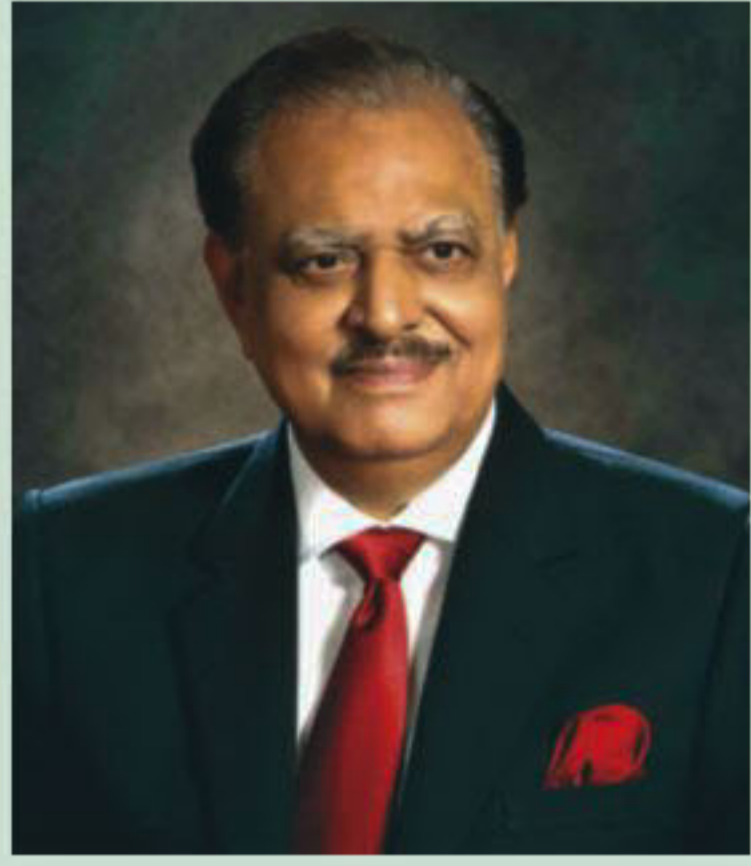


# Independence Day of Pakistan

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



## Message of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



**Mamnoon Hussain**  
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**T**ODAY we are celebrating our Independence Day with a new zeal and vigor. I am confident that our determination will pave the way for political, economic and social stability in the coming days. Our country has been confronted with many challenges since the last few years but the nation has boldly faced them through its unshakeable resolve.

The Government of Pakistan resolutely decided to take action in order to cleanse various regions and cities of terrorism, extremism and lawlessness under which the Armed Forces and other law enforcement agencies are playing an effective role as a result of which peace is being restored in the country. The government has also adopted sound policies to improve the economy which has created better business environment leading to increased opportunities for domestic and international investment. It is satisfying to note that foreign investors are increasingly turning to Pakistan for investment. These developments augur well for our economic future which testifies that new possibilities and opportunities are unfolding for Pakistan.

I am happy to note that the consensus on democracy is producing positive results. We need to initiate the process of correction individually, then from homes and communities to derive more benefits and ensure that the democratic values take root at the state, governmental and administrative level to pave the way for real and meaningful change.

Let us unite to secure a better and brighter future for our coming generations by following in the footsteps of our illustrious founding fathers.

Pakistan Paindabad

## Message of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



**Muhammad Nawaz Sharif**  
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**M**Y Dear Countrymen! This year, the day of 14th August, besides the traditional pleasure, also carries deep feelings of grief. The pain of Quetta's martyrs is still fresh. Today, we are also remembering those martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to protect this independence. This day is dawning with the determination of the Pakistani nation that Pakistan, with the grace of Allah Almighty, will remain forever. The spirit of 1965 is still alive with full vigor, when Pakistani armed forces and the people together confronted the enemy.

This Independence is also memorable due to the fact that nowadays the spirit of independence in Occupied Kashmir is at its peak. The new generation of Kashmiris has raised the flag of freedom with a new vigor. I dedicate this year's 14th August to the freedom of Kashmir. I dedicate it to those people of Kashmir, who bravely faced state oppression but kept the spirit of freedom alive.

**My Dear Countrymen!**

The protection of independence is even harder than its achievement. Without the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam, the creation of Pakistan was impossible. If our armed forces, security institutions, police and people had not have shed their blood, its (Pakistan's) survival and security was impossible. In the month of August, when we remember the Quaid, leaders and workers of Pakistan movement, our hearts are also enlightened with the memory of those martyrs, who have become immortal by sacrificing their lives for the country.

Today, we are remembering our all those martyrs. They belong to every segment of the state. They are in every political party. They are in every field of life. They are in every sect. They are in every religion. They are all Pakistanis. They are individuals of one nation. We are paying tributes to all these martyrs. We are presenting salute to their souls. All of them are pronouncing that the nation is united against terrorists.

Today we have to solemnly affirm that, till we are alive, we will sacrifice our interests for the stability, security and survival of Pakistan. We will take forward this tradition of martyrs that after us, the world gives the same evidence in our favour, which we are giving today for our martyrs. May Allah bless you.

Pakistan Paindabad!

## Message of the Charge d' Affaires

**A**UGUST 14, 1947 commemorates our independence day when Pakistan emerged as a sovereign and independent state following the end of the British Rule in the Indian subcontinent. This watershed moment in our history marks the fruition of a long struggle by the Muslims of the Sub-Continent under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Since its independence, Pakistan in spite of being faced with huge challenges has achieved big milestones in economic and political fields. The significant milestone which we have achieved in this journey is not only a morale booster for our people and government but also provides a framework for a better future.

The initiatives of the present government have given economic development a priority in policy. The government has placed strong emphasis on bold economic reforms to achieve significant improvement in all sectors of the economy.

Pakistan's democratically elected government fully envisages the fact that political stability is guaranteed by the free media, independent judiciary, vibrant civil society and merit based civil and military bureaucracy.

Apart from the provision of maximum provincial autonomy, our constitution fully enshrines the social, political, and economic equality of our citizens irrespective of their cast, creed or religion. Our institutions are committed to the elimination of the menace of terrorism from the country. Consensus between all political parties and the government in promulgation of the National Action Plan to crack down on terrorism and to supplement the ongoing anti-terrorist offensive is a manifestation of our unwavering resolve to eliminate terrorism.

Political stability and peaceful law and order situation create conducive environment for sustained economic development. It is the resolve of our government that these objectives are achieved to the desired level. It is heartening to know that peace has been restored in the most parts of the country after the successful operation of Zarb-e-Azb.

Standard and Poor's has raised Pakistan's credit rating outlook to positive from stable, as lower energy costs and an IMF loan boost growth and improve finances. According to Bloomberg, Pakistan ranked third in 2015 amongst the Top Ten Best Performing Markets in the world. Also, Pakistan has been able to secure a place amongst the Top Ten for the third consecutive year now.

Our Foreign exchange reserves have reached a record high in the recent months.

The sharing of common religion, culture and socio-economic conditions and promotion of commercial and economic cooperation between our two countries would be a win-win arrangement. Moreover, development of trade between our two countries is of great significance for the South Asian region at large. It can bring the whole region into an integrated network of trade and development. Our close cooperation in SAARC and other international fora provides a firm basis for this partnership. Our bilateral trade is expected to reach one billion dollars in the next few years. Pakistan's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Bangladesh is around US\$ 120.75 million which is the third largest. There are more prospects of partnership in the areas of trade, commerce, health, education and culture in the future. People to people contact and other exchanges have also gained momentum with regular visits of students and journalists.

Under the given similarities and complementarities between Pakistan and Bangladesh, it is very obvious that we can learn from each other's experiences.

As we celebrate our independence day, I reiterate to the people of Bangladesh our resolve to promote friendship and brotherhood for peace, progress and prosperity of our two countries and the region.



**Mrs. Samina Mehtab**  
The Charge d' Affaires  
Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka, Bangladesh

# Pakistani People and their Cultural Traditions

RIAZ MOHAMMAD KHAN

## History of Pakistan

**F**OR millennia, the mountain regions, valleys and plains of Pakistan have been a melting pot of different races, cultures and belief systems and have been

among the oldest inhabited places on earth.

Settlers in this land included Aryans, Greeks, White Huns, Persians, Arabs, Turks and Mongols who mixed with the original inhabitants, the Dravidians, and estab-

lished the Indus valley civilization.

Its famed cities of Harappa and Moenjodaro flourished for a thousand years from 2500 to 1500 B.C. Among the earliest settlements, which date back to 7000

B.C., the ancient village of Mehrgarh in the fertile Indus river valley was one of the world's first farming communities that had learnt to grow wheat and barley and raise cattle.

Pakistan has been a birth place of ideas and rich spiritual traditions. The first book of hymns of Hinduism was compiled along the banks of the Indus as the Aryans started migrating and settling in the South Asian subcontinent nearly four thousand years ago. The rise of the Gandhara civilization is associated with Taxila becoming the seat of Buddhist learning and spread of Buddhism into China and beyond. In the subcontinent, Pakistan received the full impact of Islam, hence its unique identity.

Pakistan is rich in Sufi traditions. Sufi saints of Punjab and Sindh and their shrines in Lahore, Multan, Sehwan and several other spiritual centres are deeply revered and shape religious orientation of large sections of the population. A linked tradition is of mystical poetry that remains popular to this day and has a unique genre of singing. Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, a renowned Sindh Sufi poet-saint, founded a new musical tradition called Shah-jo-Rago. Shah Hussain, Sultan Bahu, Bullhe Shah, Madho Lal Hussain and Khwaja Ghulam Farid are the most celebrated among the many mystic Sufi poets of Punjab which is also famous for romantic folk poetry. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khushhal Khan Khattak is the most renowned poet and savant, who lived in the seventeenth century.

## FESTIVALS

**T**HE cultural vista of Pakistan is colourful and there is a range of religious and spiritual festivals, celebrations of spring and urban and rural fairs called Melas as well as local exhibitions of livestock with dancing horses, tent pegging and other local sports. The Eid festivals are celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm throughout the country. Weddings are special family occasions for reunions, feasts and rejoicing.

Among spiritual festivals are the annual Urs linked to shrines of important saints. The Urs at Sehwan in Sindh and at shrines in Multan, Lahore and Rawalpindi attract devotees from all over the country and abroad.

Basant, a spring festival, is one of the most colourful. The focus of the celebration is Lahore, especially the inner walled city that adorns a festive look in mid-February with skies filled with kites. On two days of Basant, people organize parties and feasts on rooftops, enjoying kite-flying and kite fighting competitions with musical revelry. All wear saffron clothes to match the colours of mustard fields that flower during that period, turning the landscape into vibrant hues of yellow.

Pakistani cities are alive with cultural activity and take pride in renowned institutions of long standing devoted to arts, including performing arts. Colleges in Lahore and Karachi have produced numerous talented artists, architects and designers. National and private galleries as well as academies for music and performing arts contribute to the richness of cultural life in the country. Al-Hamra in

Lahore is a centre for performing arts and organizes international musical events, plays and theatre performances. The newly established National Gallery of Arts in Islamabad is emerging as another centre of cultural activity in the capital.



Kite flying (Basant) in Lahore (Punjab)



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**Happy 69th Independence Day To The People Of Pakistan**



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**“ভূমিকম্পে নয়, প্রাণহানি হয় ভবন ধসে।”**

— সৃজন হাউ এবং লুসিল জোনস্, ইউএস জিওলজিক্যাল সার্ভে

বাংলাদেশ ন্যাশনাল বিল্ডিং কোড (BNBC) ২০১৫ এবং আমেরিকান কংক্রিট ইনস্টিটিউট (ACI) ২০১৪-এ উল্লেখিত আছে যে, ভূমিকম্পপ্রবণ এলাকায় প্রতিটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ স্থাপনাকে স্পেশাল মোমেন্ট রেসিস্টিং ফ্রেম (SMRF) দ্বারা ডিজাইন ও নির্মাণ করতে হবে।



BNBC ও ACI-এ সুনির্দিষ্টভাবে উল্লেখিত আছে যে, শুধুমাত্র ASTM 706 Grade 60 সার্টিফিকেশনযুক্ত রিইনফোর্সড স্টীল দ্বারা স্পেশাল মোমেন্ট রেসিস্টিং ফ্রেম (SMRF) ডিজাইন ও নির্মাণ করা যাবে।

BSRM Ultima দেশের একমাত্র স্টীল যা ASTM 706 Grade 60 ও BDS ISO 6935-2 Grade 420DWR-এর সকল শর্ত পূরণ করে প্রস্তুতকৃত।

BSRM Ultima প্রস্তুত করা হয় বিএসআরএম-এর সর্বাধুনিক স্টীল প্রস্তুতকারী কারখানায় এবং দেশের একমাত্র ইউরোপিয়ান রোলিং মিলে নিয়ন্ত্রিত থার্মাল ছিটমেন্ট দিয়ে এটিকে রিইনফোর্সিং স্টীল বারে রূপান্তরিত করা হয়।



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