

# Pakistan Independence Day Special

## Important partnership built on shared values, similarities

**RAZA BASHIR TARAR**  
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan became an independent and sovereign nation-state. Today 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 Pakistan Independence Movement who paved the way for the creation 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 the emperor and empress, members of the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

Since its independence, Pakistan has always approached the countries of the world as fraternal nations with a desire for lasting peace, friendship and mutual respect for sovereignty. This approach is strongly linked to the ideology that crystallized during our independence movement.

Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan were established on April 28, 1952. 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 a fundamental desire to propagate peace and support for all the members of the international community.

Linkages between the peoples of our countries date back to prehistoric times. The Gandhara and Indus Valley civilizations and the cotton trade were some of the oldest means of contact between our countries. This rich history represents a shared legacy between our countries, and much of it remains to be discovered and understood.

Pakistan has always looked at Japan with a sense of respect as a very important country in Asia whose economic success is a model that we wish to emulate. We appreciate the fact that the Japanese people are kind, progressive and family-centric. They have a lot of similarities with the people of Pakistan.

Our relations have gone from strength to strength over more than 70 decades. We are also seeing increasing cooperation at various levels of engagement. The successful visit of then-Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari added another layer to our already strong ties.

The bedrock of our relationship, though, has been economic, with Japan being a key development partner, major investor and 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.

Japanese investment in Pakistan has entered a new phase in current times. An investment worth \$100 million was

announced by Toyota in the field of hybrid automotive manufacturing in 2023. A large investment was also made by Morinaga Milk, denoting renewed interest in the Pakistani market while also ascertaining its potential.

Japanese assistance has been of monumental importance to Pakistan. Japan was the first country to deliver COVID-19 diagnostic kits to Pakistan and also provided \$7.4 million for pandemic relief through international organizations. In January 2021, Japan provided a grant of \$4.57 million for the procurement of an oral polio vaccine via an agreement signed between the Japan International Cooperation Agency and UNICEF.

In recent years, JICA has been assisting with the installation of weather surveillance radars to mitigate damage caused by natural disasters. Such radars have already been established in Islamabad and Karachi and one will soon be established in Multan. In January 2021, JICA announced a grant of around \$19 million for the installation of a weather surveillance radar in Sukkur. These radars cover more than 90% of Pakistan.

In the wake of Pakistan's economic downturn from the pandemic, the government of Japan under the Debt Service Suspension Initiative in 2020 suspended about \$327 million in debt payments due from Pakistan.

Defense relations between our countries remain robust and strong. Based on strong foundations, they have grown from strength to strength. Their present scope is characterized by a strong mutual trust and reliability. Our cultural linkages are further cemented by regular people-to-people

exchanges encouraged by both sides.

I would also like to highlight the major contribution of the Pakistani diaspora in Japan. Our community in Japan is among the pioneers in exporting used automobiles, the carpet trade and halal food. They remain important contributors to the Japanese economy. We are working with our Japanese friends to promote the export of skilled manpower from Pakistan to Japan.

We should endeavor to carry forward the excellent momentum in our relations to the years ahead and forge new 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 the Pakistan-Japan friendship!



The Shangrila Resort sits next to Lower Kachura Lake in Gilgit Baltistan. MAHNOOR SAGHIR

## Working together in times of need

**SEISHIRO ETO**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-PAKISTAN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's Independence Day, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Pakistan on behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League.

Japan and Pakistan are traditional friends, and we have a cooperative relationship where we have been helping each other in times of need. In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake

of 2011, Pakistan provided support to Japan. When Pakistan was hit by a severe flood disaster in 2022, Japan provided disaster relief.

It is unfortunate that the monsoons in Pakistan result in many people losing their lives. I would like to express my deepest condolences to the victims and offer my sincere condolences to the bereaved families. Japan is similar to Pakistan in respect of being prone to frequent natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. I hope that the knowledge and technologies we have gained through our own experiences will contribute to the recovery of Pakistan and to disaster prevention in the future.

People-to-people exchanges are the cornerstone of strong bilateral relations. It is important to have many opportunities to share our values and deepen mutual

understanding of each other in a wide range of demographics and sectors. In a post-COVID-19 world where traveling to foreign countries is coming back to pre-COVID-19 levels, the number of foreign visitors to Japan in 2023 exceeded 25 million. Building on this trend, I look forward to welcoming more visitors from Pakistan in the future. Furthermore, the 2025 World Expo in Osaka is approaching and I hope that the expo will be a good opportunity to stimulate exchanges between our countries in various fields and at multiple levels, and will further strengthen Japan-Pakistan relations as a whole.

As chairman of the JPFL, I will continue to make sincere efforts to further promote friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan.

May prosperity continue to reign in Pakistan.

## Economic ties developing in multiple areas

**AKIRA TERAKAWA**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS  
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Co-operation Committee, I would like to offer sincere congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.

The JPBC was established in November 1984 at the request of the Pakistan govern-

ment. Since then, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. We held the ninth Japan-Pakistan Private Sector Business Dialogue in Islamabad together with the Pakistan Japan Business Forum in September 2022. Through upcoming meetings, 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

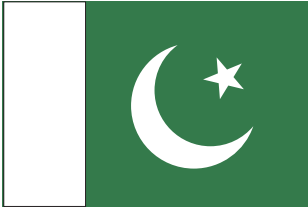
achieve further economic development thanks to its demographic dividend and such promising industrial sectors as automotive, textiles, information technology and more. And I expect even more Japanese companies to enter the Pakistani market in the future.

Please let me conclude my message by once again 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.

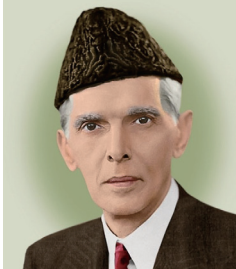
*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*




Left: At 8,126 meters, Nanga Parbat is the ninth-highest mountain in the world. Right: Faisal Mosque is the national mosque of Pakistan and an example of contemporary Islamic architecture in Islamabad. MAHNOOR SAGHIR; NAUMAN ANWAR



14th of August, 1947



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




Prime Minister of Pakistan  
Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

## 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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