

Dr Arif Alvi
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
(Message on the occasion of the 75th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan)

On the joyous occasion of the 75th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence, I extend my heartiest felicitations to the entire nation. This day reminds us of the innumerable sacrifices rendered by our Founding Fathers under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for carving this homeland "Pakistan" for us. Today, we also reaffirm our resolve to uphold Pakistan's ideology and make Pakistan an ideal modern Islamic welfare nation-state.

This year, we are also celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of our independence and in this regard various ceremonies are being organized across the country to mark this propitious occasion. The aim of these events is to educate and create awareness among our people, especially the Pakistani youth, about the significance of national solidarity, Pakistan's ideology and the Freedom Movement. I would like to commend the efforts of all stakeholders in organizing events to commemorate this historic moment.

On the occasion of this Diamond Jubilee, there is a dire need to assess our successes and failures. In our 75 years of history, we successfully overcame various challenges. We not only emerged as a nuclear power but also defeated the menace of terrorism. In the recent past, we successfully managed the COVID-19 pandemic.

On this historic day, we pay homage to those personnel of our armed forces and Law Enforcement Agencies who had laid their lives for the defence, security and safety of our motherland. We also appreciate our workers, labourers, women, youth, business community, and minorities and all those who have played their role in the development and progress of our country.

Today's Pakistan is although facing challenges on the economic front but I strongly believe that our nation will overcome these challenges with its proven commitment, determination and patriotism as well as with hard work, unity, discipline, mutual harmony and solidarity.

While celebrating Independence Day, we should not forget our oppressed brothers and sisters in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). India has been committing egregious human rights violations in IIOJK for decades and it has been three years since India unilaterally revoked Article 370 and abolished Article 35A to deprive IIOJK from its special legal status on August 5, 2019. I assure our Kashmiri brethren that Pakistan will continue to extend its all possible political, diplomatic and moral support to them in their legitimate struggle for self-determination in accordance with the UN Resolutions.

In the end, I urge the entire nation to remain steadfast and work wholeheartedly for the development and progress of our country and prosperity of our people. We need to remain united to overcome financial, economic and security challenges faced by the country. Let us pledge that we will remain steadfast to render any sacrifice for the dignity and self-respect of our people and greatness and glory of our beloved homeland. Insha'Allah!

Message of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Prime Minister of Pakistan

On the 75th Independence Day

The 75th Independence Day is a watershed moment in our nation's history. Today we pay rich tributes to Muslims of the sub-continent and express our collective gratitude to them for their heroic struggle, and epic sacrifices for the creation of a new state. The establishment of Pakistan is an outcome of the Quaid-i-Azam's single-minded devotion, unflinching resolve and his unwavering struggle. From the conception of an idea in 1930, Pakistan emerged on the map of the world as the largest Muslim country in a short span of 17 years. The coming of Pakistan into existence was not less than a miracle that stunned friends and foes alike, beating all predictions and assessments.

Where the 75th Independence Day is an occasion of jubilation and festivity, it is also a moment of reflection and self-accountability. We, as a nation, have achieved many milestones during the last seven and a half decades. From thwarting external aggression to putting together federal constitution to becoming the 7th nuclear power of the world to beating the scourge of terrorism, we have come a long way. The odds were definitely heavier than anyone could imagine but our national will to defeat them was stronger.

At the same time, it is also a fact that we have not been able to fully realize the dream that our founding fathers dreamed; the dream of socio-economic justice, rule of and equality before the law, and the dream of an egalitarian society.

While we are an independent nation, a precious gift for which we cannot thank Allah Almighty enough, true freedom lies in being free from want, hunger, poverty and backwardness. As long as we do not have economic sovereignty, the concept of freedom will remain incomplete.

Nothing is more dangerous for a nation than the internal division; disruption and chaos, for such negative forces undermine the solidarity and integrity of the country and rob societies of their national purpose. The Quaid-i-Azam warned against such evils and gave us the motto of "unity, faith and discipline" as an antidote.

The greatest strength of our country is the people, particularly the youth. It is their energy, resolve and passion that is capable of overcoming any odd, beating any hurdle and lighting the candle of hope. We can push back the divisive and nihilistic forces with the power of the people and protect our freedom and identity. I have my full faith in their capabilities to chart a way forward.

While celebrating the 75th Independence Day, let us seek guidance from the ideology and thoughts of our founding fathers and put the welfare of our people at the center of our mission of national rejuvenation. Let us vow to turn Pakistan into a nation-state that is reflective of the ideals of our founding fathers.

On the historic occasion of the 75th Independence Day, I congratulate the people of Pakistan including overseas Pakistanis.

Pakistan Paindabad!