

Pakistan Independence Day Special

Close cooperation in many spheres amid pandemic

IMTIAZ AHMAD
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



On this 73rd anniversary of Pakistan's Independence Day, let me express on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and members of the Pakistani community living in

Japan, our profound and sincere greetings to their imperial majesties the Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, members of the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and friendly people of Japan.

On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan became an independent and sovereign nation-state owing to the relentless efforts by our elders, led by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Since its birth, Pakistan has approached the countries of the world with a desire for lasting peace, friendship and mutual respect for sovereignty.

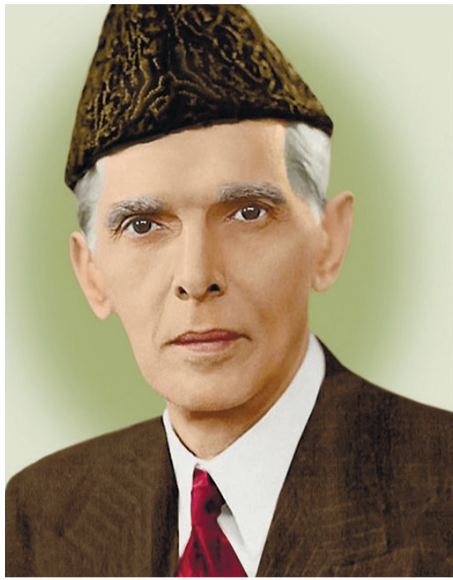
With Japan, our ties go back far in history to the times when Buddhist monks used to travel to Japan from parts of South Asia that now form part of Pakistan.

Over time, those ties were further strengthened and made more broad-based with increased trade and commerce between the two regions.

From Pakistan's inception until this day, that special bond based on deep-rooted historical links continue to grow with the elaborate economic and commercial relations providing a strong anchor for the overall bilateral relationship.

As the world fights today against the coronavirus pandemic, Pakistan-Japan bilateral cooperation continues to stand the test of time.

Even before Pakistan reported its first coronavirus case in late February, the Japanese National Institute of Infectious Dis-



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

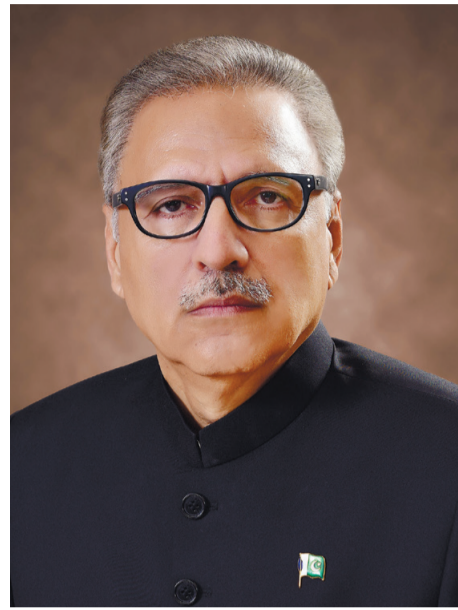
eases donated testing kits to the National Institute of Health of Pakistan.

The people of Pakistan highly appreciate the kind assistance of Japan, both bilaterally and through multilateral agencies such as UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to bolster Pakistan's efforts to fight the spread of the coronavirus in the country.

We also particularly appreciate various Japanese nongovernmental organizations for their relief efforts in this regard. Due to the Pakistani government's "smart lockdown" strategy and with the help of friends such as Japan, the number of new coronavirus cases has gone down remarkably in the last two to three weeks.

This positive development will help Pakistan as it embarks on the road to economic recovery.

The two countries have been working with a renewed focus on enhancing mutually beneficial relations in the areas



President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi

of information technology, agriculture, trade, investment, human resource development and overall economic cooperation. Tangible results have started to emerge, particularly in the critical area of IT.

In July this year, a consortium of two Japanese companies announced to invest in Pakistan in financial technologies by introducing FinTech Platform over SIM services in Pakistan.

Through this and other forthcoming projects, Japan will be benefiting from the large number of IT-focused, young and skilled individuals from Pakistan that will contribute to overcoming the workforce shortage in its critical IT industry.

On Pakistan's part, such projects will help in developing our technology and human resource base.

We hope that we will continue to see more substantial progress in the overall investment and trade relations between the two countries in the months and years to come.

Building upon last year's conclusion of



Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan

agreements between the two countries on the Technical Intern Training and Specified Skilled Worker programs, efforts are also underway for bringing interns and skilled workers from Pakistan to Japan in other sectors of the economy as well, thus contributing to the socioeconomic development of both countries.

The active and vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Japan, now numbering almost 16,000, is acting as a strong and effective bridge between our two countries and people.

We are proud of their healthy contribution to the Japanese economy and culture.

Pakistani community members in Japan are also seen at the forefront of relief activities whenever a disaster or unforeseen calamity hits the communities they live in.

The conduct of the Pakistani diaspora gives me every confidence that they will continue to make important and useful contributions to the Japanese society and economy.

This year marks the 68th anniversary of



From top to bottom: A well preserved Buddhist monastery at the archaeological site of Takht-i-Bhai from the first century in Mardan. Attabad Lake in Gilgit-Baltistan. A major tourist spot offering activities like boating, jet skiing, fishing and other recreational activities.

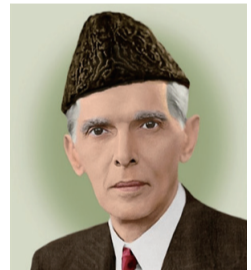
GULREZ GHOURI/ PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan.

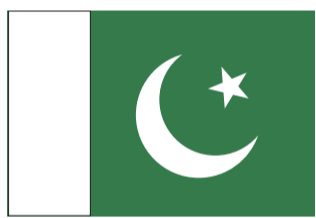
As our relationship moves forward, we are keen to further build on our shared commitment to peace, security and

prosperity to lay the foundation of an enduring partnership based on trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Long live Pakistan! Long live Pakistan-Japan friendship!



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



14th of August, 1947



Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan

THIS DAY WE CELEBRATE 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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May Allah bless our Pakistan. Happy Independence Day.



*With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty,
there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve.*

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

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Pakistan Independence Day Special

Further medical aid, support given

SEISHIRO ETO
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On the occasion of the 73rd 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.

Since the worldwide spread of the coronavirus started, both Japan and Pakistan have been making all-out efforts to tackle its spread in each country. Faced with this kind of borderless challenge, I think that it is crucial for both countries to work together, sharing their knowledge and experience with each other.

From this point of view, the Japanese government extended assistance to Pakistan via UNICEF and other international organizations for prevention of the spread of the coronavirus, and is planning to do more by providing medical equipment.

Japan has also extended support to the affected farmers to aid in the extermina-

tion of the plague of locusts, another challenge posed to Pakistan.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, Japan and Pakistan have forged friendly and cooperative relations by enjoying exchanges at various levels.

The relations have been developed not only between the two governments, but also through the activities of the business

community and academic interactions.

The Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League is committed to further deepening the bilateral relationship through once again promoting people-to-people exchange, when the spread of the coronavirus is finally contained.

May prosperity continue to reign in Pakistan.



The city of Sirkap was built by the Greco-Bactrian King Demeritus after he invaded ancient sub-continent around 180 BC. This archeological site is situated in Taxila.

PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Business momentum continues to expand

TERUO ASADA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PAKISTAN BUSINESS
COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee (JPBCC), please allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the

Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Independence Day.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his cabinet, inves-

tors' expectations for economic reform in Pakistan have risen substantially. With the increasing business momentum in Pakistan and a population surpassing 200 million, the pace of market penetration by Japanese companies is expected to accelerate.

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. Last October, the JPBCC held a round table with President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan His Excellency Dr. Arif Alvi, where the attendees had thorough and valuable discussions.

The JPBCC hopes to contribute to the

further development of business between our two countries through such mutual activities. We offer our deepest condolences and sympathy to all those affected by the coronavirus in Pakistan.

At this difficult juncture, let us reaffirm our commitment to further strengthening our bilateral relationship. Please let me conclude my message by once again offering my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.

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



The Shri Katas Raj is a complex of several Hindu temples connected to one another by walkways. It is located near Kallar Kahar, Jhelum, at an altitude of 2,000 feet.

PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



K2 in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of northern Pakistan is the second tallest mountain in the world.

SYED MEHDI BUKHARI

Congratulations
to the People of Pakistan
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence

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