

Pakistan Independence Day Special

Investment, engagement on the rise

RAZA BASHIR TARAR
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



On the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan, let me express on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and my compatriots in Japan, our respectful and sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, members of the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan became an independent and sovereign nation-state. We pay homage to the Founder of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal and all the other great leaders of the movement that paved the way for the creation of Pakistan. Since its independence, Pakistan has always approached the countries of the world with a desire for lasting peace, friendship and mutual respect for sovereignty.

Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan were established on April 28, 1952. Our friendly relations are time-tested. It is a relationship based on mutual respect and understanding and is characterized by a shared sense of history and common perceptions on important issues. In the current scenario, Pakistan and Japan share pragmatism in approaches to international and regional situations and their solutions.

Both friendly countries enjoy traditionally fraternal ties based on mutual trust, cooperation, people-to-people contacts, as well as cultural and civilizational linkages. Historic links between the peoples of the two countries date back to prehistoric times. The Gandhara and Indus Valley civilizations and cotton trade were some of the oldest means of contact between the countries.

Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship with Japan. We have always looked to Japan with a sense of respect and veneration as a very important country in Asia, whose economic success and model we wish to emulate. Similarly, the Japanese people are kind, progressive and family-centric. They have a lot of similarities with the people of Pakistan.

Our relations have grown from strength to strength during the last 71 years in multiple fields. We are also seeing increasing and expanding cooperation at various levels of engagement. The recent successful visit of Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reinforced our already strong ties.

The bedrock of our relationship has been economic, with Japan being a key development partner, a major investor and a significant export destination for Pakistan. Our economic cooperation and engagement has been picking up in the last few years. The recent Pakistan Investment Seminar co-organized in Tokyo by the governments of Pakistan and Japan was heavily attended, signifying renewed Japanese interest in investing in Pakistan.

Japan is also one of Pakistan's key partners in the fields of education, manpower,



The Basho Valley near Skardu in the Gilgit-Baltistan region is covered with lush evergreen forests of pine, juniper and other tree species. QAMMER WAZIR

and scientific and technological cooperation. We need to further deepen our comprehensive engagement with Japan in these important areas to make them a key pillar of bilateral relations.

Defense relations between our countries remain robust and strong. Based on strong foundations, bilateral defense relations have grown from strength to strength. Their present scope is characterized by a strong mutual trust and reliability.

I would like to highlight the major contribution of the Pakistani diaspora in Japan. Our community in Japan is among the pioneers in the export of used automobiles, the carpet trade and halal food. They remain important contributors to the Japanese

economy. We are also working with our Japanese friends to promote the export of skilled manpower from Pakistan to Japan.

I believe that both friendly countries need to further deepen their engagement in the fields of economics, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. Moreover, we need to explore new avenues of cooperation to further broaden our relations. We will keep working with all stakeholders in Japan and Pakistan to achieve these objectives.

We should endeavor to carry forward the excellent momentum in our relations to the years ahead and forge partnerships in multiple fields. We are also confident that through our joint efforts our fraternal ties and cooperative relations will acquire further depth in the years to come, to the mutual benefit of our two peoples and regional peace and prosperity.

Long live Pakistan-Japan friendship!

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



A hiker gets a breathtaking view from Marsur Rock, a 3,600-meter geological marvel in the Hussainabad Valley near Skardu that has become a tourist draw in recent years. QAMMER WAZIR

Public-private ties key to growth

AKIRA TERAKAWA
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-PAKISTAN
BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee, please allow me to extend my sincere congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.

Since the JPBCC's establishment in 1984, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. Last year was the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. The JPBCC held the ninth Japan-Pakistan Private Sector Business Dialogue in Islamabad together with the Pakistan Japan Business Forum in September 2022. We also attended the Government Business Dialogue organized by the governments of Japan and Pakistan

as representatives of the Japanese business community. We paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to report the results of the discussion. We hope to further strengthen economic ties between Japan and Pakistan by bringing together the strengths of the public and private sectors.

Pakistan has a population of over 240 million people. Those under the age of 25 account for approximately 60% of the total, and there are many English-speaking human resources, so we believe that Pakistan's potential is extremely high.

I believe that Pakistan will be able to achieve further economic development thanks to its demographic dividend and such promising industrial sectors as automobiles, textiles and information technology, among others. I also expect more Japanese companies to enter the Pakistani market in the future.

Please let me conclude my message once again by offering my congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, as well as my sincere wishes for Pakistan's increasing development and prosperity going forward.

Friendship helps us prevail over hardship

SEISHIRO ETO
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Pakistan

on behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League.

Pakistan was hit by devastating floods last year that caused the loss of many lives, with one-third of the country submerged and millions of people displaced. Once

again, I would like to express my deepest and sincere sympathies. Japan is similar to Pakistan in the sense that it is a country where natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods occur frequently. I hope that Japan would be able to contribute to Pakistan's recovery and future disaster prevention through the knowledge and technology we have gained through our experiences.

On the other hand, Japan will never forget the support that Pakistan extended to us when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck in 2011 and for the safe evacuation of a Japanese national as well as Afghan staffers from the Japanese Embassy and the Japan International Cooperation Agency's office when the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated in 2021. We hope that we can continue to maintain and strengthen this

traditional cooperative relationship of helping each other in times of need.

The spread of the novel coronavirus has moderated compared with when it was most active, and I feel that people-to-people exchanges are returning to previous levels. Last month, Pakistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited Japan for the first time in four years. I hope that the bilateral exchanges in various fields and at various levels will become more active, and that the overall Japan-Pakistan relationship will be revitalized.

The Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League is committed to further promoting the friendship between Japan and Pakistan that has been sustained for more than 70 years.

May prosperity continue to reign in Pakistan.



Left: Scenic Katpana Lake is in the midst of a high-altitude desert in the Gilgit-Baltistan region. Right: A hiker poses in front of Mount Rakaposhi, a formidable peak in the Karakoram range. MAHNOOR SAGHIR; NAUMAN ANWAR



The Shila Valley, adjacent to Deosai National Park in the western Himalayas in Gilgit-Baltistan, is a popular tourist spot known for its scenic views and many lakes. QAMMER WAZIR

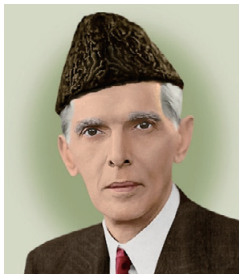


The Indus Valley Civilization was one of the world's most developed civilizations about 4,500 to 5,000 years ago. Situated on the banks of the Indus River, the remains of the Harappa and Kot Diji ethnic groups belong to this great civilization. GETTY IMAGES

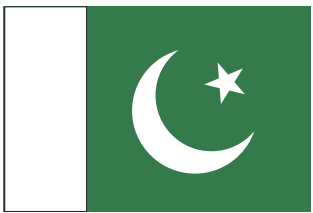
Congratulations
to the People of
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence

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The founder of Pakistan
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



14th of August, 1947

**THIS DAY
WE CELEBRATE
PAKISTAN'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

with renewed vigor and hope to build up a happy, prosperous and progressive future for our country and leave behind a rich legacy of achievements for our future generations to feel proud of.
NBP will continue to play its role in promoting the national effort for all-round development.

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