

Pakistan Independence Day Special

Potential to deepen business relations

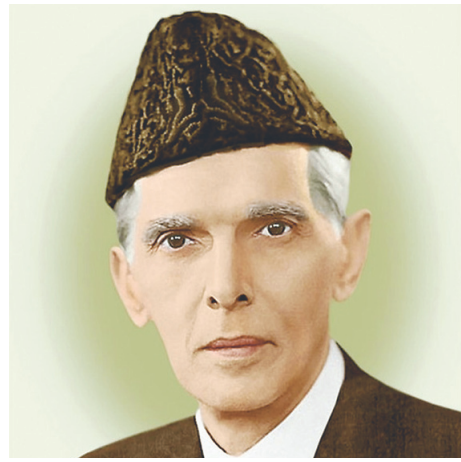
IMTIAZ AHMAD
AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE OF PAKISTAN



On this auspicious occasion of the 72nd 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 Naruhito and Empress Masako, members of the imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

It was on this day in the year 1947 that 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 world.

Pakistan and Japan are long-standing friends and share a special bond based on deep-rooted linkages that go far in history and time. With no historical baggage between the two, the people of Pakistan

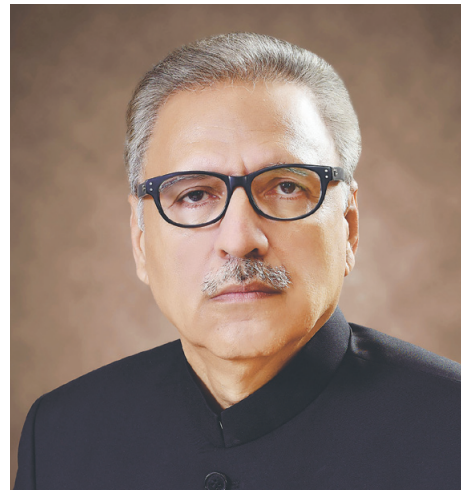


The Founder of Pakistan
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

carry a deep sentiment of warmth and affection for Japan and the Japanese people. We have always stood alongside each other in times of need, calamity and natural disasters.

This year is particularly important in the sense that Japan has a new emperor and the people and government of Pakistan have always held the imperial household in high esteem. We hope that our bilateral relations will continue to flourish in the Reiwa Era as it has in the past.

For our countries, the potential to grow mutually beneficial relations based on inher-



President of Pakistan Arif Alvi

ent complementarities is immense. The continued presence in Pakistan of over 70 major Japanese companies and their growing numbers and range of activities is testament to the trade and investment win-win that our two countries have enjoyed over the decades.

Pakistan has made important strides these past few years; in particular, on both the security and the economic fronts. Upbeat business projections about Pakistan are attracting renewed interest from potential investors from across the globe, including



Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan

Japan. In recent surveys, Pakistan has consistently been rated among the top countries in Asia. Japanese companies have plans to expand their operations and hiring of Pakistan's local 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 people. I am confident that diaspora members will continue to make important and useful contributions to Japan's society and economy.

As we celebrate the 72nd anniversary of our independence as a vibrant, emerging and solidly democratic Pakistan here in Japan, we are keen to further build on our shared commitment to the common ideals of peace, security and prosperity to lay foundations for an enduring partnership based on trust and mutually beneficial cooperation. Thank you.

Long live Pakistan! Long live the Pakistan-Japan Friendship!

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



The 8,126-meter-high Nanga Parbat mountain in northern Pakistan. At the base of the mountain is the Fairy Meadows grassland. SYED MEHDI BUKHARI

Cooperative friendship seeks to enhance multileveled exchanges

SEISHIRO ETO
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



people of Pakistan on behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League.

In April, the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League had the honor of welcoming Pakistani Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi during his visit to Japan. During our meeting, Qureshi emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship with Japan, and that he wants to further develop the bilateral relationship through enhancing high-level exchanges and economic relations.

It was also a great honor to receive the Pakistani award "Hilal-i-Pakistan" from Qureshi. In order to further develop the

traditional relationship between both countries, I would like to promote people-to-people exchanges and continue strengthening bilateral relations.

Pakistan has a population of approximately 200 million and most members of its society are the promising younger generation. It is greatly important not only for Pakistan but also for the region and the international community that Pakistan, with such huge potential, achieves further stabilization and development.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, Japan and Pakistan have forged friendly and cooperative relations, enjoying exchanges at various levels. Such relations have been developed not only between both governments but also through business community activities as well as academic interactions. I hope Japan and Pakistan continue to build mutually cooperative relations.

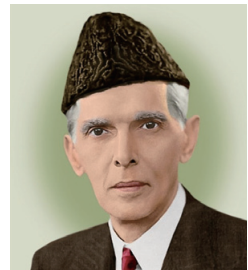
I am determined, as president of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League, to continuously exert all my efforts toward fostering mutual understanding and cooperative relations between Japan and Pakistan. May prosperity continue to reign in Pakistan.



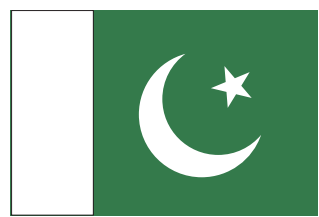
Badshahi Mosque in Lahore built in 1671 is a prime example of Mughal architecture. PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



Attabad Lake in Hunza's Gojal Valley is a major tourist attraction. SYED MEHDI BUKHARI



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



14th of August, 1947



Prime Minister of Pakistan
Imran Khan

THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE 73rd 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 effort for all-round development.

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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.



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Pakistan Independence Day Special

Reforms boost economic activity

TERUO ASADA
CHAIRMAN, 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 people and government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his cabinet, investors' expectations for economic reform in Pakistan have been rising substantially. Even with the continuing economic growth in Pakistan being driven by a population surpassing 200 million, the number of Japanese companies operating in Pakistan still remains at 74 mostly large-sized companies. I believe this number is too low, taking into consideration the potential that Pakistan has today. I am convinced that more Japanese companies will enter the Pakistan market going forward.

The JPBCC was established in 1984. Since then, we have been promoting bilateral

business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. Our recent major activities include a luncheon meeting in April with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, where the attendees had extensive and constructive discussions. The JPBCC hopes to contribute to the further development of business between the two nations through such activities.

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

Dip into cultures of old, colorful views

From religious sites to architectural grandeur, cold and hot deserts to towering mountains, fertile plains to awe-inspiring valleys, majestic rivers to beautiful lakes, Pakistan has it all. As one of the few countries worldwide that exhibits an amazing contrast of people and physical features, Pakistan's society, in terms of color, creed, race, language, customs and tradition, is enlightened and moderate. Pakistan is indeed a nation with a rich, colorful culture.

Pakistan, based at the crossroads of South Asia, the Middle East and Central Asia, is a beautiful country boasting a vast history and cultural heritage.

Pakistan is the site for one of the world's earliest human settlements — Mehrgarh, an archaeological site in the province of Balochistan. It is an antecedent to the great Indus Valley Civilization, the crucible of ancient empires, religions and cultures. The Indus Valley Civilization flourished from 3,000 to 1,500 B.C., making it contemporary with the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia. At Mohenjo-daro along the west bank of the Indus in Sindh, the remains of one of

the earliest and most developed urban civilizations of the ancient world can be seen.

Taxila, situated close to the federal capital Islamabad, is also a fascinating archaeological site as it presents the ruins of Gandhara. Due to its strategic location at the junction of the Indian subcontinent and Central Asia, many empires, including the Achaemenids, Greeks, Mauryans, Indo-Greeks, Parthians, Kushans, Huns and Muslims, strived for its control. As one of the top tourist destinations in Pakistan, Taxila has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Still walking down history lane, the Mughal Empire is considered one of the glorious eras of the Indian subcontinent due to its enormous geographical expansion, economic stability and administrative acumen as well as its art, architecture, culture and traditions. Lahore, which remained one of the principal seats of the empire during the Mughal period, presents the grandeur of architectural excellence of the Mughals through the majestic Lahore Fort, Badshahi Mosque, Emperor Jahangir's tomb and Shalimar Gardens, to name a few historical

attractions.

Northern Pakistan boasts the greatest concentration of the highest peaks in the world. It has five peaks over 8,000 meters, including the world's second-highest K-2 (8,611 meters) mountain; 29 peaks of over 7,500 meters; and many others over 7,000 meters. The area is perfect for mountaineers and those seeking adventure.

Pakistan's present government attaches great importance to the promotion of tourism in the country and focuses on facilitating tourists from all over the globe. Because of improvements in security, better infrastructure, tourist-friendly visa policies and promotion of attractive tourist places, the tourism industry in Pakistan has been given a big boost. In 2018, Pakistan received approximately 1.9 million tourists from abroad. According to Forbes.com, it is one of the "10 Coolest Places to Go in 2019." Pakistan has thus re-emerged as one of the world's top tourist destinations.

The text was compiled by the Embassy of Pakistan in Japan.



Clockwise from top left: A well preserved Buddhist monastery at the archaeological site of Takht-i-Bhai from the first century in Mardan. K-2 in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of northern Pakistan is the second-tallest mountain in the world. A girl playing a traditional musical instrument in Hunza Valley in the Gilgit-Baltistan region. GULREZ GHAURI / SYED MEHDI BUKHARI

Congratulations

to the People of Pakistan
on the 72nd Anniversary of
Their Independence

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