

OUR MARTYRS
OUR PRIDE







ہمارے شہداء
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SECURE PAKISTAN
STRONG PAKISTAN

یوم دفاع و شہداء
DEFENCE & MARTYRS DAY



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Legacy of the September War

By Omay Aimen

There are moments in a nation's history when the ordinary rhythm of life is suddenly replaced by an extraordinary test of courage. September 6, 1965 was one such moment for Pakistan. Lahore had been passing through an otherwise routine Sunday when news arrived that Indian forces had crossed the international border and were advancing towards the city. What followed was not merely a military confrontation but a remarkable national mobilisation. As soldiers moved towards the front, civilians supported them with food, prayers and unwavering resolve. Lahore and Sialkot endured air attacks with remarkable courage, while patriotic songs and wartime broadcasts strengthened national morale. For millions, September 1965 became a defining moment of unity, sacrifice and resilience, demonstrating the extraordinary strength of a nation that stands together in defence of its homeland.

The circumstances surrounding the war make the response of Pakistan's armed forces even more significant. Tensions had already been rising following clashes in the Rann of Kutch and continued exchanges along the Kashmir front. Yet the scale of the Indian offensive across the international border required Pakistan to respond under immense pressure. Indian planners had expected surprise to provide them with a decisive advantage, while the political and military leadership in New Delhi anticipated a rapid advance towards Lahore. Instead, the attacking forces encountered determined resistance. Pakistani troops moved swiftly to their defensive positions, while the Pakistan Air Force responded with remarkable speed and effectiveness. The PAF disrupted the Indian advance, while the Pakistan Army held its ground against a numerically superior adversary. The Pakistan Navy further demonstrated its reach by striking Indian facilities at Dwarka. While heroes such as Squadron Leader M M Alam became symbols of the war, thousands of servicemen fought with equal courage, many without ever being recognised by name. Together, the Army, Air food and supplies, communities endured blackouts and air raids, while Radio Pakistan, poets and singers stood together with its armed forces. The passage of time has changed the nature of warfare, but it has not raised concerns over militant activity originating from Afghan territory and alleged hostile attempts to exploit instability inside the country. These challenges have required the armed forces to remain prepared on multiple fronts rather than concentrating exclusively on a conventional battlefield. The experience of 1965 established a principle that remains relevant today: Pakistan's security cannot depend on assumptions about an adversary's intentions; it must rest on preparedness, vigilance and the capacity to respond. This is where the significance of Marka-e-Haq in 2025 becomes relevant. The battlefield may have changed dramatically since 1965, but the underlying test did not. Whether facing a conventional military threat or a more complicated combination of military, technological and asymmetric challenges, Pakistan's armed forces have continued to demonstrate their readiness to defend the country. 1965 showed one generation that Pakistan could withstand a major military challenge; Marka-e-Haq showed a new generation that this readiness has not disappeared with time. For the generation that lived through 1965, the memories remain deeply personal: the sound of air raid sirens, the anxiety of families waiting for news from the front, the excitement surrounding wartime broadcasts and the pride inspired by the country's defenders. The younger generation may know much of 1965 through history books and stories told by parents and grandparents, but Marka-e-Haq is likely to remain its own living memory of national defence. That is the most powerful connection between the two moments. Sixty years may separate them, but the central message remains unchanged. India's repeated calculations that military pressure can produce quick political results have encountered a country that remains determined to protect its sovereignty. Pakistan's armed forces have fought terrorism, guarded the borders and maintained readiness despite the complexity of the threats surrounding the country. Whether it was the war of 1965 or Marka-e-Haq in 2025, Pakistan's forces have made one point unmistakably clear: the country may desire peace, but it will always remain prepared to defend itself. The real tribute to the heroes of September 1965 is therefore not simply to remember their sacrifices once a year. It is to preserve the unity, discipline and national confidence that strengthened Pakistan during those seventeen days. Wars should never be romanticised, particularly between nuclear armed neighbours, but neither should history be forgotten. 1965 belongs to the memory of one generation; Marka-e-Haq belongs to another. What connects them is the enduring readiness of Pakistan to protect its homeland.

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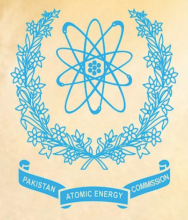


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Message of
Mr. Saad Mahmood
Resident Director - AEO Pakistan

It gives me great pleasure to share that AEO Pakistan is celebrating **27 years** of service, trust & commitment to international education. Over nearly three decades, AEO Pakistan has supported thousands of Pakistani students in pursuing quality education and building successful future overseas.

With more than **5,000 alumni** and over **300,000 IELTS registrations**, AEO Pakistan has established a strong reputation as a leading Australian and Global Education Specialist, an official IELTS Test Centre and a preferred OET Centre in Pakistan.

Our commitment extends beyond education counselling. We provide comprehensive support to students throughout their international education journey, including career and course counselling, university applications, admissions guidance, visa assistance, IELTS preparation and registration.

It is particularly significant that, in this landmark year, we are hosting the **50th AEO Study Abroad Expo**. The 50th edition represents an important milestone in AEO Pakistan's journey and reflects our continued commitment to connecting Pakistani students with world-class international education opportunities.

The 50th AEO Study Abroad Expo will be held from 7th to 13th September 2026 across 9 major cities of Pakistan. The Expo will bring together representatives of leading international universities and institutions, providing students and parents with an opportunity to explore a wide range of academic programmes, admission pathways, scholarships and study destinations.

Students will be able to seek guidance on opportunities in Australia, the UK, Canada, the USA, New Zealand, Malaysia, the UAE and other international destinations, while also receiving information on IELTS and English-language requirements.

Over the years, Australia has remained a preferred destination for Pakistani students because of its internationally recognized qualifications, high-quality education, diverse academic programmes and strong links with industry. AEO Pakistan continues to assist students in identifying programmes and institutions that align with their academic interests, career aspirations and long-term goals.

In addition to Australia, AEO Pakistan provides guidance for students interested in studying in the UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Malaysia and the UAE, enabling them to make informed decisions about their international education.

As a leading IELTS Testing Centre, AEO Pakistan offers Computer-delivered IELTS, IELTS for UKVI and IELTS Life Skills, alongside IELTS preparation services at selected locations across Pakistan.

The continued expansion of our network reflects our commitment to making international education and English-language testing services more accessible to students across the country.

I warmly invite students, parents and aspiring international students to attend the **50th AEO Study Abroad Expo** and benefit from direct access to international university representatives and experienced education counsellors.

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Glimpses of
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January 2026



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TIMING	11:00AM TO 6:00PM	11:00AM TO 6:00PM	11:00AM TO 6:00PM	11:00AM TO 5:00PM	11:00AM TO 5:00PM	11:00AM TO 5:00PM	11:00AM TO 5:00PM	11:00AM TO 5:00PM	11:00AM TO 5:00PM
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