and enduring peace. Yet the international community fully realized the supreme importance of the virtue of peace against the evil of war only after having suffered the most unfortunate and highly destructive two World Wars in the first half of the 20th century. The blood soaked shreds of humanity that lay scattered in several hundred battle grounds, particularly on the soils of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, cried for peace, peace and peace on the earth. Panchsheel was conceived as a powerful weapon against war. The five principles of Panchsheel constitute an important and historic event in the history of international relations. The Panchsheel or the five points propounded by Jawaharlal Nehru has been accepted by many countries for world peace. The five points are (1) mutual respect for one another's territorial integrity and sovereignty. (2) non-aggression, (3) non-interference in one another's internal affairs for any reason of economic, political or ideological character; (4) equality and mutual benefit, (5) peaceful co-existence. India and the other non-aligned countries together have organized to peace-area. Ever since the achievement of independence India has been assiduously striving for the promotion of peace. She has unbounded faith in peace. She believes that peaceful conditions alone can hold out any hope for the deliverance of mankind from the rot of so many ills it is at present plagued with. Mahavir Swami and Gautama Buddha tirelessly preached against all kinds of violence. Their teachings were no heeded, but also acted upon by Indian emperors. Mahatma Gandhi has said that "Peace will not come out of a clash of arms but out of justice lived and done by unarmed nations in the face of odds." Hence world peace is more essential not only for India's economic development, but also for the economic development of all the backward countries of the world.