

Pakistan Independence Day Special

Eager to cooperate on peace, security and prosperity

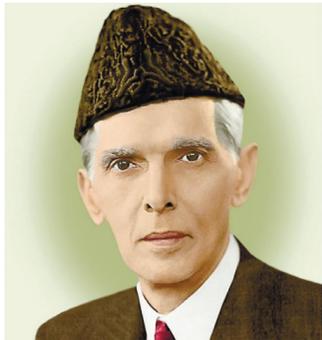
ASAD MAJEED KHAN
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



On this 71st Anniversary of our Independence, let me express on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, myself and my compatriots in Japan, our respectful and profound greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and friendly people of Japan.

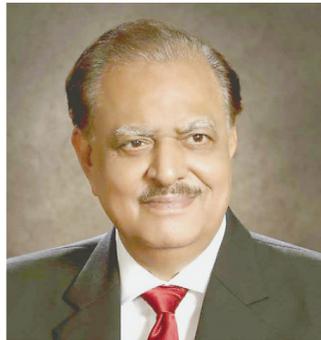
It is on this day in the year 1947 that my country, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, emerged on the map of the world as an independent and sovereign state under the indomitable leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. Since its inception, the message from Pakistan has been one of peace and friendship to the entire world.

Pakistan and Japan are long-standing friends and share a unique bond based on a deep-rooted link that goes far back into history and time. With absolutely no historical baggage between the two, the people of Pakistan carry a deep sentiment of warmth and affection for Japan and the Japanese people. We have always stood with each other in times of need, calamity and natural disasters.



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

This year is particularly important as our 72nd independence day coincides with the expected swearing in of a new democratic government chosen by the people of Pakistan. This is auspicious as it marks yet another successful transition from one democratically elected government to another in Pakistan.



President of Pakistan
Mamnoon Hussain

For our countries, the potential to grow mutually beneficial relations based on inherent complementarities is immense. In the weeks ahead, we look forward to further building on the momentum in bilateral high-level exchanges, as well as to convene the existing dialogue processes to explore ways to broaden and deepen bilateral cooperation. For Pakistan, Japan has been an important development partner with extensive trade and investment linkages. The continued presence in Pakistan of 86 major Japanese companies and their growing numbers and range of activities is a testament to the trade and investment win-win that our two countries have enjoyed over the decades. Building on this decades-old relationship, Japan, with its profound capacity and expertise for investment, but with a graying population and shrinking workforce, can be a natural partner for a Pakistan having more than 60 percent of



Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan
Justice (Retd) Nasir-ul-Mulk

another in Pakistan. The continuity and consolidation of democracy augurs well for our bilateral relationship as both Pakistan and Japan continue to be guided by our mutual commitment to the values of democracy, rule of law and protection and promotion of fundamental human rights.

Long live Pakistan! Long live the Pakistan-Japan friendship!

its population under the age of 30 and having one of the fastest-growing middle classes in the world. As always, our path forward will be guided by the mutual trust, respect and understanding the two nations have for each other.

Pakistan has made important strides these past few years in particular, both on the security and economic fronts. The upbeat business projections about Pakistan are obviously attracting renewed business and investor interest from across the globe, including Japan. In the Japan External Trade Organization's survey released in March this year, Pakistan was rated at the top in Asia by Japanese companies on account of expected profits in 2018, plans for expansion of operations and hiring of local labor. These results indicate high confidence of Japanese companies in the future economic prospects of Pakistan and the quality of its labor force. We look forward to building on this positivity to intensify our business and investment engagement.

The active and vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Japan, now numbering around 15,000, is acting as a strong and effective bridge between our two countries and peoples. I am very proud to recall the services rendered by Pakistanis in Japan to help their communities in the aftermath of natural disasters such as the tragic Great East Japan Earthquake. Their selfless contributions and tireless efforts to provide relief to the affected population have endeared them to their communities. All of this makes us very proud, and I have every confidence that they will continue to make important and useful contributions to the Japanese society and economy.

As we celebrate the 71st independence anniversary of a vibrant, emerging and solidly democratic Pakistan here in Japan, we are keen to further build on our shared commitment of common ideals of peace, security and prosperity to lay the foundation for an enduring partnership based on trust and mutually beneficial cooperation. Thank you.

Long live Pakistan! Long live the Pakistan-Japan friendship!

Hand in hand in realizing world peace

ANTONIO INOKI
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS AND GOODWILL AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN FOR SPORTS DIPLOMACY



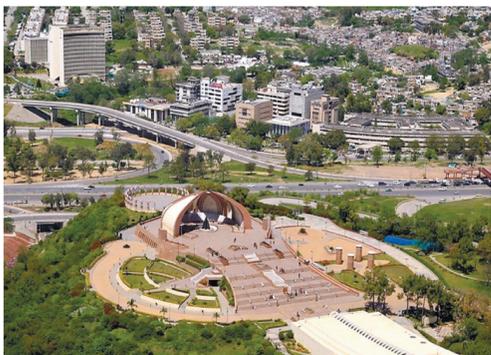
I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the prosperous Islamic Republic of Pakistan on its Independence Day.

Amid the transforming situation of the world, I understand that actions for reforms are currently underway in Pakistan, similar to many other nations. I assume that the various wishes of the people and the government of your country are behind these actions. I pray with all my heart for peace and happiness to be brought about by these movements to all the people of Pakistan and the people around the world.

I hope both Pakistan and Japan will continue to move hand in hand together in taking the initiative toward realizing world peace.

I sincerely hope for the further prosperity of your country.

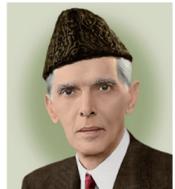
This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



The Pakistan Monument and the Pakistan Monument Museum sit on Islamabad's Shakarparian Hills. GULRAIZ GHOURI



Lake Saiful Muluk in northern Pakistan's Kaghan Valley. PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, PAKISTAN



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



14th of August, 1947



President of Pakistan
Mamnoon Hussain

THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE 72nd PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

with renewed vigour 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 efforts for all-round development.

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CONGRATULATIONS

on the Occasion of the 72nd Pakistan Independence Day

Heartiest felicitations to all the countrymen on this historic day and beginning of New Pakistan. Let's pledge to pull together and put our country on the road to economic prosperity.



PAK JAPAN TEAM AFTER COMPLETION OF ORANGE LINE PROJECT

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Pakistan Independence Day Special

Fostering amicable relations

SEISHIRO ETO
PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP
LEAGUE



On the occasion of the 71st 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.

This is a notable year for Pakistan as general elections were held on July 25. This marks the second time in Pakistan that general elections were held after a civil-

ian government completed its term. I have heard that many women and young people went to polling stations and the associated polling personnel were committed to holding a proper and smooth election. Japan supports Pakistan's efforts to consolidate democracy, as Japan expects the consolidation of democracy will see Pakistan continue to fulfill a critical role for peace and stability in the entire region.

Pakistan has a population of about 200 million people that is mostly composed of a promising young generation. Pakistan also produces a wide variety of agricultural products throughout the four seasons and is especially famous for its active cotton industries. Pakistan is rich in culture with the remains of the Indus Valley civilization designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is very important for Pakistan, with such huge potential, to stabilize and

achieve its development, not only for Pakistan herself, but also for the region and international society.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, Japan and Pakistan have established friendly and cooperative relations and have enjoyed exchanges at various levels. These relations have been developed not only between the two governments, but also through business community activities and academic interactions. I hope the two countries will continue to build on these mutually cooperative relations.

Additionally and in closing, I am determined, as president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, to exert all my efforts toward further fostering mutual understanding and cooperative relations between Japan and Pakistan.

Business ties continue to flourish

TERUO ASADA
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-PAKISTAN
BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee (JPBCC), I would like to extend my wholehearted congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of their Independence Day.

According to an announcement by the government of Pakistan, the gross domestic product growth rate for the 2017-2018 fiscal year was marked at 5.8 percent, which is the highest in the past 13 years. The GDP

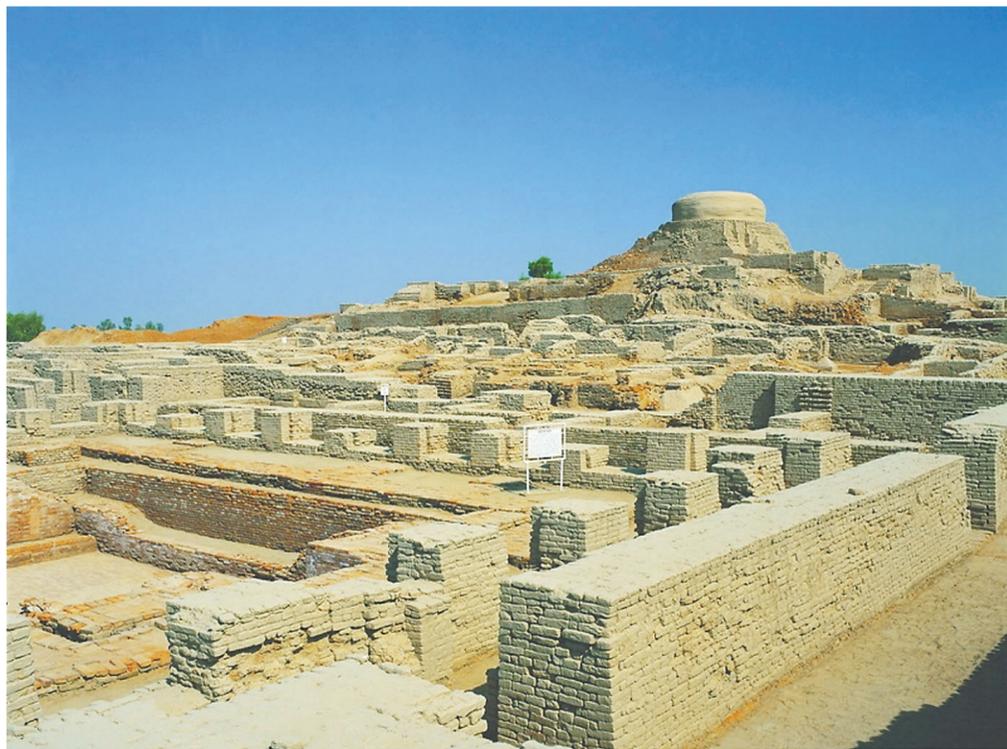


has demonstrated continued strong economic growth and the government has set the target for the 2018-2019 fiscal year at 5.8 percent, the same as last year. Pakistan is one of the most significant markets for Japanese companies.

The JPBCC was established in July 1983 at the request of the Pakistani government. Since then, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investments and a

variety of other economic activities. Pakistan and Japan have had friendly relations for a long time. Despite having our friendship tested more than once and going through difficult phases from time to time, both of our countries have stood by each other's side. The JPBCC has performed a valuable role and provided an excellent platform in expanding this bilateral relationship.

In closing, please allow me to express my congratulations to Pakistan once again on the occasion of its independence day. We look forward to the further strengthening of the traditional mutual friendship and partnerships that exist between our two nations.



One of the centers of the ancient Indus civilization, Mohenjo-daro is an archeological site built around 2500 B.C. on the banks of the Indus River in northern Sindh province. GULRAIZ GHOURI



Top: K2 is the world's second-highest peak. Above: Princess of Hope is a natural rock formation in Balochistan in southwestern Pakistan. PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, PAKISTAN / GULRAIZ GHOURI

Congratulations

to the People of Pakistan

on their 72nd Independence Day

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