

IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION

The impact of globalization is very wide. The effect of globalizatioSSn is responsible for bringing rapid changes and uncertainty among the youth. Thus globalization not only provides economic opportunities among the youth but is also responsible for social changes. Globalization gives youth the opportunity to choose the best ingredients and products from all over the world. The youth got an opportunity to forge inter-regional relations beyond their physical sphere. The youth have opportunities to adopt western practices and other practices in line with international values. Information technology has provided new ideas, competition and means of entertainment from vast resources. From career point of view youth have more opportunities to choose courses beyond their national boundaries to excel. Globalization has increased youth mobility with regard to work and education. On the ideological front, the youth have a chance to build a holistic ideology based on all available ideologies regarding their culture, values and preferences and create a global psychology. To reduce the negative effects of globalization on youth, they should be empowered to achieve their full potential in education, skill development and employment, entrepreneurship, health and healthy lifestyle etc. The National Youth Policy-2014 (NYP-2014) emphasized on the advancement of social values, community engagement, participation in politics and governance, youth engagement, inclusion and social justice.

Pakistan: Military & The Mil Bus Inc.

The Multi Million Dollar Business Empires which ruined the Pakistan Economy
Pakistan Military commercial projects generate \$26.5 billion in annual revenue. You name a business and Pakistan Army will be deep into it.

■ BHARAT NANDA

Pakistan has been a pseudo democracy for 75 years of its existence, wherein Pakistan Military has directly ruled the country for over 50 years, while the remaining period it has ben closely monitored the 'installed Government of the day'. More so, none of the elected prime ministers of Pakistan could ever complete his/her tenure. Assassinated, hanged, hounded, prisoned, exiled are few options that PMs of Pakistan have been bestowed upon, incase they do not toe the Pakistan Military's diktat. None, barring Inuran Khan has ever pointed fingers at Pakistan Military's work culture or its commercial activities.

Pakistan Military has innumerable ventures through its 'holding companies' or 'groups' covering very diverse fields ranging from oil refining, banking, aviation, power generation, natural gas, wind energy, property development, insurance, cement, fertiliser, sugar, cereals, clothing, advertising, restaurants, hospitals, etc. The Army Welfare Trust (AWT), Fauji Foundation (FF), Shaheen Foundation (SF), Defence Housing Authorities (DHAs) are to name a few commercial ventures of Pakistan Military establishment. These companies are the dominant business group in the country, estimated to be worth over US\$40bn (billion). Figures suggest that these ventures have had a constant growth rate of over 20-30% annually, while the rest of the businesses of Pakistan are suffering losses. This is the highest growth of any business venture ever in Pakistan owing to its Military's ironclad influence, ensuring smooth ride over market aberrations or excessive competition and unfavourable government policies.

Almost all these commercial ventures are listed under the Charitable Endowment Act 1890 and escape paying taxes, which other business conglomerates are made to pay. The biggest beneficiaries are the Generals and their equivalents in all three arms of Pakistan Military Establishment. Over 50% of the Retired Corps Commanders and above officials are directly absorbed in these charitable organizations, while remaining get absorbed in foreign service, plum positions in various government projects, public sector undertakings, advisors to governments and so on. The functioning and profit from these commercial ventures are tightly controlled by Pakistan Army's General headquarters in Rawalpindi, even though these organizations are supposed to be independent and managed by a board of directors. The housing societies spread across Pakistan allot prime property to military personnel at highly subsidised rates. Even military awards are linked with the grant of farm lands and housing plots.

The Pakistani government depends on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the timely release of portions of the \$6.5 billion bailout package secured for the country in 2019. This year, Pakistan has requested \$1.1 billion from the IMF; however, if the military was to cut costs by just 10 per cent, Pakistan would have had \$1.2 billion to spend. Pakistan Army is perhaps the only military establishment in the world to own a business empire within the nation.

Economic Consequences:

Monopoly and Competition: Military businesses, backed by their resources and influence, can dominate the market, leading to reduced competition. This restricts opportunities for private entrepreneurs and stifles innovation and growth in various sectors of the economy.

Diversion of Resources: The allocation of significant resources to military-run businesses diverts funds away from essential public services, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development. This can hinder the overall progress and well-being of the Pakistani population.

Inequality and Deprivation: The concentration of wealth and power in military businesses can exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities, leaving ordinary citizens with limited access to resources, opportunities, and economic benefits. This deprivation can further marginalize vulnerable communities and perpetuate a cycle of poverty.

Impact on Private Sector:

Unfair Competition: Private businesses often find it difficult to compete with military-run enterprises, as the latter have access to preferential treatment and resources. This unfair competition hampers the growth and survival of private enterprises, limiting job opportunities and stifling entrepreneurship.

Investor Confidence: The dominance of military businesses in certain sectors can deter both domestic and foreign investors. This lack of confidence in the business environment negatively impacts economic growth, job creation, and foreign direct investment.

Lack of Accountability: Military businesses often operate with less transparency and accountability compared to private enterprises. This can undermine good governance and create an environment that is prone to corruption and favoritism.

The impact of military-run businesses in Pakistan raises concerns about the deprivation faced by the population. To foster a more equitable and prosperous society, it is crucial to address the issues surrounding these businesses. By promoting transparency, accountability, and fair competition, Pakistan can create an environment that supports the growth of the private sector, encourages entrepreneurship, and ultimately benefits the entire population.

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S. Nater Singh - Exceptional sportsman & Multifaceted personality

■ DR.VIVAK M ARYA AND S RANJEET SINGH

Poonch town has been bestowed with scintillating and flamboyant sports persons. They have garnered plethora of rewards and laurels for this border town, Poonch. Their unflinching and staunch resoluteness for the propagation and promotion of sports is unprecedented. People, of all hues, developed penetrating penchant for watching the games of these men. They thronged, in huge numbers, to satiate their hunger of watching and enjoying the games.

One such jewel, in the galaxy of these extraordinary men of sports, emerged on the horizon of hockey canvas, was S. Nater Singh Retd. Asstt. Director Sports. He was born to modest parents in the year 1943 at village Bhanteen of Tehsil Sudhmuti, now part of Pakistan occupied Kashmir. The bloody upheavals triggered by the partition in 1947 compelled the family to migrate to Poonch, being an adjoining safe haven. His childhood was steeped in abject poverty and hunger. Due to absence of a breadwinner in the family, after having been shorn of the shadow of his father, who died in 1947 pogrom, he did extensive and crippling toil in labour works to quell his hunger. He weathered many hardships and stood his ground like a solid rock.

A spark of pursuing education was kindled in his heart, while going through tumultuous period of childhood. He got himself enrolled in the local school. Besides acquiring education he divulged a natural flair and abundant talent for playing hockey. He also evinced interest in football and athletics. The passion for playing hockey was deeply entrenched in him. He started playing hockey in the year 1952 and adhered unabated to this practice till 1978 before passing on the mantle to his subordinates, once his students. He put himself into grueling practice in the ground for honing myriad skills. He galvanized and sensitized the other young boys to play hockey and assumed the role of a mentor for them. It is no exaggeration to mention here that he sowed the seeds of hockey in Poonch district. The seeds germi-



nated and blossomed into a full grown tree which fructified with the passage of time.He participated in inter- school games for the first time in the year 1952. Besides hockey, he took part in the aforementioned games in the realm of football and athletics. He never looked back and tasted success in every tournament. The first break came in the year 1959 when he represented J&K foot- ball team in School National Games. The very next year he led the J&K hockey team as its captain in School National Games in 1960-61 held at Indore. He earned a stupendous name and fame as the outstanding player by his stellar performance. He was honored and showered with certificate of appreciation. He became an iconic figure in the domain of sports and games in J& K. In addition to playing games, he remained engrossed in his studies and climbed the ladder of success by dint of his hard work. He got through matriculation examination in the year 1960 and absorbed as first NFC teacher (now Physical Education Teacher). After a brief stint as NFC teacher, he was deputed to YMCA College of Physical Education, Madras (now Chennai), a highly acclaimed and prestigious institute, to undergo a C.P.Ed course. After completion of C.P.Ed course, he picked up the thread of assuming the responsibilities of Physical Education

Teacher. Meanwhile, he was eyed by the higher authorities of Sports Deptt. to escort J&K teams to other parts of India. In 1978, he delegated the responsibilities of manager of hockey players in the tournament held under the aegis of School Federation Games of India. He earned accolades of best manager.

Taking up the roles of official in different capacities, he perpetuated his studies privately and passed BA in the year 1972. Then he was again deputed to the above mentioned college to pursue B.P.Ed degree in the year 1972-73. His interest in games never waned and he wholeheartedly took part in tournaments organized in the Physical Education College, Madras. In the wake of acquiring B.P.Ed degree, he faced J&K Public Service Commission Examination in year 1976 and got selected as Distt. Sports Officer Poonch. He had the unique privilege of being the first Distt. Officer of Poonch. Due to his administrative clout and acumen he enjoyed the close proximity of high echelons of sports directorate and Distt. administration during his stint as Distt. Sports Officer. This is vouched from the fact that a historical agitation under the leadership of Sher e Poonch Late Yashpal Sharma, Former MLC by unemployed youth in 1978 broke out for alleged irregularities and nepotism in the selection of teachers. The protest was very forceful and strong and had the backing of common masses and it soon spread out to a full-fledged state wise agitation by youth from Kathua, Jammu to Doda districts. Poonch remain under the siege of protesting national youths for three months. Realizing the gravity of the situation the then administration sought his mediation along with others like late M L Arya a very popular and strong trade union leader and Late M D Bandey, former minister. They played a very constructive role in convincing the government about the genuine demands put forth by the youths. Mohammad Shafi Uri former minister and late D D Thakur former minister were from the government side for negotiation. As the

protest was very forceful finally the demands of youths were accepted by the then government and a fully transparent appointment and recruitment system based on merit and caliber was implemented. During his stint as Distt. Sports Officer, he etched an indelible mark by his unprecedented and unbridled dynamism and electric personality. He took the Sports Deptt. to the highest pedestal by his hard work and commitment. He epitomized the cardinal and sublime virtues of morality and ethics. He was a hard task master and stickler for discipline and wielded an immense impact on his subordinates. He was instrumental in organizing various trekking camps for youths. He organized various camps especially in summer for youths of seven days on regular basis at Loran and Bafflaz. The main objectives of the trekking and school camps were to equip the young fraternity about the importance of sports for physical and mental health and to know and understand the composite culture of our country. He was very close associate of Late Comrade Manohar Lal Arya, S Niranjan Singh ret'd DYSSO, S Amrik Singh, Dr. Surinder Singh, S. Gurbaksh Singh, S. Jagjeet Singh Awal and many other social and political personalities of that era. He was very popular among his students who alter on became very popular and successful political figures of state like Sher e Poonch Late Sh Yash Pal Sharma, Jahangir Mir and many more. His elevation as Asstt. Director Sports in the year 1998 was another feather in his cap. He attained superannuation in May 2001. He continued to enjoy sound health and remained active and agile barring some old age ailments. He bade good-bye to this ephemeral world on Nov 4, 2022. His name will be perpetually embedded in the memory of sports loving fraternity and officials manning sports department of the past and present by virtue of his dynamic and illustrious career; both as a hockey player and administrator, who started from lower rung and reached to the highest pinnacle of success.

(Authors are from Poonch).

Generations of QR codes and are they safe to use

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

While they may look simple, QR codes are capable of storing lots of data. But no matter how much they contain, when scanned, the QR code should allow the user to access information instantly - hence why it's called a Quick Response code.

A QR code is a type of barcode that can be read easily by a digital device and which stores information as a series of pixels in a square-shaped grid. QR codes are frequently used to track information about products in a supply chain and - because many smartphones have built-in QR readers - they are often used in marketing and advertising campaigns. More recently, they have played a key role in helping to trace coronavirus exposure and slow the spread of the virus.

The first QR code system was invented in 1994 by the Japanese company Denso Wave, a Toyota subsidiary. They needed a more accurate way to track vehicles and parts during the manufacturing process. To achieve this, they developed a type of barcode that could encode kanji, kana, and alphanumeric characters.

Standard barcodes can only be read in one direction - top to bottom. That means they can only store a small amount of information, usually in an alphanumeric format. But a QR code is read in two directions - top to bottom and right to left. This allows it to house significantly more data.

The development team behind the QR code wanted to make the code easy to scan so that operatives did not waste time getting it at the right angle. They also wanted it to have a distinctive design to make it easy to identify. This led them to choose the iconic square shape that is still used today.

Denso Wave made their QR code publicly available and declared they would not exercise their patent rights. This meant anyone could make and use QR codes.

Initial uptake of the idea was slow; however, in 2002, the first mobile phones containing built-in QR readers were marketed in Japan. The use of smartphones led to an increase in the number of companies using QR codes.

In 2020, Denso Wave continued to improve on their original design. Their new QR codes include traceability, brand protection, and anti-forgery measures. There are many new uses for the QR code, from transferring payments to determining objects' positions within augmented reality.

Most smartphones have built-in QR scanners, which are sometimes built in the camera. A QR scanner is simply a way to scan QR codes. Some tablets, such as the Apple iPad, have QR readers built into their cameras. Some older devices may require a particular app to read QR codes - these apps are readily available on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Are QR codes safe?

Attackers can embed malicious URLs containing custom malware into a QR code which could then exfiltrate data from a mobile device when scanned. It is also possible to embed a malicious URL into a QR code that directs to a phishing site, where unsuspecting users could disclose personal or financial information.



Because humans cannot read QR codes, it is easy for attackers to alter a QR code to point to an alternative resource without being detected. While many people are aware that QR codes can open a URL, they can be less aware of the other actions that QR codes can initiate on a user's device. Aside from opening a website, these actions can include adding contacts or composing emails. This element of surprise can make QR code security threats especially problematic.

A typical attack involves placing malicious QR codes in public, sometimes covering up legitimate QR codes. Unsuspecting users who scan the code are taken to a malicious web page which could host an exploit kit, leading to device compromise or a spoofed login page to steal user credentials. Some websites do drive-by downloads, so simply visiting the site can initiate a malicious software download.

Mobile devices, in general, tend to be less secure than computers or laptops. Since QR codes are used on mobile devices, this increases the potential risks. QR code-generating software does not collect personally identifiable information.

The data it does collect - and which is visible to the code's creators - includes location, the number of times the code has been scanned and at what times, plus the operating system of the device which scanned the code (i.e., iPhone or Android).

The QR codes themselves can't be hacked - the security risks associated with QR codes derive from the destination of QR codes rather than the codes themselves. Hackers can create malicious QR codes which send users to fake websites that capture their personal data such as login credentials or even track their geolocation on their phone. This is why mobile users should only scan codes that come from a trusted sender.

How do QR codes work?

The patterns within QR codes represent binary codes that can be interpreted to reveal the code's data. A QR reader can identify a standard QR code based on the three large squares outside the QR code. Once it has identified these three shapes, it knows that everything contained inside the square is a QR code.

The QR reader then analyzes the QR code by breaking the whole thing down to a grid. It looks at the individual grid squares and assigns each one a value based on

lives one Ruder Helicopter of IAF has also crashed in the deep waters of RSD which was fished out along with its crew fortnight after the crash. It is very sad that in spite of the frequent drowning incidents in the Lake the concerned quarters have not taken any lesson till date. Before suggesting any preventive measures to check such incidents in future, I consider it my moral duty to apprise the tourism department regarding the location of the accident prone site of the lake at Purthu beach. The Peninsular part of the beach was a part of the Basohli Kathua road before ponding of the lake where the river bed of Ravi was approximately 5-6 hundred feet below the site of the accidents. It is obvious that anybody who goes beyond the visible part of the land will definitely meet the same fate. So, being a septuagenarian I can help suggesting some preventive measure to check such fatal incidents in future.

► The peripheral accident prone area of the peninsular beach must be demarcated.

► The whole area must be cordoned and declared as

whether it is black or white. It then groups grid squares to create larger patterns. They can also be used to link directly to product pages online. For instance, if you were searching for the exact dress a model was wearing in a poster, a QR code could directly take you to the web page where you could purchase it. The coronavirus pandemic has supercharged the use of QR codes. For example, in the UK, visitors to hospitality venues such as bars and restaurants are invited to scan a QR code upon arrival using the NHS Covid-19 tracing app. This is to help trace and stop the spread of the virus. If someone tests positive for Covid-19 at that venue, other visitors to the location are alerted by an app, thanks to the data accumulated from QR code scans.

You may also find QR codes on the packaging for some of your favourite products. These QR codes can reveal information about the product, such as nutritional information or special offers you can use next time you make a purchase.

QR codes were initially invented to help track parts in vehicle manufacturing, and they are still used throughout the manufacturing industry. You'll also find QR codes used by other businesses that need to keep a close eye on products and supplies, such as the construction, engineering, and retail industries.

Postal services around the world also use them. Because they can contain a large amount of information, they are often relied upon to track parcels. For example, global fashion brand ASOS have moved entirely to QR codes for tracking refunds.

QR codes are also used in schools and colleges to help engage with students. They have appeared everywhere, from the classroom to the library, for tasks such as helping students find the books they are searching for. With this network, India has shown on a previously unseen scale how rapid technological innovation can have a leapfrog effect for developing nations, spurring economic growth even as physical infrastructure lags.

The IDs ease the creation of bank accounts and are the foundation of the instant payment system, known as the Unified Payments Interface. The platform, an initiative of India's central bank that is run by a non profit organization, offers services from hundreds of banks and dozens of mobile payment apps, with no transaction fees.

In markets where digital payments have taken hold, the raw excitement of the newly converted is palpable. App companies are working to ensure ease of use across a wide spectrum of digital literacy. Merchants on the same sidewalk help one another. And because this is technology we are talking about, children come to the aid of parents.

Small voice boxes provided by payment apps are a fixture at snack carts and tea stalls, where vendors are too busy to check phone messages after every small transaction. A Siri-like voice declares how much money was instantly received with each payment by QR code. This has helped bridge mistrust among merchants long used to cash transactions.

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YOUR COLUMN

Checking drowning accidents in RSD Lake

Dear editor,

A shocking accident on the fateful day of July 4 2023, in which two boys in their early twenties, from the neighbouring place Dalhosie HP lost their precious lives as a result of drowning in the deep waters of the RSD lake at the Purthu beach at Basohli. It is a universal truth that accidents due to fires and water, often prove fatal. It is worth mentioning here that couple of years before two native youths in their late teens lost their lives in the similar accidents of drowning in the same lake and the at the same point. Many visitors from the neighboring states and even the natives get tempted due to the beauty and panoramic view of the Purthu Beach formed as a result of ponding of the RSD. Apart from the human

out of bound for the visitors.

► Fixing the metallic poles painted with green, orange and red colours to indicate the suitability of the water level in the lake.

► The cordoned area should be declared non boating area.

► A warning notice board near the accident prone area of the site be installed.

► Permanent deployment of the police cops or the security guards must be ensured there to check the unwanted movements of the visitors.

► Swimming and bathing in the lake should be strictly prohibited.

► Provision of Public address system for the warning at the site.

► Maintenance of the register of the visitors entering the beach.

A team of NDRF must always be kept stand by in the event of immediate rescue operation.

Shiv Kumar Padha, Basohli.