



1947: BIRTH OF A NATION-STATE



**Lieutenant General
Raza Muhammad Khan
(Retired), HI(M)**

The creation of Pakistan marks a watershed moment in twentieth-century history, achieved despite monumental challenges and staggering obstacles. These hurdles were overcome through a protracted socio-political struggle spearheaded by the All-India Muslim League (ML) under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (Quaid). This mission faced intense opposition from British colonial authorities, fierce political rivalry from the Indian National Congress (INC), internal factions within the Muslim community, and severe logistical and humanitarian crises. A selection of these impediments is elaborated below, lest they be forgotten by posterity. First; Led by Gandhian Nehru, the INC claimed to represent all Indians, including Muslims.

It advocated for a united India, vehemently rejected the Two-Nation theory of the ML and called it a British plot to divide and rule. The Quaid exposed these claims by turning the ML into a mass-appeal political party. Consequently, the League won all the Muslim seats in Central Legislative Assembly and 86% of the Muslim seats in the provincial assemblies, in the pivotal 1945-46 general elections. This overwhelming democratic mandate, crushed the Congress narrative, proving both to the British and the world, that the ML was the sole representative of Indian Muslims. Second; The

“*Pakistan's creation emerged from an extraordinary political struggle, overcoming opposition, partition challenges, economic deprivation, security crises and humanitarian catastrophe through Jinnah's leadership, Muslim unity, sacrifice and unwavering determination.*”

British government was initially opposed to the idea of partition and Viceroy Linlithgow and later Wavell, preferred to leave behind a united India that could serve as a strategic ally in Asia,

after World War II. The British Cabinet Mission of 1946, therefore proposed a federated structure, but the Quaid argued that India had historically never been a single united nation and defended Muslim self-determination. He added that Hindus and Muslims formed two distinct nations with irreconcilable differences in their outlooks, culture, law, and religion. When

was unviable and compelled Mountbatten, to the announce the Partition Third; In the 1930s, the ML lacked deep roots among the Muslim masses. Furthermore, powerful Muslim regional leaders opposed the Partition. These included the Unionist Party's Hayat Tiwana, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind's

students of Aligarh Muslim University to act as vanguard of the Pakistan Movement. In the NWFP, the League's message was popularized through the referendum in 1947, where the population overwhelmingly voted to join Pakistan.

biased. Strategic Muslim-majority areas, such as Gurdaspur district in Punjab were unjustly awarded to India, providing it a direct land route to Kashmir. While the Quaid was deeply disappointed by such injustices, he chose a path of constitutional responsibility over violent resistance. Recognizing that any delay or armed conflict could jeopardize Pakistan's

and 17.5% for Pakistan, this wasn't followed. As Pakistan didn't have its own currency: out of Indian Rupees 4 billion cash balance held by the Reserve Bank of India; Pakistan's share was 750 million, but it only received Rs. 200 million, while the rest was withheld by India. Unlike India, which inherited New Delhi as its capital, Pakistan had to build one from scratch at Karachi. Because British India's industrial hubs were concentrated in central and southern regions, Pakistan inherited only 4% of industries (34 out of 921). Though East Pakistan produced roughly 75% of the world's raw jute in 1947, no jute mills were located there and none were relocated from India. Pakistan was allocated one-third of military stores and equipment, but it received only a fraction of its heavy equipment share. Besides, most equipment, sent by rail from warehouses in India was delayed intentionally or intercepted and the ones received comprised obsolete, damaged, and unserviceable scrap. Further, British India possessed 16 military ordnance factories, that were kept by India. Pakistan inherited none. Sixth; A harrowing humanitarian disaster was triggered by the Partition, due to brutal murders of millions of Muslims across Punjab and Bengal, and mass migrations

of mostly penniless, hungry and severely traumatized Muslim refugees, pouring into Pakistan. These people needed immediate food, shelter, and medical care. Pakistan didn't possess the resources to deal with all this. The Quaid's health was failing, but he set up a Refugee Fund and made passionate appeals to the citizens of Pakistan for donations, who showed unmatched magnanimity and hospitality to manage the disasters and maintain public order. We earned independence and secured the nascent state from collapse through the indomitable will, unyielding resolve, selfless devotion, exemplary character, rectitude and charismatic leadership of our founding fathers, supported by the sacrifice and resilience of our ancestors. Their endeavors altered the course of history, modified the world map and created a nation-state. This achievement stands as a compelling testament to a vivid manifestation of how foundational ideas are transformed into tangible reality. Preserving this historic milestone and marvel, with our collective consciousness will illuminate the path toward our enduring unity, peace, and national prosperity. The writer is former president NDU



Congress tried to bypass the ML in forming an interim government after the 1946 elections. The Quaid called for "Direct Action Day" on August 16 that year, to peacefully demonstrate the strength and determination of the Muslims. These gatherings were attacked by the INC, resulting in widespread violent clashes. This convinced the British, that a peaceful, united India

Maulana Madani, Khaksar Tehrik's Allama Mashriqi, Sindh United Party's AB Soomro, and the pro-Congress Ghaffar Khan in the NWFP. But the Quaid revolutionized the ML structure and organization, by launching extensive grassroots campaigns to appeal to students, women, and the working class. He successfully co-opted most of the regional leaders and mobilized the Muslim

By framing the struggle as a fight for survival, a fragmented community was united under a single banner. Fourth; The partition brought about the challenge of drawing borders, by the Punjab and Bengal Boundary Commissions, headed by Radcliffe. The demarcation was based on Muslim and non-Muslim majorities; however, the final Radcliffe Award was deeply flawed and highly

independence, he accepted the flawed Award under protest and advised the nation to focus on consolidating the new-born state and prioritizing national survival over territorial disputes. Five; Upon its inception, Pakistan faced immediate security, administrative and economic crises. While the overall allocation of assets between India and Pakistan was fixed at 82.5% for the former

PAK-ARAB REFINERY LIMITED
A Pakistan-Abu Dhabi Joint Venture

POWERING INDEPENDENCE. FUELING PROGRESS.

As Pakistan celebrates another year of independence, PARCO renews its commitment to delivering energy that supports growth, empowers communities, and helps build a more prosperous tomorrow.

PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
BUILDING THE NATION
SECURING THE NATION
TRANSFORMING THE NATION

PAEC powers the nation with **6** Nuclear Power Plants providing over **3500MW** of dependable, low-cost, and carbon-free energy.

PAEC operates **21** Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals providing care to **80%** of Pakistan's cancer patients in every region of the country.

PAEC educates future scientists, engineers, and technologists through PIEAS University, HR Institutes, and 24 schools.

PAEC is a trusted manufacturer of heavy and complex components and industrial systems.

PAEC's **4** Nuclear Agriculture Centers have improved farming by introducing over **160** new crop varieties.

Committed to Serve the Nation





A punny person passed a painful path for Pakistan

Nighat Leghari

SAD enough that dreadful deeds of its dominating dewelers brought downfall to the dream sequence of a determined soul. Holding a sheet of a cardboard against the oil lamp to shield the light of the other members of the family from the light of the lamp, an underweight slim boy with powerful shining eyes, which can be termed as "twin lamps of the truth" is sitting against the study table in the small village of Paneli in India. He feels a different object in his mind, something bigger, something more ambitious and a world of his own vision. He wants to occupy the place, which was unique. His

Bombay Bar. He was considered an authority on question about law. He earned a rapid reputation. When as a lawyer he would appear in the courts, to the utter surprise of all, he remembered his full case by heart but his every word was to be weighed before it was uttered. His legal wisdom, courage and devotion made him prosperous very soon. There are many interesting stories with reference to his practice period. A well-known businessman who had a series of charges against him went to Mohammad Ali and asked him how much it would cost him to take up his case. Jinnah bluntly answered, Five hundred rupees a day. The businessman said, but I have only five thousand rupees with me, will you accept it to cover the whole of your fees. Jinnah accepted the amount in lump sum. Jinnah won the case within three days and kept with him only rupees fifteen hundred as it was decided



all their wealth and brains against Jinnah and all British officialdom was against him, even most of his close colleagues were unsupportive of him. His disease was making him shockingly weak but no sooner he felt a bit better he would run to his working desk. He was seriously ill but he knew that his bad health will put a home to his supreme cause,

result his diseases gradually crumbled all his inner system. He worked round-the-clock but no one saw him dozing or yawning on

“*Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's extraordinary determination, integrity and sacrifice made Pakistan possible, while his vision of democracy, equality, justice and accountable governance remains an unfinished national responsibility.*

the working desk, he always seemed attentive and alert even on the ailing bed. He led a saintly life and never liked hypocrisy, if he didn't want to do one thing he never did it for any reason such as ostentation or to win over the people. He proved himself an iron man, and underwent a long difficult path filled with thorns with ailing feet but never tottering, never shaking and with no

the nation. While assuming the office of Governor General he said, "That Pakistan which I envision will have democratic system based on consciousness and righteousness of its rulers. It is my belief that our salvation lies in adopting the true

democratic setup, our decisions in the affairs of the state shall be guided by the discussions and consultations. The activities of the rulers must be monitored to his men; it will bring good effect to the conditions of the people. He said,

"Pakistan will have no discriminatory status for any individual or group, no one will enjoy any special privileges, all citizens shall be equal rights, I will never like any exploitation of poor, bureaucrats shall take themselves as the servants of the people of Pakistan".



mind is one of the most active. He feels even when he was a boy that he has got nothing in common with common man. His every action marked him out from other boys. He started his education and in the tender age of sixteen he left for England. He spent more and more time in the British museum reading and studying the lives of great men. He passed his Bar-at-Law with distinction and he was the youngest Indian student ever to be called to the Bar. Now he had been grown up to a tall boy with heavy lips and powerful eyes. He came to Bombay and enrolled himself as a barrister in high court. Everyday he went round the courts in search of cash but in the evening he would return to his room without earning any money. But neither he was disappointed nor he gave up his struggle. He had full confidence of his determination and firmness. He always chose difficult path of honour. This puny person knew his inner strength and word impossible was alien for him. Soon this graceful, charming and well dressed barrister was noticed by the high society. Within no time he occupied a very strong position at the

beforehand and gave him back the remaining amount. He considered his work in the legislature as a moral obligation and not as a stepping stone to personal glory. He was a trusted lawyer for Muslim and Hindu clients alike. Throughout his career as barrister he remained incredibly honest. He worked for fourteen hours. He was usually taken as a fashionable Europeanized person who hardly knew about the religion but those who were close to him describe him as a practical religious man. On one occasion he himself said that Muhammad (PBUH) was a messenger of God and I am the messenger of Muhammad (PBUH) and want to give a separate state to the Muslims to practice Muhammadism liberally. He worked miracles with his ailing figure. He was very strict in discipline and orderliness. Quaid's relation with his staff was very friendly. He was, no doubt, an exacting master but the men who worked with him were devoted to him, some of them were tentalised with his quiet nature but they never disobeyed him. He was a cold and reserve person but most favourable. Hindus used

he constantly concealed his disease with the

abad
Association of Builders And Developers of Pakistan

79th Independence Anniversary

ABAD House, ST-1/D, Block-16, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi-75290, Pakistan.
UAN: 111-11-ABAD (2223), FAX: +92 (21) 34613648, Email: info@abad.com.pk, Website: www.abad.com.pk

THE SIGNATURE THAT GAVE US FREEDOM.

Celebrating Pakistan's Independence with pride and purpose.
Advancing maritime excellence for a stronger tomorrow.

Rear Admiral Syed Moazzam Ilyas
HI (M) (Retd.) Chairman Port Qasim Authority

M. Junaid Anwar Chaudhry
Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs

[/company/port-qasim-authority](#) [/portqasimauthority](#) [/QasimPort](#) [/portqasimauthority](#)

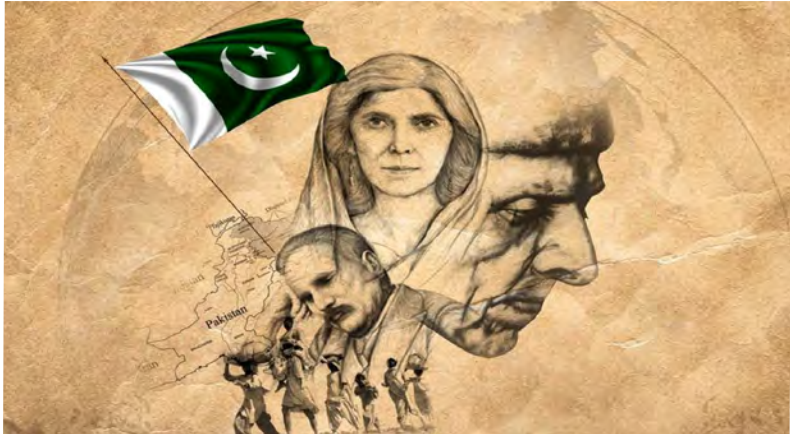


From the dawn of freedom to the frontiers of the future

Izmi Herlani
PAKISTAN'S Independence Day is not merely an annual ritual of flags and parades; it is a reaffirmation of a promise, the promise that this nation will remain Secure, Sovereign and Second to None in the defence of its skies and its destiny. In our era, that promise finds its sharpest expression in Pakistan Air Force, whose ascendancy under the visionary leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu has transformed the green and white of the national flag into living realities of Strength, Sacrifice and Strategic maturity. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah envisioned Pakistan Air Force as “an efficient Air Force, Second to None,” a Force rooted in Discipline, Character and Professionalism rather than mere numbers or spectacle. From the early struggles of a fledgling Service to its storied heroics in 1965 and beyond, PAF has treated the Quaid’s words not as a slogan, but as an oath, a guiding principle that every generation of “Men in Blue” must earn afresh in the crucible of operations. On Independence Day, when the Pakistani flag ascends the mast, that oath is renewed and today it is

embodied with exceptional clarity in the leadership philosophy of ACM Sidhu. His assumption of command in 2021 was not a routine transition, but the beginning of a doctrinal and technological renaissance. In a volatile regional environment, he charted a deliberate strategic choice: PAF would no longer chase prestige platforms for headlines; it would build war-winning capabilities, integrated across Land, Air, Space, Cyber and the Electromagnetic Spectrum. Under his leadership, the Force shifted from platform-centric thinking to Kill Chain-centric doctrine, the ability to Find, Fix, Track, Target, Engage and Assess across multiple domains with Speed, Precision and Coherence. Radars, AEW&C platforms, fighter aircraft, UAVs, UCAVs, ground-based air defences and long-range strike assets have been fused into a single, intelligent system designed to See First, Decide First and Strike First. The leadership renaissance did not merely modernize hardware; it recalibrated mindset, making PAF a Multi-Domain Air Force that understands the character of 21st century warfare and is prepared to stay ahead of it. Today, Pakistan

commands a formidable fleet of modern combat aircraft including JF-17 Thunder Block III, F-16 variants and the newly inducted J-10C fighters,



backed by advanced munitions including long-range Air-to-Air missiles, hypersonic weapons and precision strike warheads. In the near future PAF is poised to operate multiple fifth-generation platforms including the indigenous stealth program, PFX, ushering in an era of doctrinal flexibility and stealth-enabled deterrence. Yet, numbers alone do not define dominance. PAF has invested heavily in Force Multipliers, specialized Electronic Warfare platforms, space and cyber capabilities binding Air, Ground, Naval and digital battle space into a unified Kill Chain. The integration of UAVs and UCAVs including MALE/HALE

systems, loitering munitions and Manned-Unmanned teaming concepts has expanded the battle space, enabling persistent ISR, standoff

but determined to stand on its own feet. PAF’s operational maturity was visible in Operation Swift Retort, when enemy

analysts as one of the longest and most intense Beyond-Visual-Range air battles of the 21st century. Engaging through a fully integrated Kill Chain, PAF J-10C and JF-17 Block III fighters networked with AEW&C platforms and supported by ground and space-based sensors, established structured dominance over the battlespace, executing Kinetic Operations that resulted in the downing of 04 x Rafales, 01 x MiG-29, 01 x Mirage 2000, 01 x Su-30MKI and a multimillion dollar UAV, all without sustaining own losses. Simultaneously, the neutralization of critical components of the adversary’s S-400 system, particularly its fire-control radars, underscored the vulnerability of even advanced air defence networks when confronted with a coherent, indigenous operational architecture. The defining feature of the conflict, however, lay beyond attrition metrics, reflecting a mature application of Multi-Domain warfare in which Kinetic and Non-Kinetic effects were seamlessly synchronized across Land, Air, Space, Cyber and the Electromagnetic Spectrum. Through the integration of drones, Electronic Warfare, AI-enabled decision support, Network-Centric Command & Control and precision strike capabilities, PAF

compressed the OODA loop, achieving decision superiority and imposing operational paralysis on the adversary. Secure, indigenous C2 systems enabled real-time data fusion and centralized orchestration, ensuring Disciplined, Lawful and Precise Application of Force, ultimately demonstrating that modern warfare is decided not by numerical strength alone but by the synergy of Cognition, Integration

“
Pakistan Air Force embodies Quaid-i-Azam’s vision of an Air Force second to none, combining technological innovation, operational excellence, indigenous capability and strategic restraint to safeguard Pakistan’s sovereignty.

and Strategic Resolve. Perhaps most striking was PAF’s moral posture. Despite its ability to extend the conflict and inflict deeper damage, the PAF leadership chose calibrated responses, restoring deterrence, safeguarding sovereignty and then creating space for de-escalation. The balance between operational aggressiveness

and strategic restraint is the hallmark of professional militaries and the foundation of Pakistan’s reputation as a responsible, stabilizing actor in South Asia. On every Independence Day, when the green and white flag rises against the August sky, it does so over a Pakistan that is still tested, still contested, but increasingly sure of its guardians. Under ACM Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Pakistan Air Force has evolved into a technologically resurgent, doctrinally sophisticated and morally anchored force that has redefined airpower in the region. Quaid’s vision of an Air Force “Second to None” is no longer a distant aspiration; it is a lived reality reflected in indigenization drives like NASTP, in a diversified aircraft & UAV fleet, in integrated Kill Chains & compressed OODA loops and in the capacity to impose strategic paralysis on a numerically superior foe across Land, Air, Space, Cyber and the Electromagnetic Spectrum. As the nation renews its pledge to the ideals of Unity, Faith and Discipline, PAF stands as the sharp edge of that pledge, a Force that will not allow an inch of Pakistan to be violated, that will continue to innovate and adapt and that will remain, in spirit and in capability, Second to None.

**Address by H.E. Mr. Andrey Fedorov,
Consul General of the Russian Federation in Karachi**



ON THE OCCASION OF THE 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE

Dear friends,
I forward to you my warmest congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan Independence Day!
On August 14, Pakistani nation celebrates the 79th anniversary of Independence. The creation of a sovereign Islamic Republic in the Indian Subcontinent was possible thanks to the brilliant vision and political genius of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. His contribution was so inspirational that despite many difficulties and struggles of the first years Pakistan has been able to develop and become resilient to challenges and even more independent. People of Pakistan cherish the legacy and progressive views of Quaid-e-Azam and work tirelessly for the brightest future of the nation which is the sincerest manifestation of the love to Motherland!
Today, Pakistani people are proud of their country not without a good reason. Pakistan has become one of the key players in the region with a crucially important strategic position in today’s geopolitical landscape and a major voice in the Islamic World. It has a brave army – a pride of the nation. Many Pakistani scientists, sportsmen and activists made great contributions to the country’s progress and glory as well. Pakistani culture, cuisine, historical landmarks such as Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa and Derawar Fort and natural sights are famous in the whole world and attract tourists from around the globe. The country enjoys a huge potential for investment and economic growth with a very young population. While interacting with many Pakistani students, I realized how smart and talented they are, and it makes me believe that a brilliant future with even more achievements is awaiting Pakistan!
Throughout the whole history of Pakistan’s independence, our nations have been working constructively to develop cooperation in all areas, from trade, economic and industrial partnership to cultural, educational and humanitarian ties. Our countries share the same values in the field of global politics, respecting the international law based on the UN Charter and resisting manifestations of neo-colonialism and genocidal practices. The high level of contacts over the past years once again demonstrates the attention that our leaders pay to these relations. What is more, this year Pakistan is set to assume the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation’s Council of Heads of State, an important institution both our nations are members of. I believe it might be yet another wonderful opportunity for Pakistan to demonstrate its political capabilities and strengthen our friendly ties. Overall, Russia-Pakistan cooperation has been strengthening extremely rapidly, and I hope that it will continue to follow this trend. I am confident that our efforts will make a significant contribution to the development and prosperity of both Russia and Pakistan!
I wish you all resilience, success and happiness on the occasion of Pakistan Independence Day!
Pakistan Zindabad!



14 August 2026 -day of celebration -Pakistan at cross road



Tariq Aqil

PAKISTAN gained independence status on 14th August 1947 and on 14th August 2026 we celebrate seventy nine years of our independence. The story of 14th August 1947 is a story full of trials and tribulations shaped by decades of political struggle. The demand for a separate homeland became a reality through the Pakistan Movement led by the All India Muslim League under the leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah. A defining Moment came on 23rd March 1940 when the Pakistan Resolution was passed at the Minto Park in Lahore that called for independent states in Muslim Majority areas of North Western and Eastern British India. In February 1947, the British Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced that Britain would grant full self-

governance to British India by June 1948 at the latest. On 3 June 1947, the British government confirmed that the principle of partition into two independent dominions had been accepted. The Indian Independence Act, passed by the British Parliament, formally set the transfer of power in motion and brought the British Raj to an end at the stroke of midnight. Mohammed Ali Jinnah took the oath of office as the Governor General on 14th August and India became independent on 15th August and hence the two neighbours, former British colonies, celebrate their independence days on 14th and 15th of August. Over the last eight decades Pakistan has faced its share of trials and tribulations in the form of manmade and natural disasters such as wars, political upheavals, economic dilemmas and security problems. In the political arena Pakistan has been plagued by direct military interventions and prolonged military rule such as in 1958, 1969, 1976 and 1999 when democracy was derailed and military dictatorships established. In the early days the country was governed without a written

Constitution. The first Constituent Assembly

armed forces prevented long-term policy making.

political side of Pakistan and has resulted in major

following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan



took nine long years to pass the first Constitution in 1956 which was abrogated in 1958 and then came the 1962 Constitution Of Ayub Khan subsequently abrogated in 1969 until finally the 1973 Constitution was passed which has survived so far. Pakistan faced the biggest crisis of its short life in 1971 when due to deep political, linguistic and economic reasons, the Eastern Wing of the country ceded from West Pakistan to become the independent state of Bangladesh. Unfortunately deep friction between political parties, civil bureaucracies and the

The country was saddled with a purely agricultural economy with practically no industrial base in 1947 that resulted in heavy reliance on foreign help and international loans creating a crippling debt burden. The tax to GDP ratio even today is woefully low. Persistent structural failures to broaden the tax base has resulted in acute fiscal deficits and increasing public debt burden. Very frequent macroeconomic shocks, high inflation and decreasing foreign exchange reserves have pushed the country many times to the balance of payment crises. The Kashmir issue has been the biggest thorn in the

wars and many border skirmishes with India resulting in very high

“

Pakistan's 79-year journey reflects remarkable resilience and achievements despite political instability, economic crises, security challenges, institutional weaknesses, demographic pressures and climate shocks that continue to test its

defense expenditure and diverted public sector funds. Geopolitical fallout from regional conflicts, particularly

and the post-9/11 War on Terror, triggered waves of domestic extremism and sectarian violence. So far over 90000 people lost their lives due to attacks by the forces of religious fanaticism and there appears to be no end to this wave of terrorism and sectarian violence. During the past decades Pakistan has faced the acute problems of sky rocketing food prices and energy along with heavy debt burdens. There has been limited job creation for a fast growing young workforce that has led to financial worries for many families. Some major worries encountered during the

past are poverty and inequality because millions live below or near the poverty line struggling with basic needs like food, clean water and medical care. Very high illiteracy rates and poor educational facilities have limited social mobility and economic progress the phenomenal growth of population has put a very heavy strain on national resources, public services and infrastructure. A lack of stable jobs leaves a massive youth demographic underutilized and economically vulnerable. Corruption has been the malignant tumor that has seeped into all institutions and the cancer of corruption is now destroying the basic fabric of the nation. Animosity and friction between the major political groups, weak national institutions and shifting leadership disrupt long term planning and the wide spread corruption along with inconsistent policies make it hard to attract foreign investments. Militancy and security risks threaten internal safety as well as major international projects. Over the past eight decades Pakistan has become a major victim of climate change,

extreme weather events, floods, landslides and melting glaciers have put a heavy strain on the fragile economy of the country. Despite these challenges, Pakistan has also recorded significant achievements during its 79-year journey. It developed a nuclear capability despite immense international pressure, built an industrial and infrastructure base from a largely agrarian economy, made notable advances in science, technology and higher education and played an important role in regional and international diplomacy, including its recent contribution to the US-Iran peace process. The 1973 Constitution, despite repeated suspensions, abrogations and major amendments, remains the country's fundamental constitutional framework. Pakistan has also demonstrated considerable resilience in confronting wars, terrorism, natural disasters and economic crises. These achievements, however, need to be viewed alongside the serious political, economic and institutional weaknesses that continue to constrain the country's progress.



جشن آزادی مبارک

جہاں صائمہ... وہاں معیار

14TH

AUGUST

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Saima

ACE AVENUE

3, 4 & 5 ROOMS APARTMENTS



MODERN LIVING



PREMIUM AMENITIES



SECURE ENVIRONMENT



PRIME LOCATION



UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF

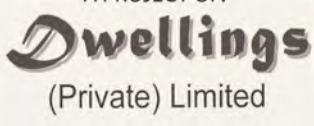


ZEESHAN SALEEM ZAKI GROUP

FOR BOOKING & DETAILS

0322 0472575
0322 0472576

A PROJECT OF:



Dwellings (Private) Limited

www.saimabuilders.net

facebook.com/SaimaGroup

GFS NPC



CBD PUNJAB CONTINUES TO MOVE PAKISTAN ONWARD AND UPWARD



ADDING TO THE RISE

A nation does not rise through ambition alone. It rises when ambition takes shape, when roads open new possibilities, infrastructure enables progress, businesses find the confidence to invest, and cities are planned not only for today, but for generations to come.

On Pakistan's 79th Independence Day, CBD Punjab celebrates its contribution to a larger national purpose: Adding to the Rise of Pakistan. Through visionary planning, engineering excellence, and transparent governance, CBD Punjab is creating an investment-ready ecosystem where infrastructure, innovation, and industry converge to unlock new opportunities for the nation.

ADDING RISE TO THE NUMBERS: IMPACT AT A GLANCE

PKR 120+ BILLION

Private & Corporate Investment Attracted

PKR 40+ BILLION

Invested in Core Public Infrastructure

PKR 70 BILLION

Capital Mobilized in CBD NSIT City

USD 2.3 BILLION

Estimated Valuation of Strategic Joint Venture Al Watani

150,000+

Direct and Indirect Jobs Created across Multiple Sectors

ENGINEERING PROGRESS & URBAN MOBILITY



A modern economy relies on efficient connectivity. CBD Punjab's infrastructure-first philosophy is demonstrated in the 4.5km CBD Route 47, featuring a dedicated 2.5km cycling track, smart traffic controls, and climate-resilient drainage systems. Coupled with the comprehensive remodeling of Walton Road, the transformation of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Flyover, the newly constructed Major Ishaq Shaheed Flyover, and the solar-powered Walton Railway Crossing Flyover, these major arteries keep Lahore moving seamlessly.

Demonstrating world-class planning standards, CBD Quaid District and CBD Bab District achieved Pakistan's first LEED for Communities Gold Precertification, bringing climate-resilient, eco-friendly standards to the nation's premier business districts.



CBD NSIT CITY: BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY



Spanning 800 acres, CBD NSIT City serves as Pakistan's first and largest purpose-built IT City. Anchored by an STZA-approved Silicon Block, the district houses smart infrastructure including the Celestia IT & Office Tower. This dedicated technology ecosystem provides local startups, researchers, and global tech firms with the regulatory and physical infrastructure needed to compete in the digital age.

THE AL WATANI INITIATIVE: A USD 2.3 BILLION GATEWAY

Standing as a premier benchmark of public-private partnership, the Al Watani Project represents a landmark Joint Venture structured at an estimated value of USD 2.3 billion. Designed as a multi-use mega district, Al Watani serves as a major foreign investment gateway that will catalyze construction, retail, hospitality, and tech operations while generating bulk high-value employment across the nation.

SHAPING LAHORE'S SKYLINE & COMMERCIAL HUB

CBD Punjab's commercial model has unlocked new avenues for private sector growth. Key developments such as Corporate Bay, RetailX, Business Bay, Azalea, Axis, and the premium landmark, The Regalia, are defining Lahore's high-rise future. Meanwhile, CBD Walk has emerged as a landmark retail and fine-dining destination, attracting PKR 6.5 billion in market investment alone.

EXPANDING HORIZONS ACROSS PUNJAB

CBD Punjab's success story is no longer confined to Lahore. With the launch of CBD Potohar soon, its vision is expanding across Punjab, carrying the same proven framework of planned growth, investment and urban transformation to Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Multan and Bahawalpur.

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT: PAKISTAN ON THE WORLD STAGE

CBD Punjab is positioning Pakistan as a compelling destination for global capital and sustainable urban leadership. Flagship developments, most notably CBD NSIT City, the University District, and high-rise commercial sectors, are drawing strong foreign direct investment interest and attracting global tech, educational, and corporate partners. From showcasing climate-responsive infrastructure at global platforms like the World Urban Forum (WUF13) and COP sustainability dialogues to hosting high-level international investor delegations, CBD Punjab continues to benchmark local urban development against world-class standards.

POWERED BY OUR PEOPLE: PROFESSIONALS ADDING TO THE RISE

Behind every vertical project, digital blueprint, and flyover is Pakistan's greatest asset: its human talent. CBD Punjab is empowering a new generation of locale engineers, architects, IT specialists, financial experts, construction workers, and hospitality teams. By giving these dedicated professionals the canvas to execute world-class projects, CBD Punjab is building deep domestic expertise that drives the nation forward.

OUR COMMITMENT TO PAKISTAN

- 01 QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE**
Engineered to global standards for long-term reliability
- 02 SUSTAINABILITY FIRST**
Integrating renewable energy, smart mobility, and green certifications
- 03 TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE**
Offering institutional credibility and investor confidence

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

As Pakistan steps into tomorrow, CBD Punjab remains committed to expanding economic access, pioneering green infrastructure, and creating investment-ready hubs across the country. By building resilient districts today, the Authority is establishing a sustainable, prosperous, and self-reliant legacy for generations to come.

CBD Punjab is Adding to the Rise by Expanding Economic Access and Creating a Prosperous Legacy for Future Generations.



**ONWARD
&
UPWARD
PAKISTAN**

CBD PUNJAB ADDING TO THE RISE

By taking Punjab Onward & Upward,
creating impact today and building a legacy
for generations to come.

Every contribution takes Pakistan forward

PAKISTAN RISES WHEN WE ALL ADD TO THE RISE

SPL-860



**Punjab Central Business District
Development Authority
Government of the Punjab**

FOR MORE INFORMATION SCAN THE CODE
www.cbdpunjab.gov.pk
For details call
UAN: 0331-111-1063





14 August 2026 -day of celebration -Pakistan at cross road



Tariq Khalil

14 August 1947 - Reemergence of Muslim rule in subcontinent since 1857. Muslims in united India would have been perpetually under Hindu slavery and dominance (Jinnah 1938 Muslim Annual General Meeting at Calcutta). It is almost over 79 years now and Pakistan has been prospering and getting strengthened in spite of all the turmoils and agony. Pakistan today is standing in the pivotal role, crossroad of Geo Strategic change involving America and the West on one side and South Block on the other side. 79 years is not a long time but in these eight decades scores of countries, much more powerful and stable and economically better, fell and got fractured. Soviet Union and many countries in Europe and in Africa stand dismembered. Pakistan has been subject to conspiracies and enmity, out right arson, geo strategic economic pressures and aggression across international borders from India and globally.

Post partition, Pakistan was engulfed in the Kashmir war, killing of almost a million Muslims during partition, exodus of almost 20 million refugees' largest migration in history, not releasing Pakistani assets a few examples. There have been internal and external threats since partition, funding nationalism and sub nationalism, and of course exploitation of all fault lines in Pakistan. Four million refugees from Afghanistan in consequence of internal disorder, post 1979 Iranian revolution another over million from Iran migrated. Causing economic and social pressures, Pakistan also remains in the grip of perpetual terrorism. Terrorism impacted Pakistan in multi dimensions. Objective and character kept changing but the masters who orchestrated remain the same. In the follow up of Afghan war Pakistan problems have been multiplied due dramatic geo strategic changes in South Asia the past year-as well as globally. The political and strategic spectrum altered regional and global strategic balance, military and in economy. Break up of Soviet Union created ripples and Pakistan is severely affected. Pakistani nation not only faced the turmoil, bore hardships but survived all odds. There are opportunities as well as

dangers in the follow-up of changes occurring globally and specially in South Asia, Middle East and central Asia. Pakistan is in the eye of storm Pakistan, struck by COVID-19, a

to the prolongation of the war and its impact on world economy due to the closure of strait of Hormuz. Pakistan has also been badly affected being the importer of oil and gas

West/ US and the South Block powers. Pakistan's efforts the mediate ever since war broke out has been hailed globally. Cease fire has been violated and broken by the

demean new elected government. There is a great scope of cooperation between the two brothers, Pakistan and Bangladesh, as I always mentioned in my earlier articles that we

doing well but they lack adequate technology resources in the far-flung areas and cohesive political support. It is necessary to re-examine dimensions of terrorist architecture operating and how to counter. The traditional methods will not work. The terrorist is no more a proxy but a strategic tool in the hands of those powers who are against Pakistan for obvious reasons. This call for a cohesive integrated National strategy, a new Defence counter intelligence architecture, and involvement of the locals not only in the affairs of their own governance but also to provide them resources for fortresses, and strength to counter terrorist activity. Notwithstanding the fact that there are elements in Pakistan who oppose any military action not realising that the ground realities have totally changed. Whether we like it or not, Baluchistan is a hot bed of great power game due to its geography. The denial is self deception. Therefore a very elaborate, three-dimensional approach will be required. It is diplomatic, and friendship with India to cool down their support, empowerment of local governments and town and cities spread in Baluchistan. Post Operation Bunnan annul Masroor Pakistan established its conventional war capability and Indian bluff of nuclear threat. Pakistan diplomatically proved the superiority. It is a major change in the strategic milieu in the region and its impact globally. The reverses have not been accepted by The BJP government and their threats and subversion are not only continuing but has been further increased. Pakistan has its own political mistakes, India and Isreal nexus is benefiting from this political disorder. The uncertainty is creating a negative impact on the psychology of the people of the Pakistan. It needs to be therefore immediately tackled, is important for Pakistan. World Bank and IMF are the strategic tools of US and Western powers to keep those countries in line who try to disobey. Sovereignty is linked with economy. There cannot be a strong military without good economy and they cannot be a good diplomacy without military. Therefore, Pakistan must quickly put its house in order. On the global chessboard even if some agreement is reached between USA and Iran, Israel will continue to put spanners. The vibes coming out of Israel with Defence and their strategic think tanks, Turkey is increasing their influence in Syria and may

also impact Lebanon. It is considered a serious threat by Israel. Therefore in overall probability Turkey will be the next theatre of war. In that case the conflict is likely to be global since Turkey member of NATO and it will also a test case on European community. Similarly, Pakistan remains a target through proxies operated and founded by India and other interested. There are no chance Indians will change their policy in spite of the reverses they have suffered both kinetically and diplomatically. There are some muted voices in India, that no progress can be made in subcontinent unless peace between India and Pakistan. To my assessment the chances are slim as long as Modi government is in power. In these four years Pakistan's economic woos have increased due to certain fundamental economic approach. First unbridled government expenses, wasting money on optic projects, continued taxation and not sorting the IPP issue. In the last three budgets there has been no indication that any such plan is being implemented, to upgrade transmission transmission lines and make best use of IPP. On the contrary customers are being charged almost 3 to 400 times of the actual electric consumption. Result, Pakistanis Industry is virtually at a grinding halt. The issue of Indus Basin water Treaty is likely to create ripples if not resolved, it can lead to water war. Pakistan's young generation is an asset and needs to be educated and for the future responsibilities. There have been some positive improvements in defence capability and diplomacy. Bangladesh Pakistan reproach needs to be strengthened. In 1986 an effort was made to move towards confederation, India got wind of it and it was scuttled. Pakistan should move steadily with political will. Create visa free travel environment and tax-free trade. This could be followed by Bangladesh Pakistan strengthening in free trade. Such measures will bring confidence between the two countries. To conclude 14 August is also the Independence Day of Bangladesh. The author is decorated Brigadier Retired, with 32 years of combat experience and followed by 31 years of corporate experience in top companies of Pakistan. Writer, researcher and TV Analyst, member Executive Committee Karachi Editors Club and many other Social and economic forums tariqkhalil21@gmail.com



global epidemic which has impacted the world economy, globally loss of lives, jobs and trillions of dollars. While Gaza burns, joint US Israel attack on Iran unleashed, the first 12-day war was lethal but Iran responded with ferocity forcing US and Isreal to go for cease fire. In this Pakistanis role in diplomacy has been instrumental. The Planners in Washington and Tel Aviv had envisioned a quick victory after elimination of the almost all top hierarchy of the Iranian, it failed. The world is now suffering due

from the Gulf region and Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, Pakistan leadership stepped forward and against very heavy odds, commenced efforts to mediate, to stop the war. Pakistan is in a unique position, the only country trusted by both the parties. Pakistan has direct contact with IRGC leadership, and enjoy trust of Mr Trump. Pakistan, powerful conventional but modern army backed by nuclear arsenal, no other country can take place this task. It is very delicate and dangerous role since there are pressures on Pakistan from multi directions,

United States under Israeli pressure, Iran sustained, in the follow up, almost 3 weeks of sustained bombing from United States displaying resilience of the Iranian nation. Iran counter attacked the bases in the gulf countries not only got smashed but also inflicted heavy punishment on the economy of Gulf states especially Dubai. The architecture of American bases in gulf states around Iran stand collapsed. These bases are the magnet for counter attack by Iran. Technically, legally the bases are considered American territory. Pakistan is also affected due to large number of Pakistani expatriates. The monumental Defence agreement with Saudi Arabia, now enlarged with inclusion of Turkey, has also been one of the reasons of the coolness of the gulf states. It is a trilateral strategic and defence architecture and it will be wrong to call it Islamic NATO. Gulf states relationship with Israel also impacted the regional security environment. American pressures on Saudi Arabia to sign Abraham record in exchange of nuclear research facility is now in limbo. The trilateral agreement is a major force multiplier for all three countries. Notwithstanding there are critics who spin their own views to criticise. Saudi Arabia will not sign Abraham accord due to expected backlash from the people of Saudi Arabia as well as the Muslim world, Saudi being the guardians of Macca and Medina. Pakistan is continuing its effort to restart the mediation to stop the war and also Gulf countries are pressing Washington to stop raids due to Irani response and diplomacy be given chance. Regionally, South Asia, departure of fascist government of Husina Wajid has been a welcome strategic change. The balance of power in the subcontinent has shifted. RAW has been running the Husina's government from its strong hold Dhaka last over 12 years, perpetuating terror on the people of Bangladesh especially Jamat Islami. Illegal international trial and hanging the members of Jamat Islami will go down in the history as a dark chapter in Bangladesh. The change has brought Bangladesh and Pakistan closer both economically, strategically in Defence cooperation. Further that China is extending development to the new government is a security architecture. RAW is continuing its effort to

did fight on the property but the fact remains we remain brothers. This slogan has been echoed by Bangladesh Television now. The contribution of the Bengali people in the creation of Pakistan cannot be underestimated. Two nations but one body declared by Bangladesh minister during Pakistan's visit last month. However, Pakistan needs to extend it hand further because of its size and strategic requirements. Collapse of Ashraf Ghani government in Afghanistan, and withdrawal of United States troops enabled the Taliban to take control of the country. In this arrangement Pakistan's has been pivotal in getting DOHA accord for the United States. However, in the last three years Talban perpetuated and supported the terrorism and all those organisations on Afghan soil are being sheltered and supported. It violates the Doha agreement, and continue to support those elements which are operating against Pakistan. India stepping in and kinetic support of Israel as further complicated the Afghan quagmire. Afghanistan in the present dispensation a serious threat to the neighbouring. The philosophy of negotiation is a preferable choice; the ground realities today has undergone sea change. Dozens of terrorist organisations operating in the Afghan territory with different masters. The space for negotiation gets narrowed, the state has to take difficult and bold decisions. The punishment which Pakistan Defence forces inflicted on the terrorists within Afghanistan has its impact. However, there is unending funding to these organisations from India and some other countries. Technology based terrorism against Pakistan is the new phenomena. Pakistan intelligence agencies and others law enforcement are

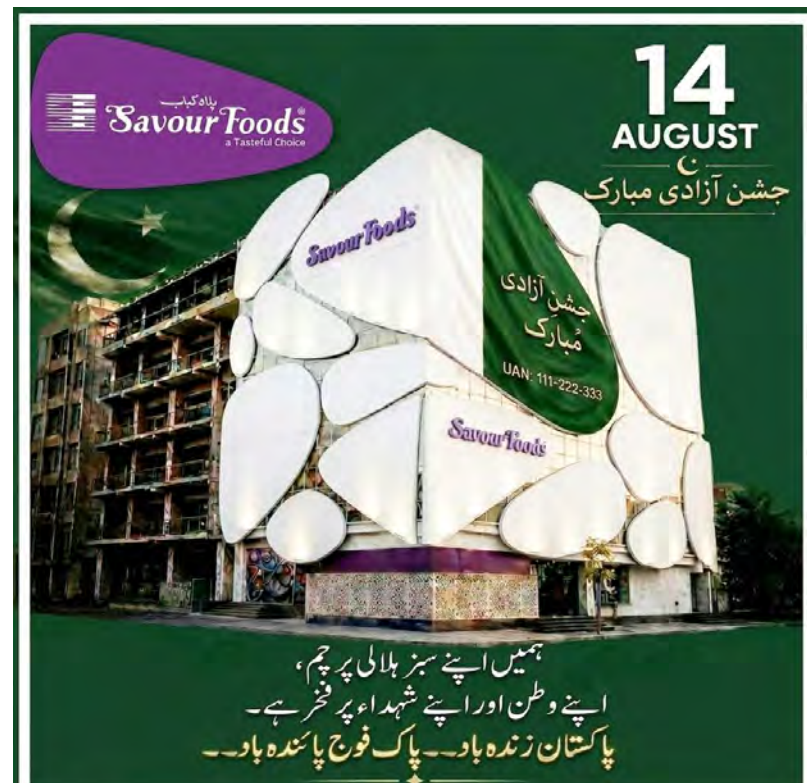



Freedom
PEACE AND PROSPERITY
LONG LIVE PAKISTAN

**Pakistan
OBSERVER**



   pakobserver  Pakistan Observer  www.pakobserver.net
 PakistanObserverofficial  Pakistan observer Podcast
 @pakistanobserverofficial





Quaid-i-Azam vision of Pakistan's political culture



Dr. A. Z. Hilali

QUAID-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founding father of Pakistan, was a towering personality, transformative statesman, indispensable and dynamic leader, best known for his remarkable role as the architect of Pakistan. He had sophisticated intelligence, an encyclopedic erudition and a profound philosophical frame of mind. He was a deeply paradoxical figure in democratic history and a champion of human liberty and freedom. He dismantled institutionalized victimization, leaving a lasting legacy as a symbol of constitutionalism, the rule of law and justice. Jinnah was a gigantic South Asian icon whose

lifelong dedication to freedom and nationhood and the triumph of the

democratic culture in the country. In this situation, people normally become

values and the fundamental belief that all people have equal



human spirit, continues to inspire generations. He masterfully advocated people's democracy by emphasizing forgiveness, unity and deep compassion over retribution. In contemporary times, political culture in many developing countries, including Pakistan, often limits active people's involvement and democratic growth. This is happening due to weak institutions and colonial legacies. Political scholars agree that Pakistan's social norms, political behaviour and power structure are responsible for the weak

passive because traditional power structures, patronage and elite control dominate everyday politics. Moreover, Pakistan's political culture is linked with historical factors such as centralized power, military interventions, elite dominance and weak political institutions, which ultimately can produce an unstable democratic system. With this background, Jinnah designed Pakistan's political culture with the core ideas of the rule of law, the supremacy of the Constitution, respect for human rights, democratic

worth and natural freedoms. He believed people would regain faith in themselves and that the future setup of the government would be based on equality, transparency and social justice. He viewed democracy not as an end in itself but as a tool to eradicate poverty, social discrimination and economic inequality. He believed democracy was at a pivotal crossroads and would determine the nation's future, anchored in the principle that it is of, by and for the people. He trusted that once the

country's vanguard established a democratic culture, it could produce one of the most successful societies in the world. Jinnah categorically emphasized to the country's elites that they should continue to support democracy's bedrock values. There is no doubt that Jinnah's political vision transformed the newly independent Pakistan into a sovereign and democratic country and emphasized rapid economic progress through public-private partnerships and investment, while establishing the foundation of Pakistan's parliamentary norms and independent foreign policy. In this regard, Jinnah's most famous guidance regarding the military and democracy was delivered to officers at the Army Staff College, Quetta, on June 14, 1948. He outlined the foundational principles of civil-military relations, emphasizing that the armed forces must remain apolitical, subordinate to elected representatives and respectful of democratic governance. He stated,

“**Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah envisioned Pakistan as a constitutional democracy founded on rule of law, equality, tolerance and civilian supremacy, offering a timeless roadmap for political stability, justice and national unity.**

“Do not forget that the armed forces are the servants of the people. You do not make national policy; it is we, the civilians, who decide these issues and it is your duty to carry out these tasks with which you are entrusted.” He constantly reminded military officers of their duty to stand guard over the development and promotion of democracy, social justice and equality. He urged them to focus strictly on their professional duties to protect national security and that there was no need to become involved in politics. In this way, democracy in Pakistan functions as a foundational political culture deeply rooted in the ideals of the Constitution. It is characterized by civic participation, egalitarian values and individual liberty, while continually negotiating the balance between representative governance and ongoing social dynamics. Jinnah built the belief that genuine democracy had to nurture the human spirit, encourage participation and create conditions where people could think freely and act responsibly. He wanted people to feel involved in the task of nation-building, not merely as voters but as active participants in shaping their collective future. He believed the democratic values of liberty, equality and

fraternity are universal, while self-discipline is one pillar of Jinnah's democracy and tolerance became the foundation of his unique democratic vision. He believed a democratic society had to be inclusive, where diverse opinions, faiths and ways of life could coexist. For him,

parliamentary processes, connected with social justice and economic prosperity and deliberately rejects all forms of authoritarianism. Moreover, Jinnah emphasized constitutional checks and balances, which are vital to preventing the concentration of power

essential for long-term national stability and survival. It is Jinnah's legacy of a democratic Pakistan that remains fundamental for the country in profound ways. Ever since the attainment of freedom, Pakistan has been striving hard for the implementation of



democracy literally meant tolerance and it was this spirit of tolerance that defined his political conduct. He played a central role in envisioning Pakistan's future political culture and promoted a true democratic vision based on coexistence. He envisioned a progressive society where political dogma would sincerely guide the democratic political system through constitutional morality, liberty and rationalism. His vision of democracy is rooted in democratic

by any group or institution. Despite the views of Quaid-i-Azam, Pakistan's political culture is deeply influenced by the feudal class, wealthy elites and dynastic family networks. This system blends traditional tribal, feudal and powerful military hierarchies, often concentrating power and influence among a small, privileged group of families and industrialists. Thus, the country's elites must remember that a democratic system is

democracy and therein lies the future of the country. Thus, Jinnah's vision of a democratic Pakistan has left a lasting impression on the socio-economic and political forces and processes in the country. His ideals and goals are still considered the guiding principles for the promotion of national unity and solidarity, for which he shall be ever remembered and they remain the only way of ensuring the country's political survival. The writer is a defence and security analyst. (a.z.hilali@uop.edu.pk)

آزادی آفر

3, 4 اور 5 کمروں کے کشادہ اپارٹمنٹس

پری لانچ آفر!

اسکیم 33 کراچی

بکنگ 10 لاکھ سے شروع

5 سال کی آسان اقساط

Club House

Gymnasium

Indoor Games

Multi Purpose Hall

Children's Play Area

Jogging Track

Prayer Area

مزید معلومات کے لیے ویب سائٹ وزٹ کریں www.chapals.com/courtyard-III

0323-8222016 | 0321-8222053 | 0321-8222413

SALES & MARKETING BY **cmatrix.pk**

PAKISTAN 79 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

A LEGACY OF DISCOVERY A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES

Pakistan Petroleum Limited remains committed to discovering the energy that powers our nation and its future.

ppl.com.pk



Pakistan at 79!



Abdullah Gauhar Malik
Digital Lead and Writer
at Pakistan Observer

Seventy-nine years ago, on 14 August 1947, Pakistan emerged on the world map carrying the hopes, sacrifices and aspirations of millions. It was a country born out of an extraordinary political struggle and built, quite literally, through blood, sweat and tears. Today, as the green and white once again takes over our streets, homes and screens, Pakistan celebrates not merely another Independence Day, but 79 years of survival, resilience, achievement, disappointment and an enduring search for the promise envisioned at its birth. There is much to celebrate. In less than eight decades, Pakistan has become the first Muslim-majority nuclear-armed state, built one of the world's largest armed forces, produced Nobel

laureates, world champions, scientists, artists, entrepreneurs and humanitarians, and established itself as a country whose influence often extends far beyond what its economic weight might suggest. This is the country of K2 and the Karakoram Highway, of the Indus and the Arabian Sea, of ancient civilisations and young cities. It is the country that gave squash to Jahangir Khan, cricket to generations of global stars and javelin to Arshad Nadeem, whose journey from Mian Channu to Olympic glory became one of the most powerful recent reminders of what Pakistani talent can achieve when determination meets opportunity. Pakistan has won a Cricket World Cup, entered the nuclear age, built globally competitive industries, produced much of the world's sporting goods, contributed significantly to United Nations peacekeeping and created one of the world's most extensive traditions of private philanthropy and volunteerism. Its greatest achievement, however, may simply be its ability to endure.

Because Pakistan's 79-year story has never been a straightforward one. When I wrote a version of this article four years ago, as Pakistan celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 2022, the country was confronting a severe economic and political crisis. Inflation was squeezing households, fuel prices were climbing, the rupee was under enormous pressure and political instability had once again consumed the national conversation. Four years later, the immediate picture has changed. Pakistan is no longer standing in precisely the same economic moment. Macroeconomic indicators have shown signs of stabilisation, inflation has retreated substantially from its earlier peaks and economic activity has begun recovering. Yet stabilisation should not be mistaken for transformation. That distinction is important. Pakistan's challenge at 79 is no longer simply whether it can survive the next crisis. We have demonstrated, repeatedly, that we can. The more difficult

question is why a country with such extraordinary human, geographic and economic potential continues to find itself returning to many of the same structural problems

from the catastrophe of 1971 and the separation of East Pakistan. At 50, Pakistan was on the verge of entering the nuclear age, a historic achievement for national defence but one that

suspended and restored, political parties have alternated between power and persecution, and the relationship between civilian authority and other centres of power has

ultimately become Pakistan's greatest opportunity or its greatest challenge. A young population that is educated, skilled, healthy and economically active can

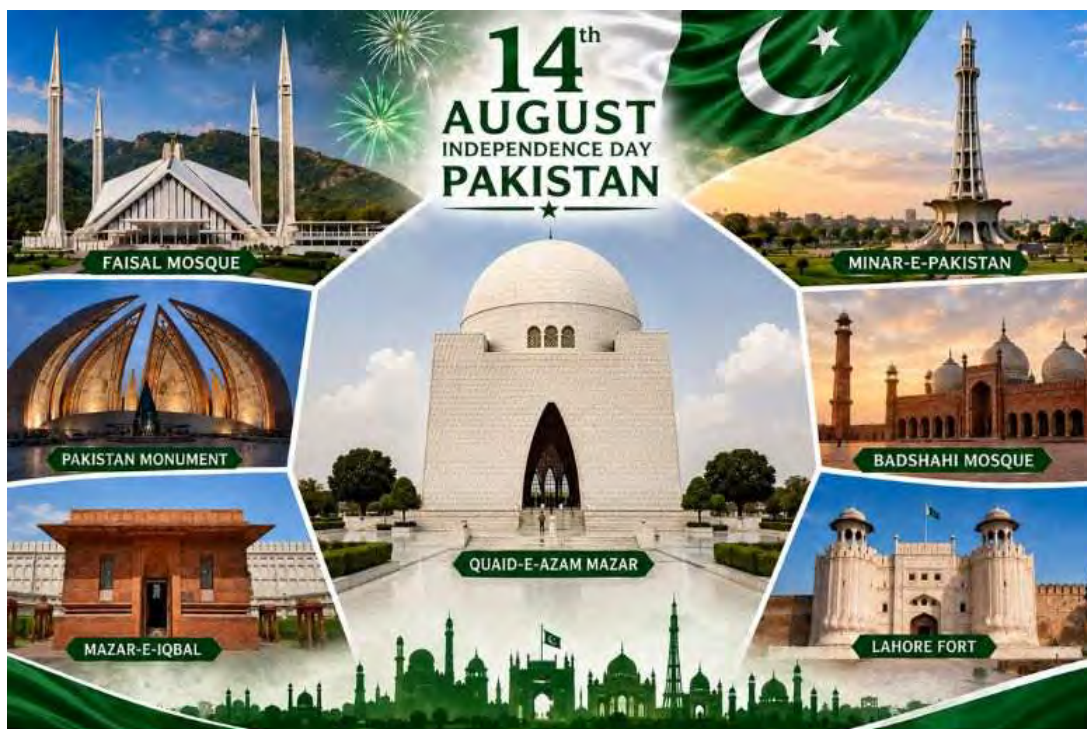
years. Education policy cannot transform a generation if it changes with every government. Investors cannot make twenty-year decisions in a system thinking twelve months ahead.

Institutions cannot mature if every political crisis threatens to rewrite the rules of the game. Pakistan's next great national project, therefore, should be consistency. Consistency in democracy. Consistency in economic policy. Consistency in education. Consistency in accountability. Consistency in the rule of law. And, above all, consistency in recognising that Pakistan belongs equally to every Pakistani.

There will understandably be flags everywhere today. There will be songs, fireworks, ceremonies and familiar declarations of Pakistan Zindabad. There should be. Independence is worth celebrating, particularly when one remembers the sacrifices through which it was achieved.

But patriotism cannot end when the flags come down on 15 August. The more meaningful expression of patriotism is to demand better from our institutions while also demanding better from ourselves. Corruption at the highest level cannot be condemned while dishonesty at the individual level is excused. Political intolerance cannot be criticised while we refuse to listen to those with whom we disagree. National progress cannot be demanded while civic responsibility is treated as someone else's job. Pakistan at 79 is neither the hopeless state its harshest critics sometimes describe nor the flawless success story that ceremonial occasions can tempt us to portray. It is something far more complicated. It is a country of extraordinary potential that has repeatedly demonstrated what it can achieve, but has yet to create the institutions and continuity necessary to make exceptional achievement ordinary. Perhaps that is why, despite everything, Pakistan continues to inspire hope.

We have survived wars, terrorism, natural disasters, political upheaval, economic crises and predictions of collapse. Again and again, Pakistan has bent without breaking. But resilience cannot remain our national development model. The goal for the years ahead cannot simply be to survive the next crisis better than the last one. The goal must be to stop creating the conditions that make those crises inevitable. As Pakistan enters its 80th year, the question is therefore not whether this country possesses potential. Seventy-nine years have provided more than enough evidence that it does. The question is whether we finally possess the collective will to turn that potential into progress. That would be an independence worth celebrating. Pakistan Zindabad.



decade after decade. It is a question that has followed Pakistan through much of its history. Our major anniversaries themselves tell a revealing story. As Pakistan approached its Silver Jubilee, the country was recovering

came amid political instability and considerable economic pressure. At 75, we found ourselves again confronting economic uncertainty, institutional confrontation and deep political polarisation. Now, at 79, perhaps the most useful way to celebrate independence is not simply to count what Pakistan has achieved, but to ask why so much of its potential remains unrealised. The answer cannot be reduced to a single government, political party, institution or generation. Pakistan's difficulties are structural and historical. From its earliest years, the country struggled with the challenge of building national cohesion across enormously diverse linguistic, ethnic, sectarian and regional identities. Islam provided the ideological foundation for Pakistan's creation, but religion alone could never substitute for the difficult work of building institutions, distributing opportunity fairly and creating a shared sense of citizenship. That challenge remains visible today. Pakistan's diversity should be one of its greatest strengths. Punjabi, Sindhi, Baloch, Pashtun, Kashmiri, Gilgiti-Baltistani and countless other identities do not weaken Pakistan by their existence. A federation becomes weaker only when citizens begin to believe that their language, province, ethnicity, gender, faith or economic position determines how much of the state belongs to them. National cohesion is therefore not achieved through slogans. It is created when people believe they have a meaningful stake in the country's future. Another problem has been the imbalance between institutions. For much of Pakistan's history, political institutions have struggled to develop with the continuity required of a functioning democracy. Governments have come and gone, constitutions have been

repeatedly shaped the country's political trajectory. The result has been a system that too often thinks in electoral cycles, political crises and emergency interventions rather than decades. Economic policy has suffered from the same short-termism. Pakistan has repeatedly relied on external assistance, borrowing and temporary relief instead of undertaking the difficult reforms required to build a genuinely productive and competitive economy. Each crisis produces another programme, another round of austerity, another promise of reform and another national conversation about exports, taxation, state-owned enterprises and energy-sector losses. Then the immediate pressure eases, and urgency fades. A country of more than 240 million people cannot permanently operate from one financial rescue to another. Pakistan must ultimately earn, produce, export, innovate and tax enough to sustain its own ambitions. That requires expanding the tax base fairly, improving productivity, investing in education and human capital, strengthening exports, modernising agriculture, reforming loss-making state institutions, providing reliable energy and creating an environment in which businesses can plan beyond the next political or economic shock. But economic reform without social reform will remain incomplete. Pakistan at 79 is also one of the youngest countries in the world demographically. Millions of young Pakistanis are entering adulthood with expectations fundamentally different from those of previous generations. They are connected to the world through their phones, exposed to global opportunities and increasingly unwilling to accept that their future should depend entirely on family background, political connections or the accident of where they were born. This generation may

transform a nation. A young population that is unemployed, frustrated and disconnected from institutions can become a source of enormous instability. The choice is ours. The same is true of women, who constitute nearly half of Pakistan's population yet remain dramatically underrepresented in large parts of the formal economy. No country can reasonably expect to compete with the world's fastest-growing economies while failing to fully utilise half of its human capital. Perhaps, then, Pakistan's next chapter must be less obsessed with demonstrating strength and more committed to building capacity. The strength of a country is not measured only by the weapons it possesses, the size of its population or the strategic importance of its geography. It is measured by the quality of its schools, the reliability of its courts, the productivity of its workers, the confidence of its investors, the safety of its citizens and the ability of an ordinary person to believe that hard work can improve his or her life. It is measured by whether institutions serve citizens rather than individuals. It is measured by whether disagreement can exist without becoming treason, whether political competition can occur without destabilising the state and whether those who hold power understand that power is temporary while institutions must endure. Four years ago, at 75, I wrote that Pakistan required reform from the top to the bottom. At 79, I would amend that argument slightly. Pakistan does not suffer from a shortage of reform proposals. We know many of the things that need to be done. Economists have written them. Policymakers have announced them. Governments of almost every political persuasion have promised them. What Pakistan lacks is continuity. No serious country can reinvent its economic direction every few




A WORLD OF WELLBEING

ROOTED IN PAKISTAN

From a free nation came an enduring commitment to care

On Independence Day
we celebrate the country that gave Hamdard Pakistan its purpose

Since 1948, that purpose has grown across
health, education, welfare and everyday care,
while remaining firmly rooted in service to Pakistan and its people

AUGUST 14, 2026

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY