

Pakistan Independence Day Special

Bilateral exchanges on many levels help to strengthen ties

ABDUL HAMEED
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



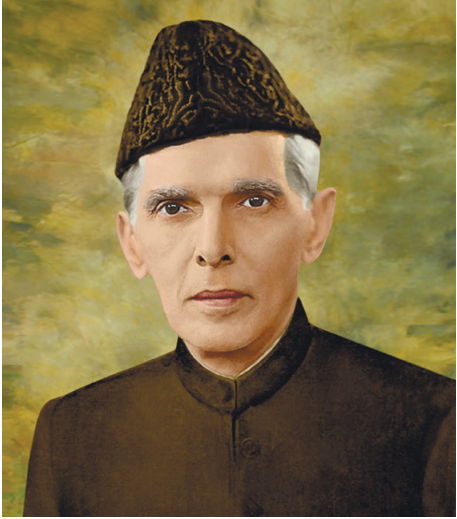
On the occasion of the 79th anniversary of the Independence Day of Pakistan, I extend my heart-felt felicitations to Pakistanis living in Japan and across the world.

I also convey my sincere greetings and profound appreciation to the government and people of Japan, whose friendship, goodwill and steadfast partnership have strengthened Pakistan-Japan relations for more than seven decades.

As we commemorate this historic occasion, we also celebrate the enduring friendship between our nations — a relationship founded on mutual respect that has matured through sustained dialogue, mutual confidence and a shared commitment to peace, stability and development.

Independence Day is far more than a national celebration. It is an opportunity to reflect on our history, reaffirm the ideals that inspired our nationhood and renew our collective sense of purpose. We pay tribute to the legacy of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and the countless women and men whose vision, courage and sacrifice made the creation of Pakistan possible.

Their struggle was guided by the principles of constitutional governance, liberty, justice, tolerance and equal citizenship. These ideals remain central to Pakistan's national identity and continue to shape our engagement with the wider international community. They also remind us that the strength of a nation ultimately

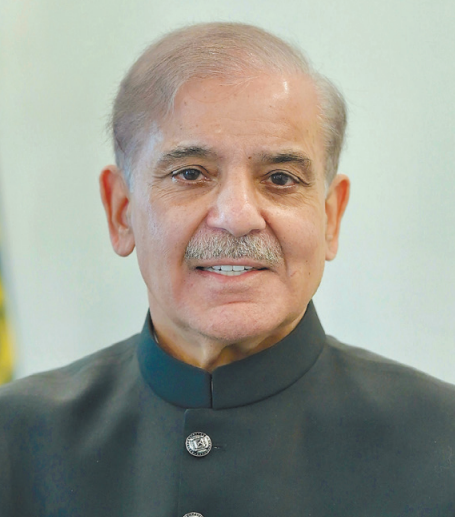


Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

rests upon the character of its institutions, the resilience of its people and its unwavering commitment to the rule of law and human dignity.

Pakistan's engagement with the international community is guided by the principles and objectives enshrined in the United Nations charter. This commitment is reflected in the country's long-standing contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Across decades of service in some of the world's most difficult conflict zones, Pakistani peacekeepers have demonstrated exceptional professionalism, courage and dedication. Their service and sacrifice embody Pakistan's enduring belief that the preservation of international peace and security demands both principled diplomacy and a sustained commitment on the ground.

In recent years, our engagements with Japanese leaders, parliamentarians, policymakers, business representatives, academics, researchers and civil society have



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

reaffirmed the remarkable depth of Pakistani-Japanese friendship while fostering a broader understanding of the evolving regional and global landscape.

These exchanges have strengthened dialogue, expanded institutional partnerships and reinforced the confidence that our two countries can work together to address shared opportunities and common challenges. In an increasingly uncertain international environment, sustained dialogue and practical cooperation have become more valuable than ever. Pakistan and Japan share a common interest in preserving regional stability and promoting inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

Strengthening economic cooperation has remained a central objective of our bilateral engagement. Initiatives such as the Pakistan-Japan Private Sector Business Dialogue and the Pakistan-Japan Government-Business Joint Dialogue have brought together policymakers, industry leaders and eco-



Left: Upper Kachura Lake is a jewel of the Gilgit-Baltistan region; Above: Lower Kachura Lake is also known as Shangrila Lake.

QAMMER WAZIR, MAHNOOR SAGHIR

nomics institutions. They have strengthened investment-led collaboration while opening new opportunities in mining, agri-culture, agri-food industries, renewable energy, manufacturing, information technology and other emerging sectors.

By encouraging greater business-to-business engagement and facilitating closer public-private cooperation, these efforts are helping to unlock the considerable economic potential that exists between our countries. Pakistan's strategic location, youthful population and expanding economic reforms, together with Japan's technological excellence, investment capacity and industrial expertise, offer a strong foundation for a deeper economic cooperation capable of generating long-term benefits for both countries.

Scientific collaboration, technological innovation, education and cultural exchange are also opening new avenues for partnership. Embassy-led symposiums and innovation forums have brought together researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators. These engagements are creating new opportunities for joint research, academic exchanges, technology partnerships and knowledge-sharing. They also encourage collaboration in areas that will shape

the economies of the future, including digital technologies, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing and sustainable innovation.

These efforts foster a genuine appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of both nations and strengthen the enduring bonds of friendship between our peoples. By bringing together universities, research institutions, innovators and young professionals, we are investing not only in current collaboration but also in the long-term relationship between future generations.

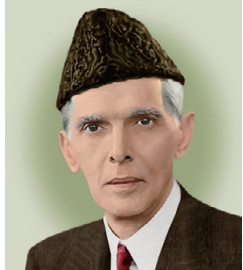
Japan has long been one of Pakistan's most dependable development partners. Its support for infrastructure, healthcare, education, disaster resilience, water and sanitation, environmental sustainability and human-resource development has made a lasting contribution to Pakistan's socio-economic progress. Generations of Pakistanis have benefited from Japan's friendship through development cooperation that has improved livelihoods, strengthened institutions and expanded opportunities. Pakistan deeply values this long-standing friendship and remains committed to broadening it in ways that respond to the changing needs and aspirations of both countries.

At the heart of Pakistan-Japan relations lies a partnership sustained not only by governments, but also by the goodwill of our peoples. Decades of educational exchanges, cultural engagement, business cooperation and tourism have fostered mutual trust and understanding. These connections draw our societies closer together, foster respect across cultures and inspire future generations to work together in pursuit of peace and shared prosperity.

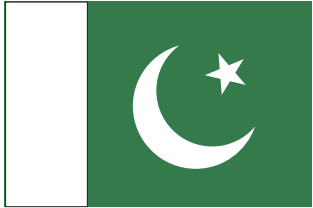
As we commemorate this Independence Day anniversary, let us renew our commitment to building a peaceful, democratic, inclusive and prosperous nation founded upon unity, resilience and service to humanity. Let us also reaffirm our determination to contribute to a more peaceful, just and cooperative international order through dialogue, mutual respect and constructive engagement.

Guided by the vision of our founding leaders and strengthened by the dedication of our people, Pakistan remains firmly on a path of progress and prosperity. I am confident that the friendship between Pakistan and Japan will continue to flourish in the years ahead, opening new avenues of cooperation and bringing lasting benefit to our two peoples.

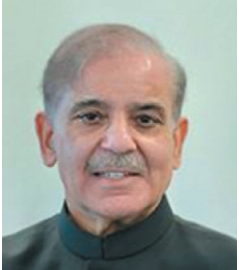
On this joyous occasion, I extend my warmest wishes to all Pakistanis for a happy Independence Day and express my sincere hope that the years ahead will bring greater peace, prosperity and success for Pakistan, Japan and the wider international community.



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



14th of August, 1947



Prime Minister of Pakistan
Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

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.

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Pakistan's prime minister stands with world leaders

Congratulations Pakistan & Pakistani Community Happy Independence Day



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Pakistan Independence Day Special

Working for regional, international stability

SEIJI MAEHARA
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP
LEAGUE



On the occasion of the 79th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Pakistan on behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League.

Soon after Pakistan's independence in 1947, Japan and Pakistan began forging a friendship by supporting each other in times of need. Today, approximately 70 Japanese companies, including automobile manufacturers, are operating in

Pakistan, contributing significantly to the strong and cordial relations between our countries.

Allow me also to express our sincere gratitude for the messages of sympathy we received from H.E. Mohammad Ishaq Dar, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, and from the people of Pakistan following the recent earthquake in Kumamoto. Pakistan has also been hit by severe natural disasters including earthquakes and floods throughout its history, and it is my strong hope that our two countries can exchange skills and knowledge to prevent and mitigate disaster-related damage when such events occur.

Over the past year, cooperation and exchanges between our countries have made steady progress across a wide range of fields, including politics, the economy and trade and investment, through various bilateral initiatives. We also welcomed the visit of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chief minis-

ter of Punjab, Pakistan, to the World Expo in Osaka in 2025.

Furthermore, in light of recent developments in the Middle East, close communication has taken place between Japan and Pakistan. We have expressed high regard for Pakistan's proactive diplomatic efforts aimed at easing regional tensions and promoting stability. These developments demonstrate that our friendly relations are evolving beyond mere bilateral cooperation into a partnership that contributes to peace and stability in the region and in the international community.

As chair of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, I will continue to make sincere efforts to further promote friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan.

I would like to conclude my message by wishing the people of Pakistan, as well as the Pakistani community in Japan, continued progress and prosperity.

Aiming to achieve further economic success

MASAYOSHI FUJIMOTO
JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS
CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Co-operation Committee, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government, leadership and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on this most joyous commemoration of Pakistan's Independence Day.

I succeeded Akira Terakawa as chairman of the JPBCC on April 1. The JPBCC was founded in November 1984 in response to a request from the government of Pakistan and has since been dedicated to foster-

ing bilateral economic relations, including trade and investment, as well as broader business exchange. We also had the distinct honor and privilege of hosting a business round table coinciding with the visit of the delegation of His Excellency Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan, coordinator to the prime minister on commerce, to Japan on Jan. 15, with about 100 participants from Japan and Pakistan.

Additionally, next year marks the 75th anniversary of our diplomatic relations, and the JPBCC will remain committed to further strengthening the economic ties between our countries and helping to unlock Pakistan's significant economic potential.

With a population of over 240 million, Pakistan boasts an exceedingly vibrant and youthful demographic, with 60% of its citizens under the age of 25. Furthermore, the abundance of English-speaking talent fur-

ther contributes to the country's considerable future potential. I am confident that Pakistan is well-positioned to achieve continued economic advancement by leveraging its demographic strengths as well as the growth potential of key industries such as automobiles, textiles and information technology. I also expect that an increasing number of Japanese companies will explore and ultimately enter the promising Pakistani market in the years ahead.

In closing, I would like to once again extend my most sincere congratulations on Pakistan's Independence Day, along with my very best wishes for the country's continued development and lasting prosperity.

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



The Shyok River flows through the Ghawari Valley in the Gilgit-Baltistan region. QAMMER WAZIR



The Bilamik Valley is an oasis of green among the jagged peaks in Gilgit-Baltistan. QAMMER WAZIR



The sharp peaks of Nanga Parbat, the world's ninth-highest mountain, rise above Gilgit-Baltistan. MAHNOOR SAGHIR



Deosai National Park boasts a diverse ecosystem. QAMMER WAZIR

Congratulations

to the People of

the Islamic Republic of

Pakistan

on the Anniversary of

their Independence

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Mita Kosan Group

Mita Kosan Co., Ltd. Idemitsu Shokai Holdings Co., Ltd.

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Congratulations

to the People of

the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

on the Anniversary of

Their Independence

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