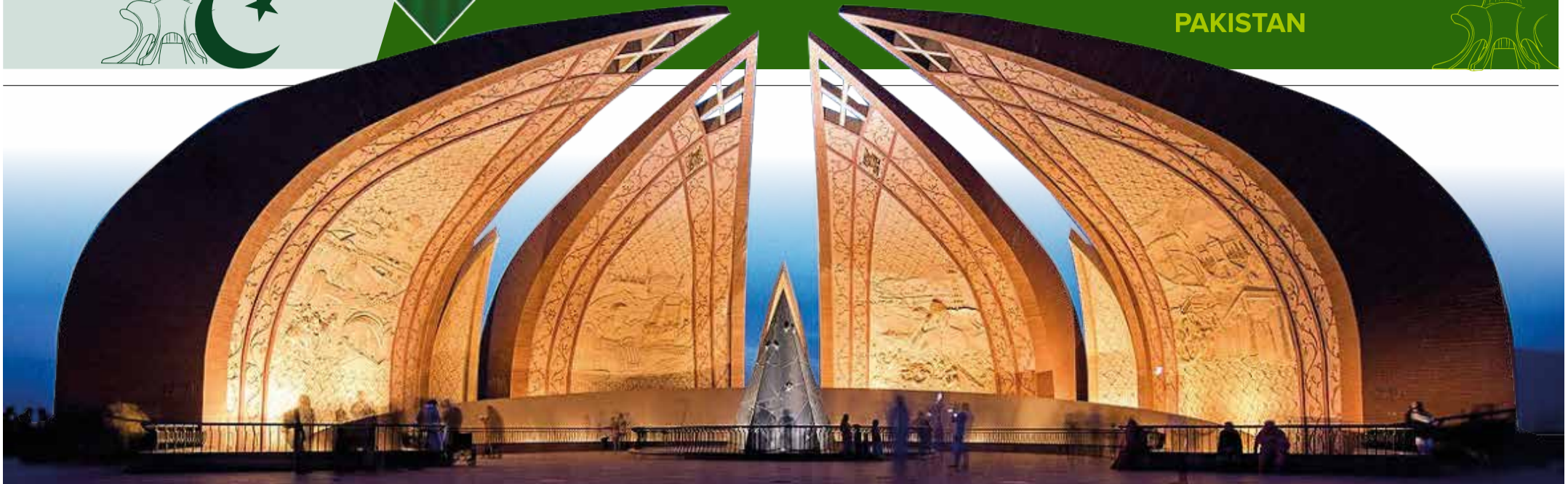




14 AUGUST  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
 ★★★  
**PAKISTAN**



# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Pakistan's Independence Day will be celebrated today with traditional excitement and national spirit. It commemorates the day when Pakistan achieved independence and was declared a sovereign state following the end of the British Raj in 1947.

Flag hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs take place in governmental and non-governmental institutions throughout the country. The main Independence Day ceremony takes place in Islamabad, where the national flag is hoisted at the Presidential and Parliament buildings. It is followed by the national anthem and live televised speeches by leaders. Usual celebratory events and festivities for the day include flag-raising ceremonies, parades, cultural events, and the playing of patriotic songs. A number of

award ceremonies are often held on this day, and Pakistanis hoist the national flag atop their homes or display it prominently on their vehicles and attire.

The official festivities commence with the raising of the national flag on the Parliament House and the Presidency followed by a 31-gun salute in the capital and a 21-gun salute in provincial capitals. The President and Prime Minister of Pakistan address the nation in live telecasts. Government officials, political leaders and celebrities deliver messages or speeches during rallies, ceremonies and events, highlighting Pakistani achievements, goals set for the future, and praise the sacrifices and efforts of national heroes. Government buildings including the Parliament

House, Supreme Court, President House and Prime Minister's Secretariat are decorated and illuminated with lights and bright colours. A change of guard takes place at national monuments by the Armed Forces.

International governments, leaders and public figures also convey their greetings on the occasion. National flags are displayed on major roads and avenues such as Shahrah-e-Faisal, Shahara-e-Quaideen, and Mazar-e-Quaid Road, leading up to Jinnah's mausoleum in Karachi. Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore, where the Pakistan Resolution was passed in 1940, is fully illuminated on the eve of the independence day to signify its importance in the creation of Pakistan. Schools and colleges conduct flag hoisting

ceremonies and cultural events. Major government buildings are often adorned with strings of lights.

A week before the day of celebration, children enjoy the time of preparation they spend in schools. They spend more than half-a-day in school practicing for march-past, speech, dance, sports, cultural activities and more. On this day all the great personalities, leaders and those who played a major role in bringing independence to Pakistan are remembered. The Pakistani diaspora around the world organises cultural events to celebrate independence day; public parades are held in cities with large Pakistani populations. People are excited to celebrate their independence day with full enthusiasm as the corona situation has finally got under control.

## Tribute to 'Father of the Nation'



Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi

Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has paid tribute to 'Father of the Nation' Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his untiring efforts for an independent homeland "Pakistan" for the Muslims of sub-continent. In his message on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day Dr Arif Alvi extended his heartiest felicitations to the fellow countrymen. 'This day reminds us of the immense sacrifices rendered by our forefathers, under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The day is an occasion to reaffirm our resolve to live up to the ideals of our founding fathers and pay homage to the heroic struggle of all workers of Pakistan Movement', he said.

### Here are the excerpts from the message:

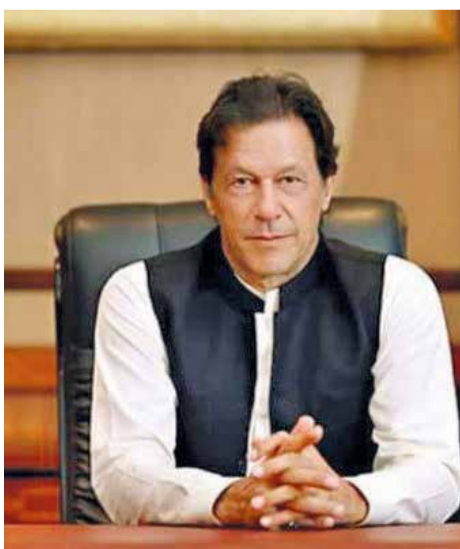
'Unlike the past, this Independence Day is being celebrated in extraordinarily difficult times as the entire world has been affected by Coronavirus which had adverse impact on all sectors of life, i.e. including economy, health, and education. The pandemic has brought enormous challenges but we have seen that our resilient nation has overcome them with a brilliant strategy of smart lock down. It is must that we continue with the precautions. We have seen such challenges in the past, like the earthquake in October 2005 and heavy floods in 2010. On this auspicious occasion, let me appreciate the spirit of our countrymen who exhibited extreme unity and generously helped the victims of natural calamities.

On this historic day, I must pay tribute to our doctors, nurses, health care workers that saved the lives of people by putting their own lives at risk during the pandemic. Additionally, I also deeply admire the role of media, Ulema, NDMA, NCOC, provincial governments, and law enforcement agencies in creating awareness and help enforcing the SOPs with regard to Covid-19. The success of the Ehsaas Program underlines the fact that people unite when all segments are taken care of. Our economy is improving in every regard, and I am sure that we have reached a tipping point in this regard.

While felicitating the nation, I call upon every Pakistani to stand firm and work for progress and prosperity of the country. We need to stand united to meet the social, economic and security challenges being confronted by the nation.

**Pakistan Paindabad.**

## Let's reaffirm our pledge



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated the entire nation on 74th Independence Day. 'This auspicious occasion is a moment to reaffirm our pledge to continue pursuing the vision of Father of the Nation. The day is an occasion to pay tribute to all those sons of the soil who laid their lives while defending and protecting territorial as well as ideological frontiers of the motherland', he said.

This day is an occasion to pause and ponder and to reflect as to how far we have been able to achieve those ideals that led to creation of an independent state. During past seven decades of our journey, we have confronted with various challenges. We have battled against odds both at external as well as internal fronts. From the hostility of a neighbouring country, with its known he-

gemonic intentions, to the scourge of terrorism and from coping with natural calamities to fighting pandemics, our nation has always shown resilience and perseverance. We reiterate, today, our pledge to remain steadfast and embrace every challenge holding the torch of "Unity, Faith and Discipline".

In our efforts to reach our destination, we are diligently working to give this country a system of governance which conforms to the ideals and objectives of independence. We are endeavouring to build a system where rule of law prevails. We have chosen "Riyasat-i-Madina" as our role model.

May Almighty Allah bless and crown our efforts with success to rebuild the country in consonance with the vision of its founding fathers', Imran Khan said.

**Ameen. Pakistan Paindabad.**

