

# Pakistan National Day Special

## Deeper economic ties reveal new sectors for collaboration

ABDUL HAMEED  
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



Pakistan commemorates its National Day on March 23, a date that occupies a special place in the country's political memory. On this day in 1940, the Pakistan Resolution was adopted in Lahore,

laying the foundations for the creation of an independent homeland for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent.

On this occasion, we pay tribute to the visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, whose statesmanship guided the struggle for independence, and to the philosopher-poet Allama Iqbal, whose ideas helped articulate the aspirations of a distinct political identity. Their vision continues to inspire Pakistan's commitment to democracy, peace and international cooperation.

Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan were established in 1952. They have grown into a multifaceted partnership grounded in development cooperation and expanding economic exchange. Japan has been a valued partner in Pakistan's development — from infrastructure and energy projects to disaster resilience and human resource development. The bilateral relationship has been characterized by mutual trust, shared interests and a long tradition of constructive engagement.

In recent years, the pace of cooperation has gathered momentum. High-level visits, institutional dialogues and sector-specific agreements have broadened the scope of our collaboration. Both governments have established a number of mechanisms to



Shangri-la Lake is a popular site to visit in Skardu in the Gilgit-Baltistan region. QAMMER WAZIR

support economic cooperation. The ninth Japan-Pakistan High-Level Economic Policy Dialogue, held in Islamabad on Sept. 5 2025, and the Japan-Pakistan Government-Business Joint Dialogue, held in Tokyo on Jan. 15 and 16, reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to deepening economic engagement and exploring new areas of cooperation.

Japan remains an important export destination for Pakistan and home to major investors, with companies such as Marubeni, Mitsui, Toyota, Honda, Komatsu and Suzuki maintaining a long-standing presence in the Pakistani market.

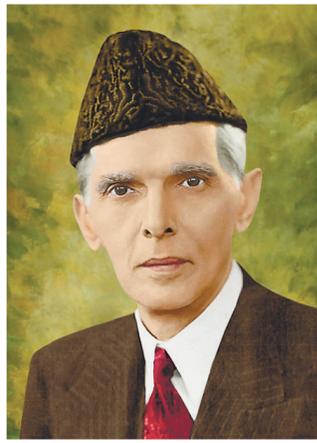
Pakistan has taken steps in recent years to make its economy more attractive to investors and trading partners. Reforms aimed at improving the ease of doing business, enhancing transparency and simplifying regulatory procedures are gradually creating a more conducive commercial environment. Priority sectors for future

cooperation include renewable energy and climate action, modern agriculture, information technology and digitalization, mineral resources and the development of a skilled workforce.

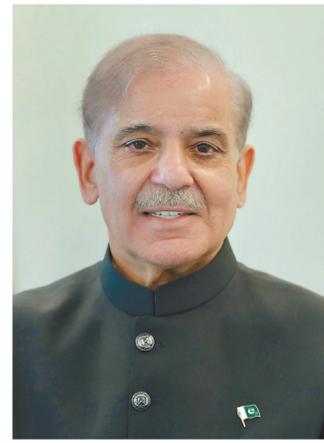
Pakistan's pavilion at the Osaka Expo offered an opportunity to present the country's cultural heritage, natural beauty and economic potential to Japanese audiences. The pavilion received international recognition, including a bronze award in its category, and helped deepen cultural and economic engagement between our countries.

The Pakistani community in Japan has emerged as a valuable bridge between our societies. We are confident that through our joint efforts, our friendly relations with Japan will acquire further depth in the years to come for the mutual benefit of our peoples.

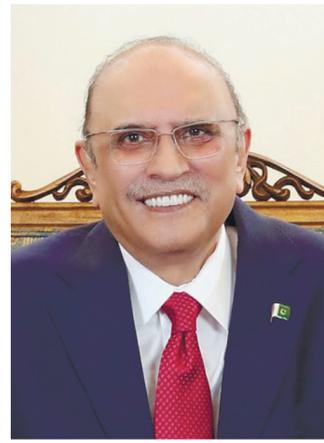
*Zindabad* (long live) the Pakistan-Japan friendship.



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif



President Asif Ali Zardari

## Meetings bolster trade potential

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 Day.

Since its establishment in 1984, the JPBC has been actively promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investments and people-to-people interactions between our countries.

In this spirit, we were honored to welcome H.E. Jam Kamal Khan, the federal minister for commerce of Pakistan, in May 2025 and H.E. Abdul Hameed, ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, for a business meeting

in Tokyo in September 2025.

Furthermore, in January, we organized the 10th Japan-Pakistan Private Sector Business Dialogue in Tokyo, attended by H.E. Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, coordinator to the prime minister of Pakistan; Hameed; and Murtaza Y. Mandviwalla, chairman of the Pakistan-Japan Business Forum. These exchanges allowed for candid discussions on strengthening economic ties and improving Pakistan's business environment.

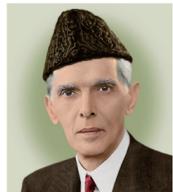
With a population exceeding 240 million, Pakistan is the world's fifth-most populous country. Approximately 60% of its population is under the age of 30, providing a wealth of young, English-speaking talent. This advantage gives Pakistan enormous potential and has attracted growing interest from Japanese companies. Currently, around 80 Japanese firms operate in Pakistan across a variety of sectors, including automobiles, motorcycles, food and information technology.

People-to-people exchanges also con-

tribute to grow. The Osaka Expo started in April 2025 and was held for six months, welcoming over 1.8 million visitors to the Pakistan Pavilion — an impressive and noteworthy achievement. Many Japanese visitors were introduced to the pavilion's "Universe in a Grain of Salt" theme that represented Pakistan and helped to build greater mutual understanding. We hope this will further raise the number of Japanese visitors to Pakistan.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, Japan and Pakistan have maintained strong, friendly ties despite changing political and economic circumstances. Looking ahead, the JPBC remains committed to contributing to further strengthening economic relations between our countries to help maximize the great potential of Pakistan.

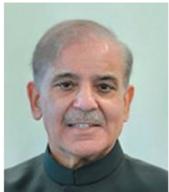
*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



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



MARCH 23



Prime Minister of Pakistan  
Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

## ON THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL DAY OF PAKISTAN

with renewed vigor and hope to build 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.

### Tokyo

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## CONGRATULATIONS March 23, 2026 PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY

### Overseas Pakistanis Foundation

The OPF is an organization dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by Pakistanis living abroad and to ensuring the welfare of their families. For over 46 years, the OPF has been tirelessly serving the Pakistani diaspora, offering support, guidance and practical solutions for their needs.



♥ WE LOVE PAKISTAN ♥



### Benefits and Services for Overseas Pakistanis

- ★ Funeral grant
- ★ Financial aid
- ★ Free ambulance service
- ★ 24/7 Complaint Monitoring Cell
- ★ Repatriation during crises
- ★ Reintegration of returnee migrants
- ★ Recovery of overdue wages
- ★ First right of allotment at OPF housing schemes in 7 cities
- ★ One-window facilitation desks at international airports in Pakistan
- ★ OPF Eye Hospital D.G. Khan
- ★ 50% concession in 26 OPF educational institutions across the country
- ★ Discount program for overseas Pakistanis and their families

### Sponsored by Pak Japan Group of Companies Group Chairman CHAUDHRY ASIF MAHMOOD

Member, OPF Board of Governors  
Member, prime minister's committee on Japan issues  
Former Ambassador-at-Large for Japan and the Far East  
**Please visit: [www.opf.org.pk](http://www.opf.org.pk)**

# Pakistan National Day Special



Cherry trees bloom against the majestic mountains of the Chunda Valley in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan.  
QAMMER WAZIR

## Exchanges, collaboration foster warm ties

Pakistan Day commemorates the great struggle of Muslims of the subcontinent for the establishment of a separate homeland.

Both Pakistan and Japan value heritage and craftsmanship, making cultural exchange vital. Pakistan's cultural history, from the ancient Indus Valley to Gandhara and contemporary traditions, offers rich experiences for Japanese visitors. Tourism enhances this dialogue, showcasing Pakistan's majestic landscapes and historic sites that foster exploration and understanding.

At the same time, Pakistan is embracing the opportunities of a knowledge-driven future. The country's dynamic youth and growing technology ecosystem have positioned the information technology sector as one of its most promising areas of

progress. Collaborative initiatives between Pakistan and Japan are already fostering partnerships in the digital economy, including projects aimed at strengthening Pakistan's information and communications technology industry. These efforts reflect the shared belief that innovation thrives when knowledge flows across borders.

Another emerging area of cooperation lies in Pakistan's vast mineral resources, with significant reserves of copper, gold, rare earth elements and other strategic minerals bolstered by new international investments and partnerships. Major projects such as the Reko Diq copper-gold mine in Balochistan illustrate how global collaboration can transform natural resources into long-term economic opportunity.

Education also remains central to the future of Pakistan-Japan relations. Academic exchanges, training programs and research collaboration continue to bring students, scholars and professionals from both countries closer together.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo remains committed to strengthening cultural dialogue and expanding educational partnerships. On this occasion of Pakistan Day, I extend warm greetings to the people of Japan.

May the friendship between Pakistan and Japan continue to grow — through culture, learning and the shared discovery of new possibilities.

*Muqarrab Mukhtar Awan, Press Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo*



People walk through a village near Nanga Parbat, the ninth-highest mountain in the world. MAHNOOR SAGHIR



The mountains of the Karakoram range loom over the Skardu Valley, Gilgit Baltistan. QAMMER WAZIR

**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
on the Anniversary of  
Their National Day

**Marubeni**

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**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the Islamic Republic of  
Pakistan  
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their National Day



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**Congratulations**

Sojitz extends its sincere  
congratulations to the people of  
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
on the anniversary of  
their National Day



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