STORY OF

RESILIENT PAKISTAN

&

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Directorate of Electronic Media & Publications
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of Pakistan

عزمِ عالی شان شاد رہے پاکستان

Produced and Published by
Directorate of Electronic Media & Publications
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of Pakistan. 2022

Project Directed by Director General

Copyright © 2022
Directorate of Electronic Media & Publications
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
Government of Pakistan.

ISBN 978-969-507-008-6

Printed and Bound in Pakistan By
Lé Topical, Lahore.
info@topicalprinters.com

CONTENTS

22 INTRODUCTION

24 PARLIAMENT

36 DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

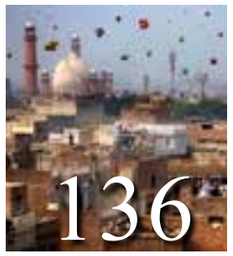
54 REGIONAL SECURITY AND GLOBAL PEACE

58 ECONOMY

90 SOCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

72 AGRICULTURE

90 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

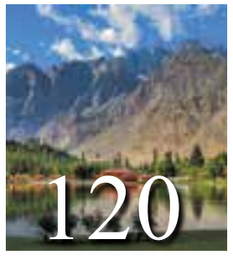

136 CULTURE

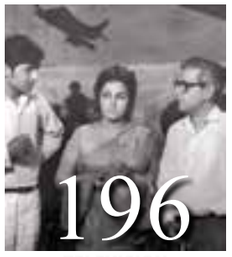
96 EDUCATION

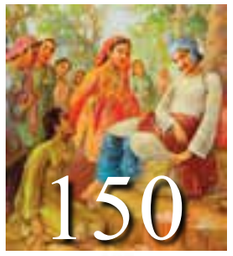
100 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

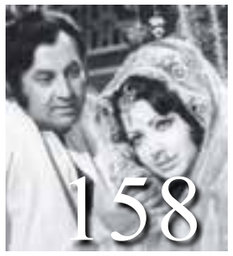
108 INTERFAITH HARMONY

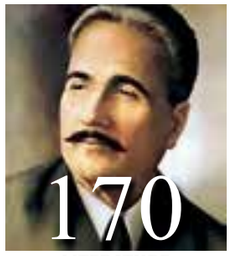
116 HUMAN RIGHTS

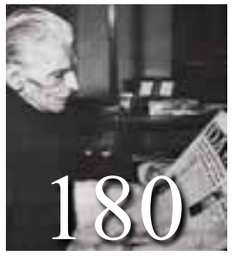

120 TOURISM


196 TELEVISION

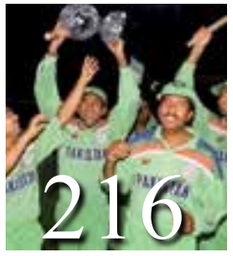

150 ART


158 FILM


170 LITERATURE


180 PRESS

188 RADIO

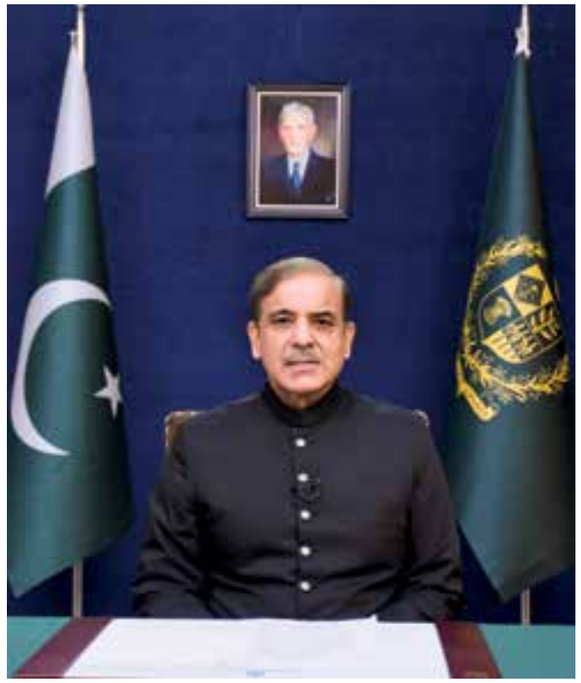

216 SPORTS

232 YOUTH

238 CUISINE

Pakistan Monument, Islamabad

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE



The creation of Pakistan is a story of immense resolve, will power and resilience of Muslims of the sub-continent who got united under the leadership of the Quaid-i-Azam for a separate homeland they could call their own. Led by the dynamic leadership and inspired by a lofty vision, Pakistan was achieved through a democratic struggle that overcame the heaviest of odds in the process. Behind the demand for a new homeland was a history of oppression, denial of identity and rights, socio-economic exploitation and a desire to live individual and collective life in line with our moral and religious code. Given the multifarious factors arrayed against our forefathers, the establishment of Pakistan was not less than a miracle.

Today, seventy-five years later, we live in a homeland where we can hold our heads up and face the world firmly, courageously and most important of all, independently. We may have erred along the journey but then who has not. However, nothing has deterred us from continuing this journey with unflinching resolve and strong determination.

Unfortunately, in our analysis of the past 75 years, we tend to be cynical at times and overlook the greatness of our country. We fail to recognise all that we have achieved so far in spite of difficulties and downplay the importance of our efforts. The history of the country is a witness that every time the world has written us off, we have risen from the ashes and made our presence felt. Pakistan is much more than stereotypical image we are cast into.

From science and technology to defence to sports, we have proven our worth in the international arena, time and time again. We, as Pakistanis, are a nation that represents conviction, fortitude and resolve to learn lessons from our mistakes and build on our gains, no matter what comes our way, a fact which is best reflected in the seventy-five-year history of our country.

In 'Pakistan at 75 and the Journey Continues', we will celebrate all that we have accomplished in these past decades, it is a tribute to all our fellow Pakistanis who contributed immensely to where we are today. I hope that through this Coffee Table Book, the readers will have a greater understanding of the need for being grateful for the blessing that is our beloved homeland, Pakistan.

Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Pakistan

Kalash Culture Dance during
Shandoor Polo Festival, Chitral

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

After an extended period of dedicated work, it is a tremendous pleasure for me to present you 'Pakistan at 75 and the Journey Continues'. It's a powerful expression of Pakistan's strenuous struggle in the seventy-five years since its inception. We attained this great homeland after a long and strenuous journey, but it took decades more to bring it to great heights. I found it absolutely necessary to bring this book to you, owing to the fact that we must all understand and appreciate the greatness of our country, Pakistan. Regardless of the dismay and skepticism that surrounds us today; we must not forget the great accomplishments this country has acquired over these previous decades.

Creating a Coffee Table Book to remind us all of this was indeed need of the hour. As you go through this book, you will be treated to an all-encompassing sight of the tremendous progress our country has made so far in various sectors, ranging from democracy to economy, agriculture to art and culture, women empowerment to social sector development, amongst many others. Pakistan and all of its splendours are reflected through all these successful initiatives and projects. The wide, astonishingly diversified performance of Pakistan's success in various fields must be recognized and celebrated by both our own people and internationally.

This Coffee Table Book aims to showcase our accomplishments throughout the course of our seventy-five years journey. This has been made possible by our deeply entrenched brotherhood, fortitude, perseverance, and the continued unflinching pursuit for excellence. We, as Pakistanis, take pride in our long and formidable journey, cherishing what we have attained regardless of all the hurdles and setbacks. I am convinced that this book will provide its readers with an overview of our achievements so far in various sectors, consequently building reverence and admiration for our homeland.

Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb
Federal Minister
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
Islamabad

Gulzar Mahal, Bahawalpur

FOREWORD

After centuries of being ruled by colonial masters and decades of onerous journey and constant struggle, Pakistan came into being. Though celebrating the newly formed country, the founding fathers knew that real struggle of consolidating and making of our homeland and nation has just begun. Despite several socio-economic and political challenges as well as external threats, Pakistan stands tall against all odds owing to its resilient and vibrant people. In an era where fifth generation warfare as well as propaganda against our very existence is going on with full force, we are facing these challenges head on and striving continuously for building a progressive, tolerant and enlightened society for achieving our ultimate goal of reaching new heights and strong position among comity of nations.

This is only possible through courage, fortitude and perseverance to tackle these challenges at both fronts i.e. at home and abroad simultaneously. Every single being of this brave nation, from the martyred soldiers and their courageous families to the health care workers in the far-flung areas and young girls who strive for getting education in spite of all odds and even common men like labourers have put their due share for building this resilient nation. Pakistan stands up for great values and traditions such as upholding of democracy in spite of hurdles, tolerance, fighting terrorism, moderation and building mutually beneficial relations with our neighbours and world at large.

This Coffee Table Book strives to highlight our achievement throughout our long and taxing journey of seventy five years since our inception, through displaying our cherished brotherhood, sheer determination and struggle for excellence for a progressive society, commemoration of Pakistan's accomplishment and achievements. This little endeavour tries to pass on to our future generation the history of struggle towards nation building. This comprehensive accomplishment may act as a candle that may be able to enlighten our future path and lead us to road of ultimate progress and prosperity, through highlighting our historical milestones, challenges faced and encompassing experiences thereof.

Sohail Ali Khan
Additional Secretary (Incharge)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
Islamabad

Attabad Lake, Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan

PREFACE

This coffee table book sheds light on 75 years long and arduous journey of Pakistan's continuous strive for progress, prosperity to achieve ultimate pinnacle of lasting success on the world stage. The journey that started on 14th August 1947 from very inception of Pakistan indeed encompasses many eras. An effort has been made to bring to the fore developments and achievements of this country in areas such as democratic struggle, economy, agriculture, art, culture, sports, television, film, and science & technology among many others.

This book reflects dedication of our national heroes, political fraternity and people of Pakistan who have endeavored during our journey being a resilient nation for decades for developing and taking to the land Pakistan where it stands today. Despite facing various challenges, we have so far managed to overcome these hurdles successfully. This coffee Table Book is a token of appreciation for all those who have played their crucial role, big or small, in this tedious journey.

Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan
Executive Director General
Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
Islamabad

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are profoundly grateful and extend our deep gratitude for the contribution of the following towards compilation of this book.

Executive Director General DEMP, Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan
Ex-Director General DEMP, Imrana Wazir
Director (Project) DEMP, Hina Khalid
Director DEMP, Shabih Abbas
Director DEMP, Shagufta Ansari
Additional Secretary National Assembly, Syed Shamoon Hashmi
Col. Shahid Rafiq
Editor, Muhammad Arshad (Makhan)
Deputy Director, Ishrat Akhtar
Deputy Director, Shahid Rafiq Kiani
Deputy Director, Adnan Akram Bajwa
Deputy Director, Ch. Nasir Rafique
Assistant Director, Mehran Atta
Assistant Director, Zarbab Fatima
Assistant Director, Maira Javed
Assistant Director, Muhammad Saleem
Sajjad Nabi Babar (Photographer)
Muzammil Toori (Photographer)
Aamir Ali (Photographer)
Dr. Ghulam Nabi Kazi (Photographer)
Mansoor Rashid (Photographer)
Javaid A. Kazi (Photographer)
Yasir Nisar (Photographer)
Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)
Press Information Department (PID)
Associated Press of Pakistan (APP)
Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC)
Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC)
Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC)

Quaid-e-Azam delivering his speech on the occasion of Transfer of Powers at Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 14, 1947.

Aerial view of Parliament House, Presidency and Cabinet Block, Islamabad

PRESIDENTS OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

ISKANDER MIRZA
23-03-1956 to 27-10-1958

FIELD MARSHAL MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN
27-10-1958 to 12-6-1965

FATIMA JINNAH
1-1-1965 to 31-1-1965

MOHAMMAD AFZAL CHEEMA (ACTING)
8-6-1962 to 29-11-1963

FAZLUL QADIR CHAUDHRY (ACTING)
29-11-1963 to 12-6-1965

FIELD MARSHAL MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN
12-6-1965 to 25-3-1969

FATIMA JINNAH
1-7-1967 to 1-7-1969

GENERAL MOHAMMED YAHYA KHAN
25-3-1969 to 20-12-1971

ZULFIQAR ALI BHUTTO
20-12-1971 to 14-8-1973

NURUL AMIN
20-1-1972 to 28-1-1972
1-4-1972 to 21-4-1972

ZULFIQAR ALI BHUTTO
6-8-1973 to 14-8-1973

FAZAL ELAHI CHAUDHRY
14-8-1973 to 20-4-1978

HABIBULLAH KHAN MARWAT
14-8-1977 to 14-8-1978

SHEIKH ANWARUL HAQ
20-4-1978 to 7-5-1978

FAZAL ELAHI CHAUDHRY
7-5-1978 to 16-9-1978

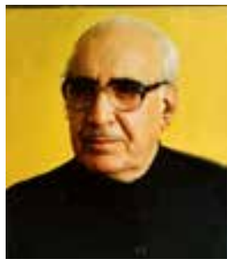
SAHIBZADA FAROOQ AL
19-8-1973 to 16-9-1978

GENERAL MOHAMMED ZIA-UL-HAQ
16-09-1978 To 25-3-1986

SYED FAKHAR IMAM
25-3-1986 to 25-3-1986

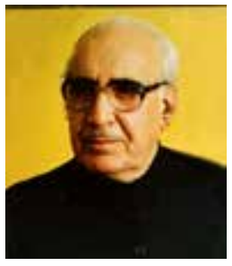
GENERAL MOHAMMED ZIA-UL-HAQ
25-3-1986 To 17-8-1988

HAMID NASIR CHATTHA
17-8-1988 to 17-8-1988



GHULAM ISHAQ KHAN
17-08-1998 to 18-07-1993

GOHAR AYUB KHAN
1990 to 1990

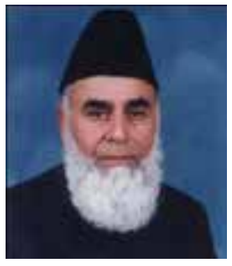


GHULAM ISHAQ KHAN
1990 to 18-07-1993

WASIM SAJJAD (ACTING)
8-7-1993 to 14-11-1993

SARDAR FAROOQ AHMED LEGHARI
14-11-1993 to 2-12-1997

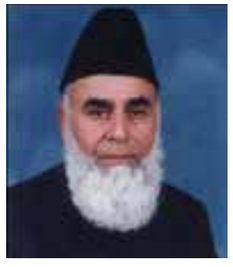
WASIM SAJJAD (ACTING)
2-12-1997 to 2-12-1997



JUSTICE (R) MOHAMMED RAFIQ TARAR
1-1-1998 to 1999

MOHAMMEDMIAN SOOMRO (ACTING)
1999 to 1999

PRESIDENTS OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN



JUSTICE (R) MOHAMMED RAFIQ TARAR
1999 to 20-6-2001

GENERAL (RETD) PARVEZ MUSHARRAF
20-6-2001 to 9-3-2006

CHAUDHRY AMIR HUSSAIN (ACTING)
9-3-2007 to 9-9-2007

GENERAL (RETD) PARVEZ MUSHARRAF
9-9-2007 to 18-8-2008

MOHAMMEDMIAN SOOMRO (ACTING)
18-8-2008 to 9-9-2008

ASIF ALI ZARDARI
9-9-2008 to 9 -9-2013

Farooq Hamid Naek (ACTING)
11-03-2009 To 25-03-2009

ASIF ALI ZARDARI
25-3-2009 to 9-9-2009

FAHMIDA MIRZA (ACTING)
9-9-2009 to 9-9-2010

ASIF ALI ZARDARI
9-9-2010 to 9-9-2013

MAMNOON HUSSAIN
9-9-2013 to 19-9-2018

NAYYAR HUSSAIN BUKHARI (ACTING)
19-9-2013 to 20-9-2013

MAMNOON HUSSAIN
20-9-2013 to 19-2-2014

SADIQ SANJRANI (ACTING)
26-3-2018 to 1-9-2018

ASAD QAISER (ACTING)
1-9-2018 to 1-9-2018

MAMNOON HUSSAIN
1-9-2018 to 9-9-2018

DR. ARIF-UR-REHMAN ALVI
09-09-2018 to 10-4-2022

SADIQ SANJRANI (ACTING)
9-9-2018 to 9-92022
10-4-2022 to 12-4-2022

DR. ARIF-UR-REHMAN ALVI
12-04-2022 Incumbent

PRIME MINISTERS OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

LIAQAT ALI KHAN
15-08-1947 To 16-10-1951

KHAWAJA NAZIMUDDIN
17-10-1951 To 17-04-1953

MOHAMMAD ALI BOGRA
17-04-1953 To 11-08-1955

CH. MOHAMMED ALI
11-08-1955 To 12-09-1956

HUSSAIN SHAHEED SUHARWARDI
12-09-1956 To 18-10-1957

IBRAHIM ISMAIL CHAUNDRIGAR
18-10-1957 To 16-12-1957

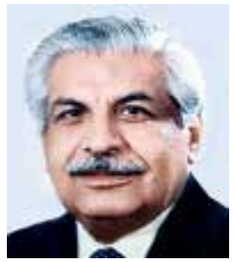
MALIK FEROZ KHAN NOON
16-12-1957 To 07-10-1958

NOOR-UL-AMIN
07-12-1971 To 20-12-1971

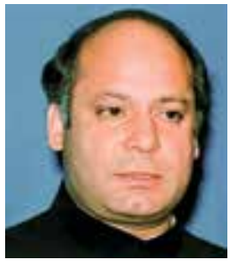
ZULFIQAR ALI BHUTTO
14-08-1973 To 05-07-1977

MUHAMMAD KHAN JUNEJO
23-03-1985 To 29-05-1988

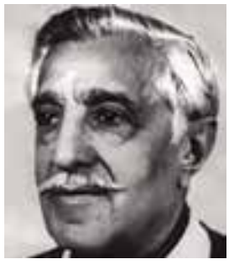
MOHTARMA BENAZIR BHUTTO
02-12-1988 To 06-08-1990



GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAN JATOI (CARETAKER)
06-08-1990 To 06-11-1990

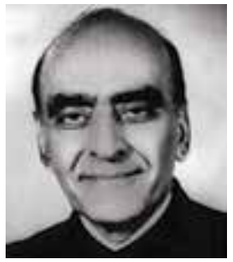


MIAN MOHAMMED NAWAZ SHARIF
06-11-1990 To 18-04-1993



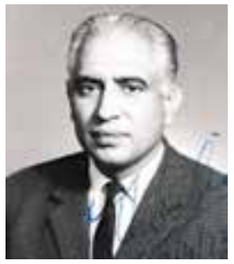
MIR BALAKH SHER MAZARI (CARETAKER)
18-04-1993 To 26-05-1993

MIAN MOHAMMED NAWAZ SHARIF
26-05-1993 To 08-07-1993

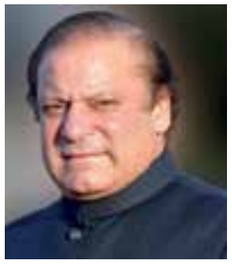


MOIN QURESHI (CARETAKER)
08-07-1993 To 19-10-1993

MOHTARMA BENAZIR BHUTTO
19-10-1993 To 05-11-1996



MALIK MERAJ KHALID (CARETAKER)
06-11-1996 To 17-02-1997



MIAN MOHAMMED NAWAZ SHARIF
17-02-1997 To 12-10-1999

MIR ZAFARULLAH KHAN JAMALI
23-11-2002 To 26-06-2004

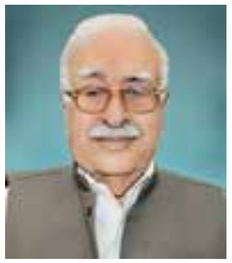
CHAUDHARY SHUJAAT HUSSAIN
30-06-2004 To 26-08-2004

SHAUKAT AZIZ
28-08-2004 To 15-11-2007

MUHAMMAD MIAN SOOMRO (CARETAKER)
16-11-2007 To 24-03-2008

SYED YOUSAF RAZA GILLANI
25-03-2008 To 25-04-2012

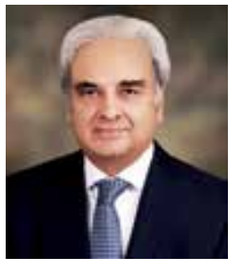
RAJA PERVEZ ASHRAF
22-06-2012 To 24-03-2013



MIR HAZAR KHAN KHOSO (CARETAKER)
25-03-2013 To 05-06-2013

MUHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF
05-06-2013 To 28-07-2017

SHAHID KHAQAN ABBASI
01-08-2017 To 31-05-2018



JUSTICE (RETD) NASIR-UL-MULK (CARETAKER)
01-06-2018 To 18-08-2018

IMRAN KHAN
18-08-2018 To 10-04-2022

MIAN MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF
11-04-2022 To date

OATH TAKING CEREMONIES OF PRIME MINISTERS OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan takes his oath of office on 15-08-1947

Honourable Sir Khawaja Nazimuddin taking the oath on October 17, 1951

Prime Minister Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto taking Oath on March 28, 1977

Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto takes oath of office at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on 2-12-1988

Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi taking oath of his office on August 6, 1990

Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif taking oath of his office (06-11-1990 to 18-04-1993)

Prime Minister Mir Balakh Sher Mazari taking oath of his office (18-04-1993 to 26-05-1993)

Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto taking oath (19-10-1993 to 05-11-1996)

Prime Minister Malik Miraj Khalid taking oath of office (6-11-1996 to 17-02-1997)

OATH TAKING CEREMONIES OF PRIME MINISTERS OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif taking oath as Prime Minister of Pakistan (17-02-1997 to 12-10-1999)

Mr. Muhammad Mian Soomro taking oath as Prime Minister of Pakistan (16-11-2007 to 24-03-2008)

Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani taking oath (25-03-2008 to 25-04-2012)

Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf taking oath of his office (22-06-2012 to 24-03-2013)

Mir Hazar Khan Khoso taking oath as Prime Minister of Pakistan (25-03-2013 to 05-06-2013)

Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif taking oath (05-06-2013 to 28-07-2017)

President Mamnoon Hussain administers oath to Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, (01-08-2017 to 31-05-2018)

Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan taking oath of his office (18-08-2018 to 10-04-2022)

Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif taking oath (11-04-2022 to date)

CHIEF JUSTICES OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

Justice Sir Abdul Rashid
(27-6-1949 to 29-6-1954)

Justice Muhammad Monir
(30-06-1954 to 02-05-1960)

Justice Muhammad Shahabuddin
(03-05-1960 to 12-05-1960)

Justice A R Cornelius
(13-05-1960 to 29-02-1968)

Justice S A Rahman
(01-03-1968 to 03-06-1968)

Justice Fazle Akber
(04-06-1968 to 17-11-1968)

Justice Hamood ur Rahman
(18-11-1968 to 31-10-1975).

Justice Muhammad Yaqub Ali
(01-11-1975 to 22-09-1977)

Justice S Anwarul Haq
(26-09-1977 to 25-03-1981)

Justice Muhammad Haleem
(25-03-1981 to 31-12-1989)

Justice Muhammad Afzal Zullah
(01-01-1990 to 18-04-1993)

Justice Nasem Hasan Shah
(17-04-1993 to 14-04-1994)

Justice Sajjad Ali Shah
(05-06-1994 to 02-12-1997)

Justice Ajmal Mian (03-12-1997
to 30-06-1999)

Justice Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui
(01-07-1999 to 26-01-2000)

Justice Irshad Hasan Khan
(26-01-2000 to 06-01-2002)

Justice Muhammad Bashir Jehangiri
(07-01-2002 to 31-01-2002)

Justice Sheikh Riaz Ahmad
(01-02-2002 to 31-12-2003)

Justice Nazim Hussain Siddiqui
(31-12-2003 to 29-06-2005)

Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry
(30-06-2005 to 11-12-2013)

Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani
(12-12-2013 to 05-07-2014)

Justice Nasir Ul Mulk
(06-07-2014 to 16-08-2015)

Justice Jawwad S Khawaja
(17-08-2015 to 09-09-2015)

Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali
(10-09-2015 to 30-12-2016)

Justice Mian Saqib Nisar
(31-12-2016 to 17-01-2019)

Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa
(18-01-2019 to 20-12-2019)

Justice Gulzar Ahmad
(21-12-2019 to 01-02-2022)

Justice Umar Ata Bandial
(02-02-2022 to date)

Supreme Court of Pakistan

INTRODUCTION: UNITY, DIVERSITY AND HARMONY

Pakistan is a multicultural, multilingual, and multi-religions nation, where the diverse population has distinct traditions of their own identity, language, culture, and literature. Over the years, the above-mentioned diversified prominence has become Pakistan's strength, leading to a pluralistic and inclusive society that stands united despite its differences. On this auspicious occasion of the seventy-fifth year of independence, let us celebrate how in unison, we have helped our homeland progress in various aspects, continuing to promote diversity and harmony along the way.

Agriculture, which currently contributes 19.2% of the GDP and employs over 38.5% of the work force, is the bedrock of the Pakistani economy (GOP, 2021). It is the sector that unites the entire nation, owing to every individual's dependence on it, from the farmers who find their livelihood in it to the urban households who rely on its products. Development in the agricultural sector over the past seventy-five years has been a result of several factors playing their role, including the Green Revolution, high-yielding wheat and rice varieties, the accessibility of chemicals, farm mechanisation including tractor cultivation, the introduction of private tube wells, and new cotton varieties.

Together, the people of Pakistan ensured agricultural growth through their continuous drive for excellence. Pakistan is referred to as a melting pot of many cultures and religions that enhances the country's fortunate indigenous narrative of being gifted with spectacular geography and a diverse population. Perhaps one of the appropriate manifestations of the country's unity in diversity is the inter-faith harmony that exists. Pakistan is the very definition of unity in variety, and it is this crucial socio-cultural asset that must always be welcomed as a unifying element. However, culture is not a static phenomenon, which is why over the past seventy-five years, Pakistan's culture has continuously changed and evolved. But throughout this entire journey, what remained constant was how the nation remained united and undivided.

One is impressed by Pakistan's rich visual legacies and literature when one takes a look back at its seventy-five-year history of artistic production and literature. They owe a lot to the British colonial presence, which gained control of patronage, education, and visual technologies like photography and printing methods. However, pre-colonial and colonial artists added to the world of art as well through various forms like crafts, literature and popular culture. Similarly, Pakistan's film industry has become well-known and established itself internationally, witnessing great heights, particularly from 1959 until 1977.

Later, progressive young artists and writers played their part in adding to the country's art and literature, proving and reinforcing the diversity which is now evident. Despite the diversity that exists in the culture, religion and population of the country, the Parliament has always played a crucial part in ensuring that every individual feels represented and the country stays united through legislation, debate, and oversight. On this momentous occasion, one must celebrate the numerous golden wins of the Parliament despite many constitutional and political hunches and our rough political history. One prime example of this is how the 1973 Constitution, which the Parliament drafted and revised, nevertheless serves to unite the country.

Similarly, just as the youth played a crucial role during the Pakistan movement, yet again, today, Pakistan's vibrant and dynamic youth continues to work for the nation, helping it reach its true national goals of excellence, prosperity, and unity. Over the last 75 years, Pakistan has made major advancements in the fields of science and technology. The fact that Pakistan is the only nation in the Islamic world possessing nuclear weapons testifies to this. The fields of science and technology have brought forward many talented individuals from various socioeconomic backgrounds and corners of the country.

Together, not only have they exalted Pakistan's name internationally but they have proven how the country continues to create and promote talent from our diverse population. The importance of media has grown as a result of new trends and technological advancements in the global communication system. It has become one of the most important communication tools and plays a huge role in people's everyday lives all over the world. Pakistan is one of the most active countries in South Asia in terms of its media landscape, with its media business being essential to the development of the country. This dynamic media, be it digital media, television, radio, or the press, is, in fact, a manifestation of the fundamental principles of human rights outlined in Pakistan's Constitution, which calls for the creation of a democratic society and promotes unity, diversity and harmony.

Pakistan is among one of the few nations around the globe with such a wide variety of tourist attractions. Ancient civilisations, picturesque landscapes, breathtaking mountains and peaks, sacred religious sites, seasonal variations, one-of-a-kind arts and crafts, and a rich cultural legacy can all be found in the nation. The Federal and Provincial Governments of Pakistan have recently made significant strides toward enhancing the performance of the tourism industry by taking a number of measures to generally improve the state of the tourism services infrastructure, business environment, safety and security, health and hygiene, ICT readiness, and socio-economic conditions. Our journey of progress extends beyond borders as well, where the country has consistently promoted and protected our national interests through its foreign policy.

By pursuing national strategic and commercial interests overseas, we have preserved our sovereignty and territorial integrity, built cordial ties with all nations, and taken care of the Pakistani diaspora abroad. Through our foreign policy, we have proven time and time again that we are a nation that promotes harmony, both within our borders and beyond them. We must also take strength from the development of our Pakistani identity as we commemorate the diamond jubilee of Pakistan's independence while also being cognizant of our accomplishments in social development and women empowerment. Keeping in mind the vast amount of work yet to be done inspires us to rise to the task of fair social development with perseverance, resolution. This will lead us to excel through journey for ultimate development and lasting progress that unites the diversity of our society.

Students from tribal area of Mohamand Agency making word Pakistan

PARLIAMENT

Zafarullah Khan

"I sincerely hope that with your support and your cooperation we shall make this Constituent Assembly an example to the world. The Constituent Assembly has two main functions to perform. The first is the very onerous and responsible task of framing our future constitution of Pakistan and the second of functioning as a full and complete sovereign body as the Federal Legislature of Pakistan" Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's first address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 11, 1947. Birth of Pakistan on the world map in 1947, besides historic struggle of South Asian Muslims, is the result of three distinct parliamentary mechanisms, namely: results of election 1946, legislative votes in the provincial assemblies of the Punjab, Bengal, Sindh and referendums in the then NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Sylhet.

Princely states in Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and NWFP acceded to Pakistan. When all these developments are viewed together one can say that Pakistan is a unique political-cum-parliamentary product. The transfer of power from colonial dispensation to newborn sovereign dominion on August 14, 1947 also happened in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan that had its maiden session in the chamber of Sindh Assembly in Karachi. Almost all major leaders who contributed towards the creation of Pakistan had dynamic parliamentary careers. The founding father of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah remained in pre and post-independence parliamentary institutions for many years. Upon the birth of the nation, the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan elected him as its first president on August 11, 1947.

Dreamer of Pakistan and national poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal also represented his constituency in the Punjab Assembly and scholastically advocated for 'republican model of the parliament' to address and decide contemporary issues in his famous book, 'Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam.' It is in this context that the preamble of the Constitution of Pakistan acknowledges citizen's right to be governed democratically by stating, '….the state shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people.' The Article 1 of the Constitution defines the soul and spirit of our motherland by stating, 'Pakistan shall be Federal Republic to be known as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

However, later on Pakistan suffered stunted political growth due to four democratic disruptions. It was deprived of representative democratic parliamentary institution; first from October 1958 to June 1962, second time from March 1969 to April 1972, third time from July 1977 to March 1985 and fourth time from October 1999 to November 2002. When calculated

Jogendra Nath Mandal presiding the First Constituent Assembly, August 10, 1947

Parliament House of Pakistan

PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS

Quaid-e-Azam M. A. Jinnah signing in the register of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 10, 1947

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Presiding over a Session of Constitutent Assembly of Pakistan on August 11, 1947

Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan delivering his speech during the session of Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 11, 1947

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan presents the design for the flag of Pakistan at the opening of the Constituent Assembly of the new state in Karachi, August 13, 1947

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan in the Constituent Assembly Building at Karachi on August 14, 1947

2nd-Constituent-Assembly 1955

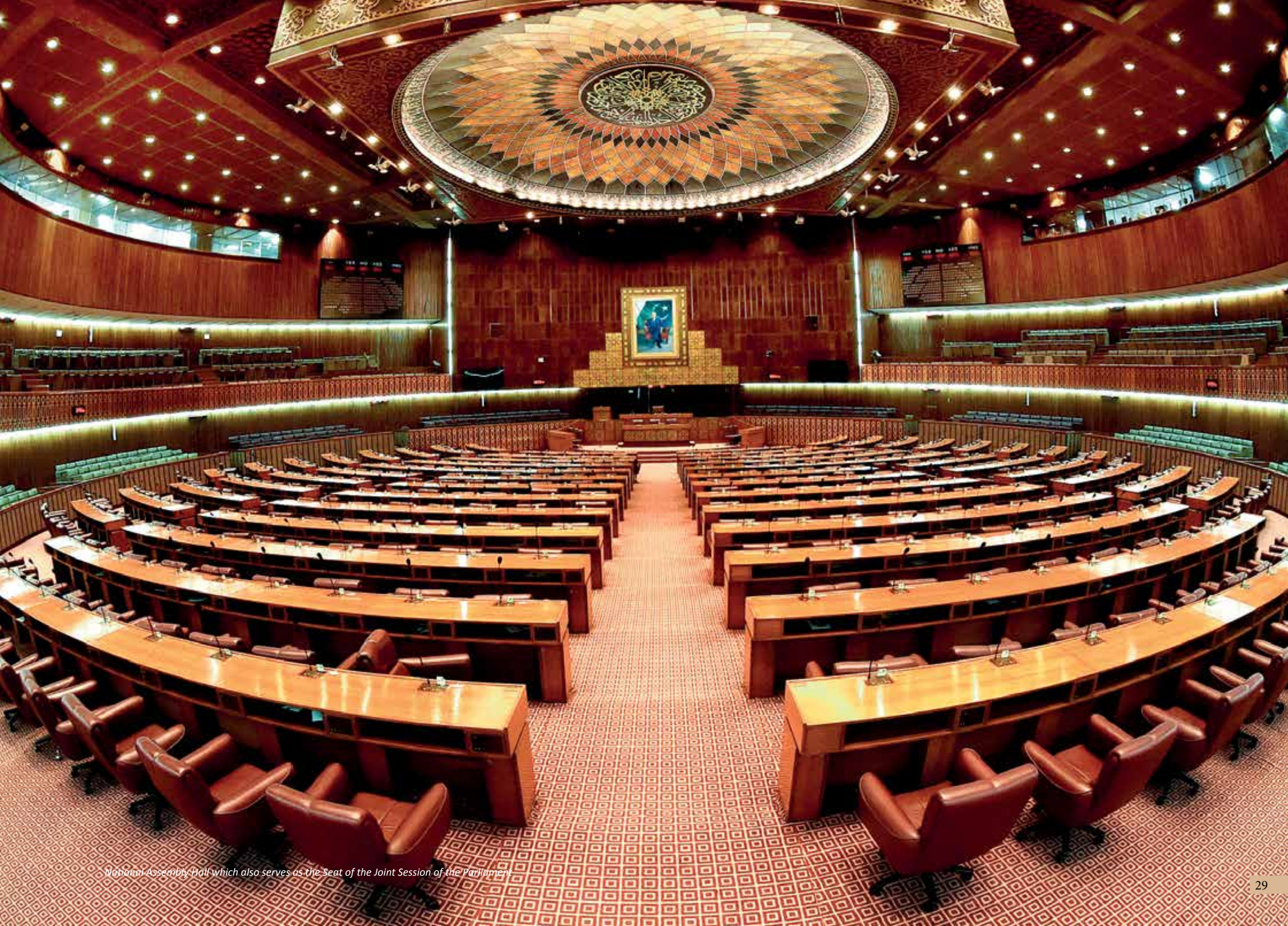
Chaudhary Muhammad Ali Prime Minister of Pakistan speaking in the Assembly on September 15, 1955

A session of Constituent Assembly of Pakistan was once held at Murree Club, Murree 1955

Commemorative Postal Stamp for National Assembly Session Dacca, 1956

National Assembly of Pakistan, East Provincial Assembly Building, Dacca (1962 to 1969)

National Assembly of Pakistan, State bank Building, Islamabad (1972 to 1986)



National Assembly Hall which also serves as the Seat of the Joint Session of the Parliament

President Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto authenticating the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan presented to him by the speaker Mr. Fazal Elahi Choudhri at the Presidency in Rawalpindi on April 12, 1973.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto addressing the Assembly on Sunday, August 12, 1973

together all these years, it becomes 28 percent of our national life. After numerous odd experiments like non-party based assemblies and limited functionality as an undermined institution during hybrid regimes, now, Pakistan is witnessing the longest spell of continuity of representative democracy and the Parliament is gradually reclaiming its centrality within the constitutional scheme of trichotomy of power.

Presently every inch of Pakistan is politically represented through the parliamentary community comprised of 1191legislators including: 342 members of the National Assembly of Pakistan, 100 Senators, and 749 members of the four provincial assemblies. Ideally the Parliament as the most important pillar of the modern democratic state epitomizes 'the center-stage' of nation's democratic endeavors and pursuits as it is the repository of electorates' 'will' expressed and ascertained through periodic elections. Within the state structure, it acts as 'brain' to send well thought out ideas after due debate, discussion and deliberations to other organs of the state, especially the Executive. In the constitutional scheme of separation of power, the Parliament authors the Constitution, creates the nations' institutional architecture and provides them with the required legislation and fiscal resources.

The laws passed by the Parliament serve as the software for governance and justice system in the county. The bicameral Parliament comprised of the National Assembly of Pakistan and the Senate of Pakistan also gives birth to the political part of the Executive in the form of cabinet to implement and operationalize its' vision and wisdom. The Parliament through its taxation powers, budgetary appropriations, committee's oversight, and other accountability mechanisms holds the governance accountable. Efficacy of this democratic monitoring and evaluation of public policy and purse is unmatchable to any other available mechanism. Despite many odds and bumpy political and parliamentary journey, still one can count many golden gains of the Parliament on the joyful occasion of the diamond jubilee of Pakistan.

The Constitution of 1973 authored and amended by the Parliament, despite undemocratic disruptions, continues to unify the nation. From the first Parliamentary Committee on Fundamental Rights formed in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on 12th August 1947 to establishment of rights commissions (human rights, status of women, children rights, right to information etc.) and adoption of many rights focused Acts the parliamentarians have played a key role in promoting and protecting citizens' rights-through legislation, debate and oversight.

Its role is gradually expanding in appointments of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts, members of

the Election Commission of Pakistan and caretaker government during the election period.

The parliamentary committees on the National Security, Kashmir, and China Pakistan Economic Corridor are 21st century additions to powerful Public Accounts Committee and ministerial standing committees. Over the years in these committees, Pakistani democracy has overcome the traditional notion of majoritarianism as the opposition parliamentarians chair many of these committees. The Parliament of Pakistan is the first one in the world that is 100 percent Green and relies on solar energy. It is the first one in the world that established SDGs Taskforce to link the legislators with the nation's development agenda. There is also a Functional Committee on Less Developed Areas in the Senate. To ensure political inclusions and pluralism the parliamentary institutions in Pakistan have reserved seats for women and religious minorities at all levels.

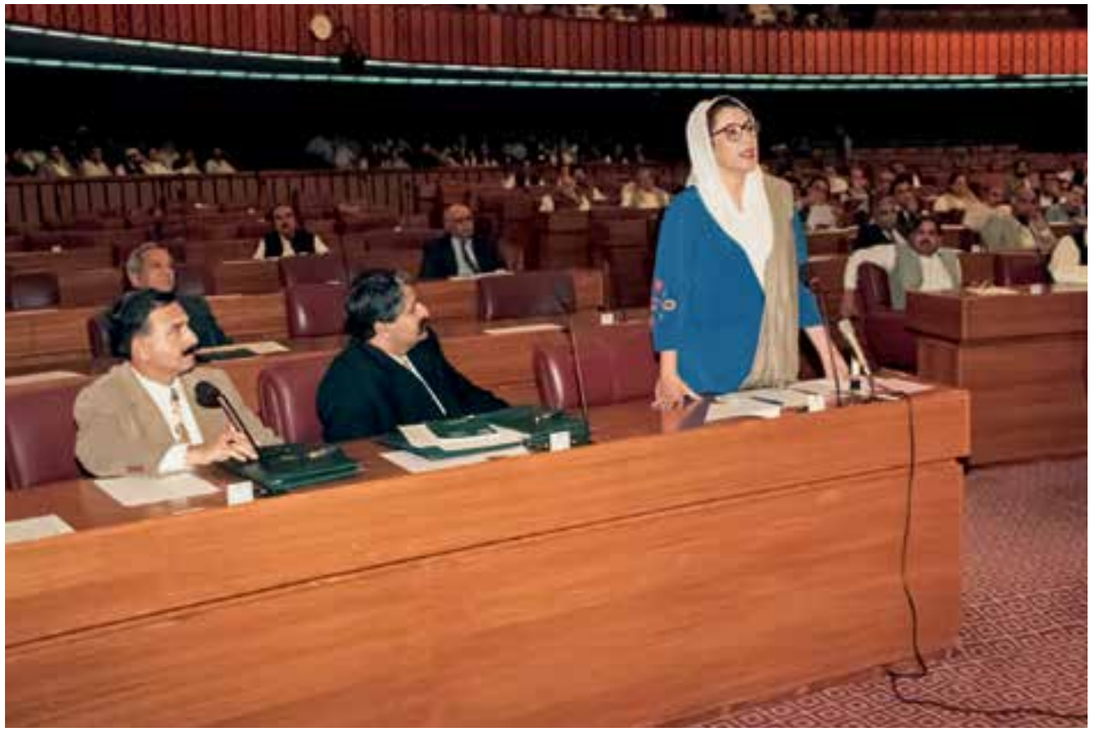
However, much more needs to be done so that the parliamentary institutions fulfill nations' aspirations. The first is to guard its constitutional turf and serve as the center of gravity for entire national edifice. Second is to democratize and fully decolonize the laws that are the relics of colonial era or are grafting of democratic disruptions. Thirdly, evolve creative mechanisms to engage the citizens with the Parliament. Some steps like the PTV Parliament, introduction of parliamentary studies etc. are there but much more needs to be done. Finally, the diamond jubilee is an appropriate moment to draw a bigger and broader futuristic picture on the canvas of hope, put all colours of available talent, foresee the best possibilities and offer a better deal to 220 million plus Pakistanis. For this Parliament is the forum to debate and decide-what kind of Pakistan we want in 2047-to celebrate century of our resilient independence.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto addressing the parliament 1988

Nawaz Sharif addressing the parliament 1990

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto addressing the parliament 1993

PRIME MINISTERS ADDRESSING THE PARLIAMENT SESSIONS

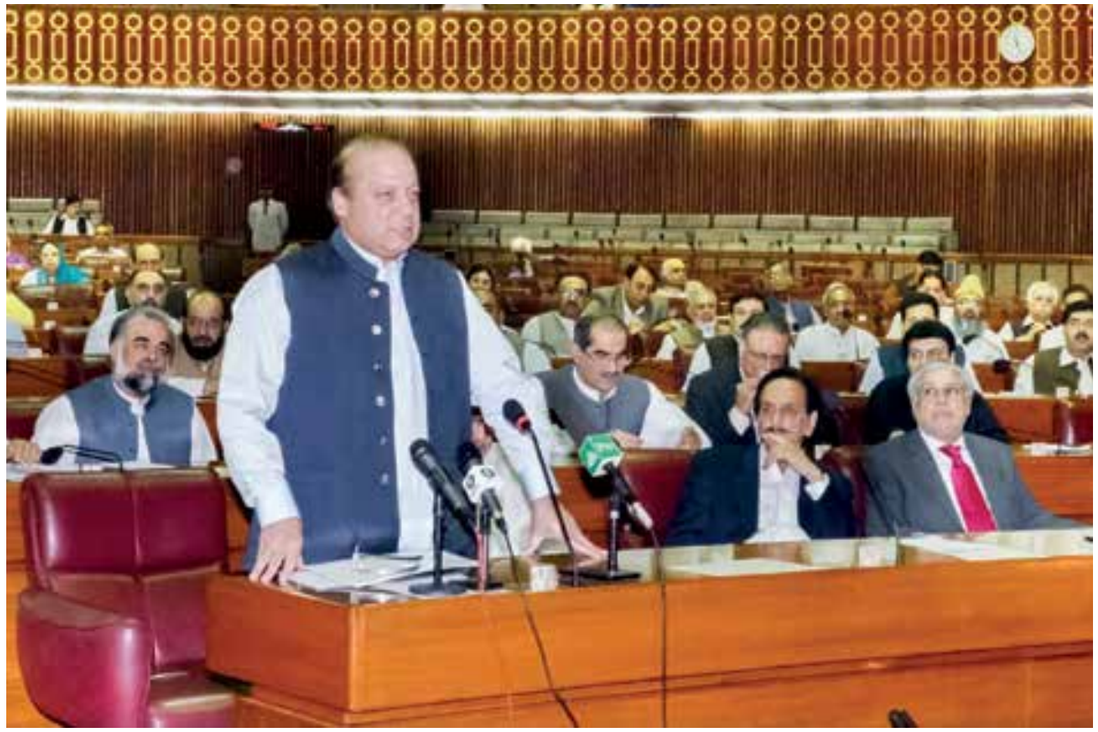


Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (twice) addressing the National Assembly on October 19, 1996

Nawaz Sharif addressing the parliament 1997

Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani speaking at the Parliament House, Islamabad on August 22, 2008

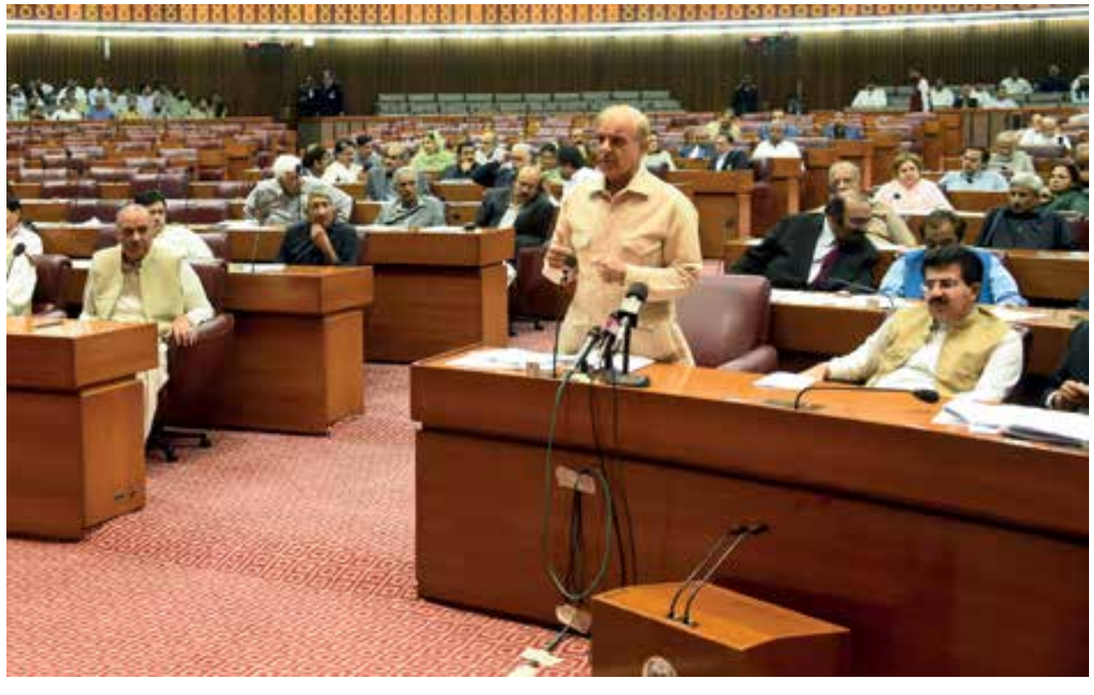
Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf addressing the National Assembly, Islamabad on June 22, 2012



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif (thrice) addressing the joint Session of Parliament in Islamabad on September 5, 2014

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressing the National Assembly on February 19, 2018

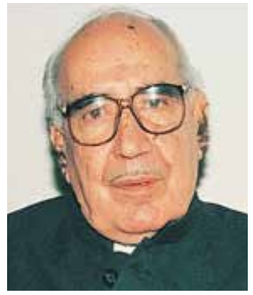
Prime Minister Imran Khan addressing the National Assembly at Parliament House Islamabad on May 13, 2019



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the National Assembly, 2022

CHAIRMEN SENATE OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

Khan Habibullah Khan
6 August 1973 to 4 July 1977



Ghulam Ishaq Khan
21-03-1985 To 12-12-1988

Wasim Sajjad
24-12-1988 To 12-10-1999

Mohammed Mian Soomro
12-03-2003 To 11-03-2009

Farooq Hamid Naek
12-03-2009 To 11-03-2012

Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari
12-03-2012 To 11-03-2015

Mian Raza Rabbani
12-03-2015 To 11-03-2018

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani
12-03-2018 to Present

SPEAKERS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

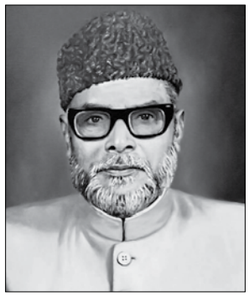
Muhammad Ali Jinnah
27-6-1949 to 29-6-1954

Tamizuddin Khan(Acting)
14-12-1948 to 24-10-1954

Abdul Wahab Khan
12-8-1955 to 7-10-1958

Tamizuddin Khan(Acting)
11-6-1962 to 19-8-1963

Fazlul Chaudhry
29-11-1963 to 12-6-1965



Abdul Jabbar Khan
12-6-1965 to 25-3-1969

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto
14 April 1972 – 15 August 1972

Fazal Elahi Chaudhry
15 August 1972 – 9 August 1973

Sahibzada Farooq Ali
9 August 1973 – 27 March 1977

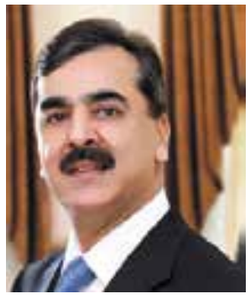
Malik Meraj Khalid
27-3-1977 to 5-7-1977

Syed Fakhar Imam
22-3-1985 to 26-5-1986

Hamid Nasir
31-5-1986 to 3-12-1988

Malik Meraj Khalid
3-12-1988 to 4-11-1990

Gohar Ayub
4-11-1990 to 17-10-1993



Yousaf Raza Gillani
17-10-1993 to 16-2-1997

Elahi Bux Soomro
16-2-1997 to 20-8-2001

Amir Hussain
9-11-2002 to 19-3-2008

Fahmida Mirza
19-3-2008 to 3-6-2013

Ayaz Sadiq
3-6-2013 to 22-8-2015

Murtaza Javed Abbasi (Acting)
24-8-2015 to 9-11-2015

Ayaz Sadiq
9-11-2015 to 15-8-2018

Asad Qaiser
15-8-2018 to 10-4-2022

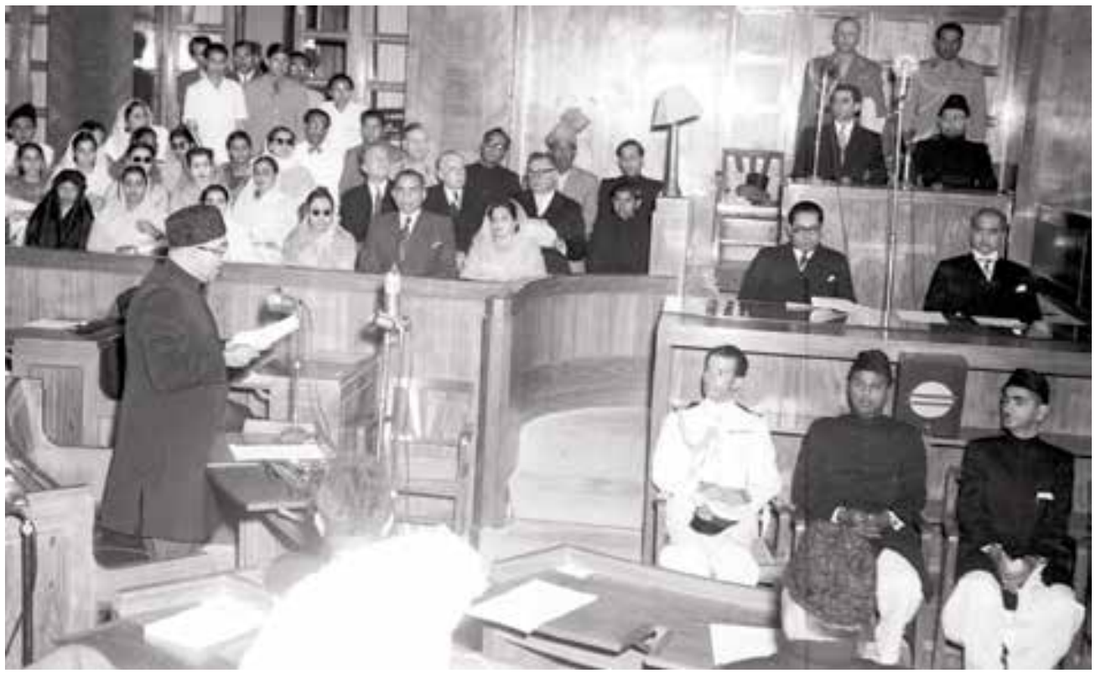
Raja Pervaiz Ashraf
16-4-2022 – Incumbent

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

The foreign policy of a country is a set of goals that a nation adopts to pursue its interests abroad. Diplomacy is the method of achieving those goals by influencing the behavior of foreign governments and people. The foundation of Pakistan's foreign policy and diplomatic relations was laid down by none other than the founder of the country, Quaid e Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who advised that Pakistan's foreign policy should be one of "friendliness and goodwill" towards all nations. He further advised us to "not cherish aggressive designs" against any country, and urged us to observe the principle of "honesty and fair play" in national and international dealings and contribute to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world. Has Pakistan lived up to the Quaid's advice in the 75 years of our country's existence as an independent state? This essay seeks to evaluate our score card in managing our diplomatic relations with the rest of the world in the light of the Quaid's guidance.

The circumstances in which Pakistan started its life as an independent country in 1947 obliged our leadership to hurriedly put together an infrastructure to manage our



Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan welcoming the Shahanshah of Iran Raza Shah Pehlvi in the Constituent Assembly of the Pakistan in Karachi. Seated on the dias are Shahanshah and Speaker Maulvi Tamiz-ud-Din in 1950

American President Truman welcoming Liaquat Ali Khan at his first US visit, 1950

diplomatic relations. The national spirit was at an all-time high, and our leadership and people got down to building up the state architecture from scratch. The Foreign Office was set up in the Mohatta Palace in Karachi, with only one type writer. From such humble beginnings, we have come a long way fighting country's diplomatic battles far and wide to protect our national interests. On the external front, our leadership had to look for ways to bolster our security against the larger eastern neighbor, which refused to share assets, military stores and finances with the nascent state of Pakistan.

Waters coming to Pakistani canals were stopped, and the Muslim majority state of Jammu and Kashmir was militarily occupied by India in violation of the terms of the

Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-Lai shakes hands with Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammed Ali Bogra at the end of the African-Asian Conference, held in Bandung, Java, Indonesia, April 1955

Closing Session of SEATO Conference March 8, 1956

The first Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Nazir Ahmed seen with Queen Elizabeth II, 1961

Pakistan Foreign Minister Mr. Z.A. Bhutto with CENTO delegation at the State Bank Building on April 30, 1963

President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after clinching the deal in Simla, 1972

OIC MEETING HELD IN PAKISTAN FEBRUARY 22-24, 1974

President El-Hadja Dicri Hamani of Niger, President N'garta Tombalbaye of Chad, President Dawada Jawara of Gambia with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan on arrival at the Lahore Airport on Feb 21, 1974

President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al-Makhdoom, and Prime Minister of Pakistan at the Lahore Airport on February 21, 1974

His Majesty King Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz, King of Saudi Arabia with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan on arrival at the Lahore Airport on February 21, 1974

His highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the state of Qatar, with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan on arrival at the Lahore Airport on February 21, 1974

Heads of states and delegations to the Islamic Summit offered Jumma Prayers at Badshahi Mosque, Lahore on February 21, 1974. Picture shows, Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Mr. Maumer Qaddafi, King Faisal, Amir of Kuwait and President of Pakistan

Shaikh Sabah as Salim As-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and Mr. Yassar Arafat of the Palestinian Liberation Organization with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan on arrival at the Lahore Airport on February 21, 1974

A view of the crowd lining on both sides of the Shahra-e-Quaid-e-Azam to witness the procession driving to the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore on February 22, 1974

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto with George Bush at White House in June 1989

partition of British India. The leadership of Pakistan scrambled to establish ties with all friendly nations, including the United States, which had emerged as a superpower after the Second World War, and was well positioned to help Pakistan in the economic and military fields. The relationship that we established with the US did benefit us economically and militarily, but it turned out to be a roller-coaster relationship, oscillating between highs and lows. The people to people contacts with the US, however, followed a steady path throughout the seven decades.

The US universities became a preferred choice for Pakistani students. Our physicians earned Pakistan considerable goodwill in the US. Pakistan's agriculture benefited from the US technical assistance in fostering a green revolution of the early 1960s. In due course, several other areas of bilateral cooperation emerged, especially information technology. Two years after Pakistan became an independent country, the People's Republic of China was established in 1949. Another two years later, Pakistan and China established diplomatic relations. This was the beginning of a friendship that has lasted all through seven decades and emerged as a model bilateral relationship based on mutual respect. Pakistan has always supported Chinese positions and China has also reciprocated with support to Pakistan's core interests.

The relationship has recently been strengthened further by a strong economic component through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pakistan's relations with India have been marred by a lingering mutual distrust. The Kashmir dispute has been a core issue of concern that has bedeviled relations between the two countries. India's refusal to grant the people of occupied Kashmir their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, recent attempts to change demographics of Kashmir, and perpetration of worst kind of human rights violations in the occupied territories is a matter of great concern to Pakistan and the world.

The present Indian government is pursuing a Hindutva driven objective of creating a Hindu rashtra (state) which is highly detrimental to the minorities, especially Muslims of India. The situation is not much different in socio-economic domain. Sadly, South Asia remains the

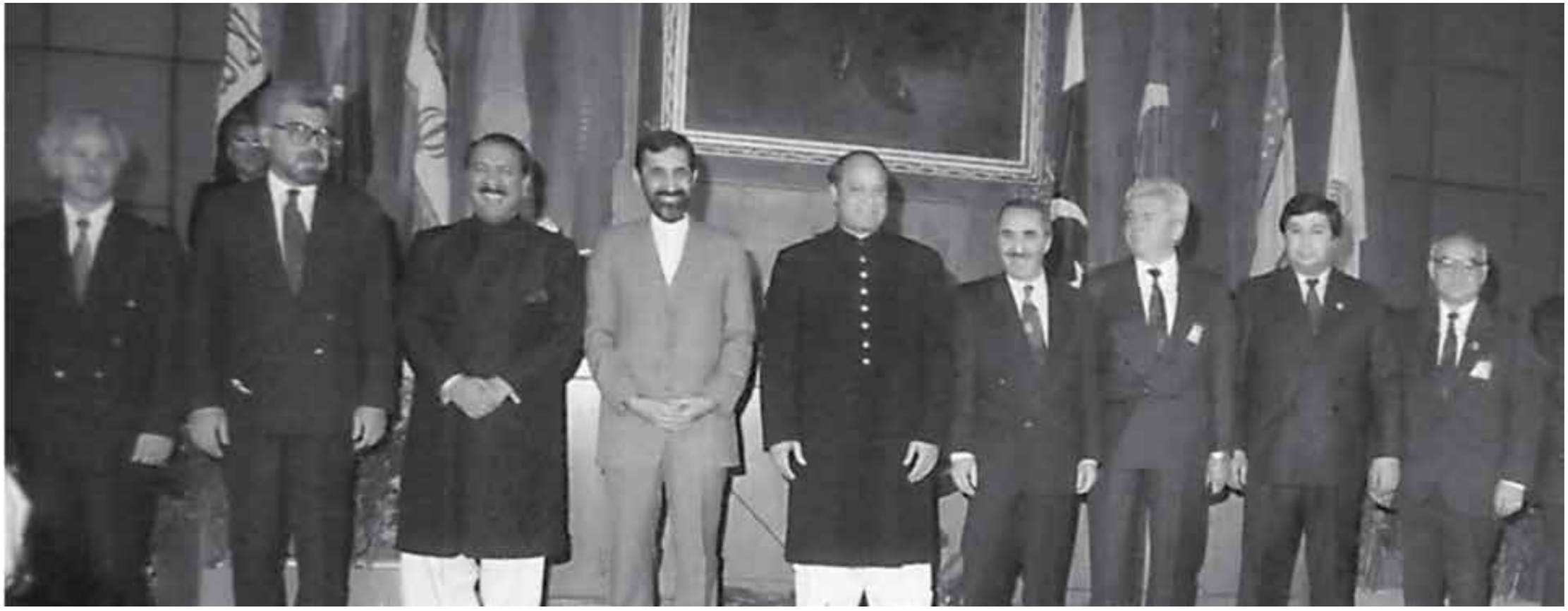
Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto addressing a joint meeting of the US Congress June 7, 1989

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto with UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London, July 1989

Princess Diana visiting the Khyber Rifles, 1991

least integrated region of the world. The imperatives of geo-economics require that the countries of South Asia should muster political will to resolve their differences and establish peaceful and friendly relations. Afghanistan and Pakistan share immutable bonds of history, culture, faith and geography. For decades, the people of Afghanistan have suffered from foreign interventions, terrorism and under-development. There is a consensus in Pakistan that a peaceful, stable, sovereign, and prosperous Afghanistan is in Pakistan's best interests.

Accordingly, Pakistan has always extended due facilitation for bilateral trade and transit rights for Afghan goods to Pakistani ports. Considerable investments have been made to improve the management of the international border between Afghanistan and



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif with the ECO Foreign Ministers after signing instrument of accession of ECO membership by the Central Asian Republic and Afghanistan at a ceremony in Islamabad on November 28, 1992

The Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto addressing the inaugural Session of Third ECO Summit at Islamabad on March 14, 1995

Queen Elizabeth II inspects a guard of honour in Pakistan, 1997

Queen Elizabeth's visit to Pakistan 1997

Pakistan. The objective was to ensure that people to people contacts are promoted while interdicting the cross-border movement of terrorists. Iran is a neighbor with deep cultural affinities with the people of Pakistan. While political relationship has always remained cordial throughout the past 75 years, efforts are afoot to bolster economic cooperation. In our broader neighborhood, Pakistan's relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and other countries in the Middle East have been important. Besides hosting Pakistani diaspora, these countries have stood with Pakistan in the defense of Muslim causes.

In African countries, Pakistan enjoys high esteem, partly for the role that Pakistan played in their freedom movements against the colonial yoke, and also because Pakistani troops have been in the vanguard of UN peacekeeping forces to maintain peace and security in various parts of Africa. Of late, successive governments in Pakistan have initiated steps to bolster economic and commercial relations with African continent. The economic geography of the areas surrounding Pakistan makes it the hub that connects the sub regions of Central Asia, West Asia, and South Asia. The Central Asian Republics are, therefore, important near-neighbors of Pakistan. Pakistan is also keen to develop economic relations with East Asia. Europe remains an important partner of Pakistan in multiple fields of cooperation.

As a continent, Europe is the largest destination of Pakistani exports. Millions of Pakistanis have made the UK and other European countries their home and are serving as a bridge between Pakistan and their adopted homelands. National Security has been redefined to place greater emphasis on economic and human securities. Our foreign policy can leverage our geographical location as an opportunity and benefit from the geoeconomics of connectivity. The ambit of foreign policy choices has further expanded with the onset of non-traditional security threats, especially climate change and water, food, and energy security. Foreign policy choices are determined by the goals and priorities set by the government of the day, strengths and vulnerabilities of the country, regional and global situation and influence of stakeholders within a country. The world around us is changing rapidly.

President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari addressing the inaugural session of OIC Summit at Islamabad on March 23, 1997.

A view of Eco Summit held in Ashkabad on 14-5-1997.

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif addressing the 8th OIC Summit in Tehran on 10-12-1997.

Chairman NHA Abdul Rehman with the SAARC Technical Committee meeting participants at the Concluding Session in Islamabad on March 14, 1999

Unilateralism is on the rise; multilateralism is on retreat. Xenophobia and Islamophobia have undermined peace and harmony. A major power competition has been initiated by the US with China and Russia. The US is pursuing an Indo-Pacific strategy, with India as a preferred partner. New alliances, such as QUAD, are emerging. In this backdrop, Pakistan has adjusted its foreign policy taking into account the principles laid down for us by the Quaid. Pakistan does not wish to be a part of any camp, and wants to maintain good relations with all major powers as well as with neighbors and beyond.

The above broad scan illustrates how well Pakistan has employed its foreign policy to protect and promote our national interests. Our foreign policy choices have safeguarded our sovereignty and territorial integrity, developed friendly relations with all states, pursued national strategic and commercial interests abroad, and looked after Pakistani diaspora. It is a matter of pride that Pakistan has always observed a principled approach to inter-state relations, which has earned it high esteem of the world. The writer, a former Foreign Secretary, is the Director General of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, and author of 'Diplomatic Footprints'.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping inaugurate projects through video link at PM Office, Islamabad April 20, 2015

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz during the meeting of the OIC Contact Group of Kashmir held on the sidelines of 13th OIC Summit in Istanbul 2016

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi participates in the Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of SCO Member States in Extended Format at Sochi, Russia on December 1, 2017

President Mamnoon Hussain along with other Heads of State signing the 18th SCO Summit Declaration in Qingdao, China on June 10, 2018

PAKISTAN'S DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

Flag of the People's Republic of China

Flag of the United States of America

Flag of the United Kingdom

Flag of the Germany

Flag of the Australia

Flag of the Canada

Flag of the France

Flag of the New Zealand

Flag of the Belgium

Civil Ensign of Switzerland

Flag of the Spain

Flag of the Denmark

Flag of the Russia

Flag of the Netherlands

Flag of the Sweden

Flag of th Norway

Flag of the Ukraine

Flag of the Vietnam

Flag of the Zimbabwe

Flag of the Turkey

Flag of Saudi Arabia

Flag of the Uzbekistan

Flag of the Srilanka

Flag of the United Arab Emirates

Flag of the Tajikistan

Flag of the Singapore

Flag of the Jordan

Flag of the Ivory-Coast

Flag of the Ghana

Flag of the Tunisia

Flag of the Turkmenistan

Flag of the Uganda

Flag of the Malaysia

Flag of the Netherlands

Flag of the Czech Republic

Flag of the Thailand

Flag of the Tanzania

Flag of the Syria

Flag of the Sudan

Flag of the Serbia

Flag of the South Africa

Flag of the Senegal

Flag of the Rwanda

Flag of the Niger

Flag of the Romania

Flag of the Qatar

Flag of the Poland

Flag of the Oman

Flag of the United Nations

Flag of the North Korea

Flag of the Nigeria

Flag of the Libya

Flag of the Lebanon

Flag of the Kyrgyzstan

Flag of the Nepal

Flag of the Myanmar

Flag of the Morocco

Flag of the Mexico

Flag of the Mauritius

Flag of the Maldives

Flag of the Brazil

Flag of the Kuwait

Flag of the Kenya

Flag of the Kazakhstan

Flag of the Iraq

Flag of the Indonesia

Flag of the Hungary

Flag of the Hong Kong

Flag of the Greece

Flag of the India

Flag of the Bosnia and Herzegovina

Flag of the Belarus

Flag of the Brunei Darussalam

Flag of the Bulgaria

Flag of the Cambodia

Flag of the Chicago, Illinois

Flag of the Cuba

Flag of the Djibouti

Flag of the Egypt

Flag of the Ethiopia

Flag of the Bangladesh

Flag of the Azerbaijan

Flag of the Algeria

Flag of the Afghanistan

Flag of the Argentina

FOREIGN DIGNITARIES ADDRESSING PARLIAMENT OF PAKISTAN

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjain Addressing Parliament (1992)

Queen Elizabeth addressing the Joint Session of the Parliament on 8th October, 1997

Chinese premier Wen Jiabao Addressing Parliament (2010)

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Addressing Paliament (2012)

Chinese President Xi Jinging Addressing Parliament (2015)

48th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held at Islamabad 22-23 March, 2022

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the 77th Session of UN General Assembly on September 23, 2022

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto at SCO Meeting Goa, India, May 4-5, 2023

PM joins World Leaders to Witness King Charles III's Coronation, May 6, 2023

REGIONAL SECURITY AND GLOBAL PEACE

Lt Gen Nauman Mahmood, HI (M)

Despite facing recurring upheavals and a tumultuous history, Pakistan, the land of 220 million stands stronger than before. Active borders, cycles of Afghan war, changing enemy tactics and evolving global dynamics have played a significant role in the country's strategic ambitions. Despite these challenges, Pakistan's foreign policy has always been an embodiment of the vision of its founding father, Muhammad Ali Jinnah who, while addressing the inauguration of Pakistan Broadcasting Service stated, "Our object should be peace within, and peace without. We want to live peacefully and maintain cordial friendly relations with our immediate neighbors and with the world at large." (15h August, 1947). Working on the vision of the Quaid, Pakistan has always desired peace in the region and beyond, and for this; the nation has sacrificed a lot.

Recognizing the conventional threat from its Eastern front, the defence industry of Pakistan under the Ministry of Defence Production, was established in 1951 with the aim to boost and coordinate the manufacturing of military equipment. Today, there are 20 public and 100 private firms engage in the production, manufacturing and assembling of fighter and trainer aircrafts, armored fighting vehicles, frigates, submarines and several weapon system and equipment which fulfill be international standards of quality. To expand its weapons market. Pakistan organize a biennial International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS), where indigenous and international defence systems and latest technologies are displayed for buyers.

Foreseeing the impact of India's nuclear deterrent on South Asian power balance, Pakistan developed its own indigenous nuclear program and entered the elite group of nuclear powers on 28th May 1998. Over the years, our scientists have worked hard developing several nuclear-capable, road-mobile, short and medium range ballistic missiles to Pakistan in achieving a nuclear "triad", thus reiterating its policy of full spectrum and credible minimum deterrence. Due to the hard work and tenacity of our military and civil leadership, Pakistan's nuclear program, under the central control of the National Command Authority, chaired by the Prime Minister, has been declared as one of the safest in the world.

Whether it was the war of 1965 or the Balakot incident of 27th February 2019, the country's armed forces have always come across superior and have responded to India's reckless military adventures befittingly. With time, the threat to Pakistan's sovereignty took a more abstract shape and in 2001, the country was compelled to join the Global War on terror. This has cost us economic losses worth$ 127 billion while more than 70,000 people have lost their lives. Named after the sword of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Operation Zarb-e-Azb was launched in 2014 in North Waziristan to strike all foreign and local terrorists: True to its meaning, Zarb-e-Azb was immensely successful and in order to retain the gains made, three years later, operation Rad-ul- Fassad was launched with the aim to ensure lasting peace in the country.

In addition to conventional fighting, the government developed the National Action Plan (NAP) to fight the terrorists through a consolidated national effort of a time-bound agenda. Pakistan's success in the fight against extremism and terrorism has not only been appreciated by our friends but has also won accolades from our enemies.

Major Fozia Parveen on patrol in Cyprus during UN peacekeeping mission, 2019

To ensure the protection of our borders and the nation's fundamental needs, the government launched the country's first ever National Security Policy (NSP) in 2002. The policy has been labeled "comprehensive" and "inclusive" and it has termed human security imperative for Pakistan's economic growth. Recognized women empowerment vital to our country's success, the document gives renewed importance to gender security. It is for the first time in the country's history, the subject has been formally linked with the country's National Security goals.

This shows that our women like men are the guardians of our homeland and are equally involved in Pakistan's protection, security and development. The hate crimes and brutality against Muslims rings deep with Pakistan, especially because of the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir (1OJK). Pakistan strongly condemns the unilateral abrogation of article 370 which has striped IIOJK of its special status. As Kashmir continues to remain under brutal Indian military occupation, Pakistan not only supports its Kashmiri brother and sisters in their right to self-determination but also continues to take steps to highlight the Indian human rights violations at International Forum. It is because of Pakistan's unwavering efforts that the Indian atrocities in Kashmir are now being discussed at UNSC, for the first time in decades.

The wrongdoing against Muslim around the globe has always been downplayed. To understand and highlight the plight of the Muslims, Pakistan presented a resolution in the UN General Assembly that called for designating a special day for this purpose. It was because of Pakistan's unrelenting efforts that 15th March was declared as International Day to Combat "Islamophobia" for the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief. Pakistan has committed itself in maintaining global peace, for which it has contributed more than 200,000 peacekeepers in 46 different missions across 28 countries.

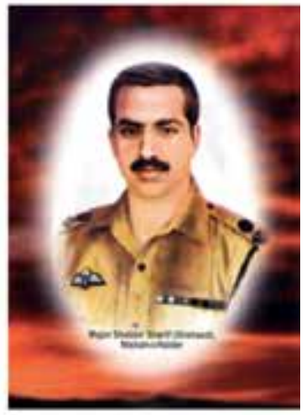
Recognizing the looming threat of Climate Change, we are committed to the goals of the Paris Agreement and our endeavors to plant billon trees have been a step in the same direction. As Pakistan faces highly active borders, the country is under the onslaught of 5th generation warfare by its enemies. The armed forces and the people remain united and continue to fight every threat with resilience through the whole of nation approach so that our future generations can live peacefully.

PRIDE OF THE NATION

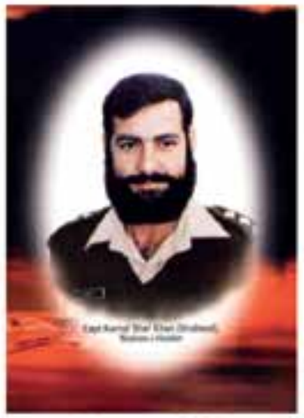
27 July 1948, Tilpatra, Uri Sector, IIOJK

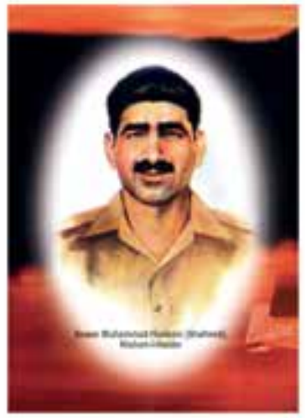
26 October 1948, Mendhar Sector, IIOJK

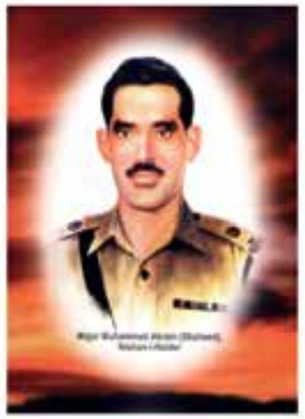
18 December 1971, Wahga-Attari Sector, Lahore

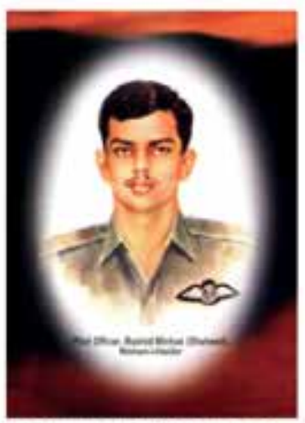

6 December 1971, Sulemanki Sector

7 July 1999, Kargil Sector


5 July 1999, Gultari Sector


10 December 1971, Shakargarh Sector


December 1971, Hili Sector (East Pakistan)


20 August 1971, Goth Ahmed Shah, Sujawal

12 September 1965, Wahga Sector

Lakshmipur Sector (East Pakistan)

Pakistan in a UN peacekeeping mission

Pakistan in a UN peacekeeping mission

Sacrifice for global peace

UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION

ECONOMY

Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha

Pakistan has seen periods of uneven development with periodic 'boom-and-bust' growth cycles. However, on the average, the country has experienced a growth rate in GDP of over 5 percent per year over the past seventy-five years since its independence. External shocks partly explain the unevenness in growth performance of the country whereas other impediments in the implementation of adjustment policies have been mainly responsible for the slow growth periods. Pakistan has shown a remarkable rebound after major shocks to the economy a number of times in history including the wars of 1948 and 1965, the fall of Dhaka in 1971, the terrorism upsurge after 9/11, and the COVID-l9 pandemic and several others. Pandemics are a once-in-a-century event that devastates global economies.

BECO (Batala Engineering Company)

PECO (Pakistan Engineering Company)

Pakistan did much better in coping with the pandemic as compared to many countries and the economy witnessed a V-shaped recovery. In FY2022, the GDP growth rate remained at 5.97 percent. History testifies that each time Pakistan has faced a pivotal economic crisis, along with its dreadful political and security ramifications, we have not only come through it successfully but also emerged as a stronger nation. The sustained growth of production in agriculture has been a cherished goal of Pakistan's economy throughout its history. The sector is still the foundation of the economy as it provides employment to 37.4 percent of the labour force and provides inputs for the agro-based industry.

General Saleh Mehdi Amash (1970-71) the Iraqi Vice President admiring a Pakistan made diesel engine at the Pakistan Pavilion in the 7th Baghdad International Fair being held in Baghdad, Dr. Fakhri Kadduri, the Iraqi Minister for Economy (in dark glasses) is standing behind General Ammash while Mr. Muhammad Munir, Director of Pakistan Pavilion is on his right

Pakistan Steel Mills

Similarly, increasing agricultural growth or productivity is one of the most important determinants of economic growth and poverty reduction. The growth rate of agriculture over the years has been volatile. In the decade of 1960s the sector achieved a growth rate of 5.2 percent just because of the fact that Green Revolution was at its peak. The growth rate fell to 2.4 percent in the 1970s. In 1980s agriculture saw a significant growth of 5.4 percent. However, from the 1990s onwards to the 2000's the growth rate continuously declined from

Local Boat Making in Gwadar

Gwadar City Vista with Marine Drive

Gwadar port

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan laying the Foundation Stone of Larkana Sugar Mills on January 30, 1974

The Terminal and storage farm has been developed to cater for chemical imports at Port Qasim

Balloki Power Plant, Punjab

Motorways

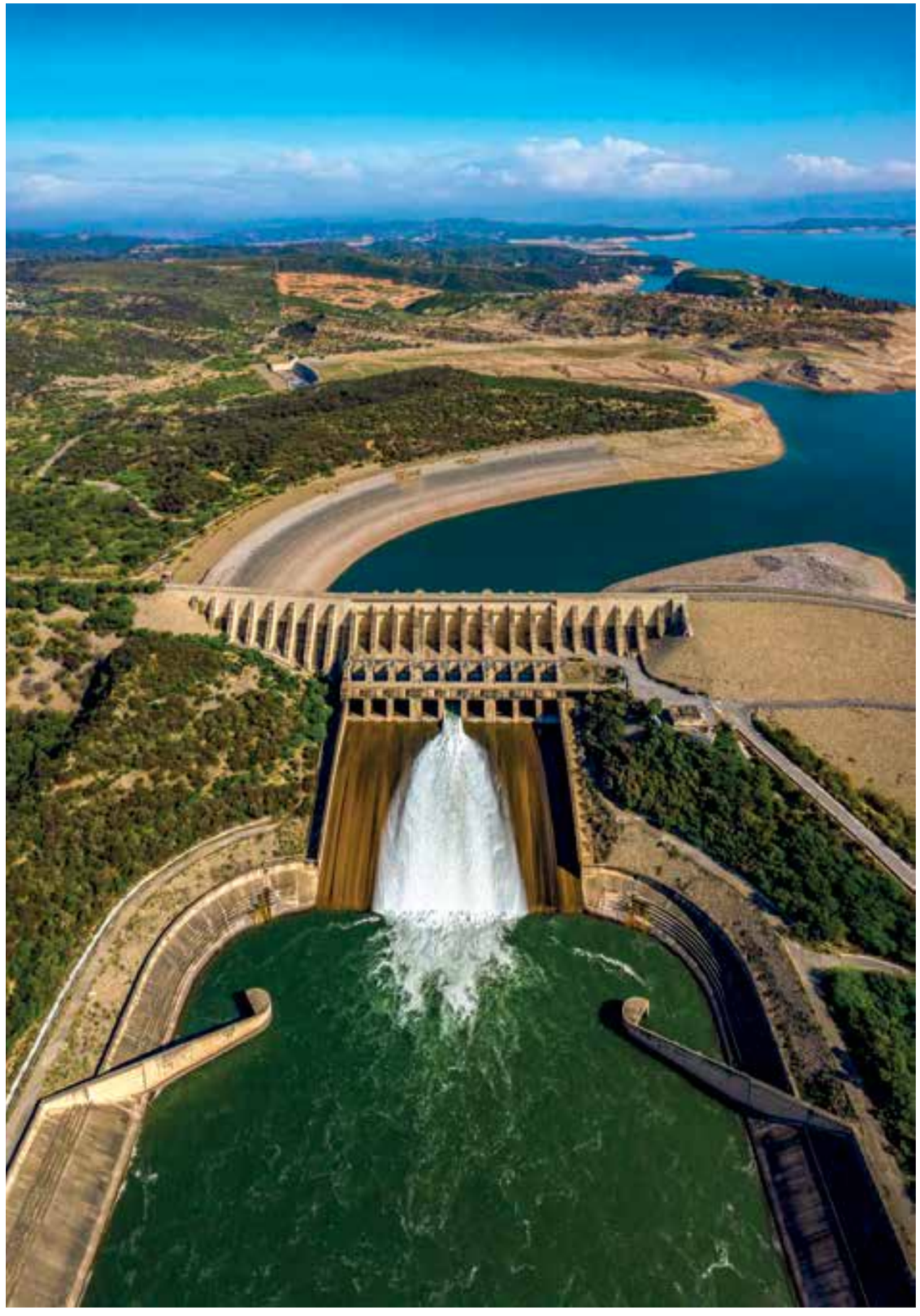
4.4 percent in the 90s to 3.2 percent in the 2000s. The sector has again shown improvement and has recorded a robust growth of 4.40 percent in FY 2022.

The industrial sector has played a vital role in saving Pakistan's economy from collapsing even after the great shocks discussed above. Pakistan started almost from scratch in the manufacturing sector. At the time of independence, there were only a few textile mills and cement plants in the country. During the last seventy-five years, not only textile mills have been established, but food industries including vegetable, ghee, sugar mills, cigarette manufacturing units, cement plants, and fertilizer factories have also been established in the country with a share of about 20 percent in the GDP.

Since its independence, Pakistan has also been successful in establishing its trade and economic ties with different countries and regions and has entered into several trading arrangements like Pakistan-India bilateral trade relations, regional cooperation for development, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, China Pakistan Economic Corridor and EU-GSP Plus scheme and several others. Progressive financial sector reforms since independence have resulted in a vibrant banking sector in Pakistan with an improved regulatory and supervisory capacity of the State Bank of Pakistan.

M16 and N45 Interchange Chakdara, Swat

Pakistan Gate - Torkham Border



Mangla Dam Spillway

Gomalzam Dam, South Waziristan, KPK

The reforms have made the banking sector of Pakistan competitive and capable of supporting a growing economy. However, Pakistan's economy has been facing certain inherent problems since birth. The fiscal imbalances and current account deficit have been persistent problems for Pakistan's economy. The country is making efforts to rely upon stable and sustainable sources of external financing like exports, foreign direct investment (FDI), portfolio investments, and foreign assets of Pakistan for stimulating the economic growth, instead of unstable and less sustainable sources of external financing like loans, foreign aid and remittances. Saving and investment rates have remained low in Pakistan.

Pakistan needs to have political stability to promote a healthy investment climate for domestic and foreign investors to achieve sustainable growth. Pakistan has been making persistent efforts for attracting foreign investments since independence and has seen many phases of ups and down, due to changing government policies, domestic business conditions, and the global economic environment. In the early period of the 1950s, and 1960s, FDI picked up mainly due to public policies as well expansionary strategies of foreign companies, but it declined later. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a $62 billion connectivity project envisioned to stretch from the western Chinese city of Kashgar to Pakistan's Arabian Sea port of Gwadar, located near Iran and the Persian Gulf shipping lanes.

The investment in the corridor will transform Pakistan into a regional economic hub. The corridor will be a confidence booster for investors and attract investment not only from China but from other parts of the world as well. Other than transportation infrastructure, the economic corridor will provide Pakistan with telecommunications and energy infrastructure. While foreign savings are important in financing the saving-investment gap, domestic savings play a critical role in investment in any country. National savings were around 10 percent of GDP during the 1960s, which increased to above 15 percent in the 2000s but declined afterward. Besides a strong and flourishing banking sector, the crowding-out phenomenon with an increase in government borrowing has led to limited access to credit for the private sector in Pakistan.

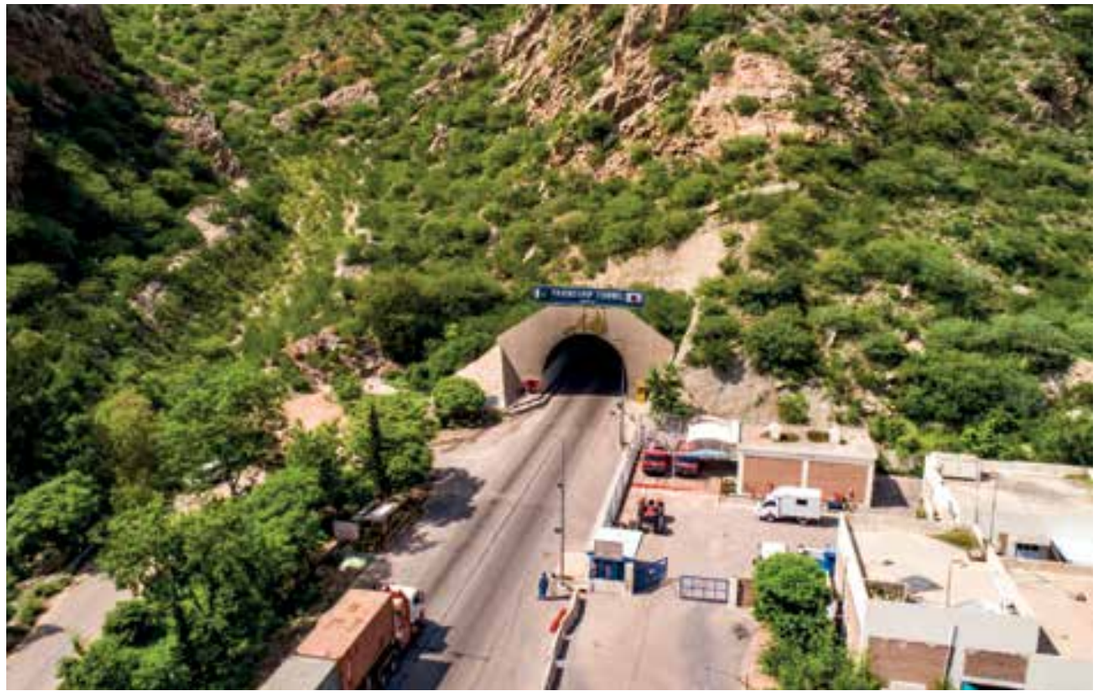
We need to ensure consistent policies, smooth energy availability, and improved governance for a conducive business environment in order to increase investments in productive sectors of the economy. Over the years, Pakistan has seen progress in its Human Development Index (HDI) value, which increased from 0.400 in 1990 to 0.560 in 2018. This means a higher life expectancy at birth for Pakistani children, more years of schooling, and higher income for families. However, there remains much to be done, as Pakistan's HDI value is lower than both the average HDI value of countries in the medium human development group (0.630), as well as our neighbors in South Asia (0.640). Pakistan needs to take adequate measures to ensure the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs) (no poverty) and to improve human development.

Panoramic view of Rawal Dam Spillway

Metro Bus Service Multan

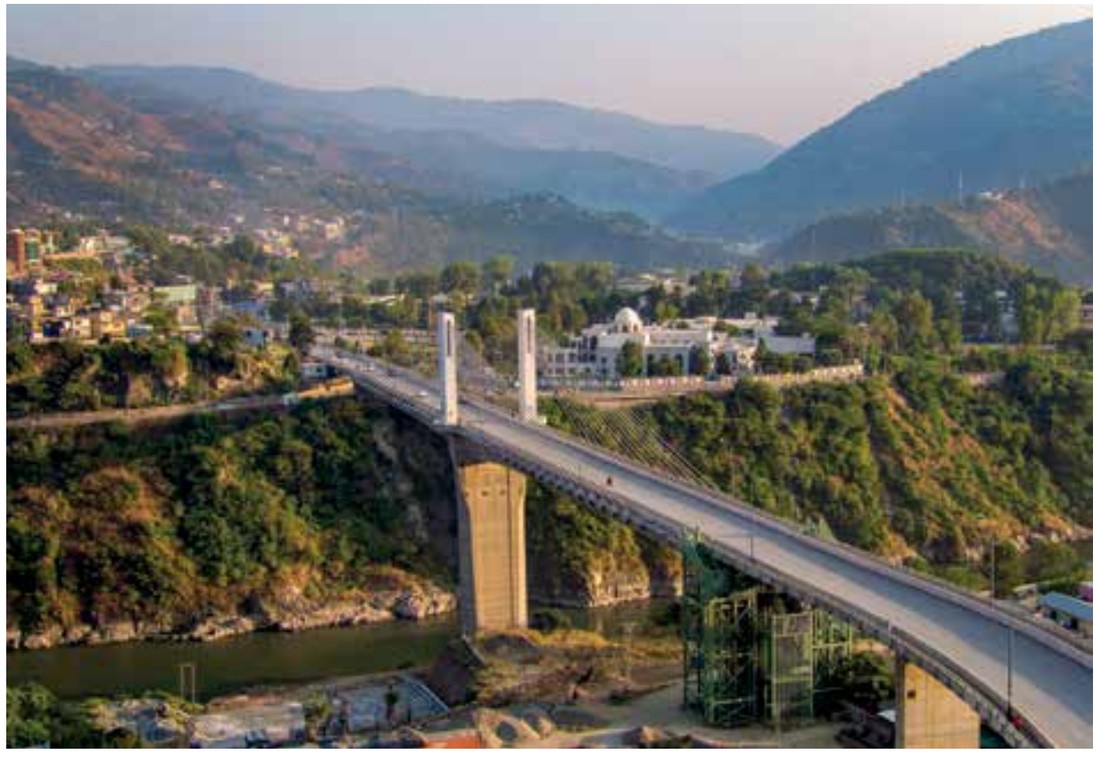
Port Qasim Coal Power Plant

KPT Interchange Karachi



Friendship Tunnel Kohat

Swat Motorway



Earthquake Memorial Bridge

Fort Munro Bridge

A panoramic view of 7th Avenue, Islamabad

A panoramic view of Blue Area, Islamabad

AGRICULTURE

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad

Agriculture is an art as well as science that needs a number of tools to make its practices comfortable, achievable, and profitable for those who are involved in its business. Its major needs include soil, seed, and water, whereas all the other inputs improve environment for the major needs from germination of seeds to final produce of crops. Better management of all these resources requires proper knowledge and manpower trained in relevant institutions, i.e. Universities and research organizations. Institutions at the time of early Pakistan in 1947, there was a little human manpower and physical capital of the agricultural research system in the country, comprising only one agriculture college namely "Agriculture College Lyallpur", which was upgraded to the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad in 1961. Keeping in view the need of trained manpower in agriculture, three more universities were established in the Punjab province and one in each province of Sindh, Baluchistan and KP, as well as in AJK.

Presently a good number of general universities are also running agricultural programs and producing agricultural graduates. In addition to universities, a good number of research institutes were also required to support agricultural research, training and other related activities. In this regard, the Food and Agricultural Committee was set up in 1948 as a first step in the up-gradation of agriculture. The same was reconstituted as the Food and Agricultural Council of Pakistan in 1951, which was renamed as the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in 1973. In 1981, finally the ARC was upgraded to Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC). The main purpose of PARC was to focus on National Coordinated Research Programs and disciplines.

A total of 111 agencies were involved in agricultural R&D in Pakistan by 2003, having more than 3,600 employees (IFPRI, 2007). Presently, there is significant increase in the number of both the academic and research institutions. The agricultural research system in Pakistan was reorganized in 1998 both at the federal and provincial levels with clearly defined roles; research conducted by the federal government agencies would be largely long-term priority research, while the research conducted by the provincial organizations would be mostly adaptive in nature. At the provincial level, agriculture was further divided into five fields: crops, livestock and fisheries, food, natural resources (soil, water, forestry, and wildlife), and education. Each of the four provinces has a main agricultural research institute like Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) in the Punjab province.

The AARI came into being in 1962 when the Punjab Agricultural College was split into separate institutes to meet the needs of the farming community under the growing population and industrial sector. The efforts made to establish the institutions were to equip the extension and field workers with modern agricultural knowledge and technologies to support the farming community in resolving their daily issues, improving cropping intensity and crop yields per acre.

Agricultural Growth Trends

Agriculture is the backbone of the country, presently contributing 19.2% to the GDP and providing employment to around 38.5% of the labor force (GOP, 2021). Beginning with a stagnating sector of the 1950, agriculture witnessed record growth rates during the sixties, followed by the relatively low growth rate during the early seventies, but again an increase during second half of the seventies. After nineties, the growth rate showed continuous decline till 2010-11, the same trend was observed from 2012 to 2016. The lowest growth was observed in 2016 and 2019 as 0.15% and 0.56%, respectively. The irregularity in the agricultural growth pattern is evident from the rise and fall in the produce of different crops in different years. In depth analysis of the agricultural growth pattern indicates that inventions like Green Revolution during sixties, high yielding varieties of wheat and rice, availability of chemicals, farm mechanization including tractor cultivation, introduction of private tube wells, and new cotton varieties in 1980s were the main factors to improve agricultural produce of individual crops resulting in improved agricultural growth. Similarly, the weather calamities including floods and droughts, dwindling and poorly managed water resources, insects and pests' attacks, low quality seeds, and exhausted soils with inadequate fertigation were the major causes limiting the agricultural growth.

Land

The total surface area of Pakistan is 79.61 million hectares excluding the Northern Areas of Pakistan, out of which 59% of the area is comprised of plateaus and mountains, while 41% area is covered by deserts and plains (GOP, 2015). The cultivated area is around 22.06 million hectares, while the culturable waste represents 8.20 million hectares, which are appropriate for agriculture if water is made available. Irrigated area in the Indus Basin has increased from 9 million hectares in 1950 to about 18 million hectares in 2000 due to doubling of cropping intensity from 60% in 1950 to 120% in 2000. It is estimated that by 2025, the cropping intensity may increase up to 170%, which will increase the cropped area up to about 25 million hectares.

Lush Green Paddy Fields of Hazara

Rana Abdul Hameed Central Minister for Agriculture and works appreciating the growth of Egyptian variety of cotton in the experimental farms at Thatta which he visited on September 5, 1964

Mr. A. H. M. Shams ud Doha Central Minister for Agriculture and works visited multiplication farm at Rangpur on January 20, 1968

A Lyallpur Foundry manufactured a harvestor-cum binder. Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shaikh Muhammad Rashid witnessing the machine in operation 1970

However, most of the farmlands are producing less than their potential. It is believed that with modern agricultural techniques and balanced inputs, the production of most of the crops can be multiplied. The farm size has been decreased with passage of time under the practice of land resource division on inheritance basis. Presently the size of farm has reduced to about < 5 acres for about 95% farmers. The situation needs a big shift in present agriculture practices to make farming profitable and retain the present farming community in agriculture on sustainable basis, i.e. to adopt high agriculture technologies to produce high quantity products.

Water

Water being a scarce resource for agriculture is every day question even after a lot of interventions by the federal and provincial governments. One can comfortably say that Pakistan has enough potential of land resource, but lacks in the irrigation water; the water limitation has not only limited the size of agriculture in the country, but also affected the per acre crop yields. The history of water resource development starts back in 1947, when approximately 37 million acres of land received irrigation from the flow of the Indus River and its tributaries. Out of 37 million acres, 31 million acres fall in Pakistan. Starting from a population of about 30 million in 1947, which is going to rise to 225 million by 2025, the canal withdrawals in Indus Basin Irrigation System (IBIS) were around 60 MAF (Million Acre Feet), which progressively increased to 106 MAF during the period of 1976-81 after the addition of Tarbela Dam.

The canal withdrawals dropped to 104 MAF by 2002 and currently stand around 102 MAF due to sedimentation. To enhance the available surface water in the system, a number of the dams are needed. National Water Policy (2018) has been framed to enhance the water storage capacity of Pakistan by adding 10 MAF. At present, the water storage capacity of Pakistan is around 13.68 MAF, which is questionable for our agriculture during drought conditions. To enhance storage capacity, work on two major storage dams (Diamer Basha and Mohmand Dam) along with 518 medium and small dams having total storage capacity of 8.33 MAF, is in progress. In addition to water resources development, management of existing water resources is also need of the hour. Agriculture Departments in each province have been working hard to introduce water saving techniques from channel to fields by reducing all types of irrigation losses, i.e. watercourse losses, farm losses and irrigation application losses to enhance water productivity of crops.

Unfortunately, ill-trained farming community still continues traditional irrigation practices at the larger scale. The situation is leaving a big space for further efforts to introduce the improved irrigation techniques including furrow-bad planting, tunnel farming along-with drip irrigation, hydroponics agriculture and aquaponics agriculture. Wheat on Bed-Furrow System and Rice on Bed-Furrow System agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers and pesticides are equally important for getting better crop production and agricultural growth. There is a need to improve the availability of quality seed to

the farmers by reviving the research and development and adopting international best practices for improving seed production at domestic level.

There are about 800 companies in the seed production business in Pakistan, including multinational companies. The unregistered seed suppliers including the commissioned agents, retailers and shopkeepers are the major contributors supplying 90 percent of the seeds. Almost all vegetable and other crops' seeds including maize and cotton have been imported from India and other countries. Regarding fertilizers, the demand is always on increasing side; however, Pakistan meets around 84 percent of its requirements through local production, while the remaining is met through imports. Domestic production of fertilizers during the year 2021 increased by 5.9 percent as compared to previous year, while the imported supply of fertilizer decreased by 20.1 percent, indicating the remarkable role of the local companies in providing these farm inputs.

Traditional Method of Paddy Harvesting

AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES

A farmer getting water from a well being powered by a pair of bull near Sheikhupura Road as the people celebrate World Water Day

A farmer busy in ploughing the field in a traditional way before the next crop by the help of bulls at the outskirts of the city

A family of farmers collecting cotton from the fields

A farmer collecting fodder for his livestock from mustard field at the outskirts of the city

AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES

A farmer couple busy in harvesting wheat crop in their farm field in the catchment area of the city

An elderly lady busy cleaning crop in a traditional way outside her home at Tabho Meghwar Village near Islamkot

A farmer driving tractor in his field to thresh wheat crop

Labourers busy in filling rice in bags in Rice Factory at Miro Khan Road

AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES

Beautiful paddy fieds

Rice Cultivation

A farmer spreading dates for drying purpose at his field

Farmer busy in preparing his farm field with the help of tractor for next crop at the outskirts of the city

Irrigation Canal Head - Punjab

PAKISTAN'S EXPORTS

Workers sorting out kinnos in an export-processing facility

Mango Festival – promotion of the sweetest summer fruit

Guava processing facility in Pakistan

Multani Mango processing industry in Pakistan

Pakistani Basmati Rice

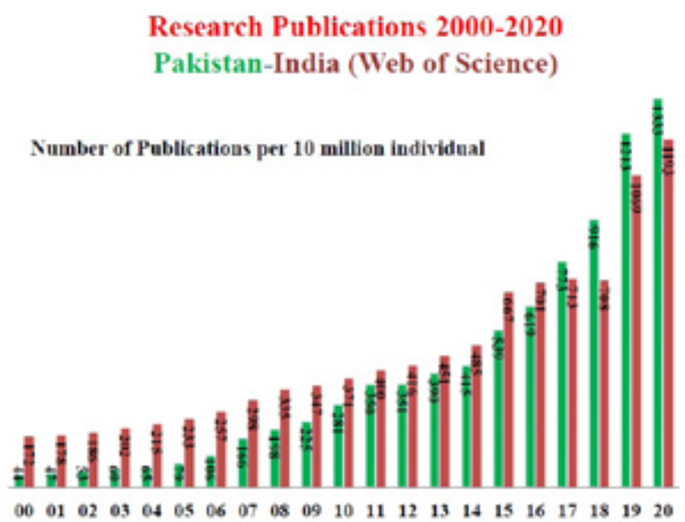
Meat value addition industry in Pakistan

Modern dairy farming in Pakistan

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Atta-ur-Rahman N.I., H.I., S.I., T.I., FRS

Pakistan has achieved significant progress in the field of science and technology over the last 75 years. This is reflected by the fact that it is the only country with nuclear capabilities in the Islamic world. With only one university in 1947 (University of the Punjab), it has about 225 universities today. The transformation of the University Grants Commission to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in 2002 proved to be a major milestone for the development of science and technology in Pakistan. The foundations of this transformation were laid by the author, who was the Founding Chairman of HEC, with maximum emphasis being placed on the quality of higher education and scientific research rather than numbers. The most important initiative taken by HEC was to strengthen the universities and scientific institutions in the country by selecting the brightest young men and women after a highly competitive selection process and sending thousands of them to the leading universities of the world for training at PhD and postdoctoral levels.

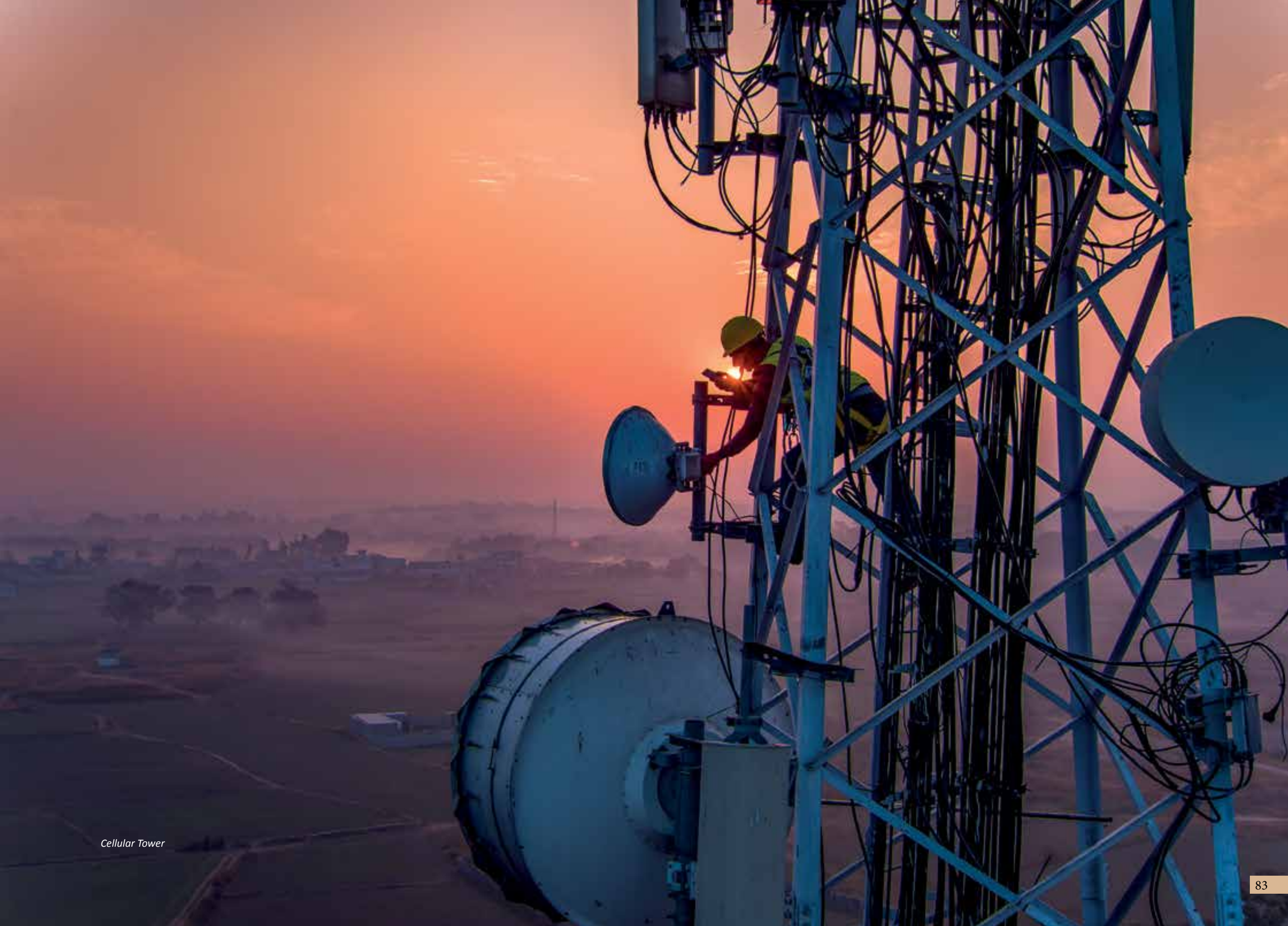


Growth in International Research Publications in Impact Factor Journals (Data from Web of Science, courtesy COMSATS)

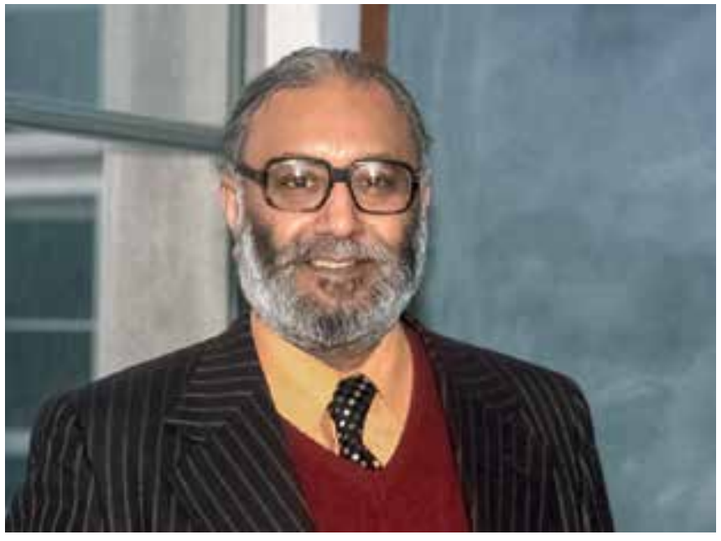
The programmes initiated by HEC in 2003 included the largest Fulbright programme in the world worth $ 150 million with 50% of the funds being contributed by HEC. To ensure the highest quality of scientific research the appointments at faculty positions in universities were linked to minimum eligibility criteria as judged from their international publications, patents and citations. Quality Enhancement Cells were established in all universities. The minimum criteria for establishment of new universities were approved by the Cabinet and universities that did not meet the criteria were closed down. Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) was set up within the Higher Education Commission that established Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs) as its operational units in public and private-sector universities. The funding of universities was linked to excellence in teaching and research under a formula-based funding mechanism that considered enrolment, subjects and quality of teaching and research.

All universities were regularly ranked to induce national competition. A new performance-based tenure track system of salaries was established with much higher salaries but with regular international evaluation prior to confirmation or removal from service. These and other measures initiated during the first 15 years of the existence of HEC led to an astonishing growth in high quality scientific research which completely outpaced India. This is reflected in Figure 1 that shows the growth of scientific publications of Pakistan versus India during the period 2000 to 2020 per 10 million population (India red, Pakistan green). Pakistan was 400% behind India in the year 2000 but had overtaken India by 2019, no mean achievement. In an analysis of scientific research productivity of Pakistan, in comparison to Brazil, Russia, India and China, Thomson Reuters reported that Pakistan has emerged as the country with the highest increase in the percentage of highly cited papers in comparison to the "BRIC" (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) countries.

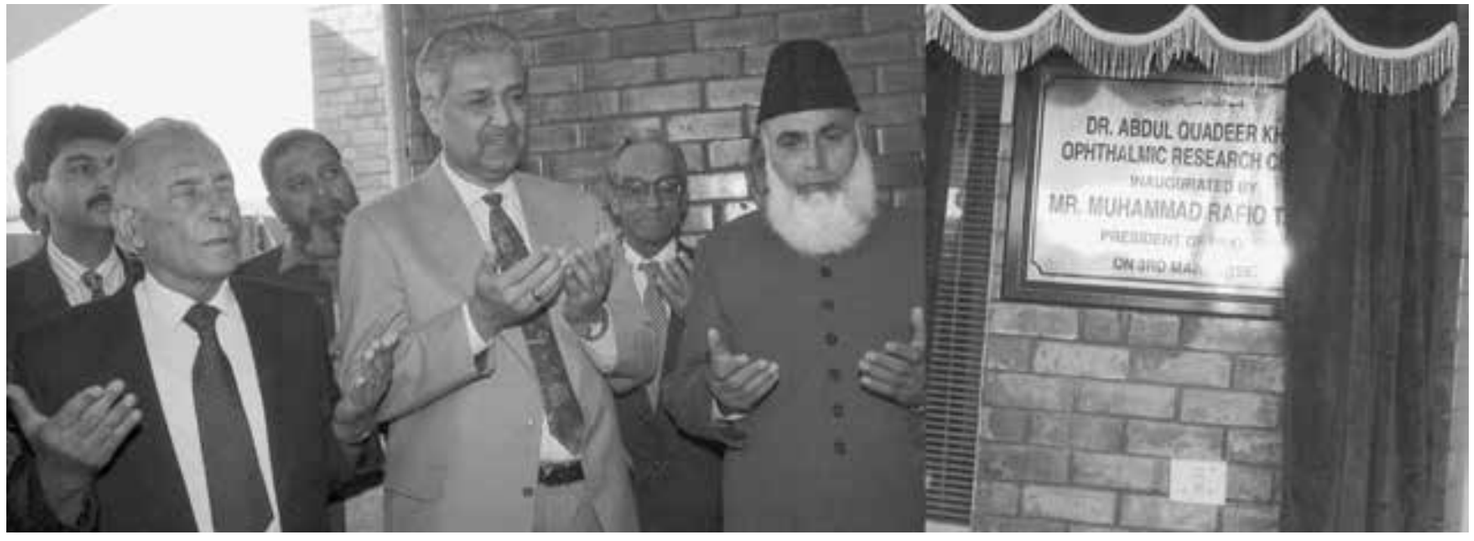
First Nuclear Power Plant KANUPP, Karachi, 1966



Cellular Tower



Dr. Mohammad Abdus Salam – Nobel Laureate



President Muhamamd Rafiq Tarar inaugurating Dr. Abdul Quadeer Khan Ophthalmic Research Centre

The HEC's reforms were also applauded by the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) which concluded that the "progress made was breath-taking and has put Pakistan ahead of comparable countries in numerous aspects." Under the supervision of the author, Pakistan established its first foreign engineering university (Pak Austria Fachhochschule) in Haripur, Hazara in 2020. It is the first university in the world to combine a Fachhochschule (high level university of applied engineering) with a postgraduate research half, and a central technology park. It has 8 foreign collaborating universities (3 Austrian and 5 Chinese) that will offer their degrees to Pakistani students once their requirements are met. A number of such foreign engineering universities are in the process of being established including one near Sialkot.

Pakistan has produced one Nobel Prize winner in science (Prof. Abdus Salam, 1979) and five Fellows of Royal Society (London) (Prof. Abdus Salam, Prof. Salimuzzaman Siddiqui, Prof. M. Akhtar, Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman and Prof. Zulfiqar Bhutta). Pakistan joined the nuclear club on 28th May 1998 when the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission conducted five simultaneous tests at the Chagai Hills in response to India's nuclear tests on 11th and 13th May 1998, thereby becoming the 7th nuclear power in the world. Dr. A.Q. Khan, Dr. Samar Mubarakmand and Dr. I.H. Usmani played a key role in the development of the nuclear programme of Pakistan. Pakistan has also made significant progress in the manufacture of satellites in close collaboration with China.

SUPARCO launched its first indigenously developed geosynchronous satellite on 13th August 2011. Pakistan's first IT policy and implementation strategy was approved under the leadership of the author (then Federal Minister of Science &Technology, including Information Technology) in August 2000. The rapid progress made by Pakistan in the IT and telecom sector during 2000–2002, led to the spread of internet across the country and a sharp reduction in bandwidth prices. A 15-year tax holiday was approved which has resulted in growth of IT business from $30 million in 2001 to over $3 billion presently. These changes in the IT infra-structure and bandwidth pricing proved invaluable for science education. Pakistan Educational Research Network was set up in 2004 through which every student in every public sector university was provided free access to over 20,000 international journals with back volumes and over 60,000 books from 250 international publishers.

The mobile telephony boom also began in 2001 by the drastic lowering of prices, bringing in of competition (Ufone) and changing the system so that the person receiving a call was no longer required to pay any charges. A satellite was placed in space (Paksat 1) at a cost of only $4 million. The investments in science grew from about 0.2% of GDP to about 0.86% of GDP during 2002-2008, but then declined to about 0.26% of GDP in the subsequent 15 years, a matter of serious concern. With 67% of its population of 220 million below the age of 30, Pakistan has a powerful demographic advantage over many others. The country needs to invest massively in education, science, technology and innovation so that it can migrate to a strong knowledge economy.

China Three Gorges Wind Power Plant Hyderabad

Forensic Lab, Lahore

Sahiwal Coal Power Plant

Aerial view of Arfa Software Technology Park, Lahore

Punjab Safe Cities Authority

Malachh Earth Station, Islamabad

Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings Plant

Heavy Industry

Quaid-e-Azam Solar Power Plant, Bahawalpur

Pride of the nation JF 17 Thunder

Steel Re-Rolling Mills

MDF Manufacturing plant

MFI-17 Mushshak is a license-built fixed-gear basic trainer aircraft manufactured by Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra

Pak Navy ship

SOCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN

Senator (R) Javed Jabbar

Four factors can be applied to assess social development in Pakistan; the initial and abiding influence of conditions that shaped the inception of the country i. e. territorial frontiers, demographic composition, external/neighbouring geopolitics, internal economic stability etc. Levels of individual human empowerment, inherited and acquired, through literacy, education, access to basic needs and facilities like water, shelter, food, health-care for all genders and for all residents – regardless of place, race, faith, gender, economic status. The existence and role of informal and formal organizations representing the spectrum of society and facilitate progressive change. Organizations at a village level in which most members share commonalities of race, language, dialect, and customs. Organizations in urban areas that bring together people who do not share many features shared by rural communities but who have common interests e g. trade unions, chambers of commerce, professional bodies like bar associations, teachers' forums etc.

Yellow Cab Scheme, 1993

The extent to which the state represents the formal, official,legally recogniszed facets of society and invests in social development; it will help reduce inherited or manipulated inequalities , disparities and factors of political economy such as distribution of wealth and structures of power. From unique inception: Commencing life as an independent nation-State with formidable, unprecedented odds and threats posed against its survival, the record of social development in Pakistan in 75 years is a mixture of cohesion and division of inequity and reform, of lingering repression and of empowering change. This facet of the country's history requires to be seen in two broad phases: 1947 to 1971 when both East and West Pakistan were part of a single, uniquely-formed state with about two halves of the culturally-dissimilar population separated by a thousand miles of hostile territory and then with the blatant Indian invasion of East Pakistan in 1971 and the birth of Bangladesh on December 16, 1971.

The second phase of Pakistan's existence is from 1972 to date in 2022. In East Pakistan in the first 24 years, the enormous deprivations and disadvantages suffered by Bengali Muslims for the previous 200 years of British rule — initially through the East India Company, and from 1857 through the British Government itself — were only partly offset by the rapid expansion of physical infrastructure post-1947, the swift introduction of industries (jute, paper, others) that took place in the first 20 years. These attempts to redress the gross injustices of the past — and the imbalances compared to West Pakistan — were notable and sizeable. Yet they were perceived to be inadequate and unfair. Nevertheless, the spread of new physical and economic infrastructure had inevitable impact on social aspects of East Pakistan. Such changes were evident in the creation of tens of thousands of new jobs that led to changes in lifestyle, rural-urban mobility, and inception of modernization.

Society in East Pakistan was marked by a syncretic, mostly harmonious coexistence of Muslims and non-Muslims (Hindus) who were a larger percentage of the population (about 15%). Though their respective ancestors had lived as neighbours in the adjacent

The Punjab Government Green Tractor Scheme 2012-2013

parts of the area for centuries, society in West Pakistan had to — virtually overnight — adopt a new, theoretically all-encompassing, supra level of uniform identity of being Pakistanis within which the ancient streams of inherited identity continued. Whereas in East Pakistan, ethnic and linguistic uniformity already existed, in West Pakistan, new, inclusive overarching levels of identity had to be adopted. The influx of about ten million migrants in 1947-50 from other parts of South Asia added to the complexity of West Pakistani society evolving with coherence. One Unit's ultimate failure: Through the first Constitution of 1956, a new framework was superimposed on the diverse societies in West Pakistan in the form of One Unit.

The basic aim was to enable the enforcement of parity between the two wings so that the majority-reality of numbers enjoyed by the residents of East Pakistan which was a single province did not become a disadvantage for the people of West Pakistan residing in four different provinces. But this approach became a structural, impersonal response to the challenge of reconciling with diversity. In place of historic provinces, princely-states and sub-regions, the whole of West Pakistan was made into a single administrative unit. Though another basic intention was also to facilitate administrative efficiency along with fostering harmony within a new singular entity, the actual social impact was seen to be authoritarian and unjust because it sought to downplay and undervalue the importance of the specific features that made each component region and community different from others.

One Unit ostensibly deprived each distinct social and cultural entity in the western wing from being assured of continuity. While notable industrial progress was achieved in this period, on the social level for whole Pakistan and a significant advancement was the enforcement of the Family Laws Ordinance. This made it obligatory for a man wanting to marry a second time, to first obtain the written consent of his first wife. After 14 years, with the change of government in 1969, One Unit was abolished in 1970. The provinces regained their individual identity, while Balochistan was created for the first time as a province. From disintegration toward a new dynamism: However, the disintegration of the state in 1971 posed unprecedented challenges to preserve societal stability and promote global and national awards for excellence.

Organizations galore: In the factor of social organizational development, the people have spawned thousands of such entities in civil society. The Pakistani people are thoroughly democratic minded. They love expressing individual opinions, campaigning for causes and candidates, and casting votes, be in village panchayats or big-city professional associations such as lawyers' forums, be it in chambers of agriculture or chambers of commerce and industry, be it in fisher folks' networks or teachers' associations; elections take place round the year across the country.

PUBLIC WELFARE

Social entities also thrive as charity-based welfare bodies for myriad causes, including heartwarming examples of public-private partnerships (the only free cyberknife facility in the entire planet located at Jinnah Hospital, Karachi), as service-delivery networks that provide healthcare, education, microcredit, water and food supply, as advocacy forums which campaign for the rights of the deprived, or of religious minorities, as capacity-building units that support teachers, mobilizers, as research centres and think tanks, as animal care entities --- led by volunteers, staffed by committed specialists.

From serving small, compact communities or large fraternities at the local level to meet dire needs --- to serving large numbers in multiple cities and provinces in a range of fields; known as civil society organizations or nongovernmental organizations, such forums reflect extraordinary contributions of time philanthropy and funding-philanthropy, themselves the mirrors of the Pakistani people's great sense of compassion and generosity, of friendliness and hospitality. Low ranking yet purposeful improvement: On the fourth factor, despite the advances noted above, despite the state and succeeding governments making their respective contributions through policy and funding support to facets of social development --- never ideal and not adequate! The harsh fact is that, after 75 years of undeniable improvements, Pakistan continues to rank low on a vital indicator --- the global Human Development Index.

Without absolving the state from its irreducible responsibility to promote social development, it needs to be recognized that the people at large, society as a whole, also need to become more actively engaged in reducing high population growth --- which quickly dilutes positive steps taken --- and in protecting the environment from degradation due to disregard for ecological ethics by citizens. In regard to social structures of power and distribution of wealth, several changes in 50 years such as in urbanization, democratization, modernization and mobility have eroded or reshaped such structures even though aspects of feudalism, tribalism and the negative aspects of modern capitalism, the free market philosophy, or rather, the greed market motivation abide in certain parts and segments of society and influence public policy.

As we mark the diamond jubilee of Pakistan's independence with an awareness of our achievements while remaining conscious of much more that has to be addressed in the times ahead, we draw strength from the evolution of a "Pakistaniat" identity. This binds together the beautiful diversity of our society and inspires us to meet the challenge of equitable social development with courage, resolve and speed.

Students getting Islamic education

Three days International Concerence for Children

A large number of students on the way back home after attending the school of Nagarpark-Mithi Road near Veravah Lanja Village, Sindh

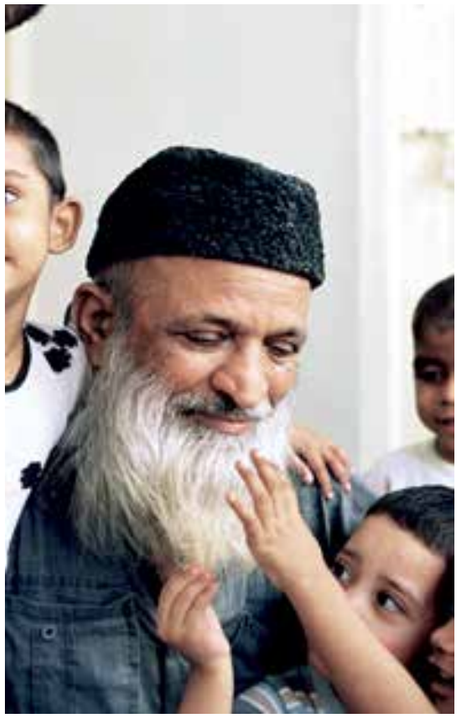
PUBLIC WELFARE

Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa', Dr Ruth Pfau, who led a battle against the stigmatised disease of leprosy

Abdul Sattar Edhi at an event of child adoption at Edhi Homes

Generous contribution to the needy during the corona virus pandemic

Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Ansar Burney shares a light moment with a child during his visit "Darul Atfal" in Hashtnagri



Edhi – the Angel of mercy with kids

Pakistan Red Crescent helping flood-affectes in far flung areas

Million Smiles Foundation School, Taobat, Azad Kashmir

EDUCATION

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman, HEC

Tertiary education is one of the main pillars of socio-economic development around the world, and the higher education institutions are the key entities that play a major role for nation-building in multiple perspectives. They create knowledge, produce basic and applied research, help develop technologies, and produce qualified human capital. This is a matter of great contentment that Pakistan realized the need for an apex institution to accelerate the growth of higher education sector and upgraded the erstwhile University Grants Commission (UGC) to Higher Education Commission (HEC) in 2002. In the last two decades, the country's premier higher education entity contributed to the development of tertiary education sector with a holistic approach and came up with a variety of programmes and initiatives.

Since the inception of its journey, HEC has been pursuing its main objectives of improving the quality of higher education being imparted across the country, enhancing access to quality higher education, and stepping up the relevance of academic and research programmes. While employing the tools of financing, regulation and capacity building, HEC has been untiringly taking steps to enable the higher education institutions in the country to play their vital part in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. These efforts have been bearing results. The number of universities has reached 245, in addition to sub-campuses of universities in several far-flung areas of the country. Likewise, the enrolment rate has jumped from 0.28 million to more than 3 million students studying at the university level with a good balance of male and female student ratio. There were only 273 PhDs in Pakistan in 2002-03, but the number has remarkably increased now owing to HEC PhD scholarship schemes. The universities have qualified faculty for whom HEC is holding training courses time and again. In almost all the spheres, the tally has marked an upward trajectory and a tangible progress can be witnessed in the entire spectrum of the crucial sector.

In the domain of human resource development, HEC is giving the country a great number of qualified and skilled human capital. Hundreds of thousands of Pakistani students and scholars have benefited from HEC human resource development initiatives and are now paying back to the country. Every year, the Pakistani youth, in-service faculty, and researchers achieve their study and research pursuits under HEC scholarship programmes – foreign scholarships, indigenous scholarships, merit & need-based scholarships, and scholarships from local and foreign partners – to meet the requirement of the country's institutions of higher learning, research organizations, as well as industry. HEC is continuously creating and exploring national and international opportunities for Pakistani students and scholars.

The role of HEC in paving the way for a research culture in the country is also worth-celebrating. HEC's endeavours in this context range from sponsoring Pakistani researchers locally and abroad to equipping higher education institutions with infrastructure and technology along with financing research centres for locally relevant research. HEC encourages and supports Pakistani universities to carry out joint research projects with foreign institutions. It has established a number of Offices of Research, Innovation and Commercialization Centres (ORICs) at universities to finance and help commercialize research work and support entrepreneurship. At present, HEC

Founding Chairman HEC Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman speaks during a meeting chaired by then Governor Punjab, Lt. Gen.R Khalid Maqbool

Founding Chairman HEC Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman addresses a seminar. He led HEC since its inception in 2002 to 2008

Kohat University of Science and Technology

Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain inaugurates online system of PhD Country Directory at HEC Islamabad

is financing a large number of Centres of Excellence, National Centres established through Public Sector Development Programme, Area Study Centres, and Centres of Advanced Studies.

HEC is enabling the degree awarding institutions to exploit the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) to further their academic and research objectives. HEC's major IT intervention, the Pakistan Education & Research Network (PERN), is connecting the universities and degree awarding institutions and shrinking the distances among students, faculty, researchers and academic leaders. During 2021-22, PERN expanded to near 400 higher education institutions (HEIs) and over 50,000 researchers are using this network.

In addition, some other ICT for academic excellence measures, including the start of Smart & Safe Campuses in 2018, Training as a Service in 2019, Smart Classrooms

Then Federal Minister for Education Mr. Baligh ur Rehman addresses on the occasion of French Day celebrated at HEC Islamabad

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed addresses a Data Science workshop organized at HEC Islamabad

Glimpses of VCs Forum 2023 of Islamic countries held in Islamabad

in 2020, Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) in 2021, and EduCloud in 2022, are worth-mentioning when it comes to employing Information Technology for uplift of higher education.

HEC has been setting the national higher education standards, quality assurance policies/procedures, financial management, governance, and regulatory arrangements and creating awareness about its initiatives. The commitment that HEC accords to its mandate makes it very keen on quality – the quality of institutions, their academic programmes and disciplines, the faculty, and the students. To this end, HEC makes no compromise on any steps crucial to ensuring and maintaining the quality standards in academia. It strictly follows its policies and procedures, with an ultimate objective of protecting the rights of its key stakeholders. There are challenges, indeed, yet there are opportunities. We have to see the challenges as opportunities to make our future better and give the world a nation that is determined to peaceful coexistence.

HEC believes that there is no medium better than education to promote mutual understanding among nations. HEC puts special efforts for improved global engagement among partner countries and open avenues of mutual collaboration. HEC has come a long way for uplifting the higher education sector of Pakistan by establishing domestic and foreign partnerships. Nonetheless, there is still a long way to go to build upon its achievements manifold, as it has a paramount role in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. HEC, alongside government, private institutions and departments playing their part in turning Pakistan into a knowledge-based economy, will consolidate the role of education in global peace and sustainable development.

Then Federal Ministers Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Mr. Baligh ur Rehman and Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed inaugurate HEC's Smart University project

DG ICESCO Dr. Salim Al Malik and Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed present a souvenir to Federal Minister Mr. Ahsan Iqbal during VCs Forum 2023 of Islamic countries held in Islamabad

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and Chief Election Commissioner (Gilgit-Baltistan) Raja Shahbaz Khan witness signing ceremony for ETC to conduct screening tests for recruitments in GB Election Commission

Glimpses of VCs Forum 2023 of Islamic countries held in Islamabad

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and President of World Business Angels Investment Forum WBAF Mr. Baybars Altuntas sign MoU, during VC Forum 2023, to enhance capabilities of entrepreneurs and knowledge-based startups

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Khawar Mumtaz

Pakistan's platinum jubilee is an opportune time to reflect upon women's empowerment and where we stand on this standard. The condition of women has recorded improvement in some areas e.g. life expectancy is at par with men, the negative sex ratio has narrowed, female literacy has increased, educating daughters is considered desirable, ratio of girls married before 15 years has dropped to 1 percent, women's remunerated work is acceptable and there is a general upward trend in women's political participation. At the same time there is the reality (Pakistan ranked at 151 out of 153 countries in World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index), of the majority of women persistently lagging behind men in almost every sector and field, with gender based violence a constant threat. The question then arises on how best to assess women's empowerment.

Miss Vijya Lakshmi 8th President of UN General Assembly (1953-54) with Fatima Jinnah, July 26, 1953

Begum Liaquat Ali Khan attending a reception 1956

Leading from the front Begum Jahanara Shah Nawaz, the first female member of the All India Muslim League, leading Muslim League activists in Lahore, March 1947

The measures of empowerment being used here are: a) women's exercise of agency, sometimes successful and sometimes less so nevertheless a liberating experience; b) entry of women in fields conventionally considered as male domains; and c) women's increased visibility, albeit of urban classes. The most remarkable feature of the country's history is the continuous thread of women's resistance to oppression and discrimination. Often sporadic and episodic women's demands for rights have been key to their struggle for empowerment and equality. Women realized quite early that rights have to be claimed and that collective voices are stronger than individual ones.

As early as 1948, Pakistan's two female legislators discovered that the Charter of Women's Rights had been removed from the legislative assembly's agenda; they successfully mobilized women to agitate outside the Assembly and got the Charter restored for debate. Protest led by APWA for the codification of family laws resulted in the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961. General Zia-ul Haq's laws and policies that blatantly discriminated against women and minorities triggered the formation of Women's Action Forum (WAF) the autonomous national platform for women's rights.

It also marks the tangible consolidation of the women's

Begum Shaista Ikramullah Pakistani delegate in General Assembly Hall, December 1956

movement. WAF challenged Zia's laws especially the Hudood Ordinances with their brutal punishments, and the Law of Evidence that reduced women's evidence (and by implication status) to half that of men. Women's protest in Lahore (12 February 1983) against the Law of Evidence at a time when political parties and political activity were banned, represents a milestone in the women's movement which rooted in history, is dynamic and evolving with ongoing change in contexts and circumstances.

The repressive political ferment of the eighties also catalysed the formation of Sindhiani Tehreek, active in Sindh for rural women's rights. Tehrik-e-Niswan, Karachi based organization and Ajoka Theatre in Lahore used the cultural and performing art medium for promoting women's rights. Subsequently, Lady Health Workers, nurses, female teachers, peasant women in Okara and Khanewal, and home-based workers have come forward exercising their agency to demand tenancy rights, proper contracts, wages and safe working conditions. Younger women in recent years have organized themselves as Aurat March asserting personal freedoms, the right to choose, and democracy within the family and home.

Each stage, form and avenue of struggle has opened spaces for more and more women across classes and locations to not only put to forth specific questions but also to connect with each other. Repeatedly, during the past 75 years women, compelled by circumstances or faced with opportunity have assumed responsibility,

Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah – Mother of the Nation

Begum Liaquat Ali Khan (Garlanded) Founder Life President of the All Pakistan Women's Association and Ambassador for Pakistan to Italy and Tunisia arrived at Karachi Airport October 21, 1964

outperformed male peers and at the same time championed women's rights with dedication and commitment and are a source of inspiration and role models for other women and girls. Among the early pioneers who rose to the occasion were: the two female members of Pakistan's first legislature (Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz, Begum Shaista Ikramullah), Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan who took on the post independence refugee challenge and founded the All Pakistan Women's Aassociation (APWA), Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, who contested the presidential election as the candidate of combined opposition parties.

Many others followed among them were Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who became the first woman PM of the Muslim world and a martyr due to her progressive politics; Asma Jahangir, the fearless human and women's rights activist and lawyer; courageous women like Veeru Kohli who contested elections and defeated a powerful land owner, and Malala Yusufzai, the young Nobel Laureate campaigner for girls' education and survivor of a bloody attack

Benazir Bhutto, First Female Prime Minister of Pakistan

FEMALE ICONS

Dr. Fehmida Mirza, First Female Speaker

Justice Nasira Javaid – Pakistani jurist and law professor who served as a justice of the Lahore High Court

Justice Majida Rizvi – the first woman judge of a High Court in Pakistan

Shamshad Akhtar – United Nations diplomat and banker who also served as the caretaker Finance Minister of Pakistan

Krishna Kumari Kohli – nickname Kishoo Bai, is a Pakistani politician who has been the member of the Senate of Pakistan since March 2018

FEMALE ICONS

Bilquis Eidhi, Social Activist

Muneba Mizari, Social Activist

Malala Yousafzai-youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize

Mariam Mukhtiar, First Female pilot

Dr. Sarah Gill - First Transgender Doctor and Transgender activist

General Nigar Johar – Pakistan's first woman three-star general

Dr. Sarah Qureshi, Pakistani Scientist to Design world first eco friendly Aircraft

Abida Parveen, Folk Singer

by religious extremists. And more recently Maryam Nawaz has emerged as an articulate and persuasive political campaigner.

The numbers have multiplied over time. Breaking out of the acceptable fields of education and health women are entering fields hitherto considered as male domains as entrepreneurs, lawyers, judges, civil servants, pilots, sales persons, and politicians. Women stand out in the media – as some of the most outspoken and bold anchors; women artists, actors, singers, writers have gained recognition beyond the country's borders. There are more women than men entering medical schools and women's enrolment in higher education is at par with that of male students. The role of women parliamentarians stands out for its effectiveness and visibility. From the first woman Speaker of the National Assembly (Dr. Fehmida Mirza) to the Leader of the Opposition in Senate (Ms. Sherry Rehman) to Chairs and members of Standing Committees women have been outstanding.

Between 2008 and 2018 the enhanced presence of women and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus in the National Assembly steered a whole spate of laws at the federal level. Women in provincial assemblies have been equally active on women's issues (rape and honour killing; harassment at workplace; acid crime; customary practices; domestic violence; agricultural and home based workers; inheritance; electoral laws; marriage; etc.). Women with their advocacy, protests, networking and engagement with authorities have still a long way to go to remove the inequality gap, be empowered across classes, ethnicities and regions and able to make decisions about education, profession and life partners. The need is for implementation of existing laws, strengthening institutions and removal of restrictive social norms based on misogyny and narrow religiosity. The challenge to dismantle barriers to women's self realisation and aspirations is that of the government and society as a whole. Men and women have to endeavour collectively to achieve the goal enshrined in Article 25 of the Constitution.

Jehan Ara, Pakistani First Tech Leader

Sana Mir, Female Cricketer

FEMALE ICONS

Judge-Ayesha-Malik-- first female judge of SC

Yasmeen Lari - Pakistan's first female architect

Arfa Abdul Karim Randhawa was a Pakistani student and computer prodigy who became the youngest Microsoft Certified Professional in 2004. She was submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records for her achievement

Tabassum Adnan, Founder of First All-Women Council of Tribal Leaders in Pakistan

Shamim Akhter, women truck driver

FEMALE ICONS

Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy, Oscar Winner

Samina Khyal Baig, First Female to Climb Mountain Everest

Namira Salim, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, First Pakistani at North and South poles, first Asian to skydive Mount Everest, Future Astraonaut and founder of Space Trust

Ayesha Gul, first female Assistant Inspetor General AIG, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police

Shazia Parveen, First Female Fire Fighter

INTERFAITH HARMONY

Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali

Islam, the complete code of life, provides comprehensive guidance to its followers on all aspects of life including social, political, and spiritual matters. It derives its principles from the Holy Quran and the Seerah of Exalted Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him). The foundations of Pakistan have been established on the very principles of Islam enshrined in the Charter of Medina and the Last Sermon of Exalted Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) delivered at Mecca. The Objective Resolution adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on March 12, 1949 reflects the essence of ideology of Pakistan that is based on Islamic values. It specifically upholds social equality, ensures provisions of fundamental rights and gives liberties to the minorities.

The establishment of Pakistan is thus considered as the laboratory of Islam where principles such as equality, interfaith harmony and peaceful coexistence are practiced. The formal foundation of interfaith harmony in Pakistan is described in the policy speech of founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah delivered on August 11, 1947. He categorically stated that all citizens are free to go to any place of worship. With no surprise, Quaid's policy is the reflection of the Charter of Medina whose first and second clause made all people of Medina as one political unit. Similarly, thirty fifth clause declared the Jews of Bani Auf and their allies and partners as a single party with Muslims while all were free to

Hindu girl and boy celebrating Holi Festival, known as the Spring Festival of Colors

Federal Minister Col (R) S. K. Tressler addressing a reception hosted in honour of Sikh Yatreen Baisakhi Festival at Hassanabad on April 13, 2002

Hindu girls celebrating Holi Festival, known as the Spring Festival of Colors

FESTIVITIES

A Hindu girl lights-up earth lamps in Durgah Shiva Mandir on the eve of Hindus light religious festival Dewali

Sikh community of Pakistan celebrating the Independence Day

A devotee performs a Sufi dance

Children of different religions celebrating the Independence Day

FESTIVITIES

Chilham Joshi Festival, Kalash

Dewali

Dewali floor decoration

Holi

Minority day celebration cake

Interfaith harmony conference

Christmas

Religious rituals Gurdwara Punja Sahib,Hassanabdal

Christmas cake cutting

CELEBRITIES / ICONS

Group Captain Cecil Chaudhry SJ, SBt, a veteran fighter pilot

A Nayyer, Singer

Geoffrey D. Langlands

Jamshed Marker

Rana Bhagwandas Chief justice of Pakistan

S.B John guitarist and Composer best composer for South Asia

Robin-Ghosh, Playback Singer / Musician

Saleem Raza, Singer

Sister Gertrude

Shabnam (Jharna Basak) Film Actress

Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora Parliamentarian

Julius Salik, Politician

Irene Perveen, Singer

Harmeet Singh the first Sikh to become a news anchor in Pakistan

Deepak Perwani, Dress designer

Benjamin Sisters, Singers

Bapsi Sidhwa, Novelist

Azekah Daniel, Actor

Dr. Nargis Mavalvala, Scientist

Dr. Alexander John Malik, Bishop

Sunita Marshall, Fashion Model

Zoe Viccaji, Singer

Salman Albert -ep-Ajab-Tamasha, Guitarist

Shallum-Asher-Xavier, Guitarist

Louis John Pinto, Music Artist

Bohemia, Singer

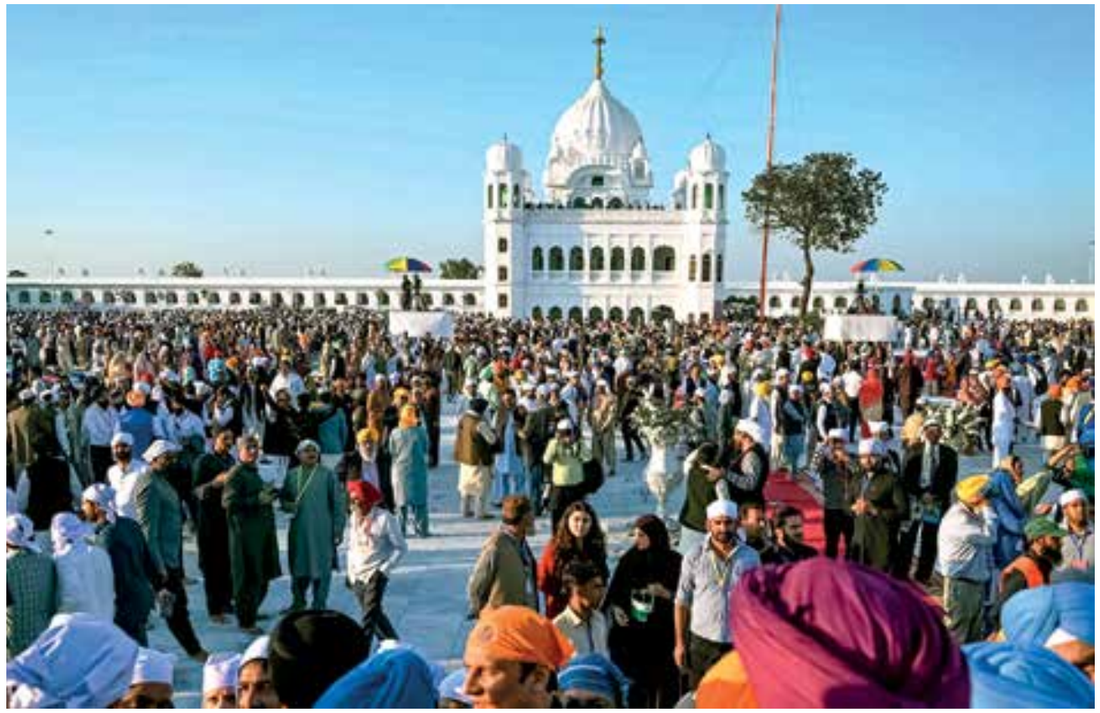
Krishna Kumari, Senator

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Katas Raj Temple near Chakwal

Buddhist Monks at Takht-i-Bahi, Mardan

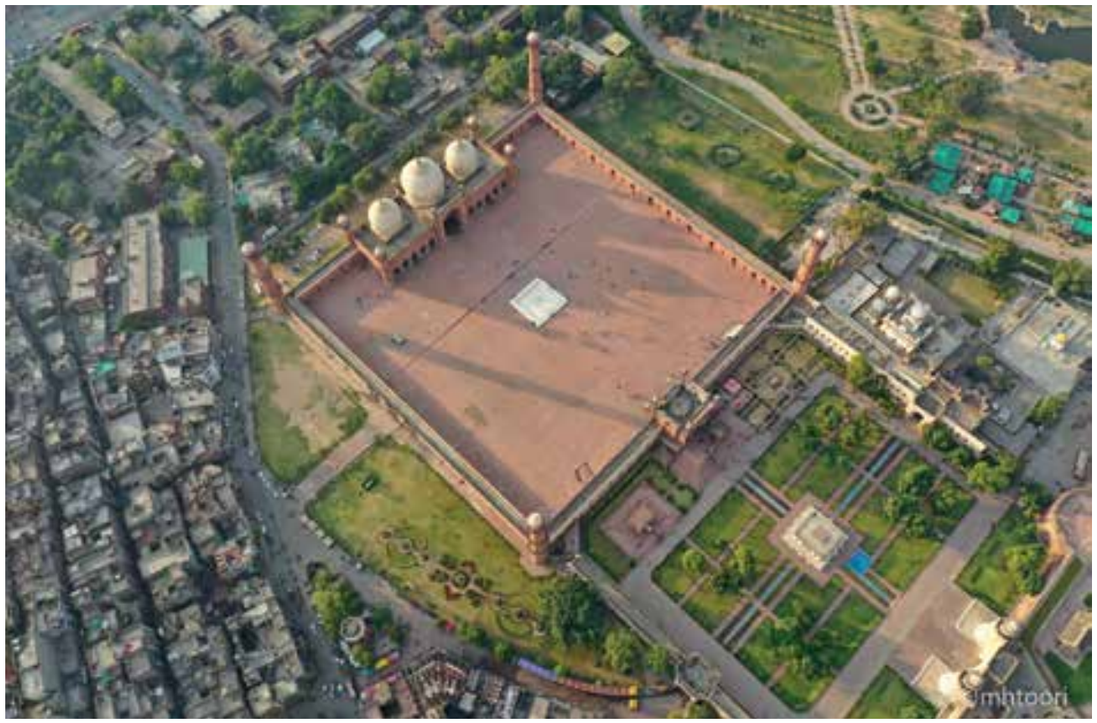
Parsi Fire Temple Hyderabad



Sikh Pilgrims at Kartarpur

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Christmas Congregation at local Church



Badshahi Mosque

Hinglaj Mata Nani Mandir Hindu Temple in Pakistan

practice their religion. Quaid practiced his ideas of interfaith harmony as first Governor General of Pakistan.

The first cabinet of Pakistan included Jogendra Nath Mandal (Minister for Labour and Law) who was a Hindu. Frank D'Souza, a Christian, was given the responsibility to setup the Pakistan Railways. Samuel Martin, a Christian, was assigned duties for Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Chaudhry Chandu Lal Sundar Das, also a Christian, was Deputy Speaker of United Assembly of Pakistan. Similarly, several non-Muslim bureaucrats were assigned duties on high ranks to run the state structure. Pakistan has many landmarks of various religious ethnicities. Travelers can experience historical heritage of one of the oldest civilisations in the world – Harappa and Mohenjo Daro civilizations – along with numerous Hindu Temples, Buddhist Monasteries, Zoroastrian Temples, Christian Churches and Sikh Gurdwaras.

Attraction of people from different religions to different religious sites is the outcome of deep-rooted interfaith harmony in the local tradition. A recent survey data revealed that a whopping eighty three percent of the eight million diaspora Sikhs living outside India showed interest in visiting Pakistan. Pakistan is also working with World Bank to develop a Buddhist trail to attract Buddhists, and in particular monks, from across the globe, in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These places emerged as a source

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Sikh pilgrims perform religious rituals

of interfaith harmony among believers of different religions. It is pertinent to mention that during the centuries of Muslim rule over the Subcontinent, the interfaith harmony remained intact by and large. Full religious freedom was granted to all the citizens.

Indubitably, after the creation of Pakistan, not only those sites are intact but the minorities are also allowed to establish their worship places depending upon their need and practices. That is why we can witness that those ancient religious sites as well as the newly built sites of different religions continue to exist, and people enjoy their freedom to worship and carry their religious practices. The sites like Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, Katas Raj Mandir, Hinglaj Mata Mandir, historical Churches in almost every city show that the nation has widespread acceptance of religious freedom. The establishment of Kartarpur Corridor is continuity of that culture of interfaith harmony and respect for minorities. Along with cultural side, the academic circle also incorporates the minorities in the curriculum.

The courses of comparative religion are taught at numerous universities and subjects of ethics are offered instead of Islamic Studies to the minority students. The name of religious ministry of Pakistan 'Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony' is also a testament to the importance of interfaith harmony attached with the government body and state structure. Minorities can compete in academia and government institutions on general quota and also there are reserved seats for them to make sure that they can have their own identity and their representatives can strive for their rights as well. The Parliament of Pakistan; National Assembly, Senate, Provincial Assemblies and even in Local Bodies, minority seats are reserved. In short, they have opportunities and equality in every walk of life.

The Pakistani society, no doubt, has faced some challenges when it comes to the practices of interfaith harmony. The polarization that emerged during the colonial era kept raising issues regarding interfaith harmony after Quaid-e-Azam's passing away. Nonetheless, by and large, the society kept its track to provide rights to the minorities.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing at 'Interfaith Harmony Conference' in Islamabad on April 22, 2014

However, the Afghan war unfortunately brought major challenges for interfaith harmony in Pakistan. Not only minorities but also the majority Muslim population, especially Sufis and their shrines faced the challenges of extremism as the extremists considered the Sufi culture as a prime factor of interfaith harmony. Eventually such extremist ideology has been very much defeated, with much support and efforts from Sufis and their followers.

In Pakistan as well as in South Asia, Sufis have been playing a vital role in the transformation of society. Sufi shrines introduced the concept of social spirituality that teaches social harmony, unity, multiculturalism, and peaceful coexistence. People of different cultures, races, religions, ethnicities establish strong spiritual bond among themselves that breeds brotherhood, love, peace, etc. This culture can even be witnessed today on different shrines. A part of BābāFarīd's poetry is included in sacred text of Sikh religious book. Sufis like Sultān Al-'Ārifīn Sultan_ Bahoo, Raẖmān Bābā, Shāh'Abd Al-Latīf Bhittai, Ḫaḏrat Mian Mir, Bābā Farīd and many others have played a great role in shaping the culture of peace and harmony. Therefore, the interfaith harmony established by Sufis is the legacy of the State of Pakistan.

The poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal also revolves around the basic principles of respect for all human beings. In the modern times, Pakistan represents a unique landscape of local cultural diversity and interfaith harmony in the world and especially in the region. The diversity of local cultures and existence of different religions is one of the beautiful legacies. Despite the challenges that have existed throughout, nonetheless, we have overcome those obstacles with the values of peace, harmony, respect, and love for humanity; the core teachings are also practiced and preached by the Sufis in this beautiful land.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Riaz Hussain Bhutto

Pakistan became a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The UDHR is made up of 30 articles that encompass the most fundamental rights and freedoms of people (both collectively and individually) all over the world.

The Constitution of Pakistan provides for fundamental rights which include freedom of speech, freedom of thought, freedom of information, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and the (conditional) right to bear arms.

Article 8 to 28 of the constitution cover all Fundamental Rights of the citizens of Pakistan, the Article 25 ensures equality before the law and equal protection of the law and states that there shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex alone. Articles 25(3) and 26(2) allow the state to make special provisions for the protection of women and children.

In 1993, an independent Human Rights Commission was established which was then converted into a cell in the Ministry of Interior to deal with Human Rights issues. The cell was transferred to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in 1994. In 1995 the Government of Pakistan established a full-fledged Ministry of Human Rights. After one year the Ministry of Human Rights was merged with Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in 1996, and continued its functions as a wing. It was again upgraded in 2007 as a Human Rights Division. In 2008, this division attained the status of a full-fledged Ministry of Human Rights. After devolution of powers to the provinces, some subjects of the erstwhile Ministry of Women Development were transferred to the Ministry of Human Rights on 1st July 2012. In 2013, the Ministry was again merged as a wing with the Ministry of Law and Justice. On November 23, 2015, the wing was separated from the Ministry of Law and Justice as an independent Ministry of Human Rights.

Besides, the Ministry is also coordinating on various matters with three Commissions which are the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and National Commission for the Rights of the Child. (NCHR).

President Mr. Asif Ali Zardari signing national commission for human rights bill 2012 into law at Bilawal House

Complying with its international obligations, Pakistan established a National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) through the Act XVI of 2012 in accordance with the Paris Principles. In its preamble, the Act provides as follows;

"Whereas it is expedient to provide for the creation of National Commission for Human Rights, for the purpose of promotion and protection of Human Rights as provided in the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and various international instruments to which Pakistan is state party or shall become a state party."

The National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012 stipulates a broad and overarching mandate for the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights, as provided in Pakistan's Constitution and international treaties. As an impartial state body, the

Member of Child Rights Movement (CRM) Rooim Abbas, 13 years old addresses a press conference at National Press Club in federal capital.

Pakistan Parliament passes landmark law to protect rights of people with disabilities September 17, 2020

Pakistan re-elected to UN Human Rights Council with 'overwhelming majority October 13, 2020

NCHR works independently of the Government and is directly accountable to the Parliament of Pakistan. The NCHR's financial and performance reports are also directly presented to the Parliament for approval on an annual basis.

After the formation of the NCHR, Government of Pakistan formally established the Ministry of Human Rights with the mission to establishing and strengthening necessary institutional mechanisms for protection and promotion of human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Human Rights Conventions and Covenants ratified by the Government of Pakistan.

The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) is a statutory body established in July 2000. It is an outcome of the national and international commitments of the Government of Pakistan like Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995; and National Plan of Action (NPA) for Women, 1998.

The Federal Government has constituted the National Commission on the Rights of Child in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3(1) of the National Commission on the Rights of Child Act, 2017(XXII of 2017).

Under legislatives reforms, following 10 major laws have been promulgated prioritizing the protection of rights of women, children, minorities and institutional strengthening:

- Criminal Law (Offences relating to Rape) Act, 2016: This Act includes a number of significant provisions to deal with the crime of rape. It stipulates the death penalty or imprisonment for life and fine for this crime.

- Criminal Law (Offences relating to Honour Killing) Act, 2016: This Act aims to deter and prevent offences in the name or on the pretext of honour in Pakistan which claims the lives of hundreds of victims every year.

- The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Child Protection): This law prescribes various provisions regarding the protection of the rights against any form of sexual or physical abuse.

- National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act, 2017: This Act prescribes the functioning and powers of the Commission entrusted with the task of protection of rights of children.

- Hindu Marriage Act, 2017: This is the first personal law to regulate Hindu marriages. It provides detailed conditions while contracting a marriage. It also ensures the protection of the care of children of the spouses who seek separation.

- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018. The first ever law for such population in the country. Harassment of transgender persons will also be prohibited in and outside their homes.

- The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2018: Under this amended Act the new chairperson of NCSW would be elected within 30 days after the retirement of the incumbent head. This law provides a time frame for the appointment of the chairperson in order to make the commission more effective.

The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2018: Promulgated to operationalize the Fund. This Act was passed originally in 1996, but unfortunately not a single meeting

Sensitization session with Ministries and Government Departments about the Rules Of The Trangender persons (Protection Of Rights) October 8, 2021

Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada meeting with the parliamentary delegation of All Party Parliamentary Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief from UK on February 14, 2023

could be held to utilize this Fund during the last 22 years.

The ICT Child Protection Act, 2018: It aims to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect in the Islamabad Capital Territory. It envisages establishment of a 'Child Protection Advisor Board' and 'Child Protection Institutions' for protection of children.

- The Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018: It aims to provide a criminal justice system for juveniles with a view to ensure their rehabilitation and reformation through institutional services.

- Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act 2020: In order to reform the existing legal aid mechanisms in Pakistan which remained ineffective due to lack of ownership at the relevant levels, ineffective performance management mechanisms, lack of capacity of the concerned committees and lack of public awareness about such legal aid mechanism; the Ministry of Human Rights in collaboration with the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan drafted a bill, namely "Legal Aid and Justice Authority Bill".

- The bill was introduced in the National Assembly of Pakistan by the Ministry of Law and Justice and has been passed by the Parliament.

- The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2019: Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act 2019, is the Government of Pakistan law that defines the system of one window operations to notify, react and recover kidnapped children in Pakistan. It provides for protection of missing and abducted children that includes raising alert, responding and recovering of missing and abducted children. The Act has been passed by Parliament.

Legislative initiatives under process:

Following bills prepared by the Ministry of Human Rights have been forwarded to Law &Justice Division for further action for introduction in the parliament:

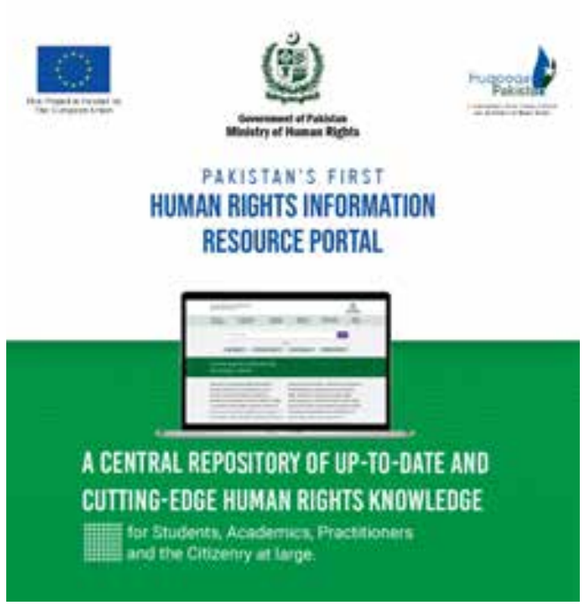
- ICT Rights of Persons with Disability Bill, 2018: The bill on protecting the rights of the disabled persons defines the scope of rights of disabled persons and also gives administrative mechanism to ensure the protection of the rights of disabled people by proposing creation of a National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons.
- Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention & Punishment) Bill, 2018: Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention & Punishment) Bill, 2018 comprehensively defines the term torture and also provides procedure for investigation, trial of torture related cases and prescribes strict punishment as well.

- Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, 2018: Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, 2018 after defining the term corporal punishment describes the scope of application of this legislation which includes both public and private educational institutions and prescribes punishment for the crime of corporal punishment of up to one year of imprisonment or fine of up to 100,000 rupees or both.

- Christian Marriage and Divorce Bill, 2019: The bill was finalized through consultative process. The Bill was sent to Law Division for vetting. Meanwhile, a meeting of Bishops of various Churches was held with Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Justice. The Law Division has returned the Bill with request to examine and incorporate the comments of Christian community shared in the said meeting. However, MoHR has requested the Law Division on 3rd October, 2019 to forward the Bill to CCLC, as the requisite consultation with the representatives of Christian community has already been done.

- Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2019 at ICT: This has been finalized by MoHR. The Bill was sent to the Law Division on 26th August, 2019 for vetting. After consultation with the Senior Legislative Advisor (on 3rd Oct, 2019), the revised draft has been shared with Law Division for vetting.

- Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizen Bill, 2019: The Cabinet in its meeting held on 2nd July, 2019



approved the contents of the Bill in principle. Law Division has requested the Parliamentary Affairs' Division on 8th October, 2019 to introduce the Bill in the National Assembly.

- Protection against Enforced Disappearances Bill: In order to criminalize enforced disappearances a bill is prepared by the Ministry of Human Rights and has been shared with Law Division for further process.
- Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December.
- The day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- Human Rights Day 2023 Theme & Campaign
- The campaign "seeks to shift the needle of understanding and action towards greater knowledge of the universality of the UDHR and the activism associated with it".

TOURISM

Aftab Rana

Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world which are blessed with a diverse inventory of tourism attractions. The country is home to one of the oldest civilizations in the world, locations with attractive scenic beauty, splendid mountains and peaks, sacred religious and historic places, seasonal varieties, unique arts and crafts and rich culture and heritage. These tourist attractions are spread across all the four provinces as well as Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. The review of available literature on tourism planning and management reveals that tourism was taken seriously for the first time at policy making level in 1972 when a Ministry of Minority, Religious Affairs and Tourism was created, though this Ministry was disbanded in 1976 and the Tourism Division became part of the Ministry of Commerce again. In 1970, federal government created Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) as a public limited company. It is a public limited company registered under the Companies Act in April 1970.

It was created to be the government's arm and thrust for tourism development in Pakistan with objectives to develop tourism infrastructure all over Pakistan basis, to promote and market Pakistan as tourism destination in foreign as well as domestic markets, to act as a catalyst to encourage private sector to play a more active role in tourism development and to undertake tour operations and provide ground handling facilities. Over the years PTDC established a chain of hotels /motels at various tourist spots throughout Pakistan and also established 20 Tourist Information Centers (TICs) in different areas of the country. It established a subsidiary company TDCP Motels Ltd. which undertakes the management of all the hospitality units operated by PTDC and also established Pakistan Tours Ltd (PTL); used to act as inbound tour company and provides ground handling and transport facilities for international and domestic tourists.

In 1977 the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism and Archaeology was created. From 1977 till the formulation of National Tourism Policy of 1990 some planning attempts were made for certain projects, however, no comprehensive or structured effort was undertaken to promote tourism in the country. The Government of Pakistan presented its' first formal National Tourism Policy in 1990, however, due to some fundamental issues this policy has rarely been implemented. The major reasons of this failure in

A large number of people visiting the Stupa at Moenjo Daro (Mound of dead) remains of the most impressive city of Indus Valley civilization located 28 kilometers south of Larkana in Sindh

implementation included absence of stakeholders' involvement, poorly defined responsibilities of various public and private sector actors, financial limitations, institutional constraints and low capacity of concerned departments and agencies. In year 2000, Tourism Ministry drafted a comprehensive Tourism Master Plan for Pakistan with the technical assistance of World Tourism Organization (WTO) and United Nation Development Program (UNDP). Once again due to non-seriousness at various levels of government this plan could not be implemented at any level.

In 2010, the Tourism Ministry drafted a relatively more comprehensive National Tourism Policy. The policy identified challenges and constraints for tourism industry

Princess of Hope, Hingol National Park, Balochistan

in Pakistan, followed by marketing and developmental strategies. The marketing strategy emphasized on public private partnership, diversification of tourism products, information technologies, target markets for selling specific products, whilst, the developmental strategy emphasized the role of public (federal & provincial governments) and private sectors in tourism development. It also proposed public private partnership (PPP) opportunities in tourism sector of the country. Furthermore, the draft policy also recognized the importance of closer international and regional cooperation, joint marketing using international organizations, multi country and bilateral relations for tourism development.

Although, the draft tourism policy-2010 was comparatively more comprehensive than national tourism policy of 1990, however, due to dissolution of Federal Tourism Ministry as a result of 18th Amendment in the constitution of Pakistan the work on developing the National Tourism Policy was deferred and the subject of tourism was transferred to the provinces. At Provincial level tourism has been generally a very low profile sector. In 1987, Punjab was the first province which established its provincial tourism corporation under the name of Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) as a public limited company to develop and promote tourism in the province.

Due to personal interest of the Chief Minister an injection of assets was given to TDCP in terms of land, properties and financial resources and within few years TDCP established its name as a most active public sector tourism organization in the country, but later on due to scarcity of financial resources, lack of professionalism and lack of interest at highest level of provincial government, TDCP lost its importance. Following the precedent of Punjab government, later governments of Sindh and KP (former NWFP) also established tourism development corporations at provincial level and started work on various tourism projects in their respective regions.

Like all government tourism organizations in Pakistan, the STDC and TCKP (former STC) are handicapped due to lack of financial resources and professionalism, hence, are not fully able to perform the role for which they were created. Government of KP Province announced its first Provincial Tourism Policy in March 2015 which has been prepared in consultation with a large number of key stakeholders from the public and private sectors. The main objectives of KP tourism Policy is to establish Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a preferred tourist destination, nationally in short term and globally in the long term by increasing tourist traffic in the province by at least 10 % over the next five years.

Moreover, there is target to increase the private sector investment, improve the quality of workforce and establish a tourism service providers' quality assurance regime in the province. KP government has also developed a framework for public private partnership to attract investment from private sector in tourism and hotel industry. Following the precedent of KP, now Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir have also developed

Lower Kachura Lake, Skardu

their provincial level tourism policies. In 2018, when the government constituted Task Force on Tourism and comprehensive recommendations were formulated which inter-alia included retention and restructuring of PTDC, formulation of National Tourism Coordination Board etc.

During progress review meeting of Task Force on Tourism on 04-02-2019, the Prime Minister was pleased to direct that mechanism of transfer of assets of PTDC be worked out in consultation with all stakeholders. The proposal was placed before the Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on 13-05-2019. The Cabinet while constituting new Board of Directors of PTDC approved the following:- Retention of PTDC in the Federal Government Restructuring of PTDC to serve as the secretariat and implementation body of the National Tourism Coordination Board (NTCB), Rationalization of Human Resource (HR) of PTDC for its new role and structure Cabinet Division shall work out a mechanism in consultation with provinces / regions for handing over assets of PTDC along with related HR and liabilities to respective provinces and regions.

Meanwhile, PTDC has now developed a National Tourism Strategy and its action plan for 2020-2030 and has also increased its efforts to promote the image of Pakistan as a tourism friendly destination. PTDC has started handing over its properties to the provincial governments for further leasing out to the private sector which will be upgraded and renovated up to the standards of three to four staff level boarding and lodging facilities. Provincial governments are also now working aggressively on developing new tourist sites and improving the condition of existing tourism spots through various projects.

According to World Travel and Tourism Council, tourism in Pakistan generated PKR 2,285 billion contributing 5.9% to the GDP of the country in 2019. More than 3.8 million people are directly and indirectly engaged in jobs of tourism and hospitality sectors. It is hoped that the current efforts of federal and provincial governments will improve the image of Pakistan as a tourist destination on the global tourism map and contribute in the overall economic growth of the country. Recently, Pakistan has made a big jump on International Travel and Tourism Development Index by moving up six places as per the latest report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The 2021 edition of the Travel and Tourism Development Index includes 117 countries. The index ranks the countries based on the set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable and resilient development of the travel and tourism industry of each country. As per the latest edition of the international travel and tourism competitive

Ratti Gali Lake, Neelum Valley

Nagar Valley, Gilgit Baltistan

Khanpur Lake, KPK

index Pakistan has been ranked 83rd, which is up from 89th place in the index's previous edition of 2019.

Six points increase in the raking of Pakistan on global travel and tourism index is quite a significant progress and now Pakistan is among the countries in the Asia Pacific Region which have improved its ranking the most since 2019. In the recent years Federal and provincial governments have made good progress in improving the performance of tourism sector in Pakistan by taking various steps to overall improve the condition of tourism services infrastructure, business environment, safety and security, health and hygiene, ICT readiness, and socio economic resilience and conditions.

Skiing at Malam Jabba

K2 Expeditions Karakoram Pakistan

Taobat Valley (Neelum) Azad Kashmir

PTDC Motel at Hunza

Night view of Derawar Fort, Bahawalpur, Punjab

PTDC Motel at Naran

PTDC Motel Rama Lake, Gilgit

Taobat Valley (Neelum) Azad Kashmir

Keenjhar Lake, Thatta, Sindh

The Mahodand lake is fed by melting glaciers and springs of the Hindu Kush mountain and gives rise to Ushu Khwar, the major left tributary of the Swat River

From Muzzafarabad to Keran, one can see the Indian Illegal Occupied Kashmir too, Azad Kashmir

Keran is a village and tourist resort in Neelum Valley, Azad Kashmir

Potato fields, Naltar, Gilgit-Baltistan

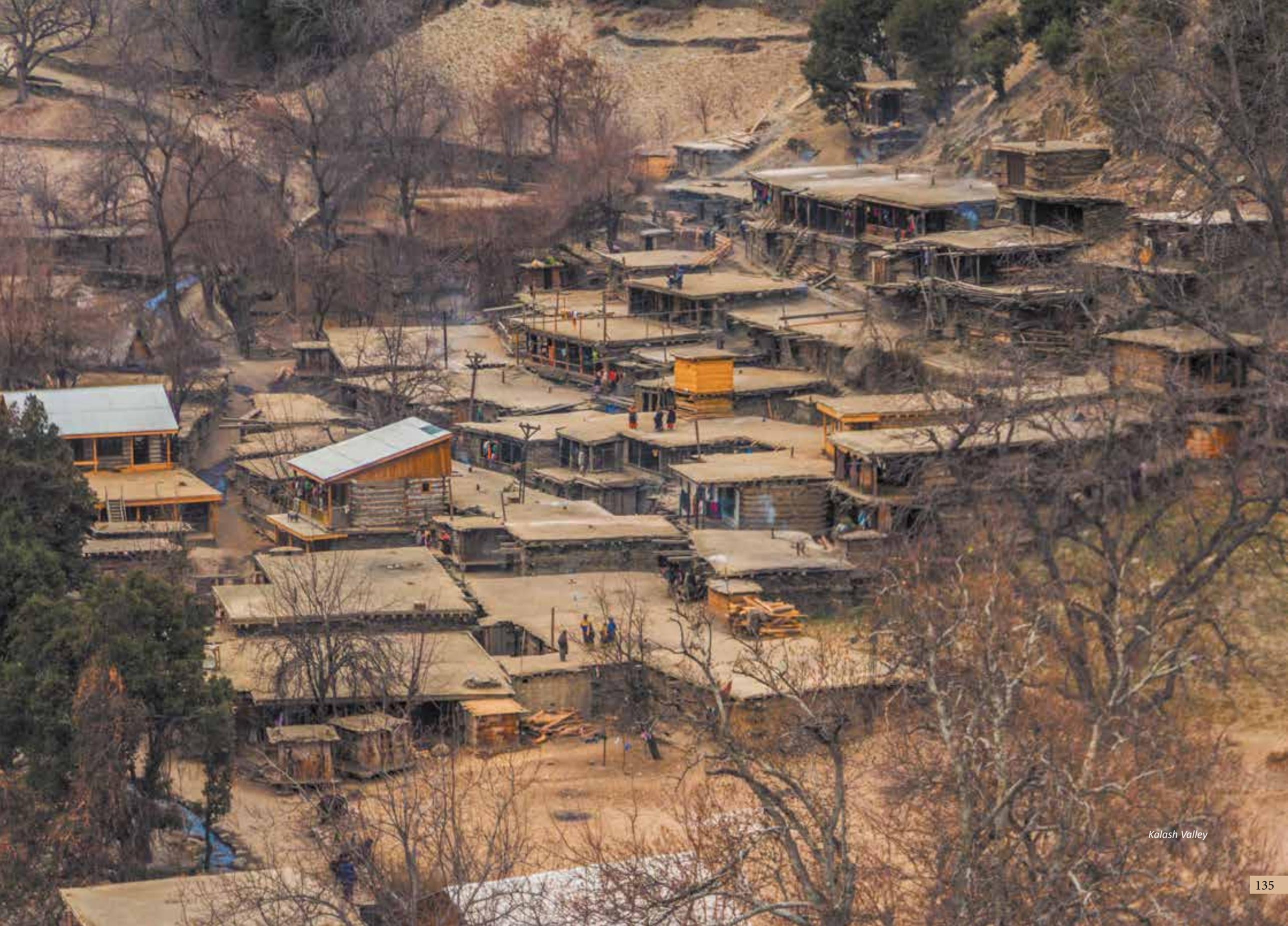
Satpara Lake

Ratti Gali Lake, Neelam Valley, Azad Kashmir

Sun Rise Beach Ormara

Babusar - Chillas

Yak Herd at Khunjerab



Kalash Valley

CULTURE

Jamal Shah

Pakistan emerged as a new country in 1947, on a land with rich imprints of civilizations for the past 9500 years. Starting from Mehergarh, the country is a cradle of several civilizations including the Bolan and Indus valley, showcasing Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, and Gandhara. Since Mehergarh, the charm and fertility of this enchanting land has attracted numerous migrations and invasions, most resulting in assimilations that enriched the land with a myriad of cultures, religions, and languages. The land of Pakistan is, therefore, rightfully referred to as a melting pot of a diversity of cultures and religions, making its indigenous narrative enviable: a land blessed with a dramatic terrain and people.

A society's culture encompasses its spiritual, philosophical, intellectual, emotional, and material features, including ways of living together, value systems, traditional practices and beliefs. People's intimate engagement with each other, their observation, knowledge, understanding, expression, creativity, skills, and language; their participation in cultural life, awareness of each other's cultural identity, its diversity and respect for social confines & freedoms is what defines culture. Pakistan epitomizes unity in diversity and it is this essential sociocultural asset which must always be embraced as a unifying factor. Geographically, it has a terrain ranging from sea level to over eight thousand meters elevation, while also enjoying all four seasons in their full glory. Demographically, the land is inhabited by a multitude of communities and cultures.

Over 80 spoken languages are found in Pakistan, branching from various origins. The dire need to keep these rich languages alive cannot be ignored; hence, early education in mother tongue should be made mandatory, at least in major languages such as Panjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Seraiki, Balochi and Brohi. This can inculcate the spirit of ownership amongst people, making the country stronger and less vulnerable. Our country has also inherited a rich heritage of tolerance, compassion, Sufi teachings and wisdom which effortlessly brings people closer, combating the rising intolerance

Basant Festival

REGIONAL FOLK DANCES

Folk Dance, Balochistan

Allan Fakir, Balochistan

Musical performance, Sindh

Bhangra Punjab

Folk singer Arif Lohar, Punjab

Khattak dance, Khyber Pakhtunkhawa

REGIONAL FOLK DANCES

Gilgit-Baltistan Cultural Performance

Gilgit-Baltistan dance

Kalash festival, Khyber Pakhtunkhawa

Kashmiri cultural dance

Hazrat Sachal Sarmast

Maharaj Ghulam Hussain Kathak

Bali Jatti

Zarsanga

Mai Bhaghi

brought about by violent and militant expressions over the past few decade.

Our indigenous cultural narrative is like a bouquet of beautiful flowers in vibrant colors and a refreshing aroma. Its tangible and intangible heritage, the customs, festivals, music, dances, costumes, arts, crafts and cuisines are reflective of the intimate bond between the land, life and its people. Pakistan is the young custodian of a very old cultural narrative which attracts and holds this unparalleled diversity like a magnetic core and unifies it as an integral part of the whole. The Father of the Nation, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, being mindful of this rich resource, said, “You are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this state of Pakistan.

You may belong to any religion or caste or creed – that has nothing to do with the business of the State. He visualized a culture for Pakistan where identity of the citizens would not be judged on the basis of sectarian, religious and ethnic appellations, but rather every

Nahid Siddiqui, Kathak Dancer/Choreographer/Artistic Director

Kathak Dance

Balti Dance

individual would identify as a member of an independent nation, enjoying the right to freely pursue his religion or cultural practices. A strong sense of appreciation for cultural diversity and a promise to protect cultural rights dominated his belief. Reclaiming our past is a critical gateway to shaping our future – it is our responsibility to carry on Quaid's vision and take concrete measures for the protection and promotion of cultural rights and creative expressions of the people of Pakistan.

A conscious effort is required to bring forth not just the presence and beauty of this diversity but also what it symbolically represents. Pakistan has a National Culture Policy which reflects the diverse cultural narrative of the land, life and people since Mehergarh. It is mindful of the dreams, aspirations, sorrows, joys, struggles and achievements of its proud custodians with utmost sincerity. It considers the creative and critical engagement between people, their natural and cultural heritage as its essence because it transpires creativity, innovation and reciprocity.

The cultural policy, therefore, embodies the futuristic vision of a peaceful, pluralistic, and prosperous society based on democracy, aiming to bridge the gap between the true potential of Pakistan and its realization. However, culture is not a stagnant phenomenon; it is bound to constantly evolve, shaping communities while itself being shaped by changing trends, demographics, technological advancements, globalization and adapting value systems. Pakistan, like any other society is also witnessing social, economic and political changes. Accordingly, cultural changes must also be embraced and duly celebrated, allowing creativity and innovation instead of stagnation and resistance to evolution.

Pakistani culture must remain vibrant and reflective of pluralistic values, filtering out undemocratic practices that have become deeply embedded in our culture over time and replacing them with globally endorsed principles of human rights and social justice that fulfill people's emerging needs. The new narrative of the National Culture Policy, therefore, particularly derives strength from our past traditions of harmonious coexistence and the therapeutic values of culture, carrying the nation forward in a peaceful way. This evolution also makes itself evident in our visual and performing arts where tradition and its continuity and renewal, alongside innovative contributions in all fields, has strengthened and enhanced country's image internationally.

Pakistan, like all civilized nations, needs to invest in cultural infrastructure like museums, theaters, cinemas, art galleries, cultural centers, studios, concert halls, public parks, auditoriums and more institutions like NCA, PNCA, PTV, PBC etc. These institutions serve as creative hubs, therefore supporting them should be prioritized by the State. Provinces should be encouraged to set up cultural infrastructure at city and district headquarters level. The government should also provide the much-needed patronage to authentic tradition-bearers to ensure continuity of indigenous art forms and disciplines, alongside contemporary expressions of culture.

The iconic presence and creative input of our writers, artists, musicians and film makers such as Allah Bukhsh, Haji Shareef, Chughtai, Khalid Iqbal, Anna Molka Ahmed, Ustad Bashir Ahmed, Noor Jehan, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan, Tufail Niazi, Nusrat Fateh Ali khan, Mehdi Hassan, Ustad Jumman, Faiz Baloch, Khyal Mohmad, Faiz, Jalib, Ahmed Faraz, Naheed Siddiqui, Mahraj Ghulam Hussain Karhak, Madeeha Gauher, to mention just a few, has played an exceptional role in preserving and promoting our culture throughout, particularly at critical and challenging times since independence.

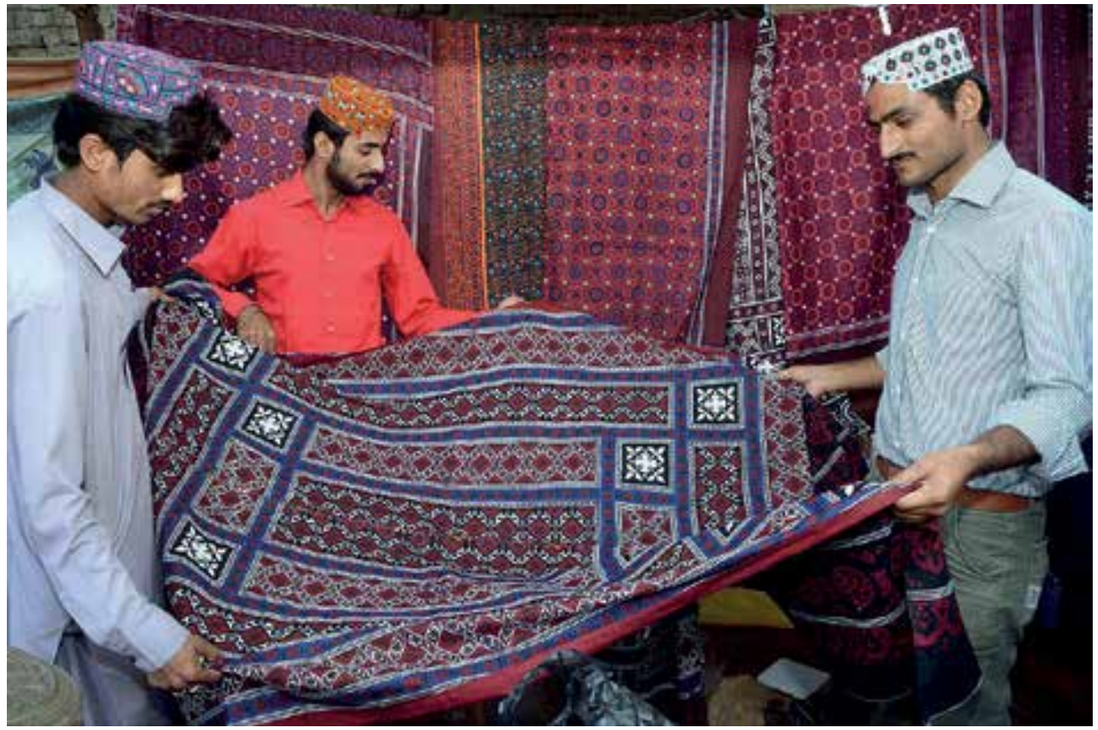
Three generations of making handwoven rug and darri

Thari people on the way with camel caravan

Ustad Bashir Ahmed's selfless contributions for the revival of miniature painting at NCA and its renewal from a leading authentic traditional art form into the most sought-after contemporary art discipline from 1982 onwards is particularly noteworthy. His students include Shazia Sikandar and Imran Qureshi, amongst many other internationally known artists. On the occasion of Pakistan's 75th birthday, let us pledge to support the preservation, revival, evolution, and promotion of our culture, utilizing it for, for paving the path to a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan.

FOLK TRADITIONS

A lady busy in preparing traditional bed sheet at Tabho Meghwar Village near Islamabad



People purchasing Sindhi cap and Ajrak from vendor in connection with upcoming Sindhi culture day

Folk performance

Village women wearing traditional costume

Traditional Embroidery by Rural Sindhi Women

FOLK TRADITIONS

A view of a traditional setting of house at Imam Bux Mallah Village near Mohenjodaro

Truck Art

Thari woman carrying water

A Thari woman busy in washing statue after preparing it at Meer Jan Muhammad village near Drighri Road

Village women on the way after fetching water from the well

FOLK TRADITIONS

People enjoying traditional musical instrument playing

Traditional Punjabi Village Festival

Artists playing different musical instruments

Local Cultural Music, Gilgit-Baltistan

Artist playing Alghoza

ART

Salima Hashmi

By looking back at seventy five years of art making in Pakistan one is struck by Pakistan's diverse visual legacies. They owe a great deal to the British colonial presence which took over patronage, education and visual technology in the form of photography, and printing techniques. However in certain areas of visual expression such as the crafts and popular culture the imagery drew its strength from pre-colonial forms and materials. The many strands in visual arts and craft have cohabited quite comfortably and have emerged over time as dynamic new forms of expression. Before Independence, the name of Abdur Rehman Chughtai was already a familiar one in Northern India. Being an artist and scholar with a background of formal training in Lahore and later Europe, he moved among writers, intellectuals and the cultural elite who were also his patrons.

Ustad Allah Buksh, on the other hand, did not enjoy the same prominence, coming from humbler circumstances, commencing his career as a painter of theatrical backdrops. Chughtai was known as a leader of the 'Lahore School' of the 40's, a style which incorporated the 'Wash Technique' introduced by Bengal school. This use of watercolor that washes on paper, with delicately linear forms mapped out, enhanced by ornamental flourishes and patterns, and was his signature. The themes were most often to do with history, poetic imagery or folk romances. The figures were surrounded by local flora and fauna reminiscent of Moghul miniatures, but larger in scale.

Ustad Allah Buksh on the other hand owed his style very much to the influence of the British presence, with three dimensional rendering of form and volume and the presence of landscape culled from European sources. He was a favorite of the business class who enjoyed his Heer Ranjha narratives in Punjabi landscapes. A radically different young artist was Zubaida Agha who had made her debut before Independence in an All India Exhibition held in Lahore Museum in 1946, with an abstract work titled 'The Wind' which surprised the art world, who had never heard of her.

She settled in Rawalpindi in 1960 after studies in Europe and started Pakistan's first private contemporary Art gallery. Zubaida Agha' practice has evaded neat labels, which included sculpture, and both abstract and figurative work. The advent of modernism was already in evidence when the nation state of Pakistan was carved out of the Indian subcontinent in 1947. However, the noticeable break from tradition occurred when progressive young artists and writers found common ground in the 1950s and 1960s. With great verve and passion, they challenged the stylized romanticism in art and literature patronized by state institutions and private clientele, and worked to hammer out a fresh vocabulary and new thematic possibilities.

There were some lively forums for discussion and debate: cafés, art councils, and literary magazines, where contentious debates on new forms such as cubism were ongoing. A J Shemza, S. Safdar, Moyene Najmi, Ahmed Parvez, and Shakir Ali, laid the foundation of the Lahore Art Circle in the 1950s –The Lahore Arts Council known as Alhamra became the hub of exhibitions. Anna Molka Ahmed a formidable teacher at the Fine arts Department at the Punjab University held classes for children and

Heer Ranjha by Ustad Allah Bakhsh (Pakistan, 1895-1978)

Heer Ranjha by Ustad Allah Bakhsh (Pakistan, 1895-1978)

Kashmiri women by Abdur Rahman Chughtai

Mughal Princess by Abdur Rahman Chughtai

Shakir Ali Mural painting at Punjab Public Library, Lahore

Sadequain Judgement in Paris

Gloomy Radha by Abdur Rahman Chughtai (21 September 1894 – 17 January 1975)

Mughal Prince and Princess by Abdur Rahman Chughtai (21 September 1894 – 17 January 1975)

Section of the mural Treasures of Time, at Sadequain Gallery in State Bank of Pakistan

Landscape by Zahoor Ul Aklhaq

Khalid Iqbal and Nasim Qazi taught adults. The poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz as the Secretary of the Arts Council hosted eminent artists from what was then East Pakistan like Zainul Abedin, Murtaza Bashir and Novera Ahmed. The major impetus for contemporary art, however, came from within the precincts of teaching academies, most significantly from the National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore.

Set up in the 19th century by the British as the Mayo School of Industrial Arts, to train children of crafts persons, it became a modern school of art, design and architecture in 1958, under its Principal Professor Mark Sponenburgh who modeled it along the lines of the Bauhaus. The NCA linked itself simultaneously to traditions of the past and to folk practice. These parallel streams nourished generations of artists, designers and architects giving it the pivotal role it has enjoyed since 1958. Shakir Ali was the first Pakistani Principal who headed NCA and nurtured a modernist ethos in art, design and architecture, which served the institution well. In Karachi, which lacked art schools at the time, Syed Sadeqain became the best known artist working in the public domain.

Patronized by Government institutions like the State Bank of Pakistan, his work became well recognized for its strong narrative content done on a large scale. He can be called Pakistan's most eminent muralist. Later, he was equally celebrated for

Sohni Mahiwal by Allah Buksh

Portrait Colin David by Anna Molka Ahmed

his calligraphic paintings as was Ismail Gulgee. Gulgee, however, was better known for his gestural, colorful, abstract works. One of NCA's contributions has been the development of the contemporary miniature, or the 'neo miniature', a recognizable Pakistani genre. Instigated by Zahoor ul Akhlaq (1941-1999) is arguably Pakistan's most influential modernist contemporary artist. Students focused on traditional Mughal miniature painting, guided by an 'ustad' or Master who had been schooled in the rigors of the forms according to courtly processes and materials.

Shahzia Sikander was the first artist who familiarized international audiences with the genre. She was closely followed by Imran Qureshi, Aisha Khalid, Nusra Latif Qureshi, Talha Rathore, Tazeen Qayyum, Saira Waseem and many others. Pakistan's socio-political history is deeply intertwined with the development of its arts and culture. The military coup in 1977 brought new 'Islamic' laws targeting minorities and vulnerable sections of society, including women. Women artists struggled to analyze and find their place within these strictures and regimens. The 'chador' was the gauntlet taken up by many artists. New materials and processes were introduced by women artists.

Many domestic modes such as embroidery, weaving and crochet became part of their vocabulary. Karachi was focused largely on the marketing of art and developing audiences through private art galleries. Ali Imam's Indus Gallery became a well-known institution where artists, students and patrons would gather to discuss art making and issues of common concern. Artists visiting from abroad or other areas of the country inevitably found their way there to meet their peers. In the 1990s the newly established Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in Karachi prompted artists to look towards this mega city for inspiration and direction. They commenced collaborative partnerships with urban crafts persons which survive until today.

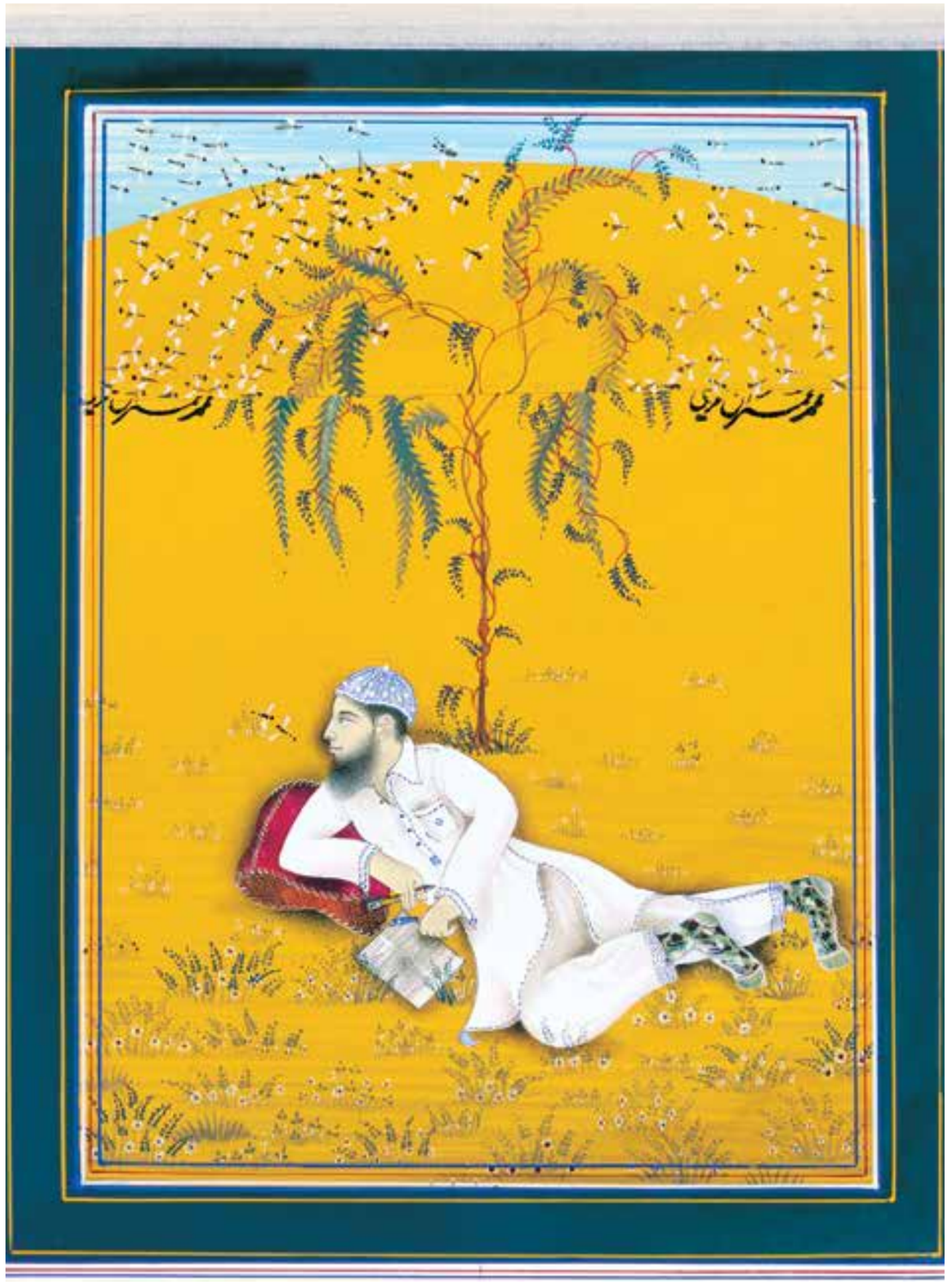
Durriya Kazi, David Alesworth, Elizabeth and Iftikhar Dadi were the pioneers who, together with their students at Indus Valley School, initiated what became known as 'Karachi-pop'. Asma Mundrawala, Huma Mulji and Adeela Suleman took up the baton and the collaborations deepened and matured. Naiza Khan and Roohi Ahmed are artists whose oeuvre has been enriched by their conscious exploration of location. One of the most far-reaching developments in the last two decades has been the evolution of artist networks, the most important of which is the Vasl Artists' Association founded in Karachi in 2001. An international artist-led initiative, it has brought, and continues to bring together local and international artists for exchange of ideas, seminars, projects, workshops, residencies, and exhibitions.

The state-run galleries and museums in Pakistan have unfortunately been perfunctory in their working. The National Art Gallery in Islamabad was inaugurated with great fanfare in 2007 and raised hopes for a representative, culturally alive space appearing on the horizon. However, after that promising start not too many meaningful expositions came about. It has been left to the private galleries across the country to nurture, present and strengthen the contemporary art movement. Video, digital and new media, installations, and artist collaborations have conjoined with manual manipulations of more time-worn methods of art making. Artist Rashid Rana is renowned internationally for revolutionizing digital art and the much younger Salman Toor on the other hand has made waves with his deft handling of traditional painting methods. Today, artist networks, residencies, workshops and private galleries are working outside the state as well.

Landscape by Khalid Iqbal

Amaltas by Ejaz Ul Hasan

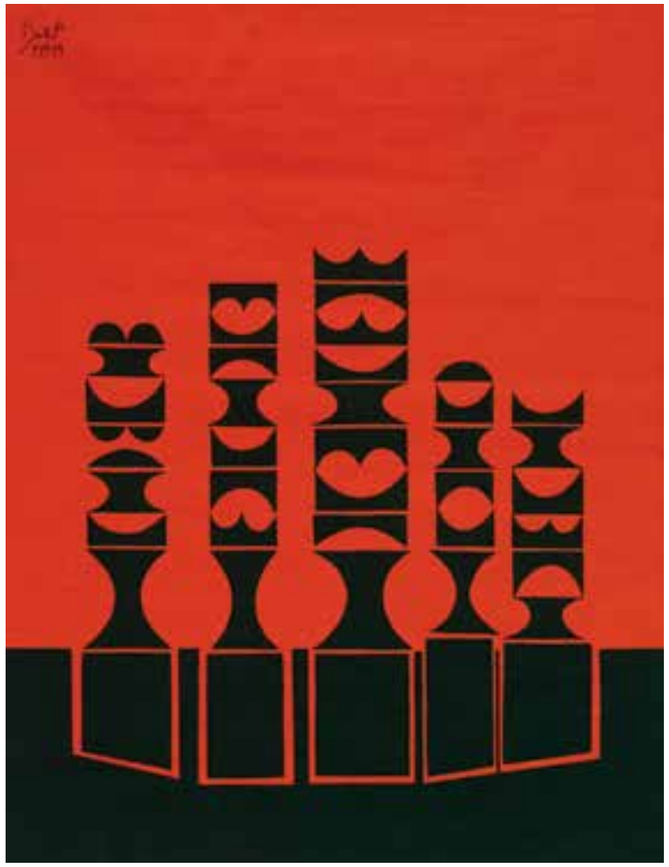
Celebration of a dehumanized existence by Jamal Shah



Imran Qureshi (Moderate Enlightenment)

Rashid Rana (a) Distant and Close up View

Ali Kazim Shah-Savar(a good rider)pigments on wasli paper, 72x108cm,2009, Clemy Sheffield

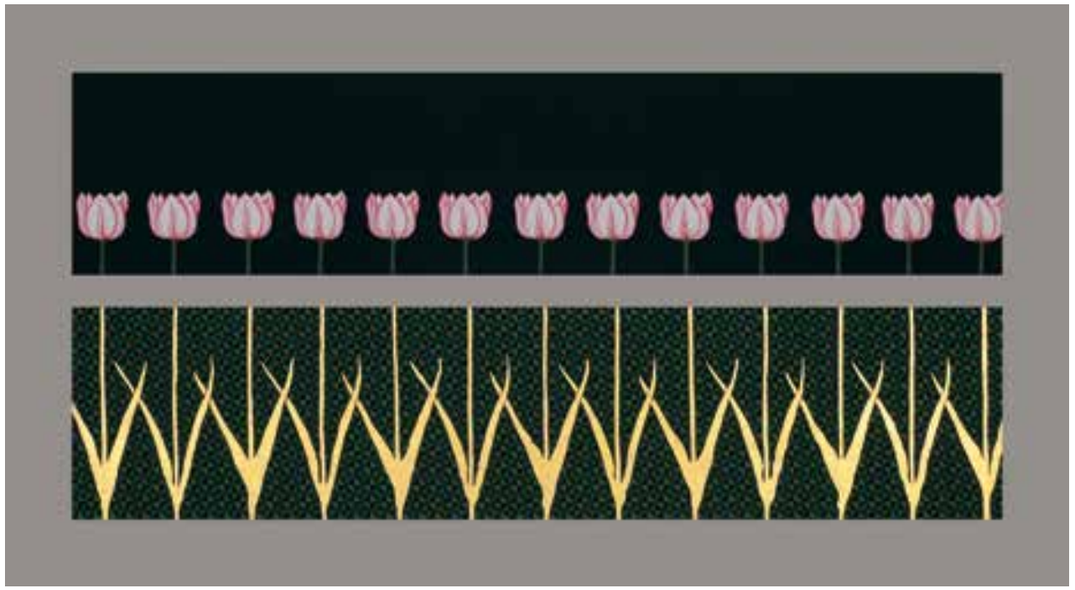


Anwar Jalal Shemza (Family of Forms)

Baaz Gasht- Meher Afroz

CLASSIC ARTIFACTS

Salman Toor Halloween Party



'When I am silent' (series 3) 2013 deptych

Veil and Trail [Shahzia Sikander]

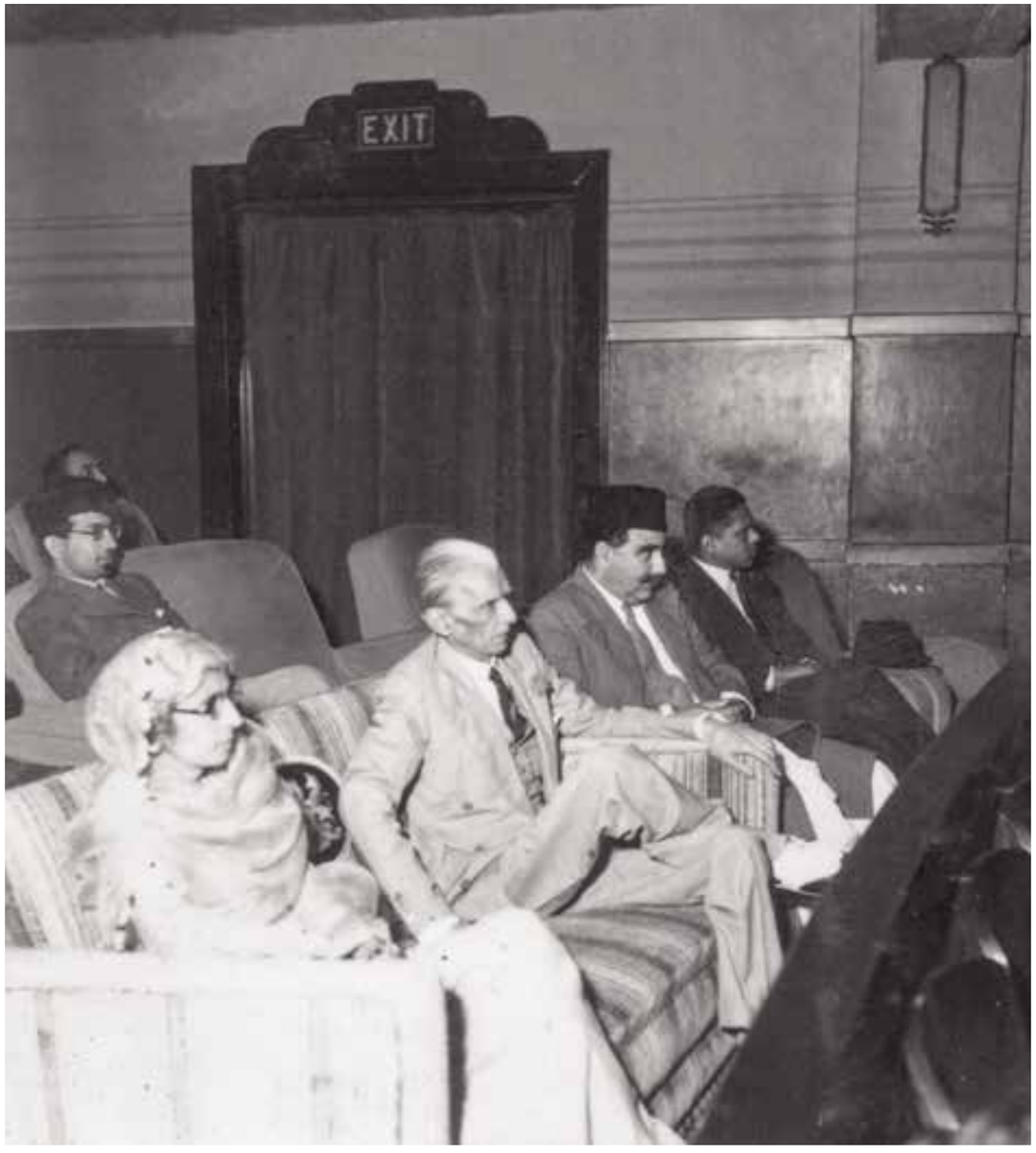
FILM

Aijaz Gull

Pakistan came into being in 1947. What is Pakistan today was centre of film making from back in the thirties. Lahore had three film studios, actors, directors, cinemas, distribution office and all the rest. It was Northern Circuit of regional Punjabi films as well as Urdu / Hindi films. After 1947, most of the film talent from Hindu community migrated to India (Mumbai) and some Muslim talent from India migrated to Pakistan (Lahore). The studios damaged during the 1947 riots were renovated, refurbished and rebuilt. This was the second beginning of film making here (the first one in the thirties). The fifties saw emergence of new directors, actors and composers, who worked along with those who had worked here in the forties or who migrated from India. It also saw construction of new studios; Evernew and Bari in Lahore and Eastern at Karachi. Eveready and Shabab bloomed as major distribution networks.

The sixties saw new air-conditioned cinemas, more studios and fresh crop of film makers who were earlier assisting old masters. This was also beginning of colour films with 'Sangam' in 1964 from Dhaka and with 'Naila' 1965 from Lahore. 1965 War with India led to ban on screening of Indian films; a blessing in disguise as it apparently gave protection to local films but damaged the potential with umbrella and lack of competition. The seventies saw dismemberment of Pakistan. East Pakistan was separated from West and became Bangladesh. Over 150 (+/-) cinemas were lost and much more. But 1977 also became our golden year with more cinemas and studios in Lahore and Karachi. Pakistan made 111 films with 700 cinemas and eight studios at Lahore and Karachi. NAFDEC (National Film Development Corporation) was set up by the federal government for promotion of cinema with quality imports and better film making at home.

Charter of NAFDEC included import of art films, export of films, setting up film sub-titling facilities, production of children films, publishing film magazines, promoting film exports, holding film festivals here and participating in international film festivals. NAFDEC constructed two cinemas in Islamabad (NAFDEC I-II), it also earned a modest amount as service charges on import of raw film as well as import of commercial films by the private sector. NAFDEC like film promotion and development corporations worldwide, particularly in France, USA, India and Iran was working for better films and better audience. Earning profit was not its primary concern. However, it was assumed



Quaid-e-Azam and Miss Fatima Jinnah at the preview of a film on Quaid-e-Azam's birthday celebration

Miss Joan Fontaine the well known Hollywood film star who is on a holiday visit to Pakistan talking to a PIA hostess on her arrival at Chaklala on April 12, 1962

Jonaka Cinema Hall decoration during UAR film festival work, June 28, 1970

Federal Minister for Culture Sports and Tourism Mr. Nisar Mohammad Khan with the Film Artists on the inauguration of national Film Festival in Lahore on April 1, 1988

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Senator Javed Jabbar inaugurating the new Film "Dhamkey" at Evernue Studio in Lahore on April 27, 1989

Malika Taranum Noor Jahan in her youth performing on Sittar

Aslam Pervaiz film artist

Sabiha Khanum in film 'Gumnam'

Santosh kumar in Ishq-e-Laila

Darpan film artist

that NADFAC was not earning profit. In 2002, NAFDEC was disbanded and its complex in Islamabad was sold out. Illegal, pirated, smuggled and uncensored video entered.

Cinemas were turned into shopping centres and wedding halls. Studios were turned into warehouses or housing colonies. Senior film talent left the film world or retired. Violence entered the films and the leftovers in the film trade went for meaningless action films full of vengeance and vendetta. Good scripts and popular music vanished. In 2007, with digital technology, import of Indian films, emergence of new talent from TV and construction of multiplexes came which goes on to this day. It has been a big change. Socially relevant and thought-provoking films by Shoaib Mansoor like 'Khuda Key Leye', 'Bol' and 'Verna' are challenging the ills of society with ruthless reality and relevance. Director/ actress Sameena Pirzada came out with outstanding film 'Inteha' and Syed Noor staying within domain of commercial films, brought Punjabi blockbuster 'Choorian' in 1998 making 200 million, an unprecedented share at the box office.

Film makers like Nabeel Qureshi ('Actor in Law', 'Namaloom Afraad I & II', 'Load Wedding' and 'Khel Khel Mein') and Nadeem Baig ('Jawani Phir Nahi Ani I & II', 'Punjab Nahi Jaungi') have become bankable names at the box office. Today, more new films are being launched at Karachi and few at Lahore. Talent from TV is being added. Independent TV networks are also helping in financing, marketing and distribution. Pakistani cinema keeping pace with the world outside had no choice but to say goodbye to Analog (35mm) and enter the world of Digital. In 2007-08, the government removed restrictions on imports of Indian films and for the next ten years we saw almost 55 Indian films every year here.

This also promoted construction of cinemas with Digital Projection/ Sound System and likeable ambience. However, all this came with a price tag of Rs 500-800. Compare this with early 2000 when cinema ticket was around Rs. 150/-. Notwithstanding the inflationary factor this took the masses away from the comfort and luxury of multiplexes and cinema going is now restricted to upper crust of the society and beyond the reach of an average person. One hopes that with the passage of years and cinematic of film maker, Pakistani cinema would move on within an outside to bring a healthy and meaningful cinema.

Reminiscence: Directors: Anwar Kamal Pasha ('Gumnam', 'Qatil', 'Sarfrosh', 'Anarkali') Masood Parvaiz ('Intezaar', 'Jhoomar', 'Koel', 'Heer Ranjha') Khaleel Qaiser ('Shaheed', 'Farangi') Riaz Shahid ('Zarqa', 'Gharnata', 'Yeh Aman') Hassan Tariq ('Neend', 'Anjuman', 'Umrao Jan Ada') Nazrul Islam ('Ehsas', 'Aina', 'Bandish', 'Amber', 'Nahi Abhi Nahi') Pervaiz Malik ('Arman', 'Ehsan', 'Doraha', 'Gumnam') Screenwriters: Riaz Shahid Composers: Baba Chishti, Rasheed Attrey, Inayat Hussain, Khursheed Anwar, Sohail Rana Nisaar Bazmi, Robin Ghosh, Saleem Iqbal Lyricists: Qateel Shifai, Tanveer Naqvi,

Mohammad Ali-Zeba

Badar Munir

Nadeem-Shabnam in Aina

Masroor Anwar. Playback Singers: Munawar Sultana, Noorjahan, Zubaida Khanum, Mehdi Hassan, Mala, Naseem Begum, Saleem Raza, Runa Laila.

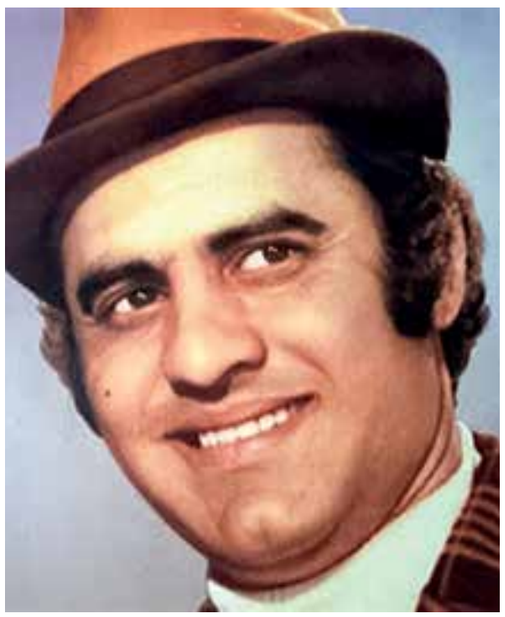
Cinematographers: Nabi Ahmed, Raza Mir, Kamran Mirza, Masood Ur Rehman, Sound: Afzal Hussain A. Z. Baig Mandoodi Laboratory: Pyarey Khan Art Director: Haji Mohiuddin Actors: Santosh Kumar, Sabiha Khanam, Sudhir, Musarrat Nazir, Agha Talish, Allaudin, Mohammad Ali, Nayyar Sultana, Shamim Ara, Zeba, Nadeem, Shabnam, Waheed Murad, Akmal, Sultan Rahi, Anjuman, Lehri, Munawar Zareef, Rani Best Films: Gumnaam, Qatil, Wadah, Akhri Station, Neend, Ghunghat, Heer Ranjha, Armaan, Nahi Abhi Nahi, Bandish, Muthi Bhar Chawaal, Choorian, Inteha

LEGENDARY ARTISTS

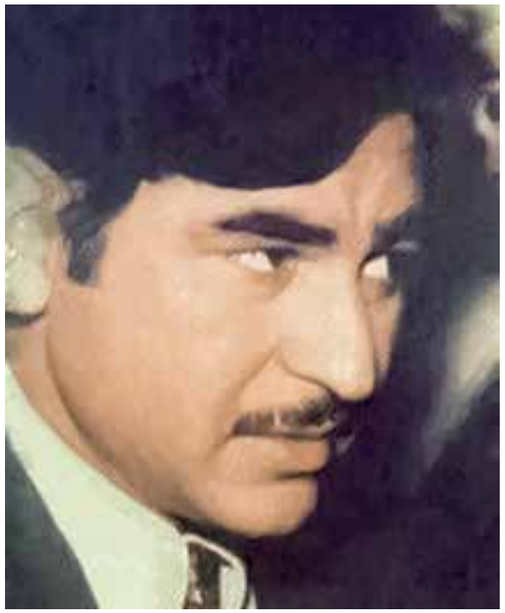
Lehri

Nisho Begum and Nadeem

Muhammad Ali and Zeba



Munawar Zareef



Syed Kamal

Waheed Murad

Santosh Kumar & Sabiha Khanum

Shamim Ara

LEGENDARY ARTISTS

Rangeela

Nisho Begum

Syed Noor and Saima

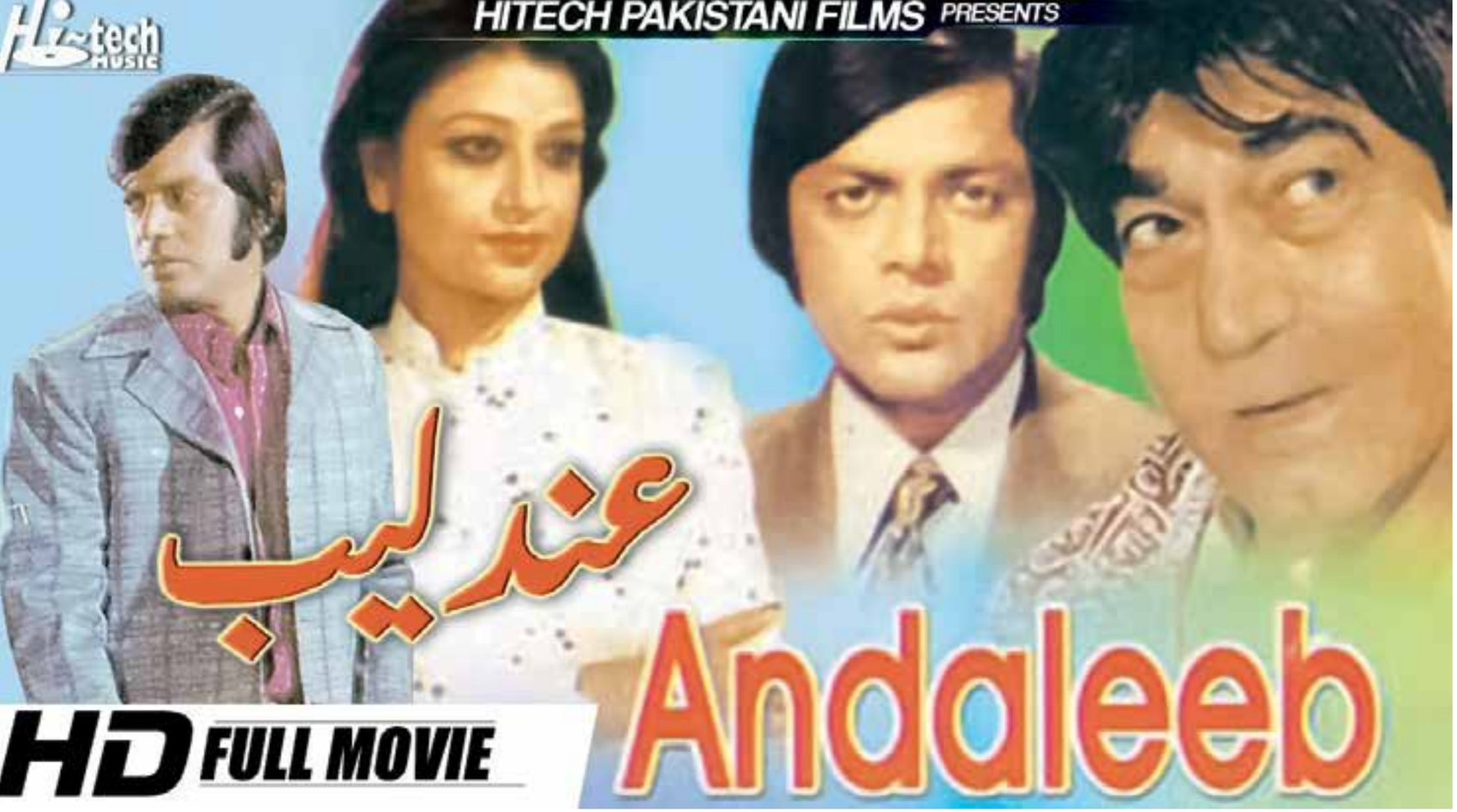
Shan

Reema

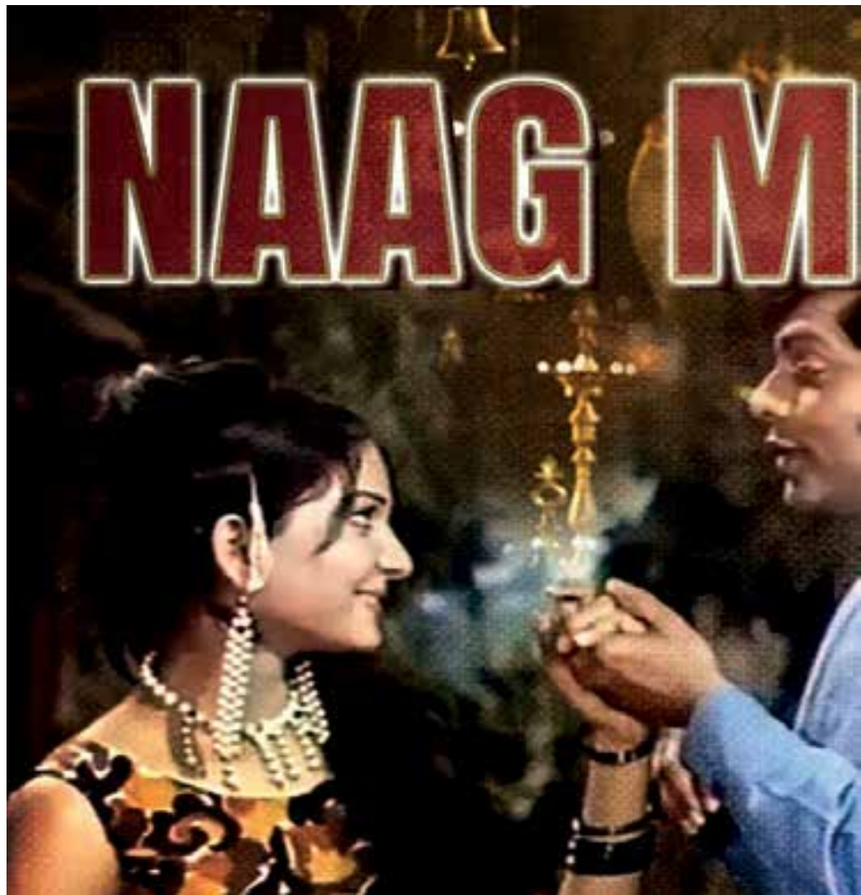
Resham

Saba Qamar

Mahira Khan

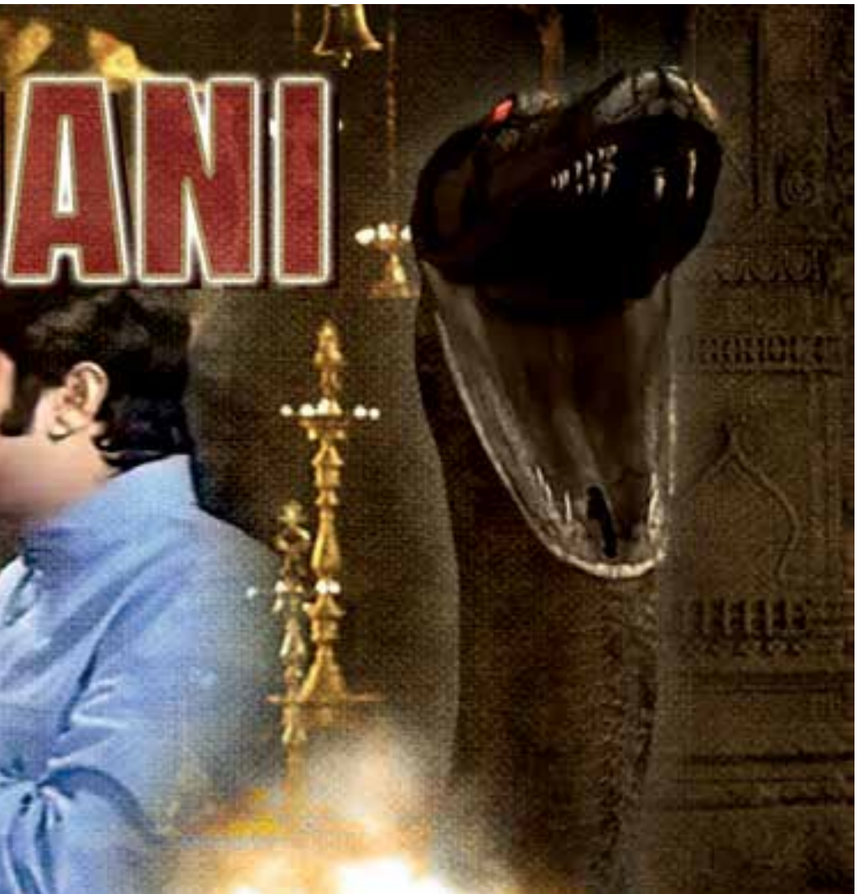

HITECH PAKISTANI FILMS PRESENTS
Hi-tech MUSIC
عندلیب
Andaleeb
HD FULL MOVIE

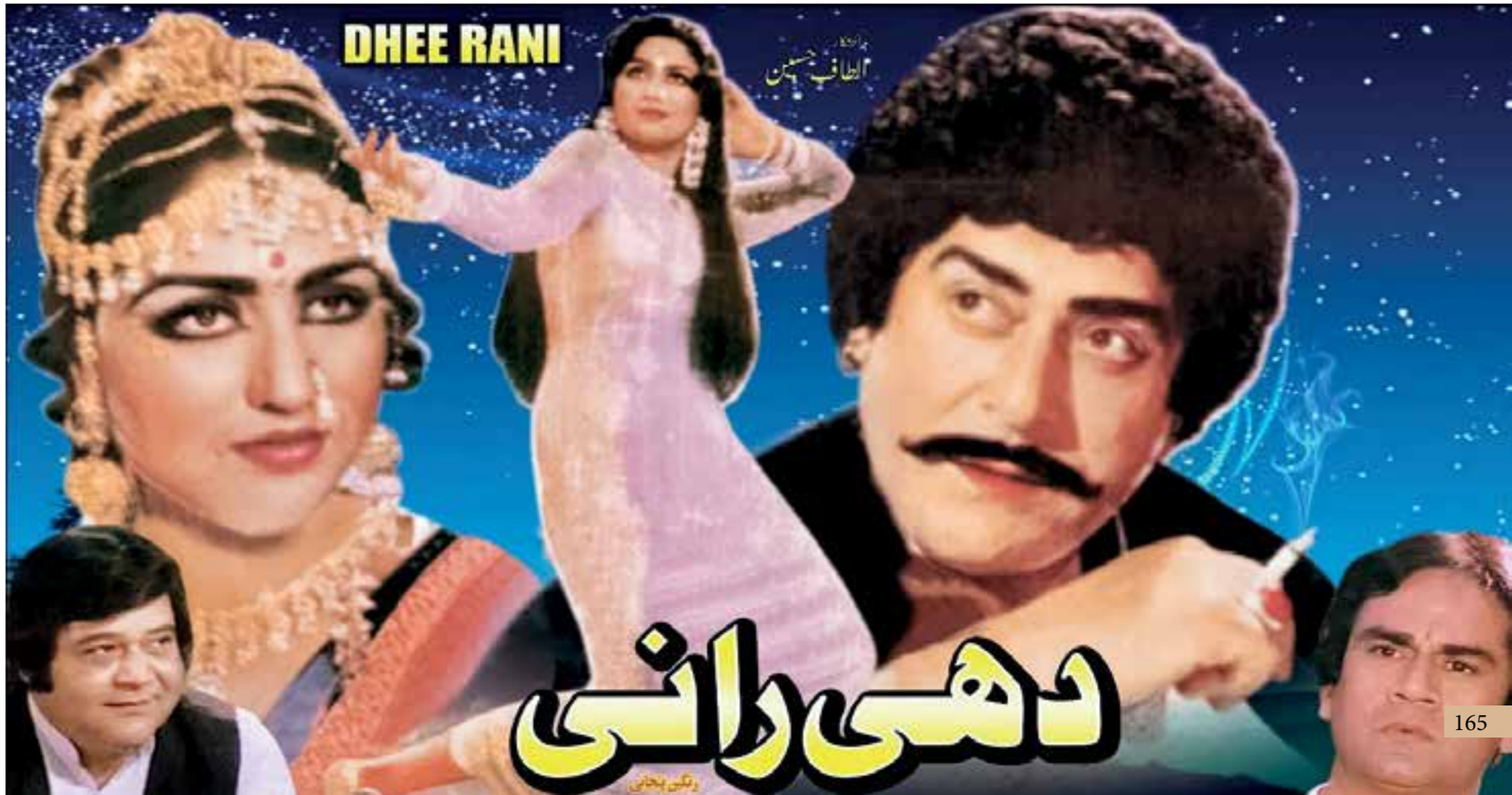
HITECH PAKISTANI FILMS PRESENTS
Hi-tech MUSIC
MERA NAAM
HAI MOHABBAT
میرا نام
ہے محبّت
HD FULL MOVIE


NAAG M

SADAF DVD
ina

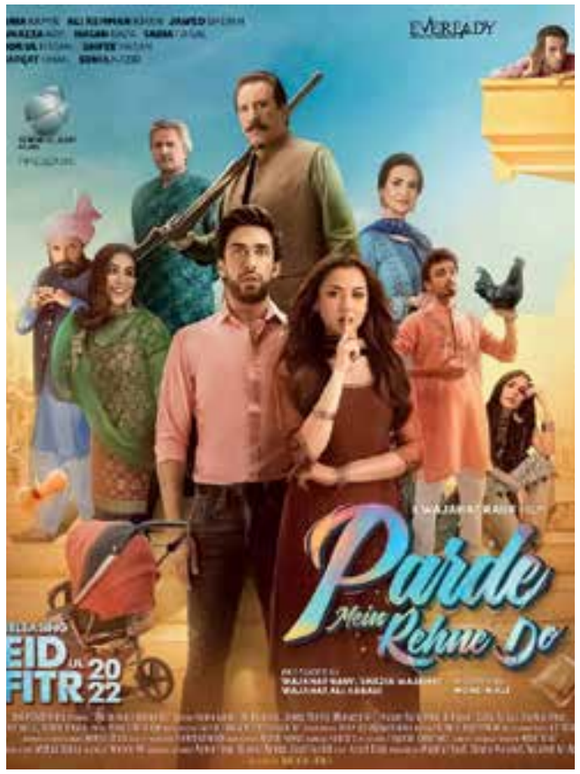
Hi-tech MUSIC
HITECH PAKISTANI FILMS PRESENTS
Umrao Jaan Ada
HD FULL MOVIE
امراؤ جان ادا


ANI


DHEE RANI
الطاف حسین
دھی رانی

Lollywood superhit film Koel

Poster of film "Ishq e-Laila"



Poster of film "Parde Mein Rehne Do"

Sultan Rahi-Anjuman

Poster of film "Chakkar"

Poster of film "Ishrat"

Cinestar Cinema Township, Lahore

Lollywood film Khuda Kay Liye

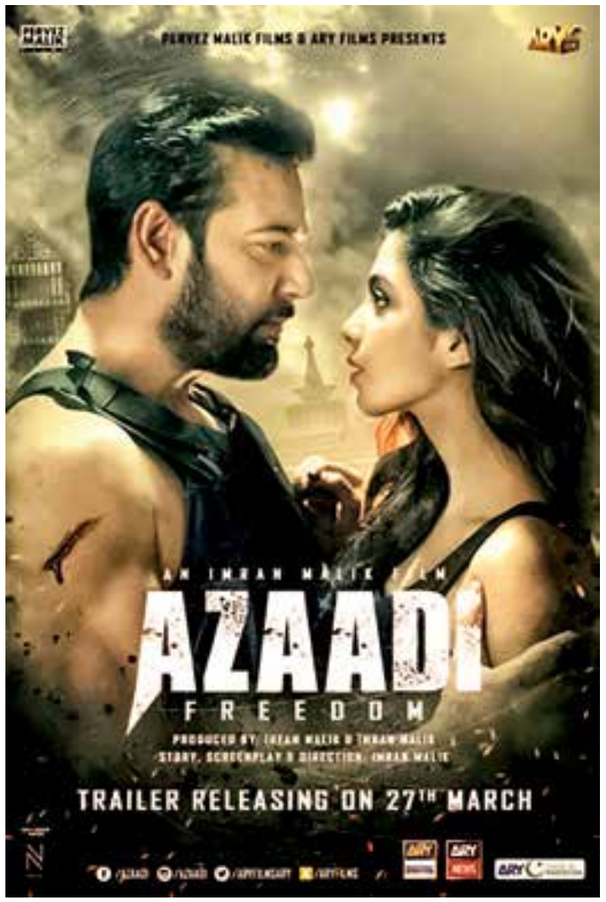
Sangeeta

Filmmaking in Pakistan

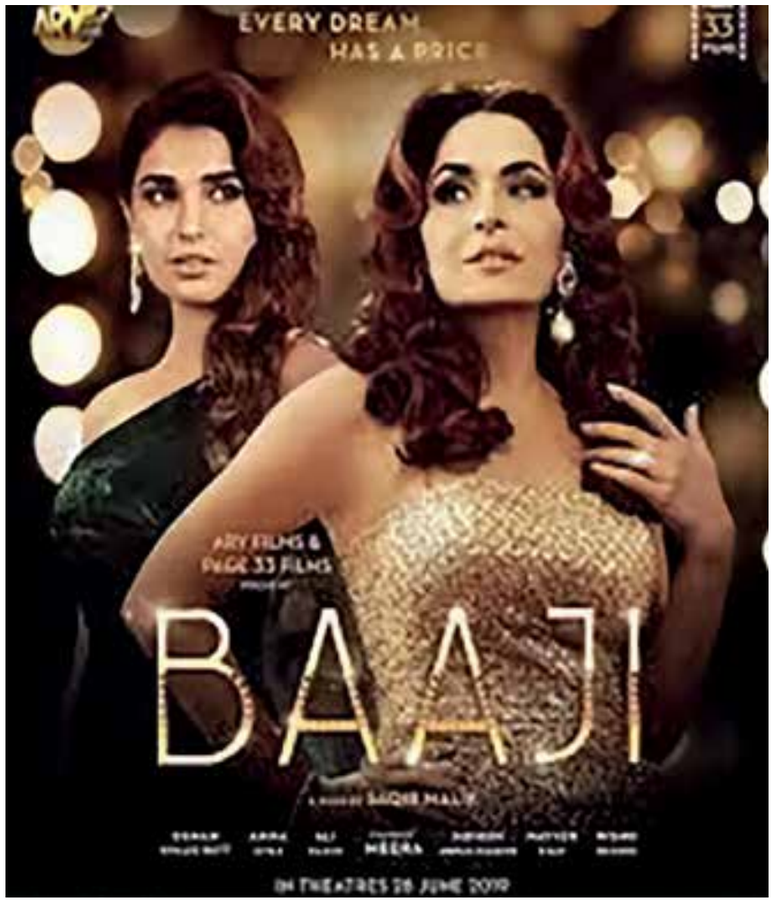
LEGENDARY ARTISTS

Mehnaz, singer

Babra Sharif, actress



Lollywood film Azaadi



Lollywood film Baaji

Mehwish Hayat, actress

Lollywood film Tich Button

Lollywood film Fatman

42 YEARS DOWN THE ROAD FROM MAULA JATT (1980) TO THE LEGEND OF MAULA JATT (2022)

Lollywood film Maula Jatt now and then

LITERATURE

Asghar Nadeem Syed

Translated by Mohammad Arshad

Lifespan of Urdu literature in Pakistan can be 75 years but its roots span over centuries. History and culture of this region spans over thousands of years and languages emerged out of its civilizational process. These languages got promoted throughout the several ages and adopted versatile methods of expression. Features of Pakistani society are quite different as they have been part of joint history of Hindustan for thousands of years. This is why, that joint history is also part of our heritage. Muslim Sufis saints landed in India with philosophy of humanity equipped with the Islamic and humanitarian values and they enlightened the entire India. These Sufi saints succeeded in spreading their message over the whole India which founded Indo-Islamic civilization.

Pakistan flourished in that civilization because of the fact that our literature and languages sprouted from base of civilization and culture of those thousands of years. Best manners of expressions were also present in Pakistani languages even before the creation of Pakistan. Masterpieces of Sindhi, Punjabi, Saraiki, Pushtu, Brahvi literature and poetry have been created before the advent of Urdu language. Among these Sufi poets, Sachal Sarmast, Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, Shah Hussain, Baba Bhulla Shah, Waris Shah, Khawaja Ghulam Farid, Must Tawakali, Rehman Baba, Mian Mohammad Bakhash and Sultan Babu are our creative literary heritage. Urdu language is blended with all these Pakistani languages so perhaps it was declared the mode of communication in entire India. The literature and poetry created in Urdu language has roots in Amir Khusro, Meera Bhai, Kabir Daas and even up to the Tulsi Daas. Urdu language and literature got strength from this collective heritage which comprises of several species of short story, poetic versions and prose art pieces.

Three major literary movements had emerged before the creation of Pakistan and poetry and literary values and features have been formed under the influence of these movements. These movements include Sir Syed Movement, Romantic Movement and Progressive movement. These movements also made their way into Pakistani literature. Muslims who migrated to Pakistan from different areas of India after the creation of Pakistan included proficient painters, musicians, poets, architects, economists, philosophers, novelists, writers, educationists and highly genius qualified people who had keen interest in other branches of knowledge. It is good luck of our literature that different segments of art and culture endowed Pakistani literature with a unique mood and treasure of creative versatility. Thus, Pakistani literature ruled over Urdu world for next seven decades. It created such a deep sway that no one can remove impact of Pakistani literature from the Urdu literature.

At the creation of Pakistan, violence along with humiliation of humanity and deep stigmas of cruelty marked the experience of migration and it gave a clear change in the topics and experiments of Pakistani literature and its impact on poetry and fiction was quite natural because human experiences are reflected through these branches of literature. Similarly, deep impacts of a mixture of liberal movement of Sir Syed and progressive approach along with romantic and progressive movements added

Sir Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the National Poet

excellence to Urdu literature. Poetry of Faiz Ahmad Faiz is glorious example of this influence because his odes and poetry carry deep impacts of romantic and progressive literary movements.

Uniqueness of topics of poetry of Allama Mohammad Iqbal is hallmark of Pakistani Urdu literature. Impacts of poetry of Allama Mohammad Iqbal on whole India proved that the whole Urdu and Muslim world was blessed with such a genius who challenged every type of colonialism and exploitation being voice of Muslim Ummah. Iqbal's poetry established such high moral and ethical standards for humanity which could not be ignored by the European and American philosophical minds. Allama Iqbal gave expansion to Urdu language on the straits of Arabic, Persian and Hindi languages which are part of cultural heritage of Urdu. Allama Muhammad Iqbal not only used these languages but lauded and enjoyed the historical and cultural moods of these languages also. Urdu poetry had attained the meaningfulness, ethical and softness of thought of classical tradition a long ago.

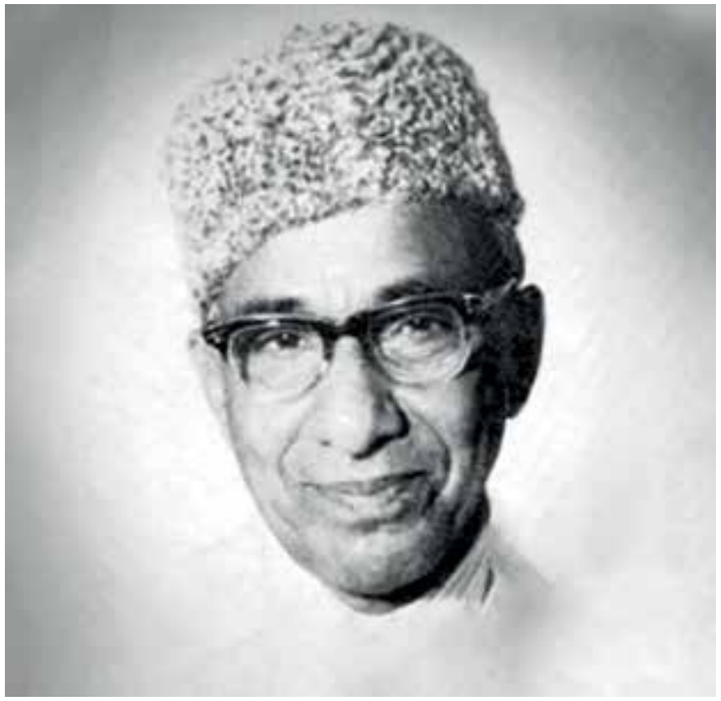
Manners of prose surfaced later. Ode, laudatory, monody, spiritual couplet and troublous made sentimental explanations of Indian culture and civilization in social and political backgrounds in such an excellent way that Muslim poets infused Islamic history in it despite the fact their kept the secular expression up. When this classical tradition mixed with the experience of creation of Pakistan then a Pakistani blend got jumbled with our ode, poetry and other forms of literature. However, its straits laid by Mirza Ghalib, Mir Taqi Mir, Sauda, Nasikh, Bahadur Shah Zafar, Momin, Hali, Hassarat Mohani later mixed in the philosophical and political ideologies of Allama Mohammad Iqbal and Faiz Ahmad Faiz. The unique features of Pakistani ode can easily be traced as they carry a deep impression of freedom and creation of Pakistan.

Similarly, Pakistani ode also accepted a reflection of feelings of Ghalib and Mir Taqi Mir. Thus, Lahore and Karachi became two big centres of Urdu poetry. Both had a section of creative scholars even before the creation of Pakistan beside the addition of those who migrated from India and they influenced other languages of Pakistan also along with Urdu poetry. After 1947, Urdu poetry flourished in the civilized environment of Lahore and Karachi where poets from other cities of Pakistan created a galaxy like impression along with the migrated poets.

Odes and poems created in last 75 years are our creative asset which is studded with our political, social, societal, ethical culture and history. We can declare it as peculiar Pakistani ode very easily. A large number of articles and books even ode numbers are available to endorse this idea. Poem under the influence of movement of literary circle created a new history which could not flourish on the other side of Pakistani border, in India. It is miracle of Pakistan that all the manners and types of poem flourished here including rhymed, unrhymed, rhyme less and prosaic poems. If we focus on ode poets in Urdu language, we find that entire treasure flowed into Pakistan.

These include Allama Mohammad Iqbal, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Hafeez Jhalandhari, Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi, Munir Niazi, Nasir Kazmi, Ahmad Faraz, Adda Ja'afri, Zahra Nigah, John Elia, Abaidullah Aleem, Saleem Ahmad, Athar Nafees, Hafeez Hoshyarpuri, Habib Jalib, Saghar Siddiqui, Shuhrat Bokhari, Shahzad Ahmad, Zafar Iqbal, Hamayat Ali Sha'air, Kishwar Naheed, Perveen Shakir, Jamal Ihsani, Shakeeb Jalali, Mustafa Zaidi, Mehboob Khazaan, Javed Shaheen, Sehar Ansari, Khatar Ghazanvi, Mohsin Ihsan, Zaheer Kashmiri, Baqi Siddiqui, Saleem Shahid, Adeem Hashmi, Khalid Ahmad, Ahmad Mushtaq, Sarwat Hussain, Iftkhar Arif and Abbas Tabish.

Now if we critically evaluate the evolution of Urdu poem; it touches the new modes of ethics on the ideological and technical basis and it expanded up to those topics which are related to political and economical scenario of



Abu Al-Asar Hafeez Jalandhari was a Pakistani Urdu-language poet who wrote the lyrics for the National Anthem of Pakistan and National Anthem of Azad Kashmir

post creation of Pakistan era. Poem, from experiment of unrhymed and blank verse to the movement of prosaic poem, performed the duty of bringing history of Pakistan and unique experiments of civilization under the ambit of poem. Journey of Urdu poem is enviable as in shoulder to shoulder with ode, made the crucial most moments of history Pakistan part of ethical beauty in a most sensitive way. In this regard, Allama Muhammad Iqbal is the first and foremost reference.

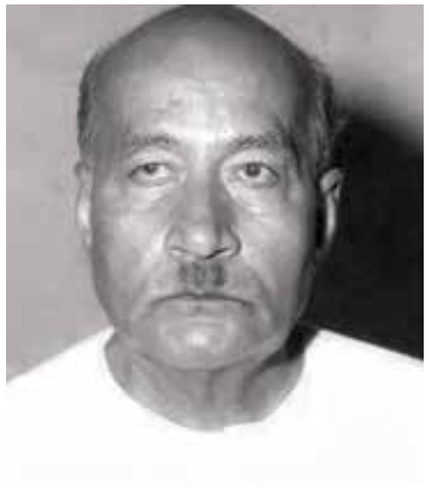
Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Josh Malihabadi, Hafeez Jhalandhri, Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi, Munir Niazi, Ahmad Faraz, Jeelani Kamran, Wazir Agha, Anees Nagi, Kishwar Naheed, Zahra Nigah, Majeed Amjad, Meera Jee, N M Rashid, Akhtar Hussain Ja'afri, Qamar Jameel, Iftkhar Jalib, Sarmad Sehbai, Ja'afar Tahir, Fehmida Riaz, Saleem Ahmad, Afzal Ahmad Syed, Asghar Nadeem Syed, Sara Shugufta, Azra Abbas, Tanvir Anjum, Abrar Ahmad, Aftab Iqbal Shamim,

Q. U. Shahab with Jamiluddin Aaali at a Writer's Guild event during the sixties

Prominent poets Josh Maleehabadi, Sufi Tabassum, Ehsan Danish, Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi, Qateel Shifai, Muneer Niazi and Zaheer Kashmeeri at a mushaira during the early sixties

Cheragh Hassan Hasrat

Patras Bukhari



Josh Malihabadi

Saghar Siddiqui

Jaun Elia

Faiz Ahmad Faiz

Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi

Khalda Hussain

Parveen Shakir

Ahmad Faraz

Ahmad Shamim and Iftkhar Arif carried forward this tradition. Urdu poem informed the world about the possible new creative angles of expression. Obviously, canvas of this analysis is limited otherwise hundreds of names of other stalwarts can also be mentioned like Nasreen Anjum Bhatti. It shows that our literature and poetry has no limits and its limits are not confined to names only.

Ideologically Urdu poem gave birth to a resistance movement during the martial law of Zia ul Haq and in the guise of similes and in a token way, Urdu poem performed duty of safeguarding national prestige and stature in the political situation. Now if we critically evaluate fictional literature, we can see that Pakistani fictional literature achieved excellence on the basis of its uniqueness and covering the historical periods. It is a matter of great pride for us that an international organization made an impartial selection of one hundred short stories from fictions of all the languages of the world and selection carried Sa'adat Hassan Manto's story 'Toba Tek Singh' at 100th number. World's top writers including Maha Bharat, Tolstoy, Kafka and other Nobel laureates were in this list so the presence of Pakistani fiction in the list is a marvelous distinction.

Stalwart fiction writers were among those who migrated from India to Pakistan at the time of creation of Pakistan. Ashfaq Ahmad, Intzar Hussain, Shaukat Siddiqui, Assad Mohammad Khan, Hassan Manzar, Manto and our friend A Hameed. A large number of local fiction writers hailed the migrant fiction writers like Abdullah Hussain, Khadija Mastoor, Mumtaz Mufti, Nisar Ahmad Butt, Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi, Mirza Adeeb, Mazhar ul Islam, Rashid Amjad, Mustansar Hussain Tarar, Ahmad Daud, Jameela Hashmi, Ikramullaha, Banu Qudsia, Khalida Hussain, Zahida Hina, Kashif Raza, Anwar Ahmad, Tariq Mahmood, Ghulam Saqlain Naqvi, Arsha Siddiqui, Najam ul Hassan Rizvi, A Khayam, Anwar Sajjad, Masood Ashar, Sami Ahuja, Altaf Fatima, and Fehmida Riaz created deep impact of their professional excellence on the fiction.

This fiction through its insight, abstractionism, metaphors and compositional techniques created such analytical researches that truths and lies of our history became clear to everyone. Urdu fiction played a resisting role against the non-democratic and dictatorial regimes in Pakistan. Literature always raises questions, resists, and plays role of recording a parallel history. In fact, Pakistani fiction is an album of political and social injustices which can be viewed anytime by anyone. Pakistani fiction always raised questions for human beings and strongly resisted amid crises either it was violence on the eve of creation of Pakistan, drought in Bengal, tragedy of fall of East Pakistan or tragedies of human rights as a result of martial laws in the country.

Khuda ki Basti, Udaas Naslein, Aisi Bulandi Aisi Pasti, Chalta Musafir, Basti, Agey Sumandar Hey, Nadar Log, Ney Chiragh Ney Gulley, Khoon e Jigar Honey Tak, Khushyoon ka Bagh, Dasht e Soos, Raja Gidh, Sahra Nuward, Bahao, Saakh, Ghulam Bagh, Dasht e Imkaan, Dewar key Peechey, Alipur Ka Aili, Alkh Nagri, Ansaan Ay Insaan, Chaki Warha Mein Wasal, Angan, Chaar Derwaish Aur Aik Kashwa and Mati Adam Khati Hey are such novels which have been written on versatile techniques. All have observed different aspects of the social, political, cultural, societal life of Pakistan.

Novels and fictions of 75 years are filled with sympathy, love and patriotism towards Pakistan. These are also filled with a desire of social uplift and a prosperous Pakistan in future. Sense of humour is an asset of any nation as without a sense of humour a nation is considered to be a dead one. Pakistani literature possesses a huge treasure of

Wasif Ali Wasif, literary figure

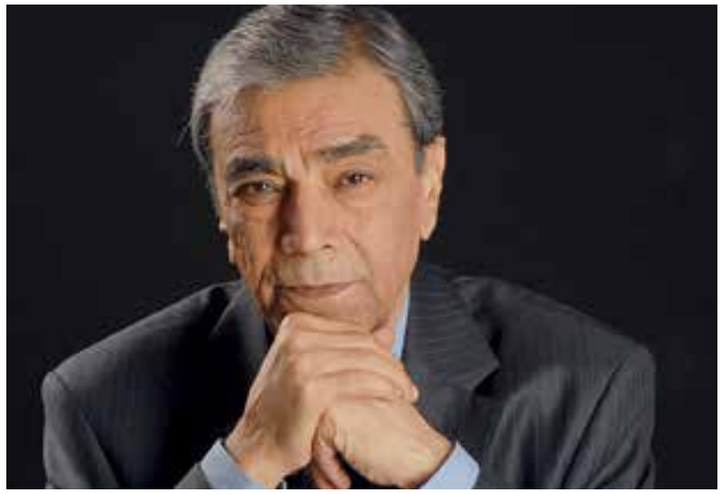
Mushtaq Ahmed Yusufi

Mansha Yad, play writer

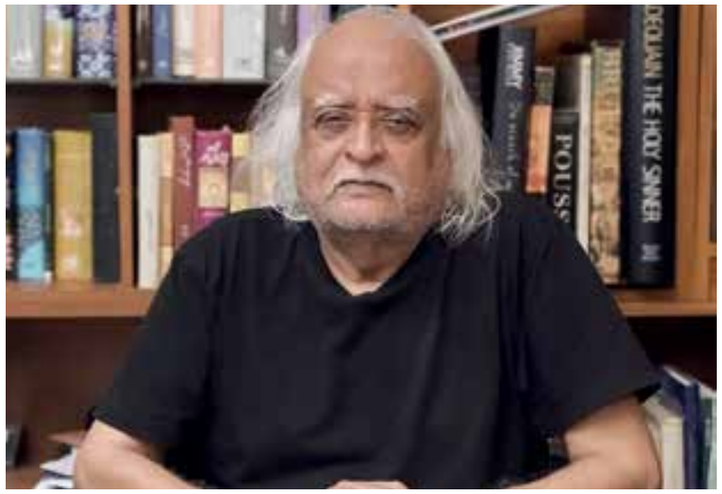
Mohsin Naqvi

Nasir Raza Kazmi

Fatima Surriya Bajia



Zia-Mohyeddin



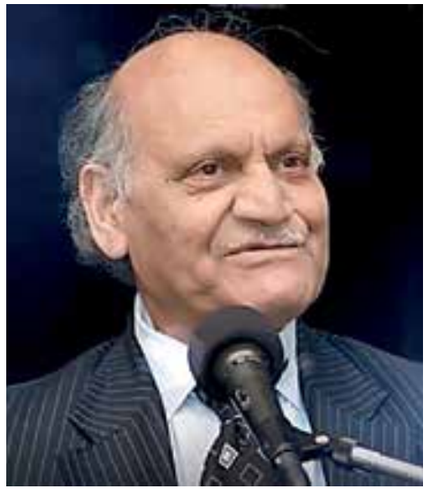
Anwar-Maqsood

humour and satire. Can anyone forget Mushtaq Ahmad Yousafi or ignore Patras Bukhari. Moreover, Shafiqu ur Rehman, Ibne Insha'a, Col Mohammad Khan, Imtiaz Ali Taj, Zameer Ja'afri, Shaukat Thanvi, Atta ul Haq Qasmi are stalwart humour writers. However, only few names fall in the category of humour poets including Dilawar Figar, Anwar Masood and Inamul Haq Javed.

If we look at analytical criticism, we find big names here. The biggest name is of a woman who created analytical number titled 'Ma'ayar' and no one has ever dared to ignore her so far. This critical number is created by Mumtaz Shireen. Our critical writings have ideological straits as well as recommendatory procedure. Major portion of our criticism is related to educational requirements; however, its quality is not so high. In the meanwhile, a mixture of criticism of satire and culture also remained intact and it tried to understand the plot of content in the historical background. Modernism, ultra modernism and contemporary western ideas poured new analytical criterions and standards to our criticism.

The critics who introduced debate in criticism are very important. Wazir Agha, Hassan Askari, Saleem Ahmad, Anees Fani, Jeelani Kamran, Muzaffar Ali Syed, Sajjad Baqar Rizvi, Saleem Akhtar, Sohail Ahmad Khan, Waqar Azeem, Jameel Jalbi, Aslam Furrakhi, Intzar Hussain,

LEGENDS



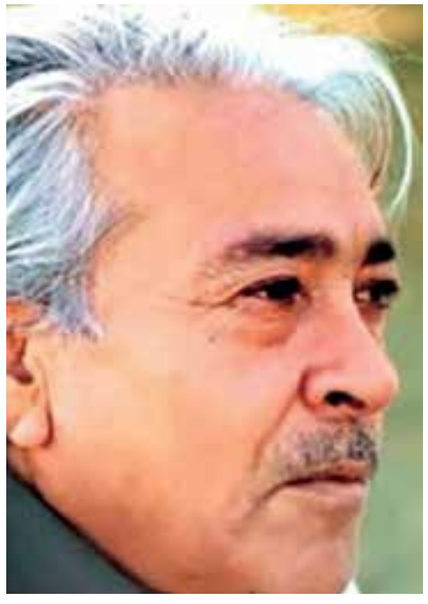
Anwar Masood

Kishwar Naheed

Bano Qudsia

Ashfaq Ahmed

Haseena-Moin



Munir Ahmed Niazi

Ada Jafri

Habeb Jalib

Amjad Islam Amjad

Ata ul Haq Qasmi

Mumtaz Hussain, Mohammad Ali Siddiqui, Nasir Abbas Nayyar, Anwar Ahmad, Muhammad Hammed Shahid and Saraj Munir are such names who raised questions and trend setting became their salient feature. These key figures also remained prominent in prose writing in 75 years: Patras Bukhari, Mushtaq Ahmad Yousafi, Mukhtar Masood, Maqbool Elahi Sheikh, A Hameed, Hameed Akhtar, Ibrahim Jalees and Qudrat Ullah Shahab (autobiography) are considered prominent names in this regard. Our 75 years can be considered as golden one in Urdu and Pakistani literature.

دی جو کہ اردو کے ثقافتی مزاج کا حصہ ہیں۔ علامہ محمد اقبال نے خود ہی ان زبانوں کو نہ صرف استعمال کیا بلکہ ان زبانوں کے گن بھی گائے اور ان زبانوں کے تاریخی اور ثقافتی مزاج سے لطف بھی اٹھایا۔

اردو میں شاعری کی اصناف نے بہت پہلے کلاسیکی روایت کی تمام تر معنی آفرینی، جمالیات اور نازک خیالی کے اعجاز کو پالیا تھا۔ نثر کے اسالیب بعد میں جلوہ گر ہوئے۔ غزل، قصیدہ، مرثیہ، مثنوی اور شہر آشوب نے ہندوستانی تہذیب و تمدن کی حسیاتی تعبیر معاشرتی اور سیاسی تناظر میں اس طرح کیں کہ مسلمان شعراء نے اپنی اسلامی تاریخ کو اس میں سمو دیا۔ اگر چہ اظہار سیکولر رہا۔ شاعری کی یہ کلاسیکی روایت پاکستان کے قیام کے تجربے میں جب شامل ہوئی تو ہماری غزل نظم اور دیگر اصناف میں پاکستانی مزاج کا رچاؤ شامل ہوتا گیا۔ تاہم اس کی بنیاد میں مرزا غالب، میر تقی میر، سودا، ناسخ، بہادر شاہ ظفر، مومن، حالی، حسرت موہانی کے اثرات اور پھر علامہ محمد اقبال اور فیض احمد فیض کے فلسفانہ اور سیاسی تصورات بھی شامل ہو گئے۔پاکستانی عزل کے اپنے منفر د خد و خال ہیں جن میں آزادی اور قیام پاکستان کا گہرا اثر موجود ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ہی غالب اور میر تقی میر کے احساس کا پر تو بھی پاکستانی غزل نے قبول کر لیا۔ پاکستان میں اُردو شاعری کے دو بڑے مراکز کراچی اور لاہور قرار پائے۔ دونوں میں تقسیم سے پہلے کے ہندوستان سے ہجرت کر کے آنے والوں کا ایک بے حد تخلیقی مزاج کا حامل طبقہ شامل تھا جس نے اردو شاعری کے ساتھ دوسری پاکستانی زبانوں پر بھی اثر ڈالا۔ 1947 کے بعد کی اردو شاعری کراچی اور لاہور کی تہذیبی فضا میں پروان چڑھی جہاں پہلے سے موجود پاکستانی شہروں کے شاعروں نے پاکستان میں ہجرت کر کے آنے والے شعراء کے ساتھ ایک کہکشاں کا جلوہ پیدا کر دیا۔ پچھتر سالوں کی غزل اور نظم ہمارا وہ تخلیقی اثاثہ ہے جس میں ہماری سیاسی سماجی معاشرتی جمالیاتی تہذیب و تاریخ گندھی ہوئی ہے۔ اسے ہم آسانی سے پاکستانی غزل کہہ سکتے ہیں۔ اس حوالے سے بے شمار مضامین اور کتابیں اور غزل نمبر موجود ہیں نظم نے حلقہ ارباب ذوق کی تحریک کے زیراثر ایک نئی تاریخ رقم کر دی جو پاکستان کی سرحد کے اس پار پروان نہ چڑھ سکی۔ یہ صرف پاکستان ہی کا معجزہ ہے کہ اردو فلم کے تمام اسالیب یہیں پروان چڑھے۔ جن میں پابند نظم، بے ترتیب نظم، آزاد نظم اور پھر نثری نظم کی تحریکیں شامل ہیں۔ اگر ہم اردو زبان کے شاعروں میں غزل کے شعراء کو دیکھیں تو سارا خزانہ پاکستان میں سمٹ آیا تھا۔ ان میں علامہ محمد اقبال، فیض احمد فیض، حفیظ جالندھری، احمد ندیم قاسمی منیر نیازی، ناصر کاظمی، احمد فراز، ادا جعفری، زہرہ نگاہ، جان ایلیا، عبید اللہ حکیم سلیم احمد، اطہر نفیس، حفیظ ہوشیار پوری، حبیب جالب، ساغر صدیقی، شہرت بخاری بشبرا واحمد ظفر اقبال حمایت علی شاعر کشور ناہید، پروین شاکر، جمال احسانی، شکیب جلالی مصر مصطفی زیدی محبوب خزاں، جاوید شاہین بحر انصاری، خاطر غزنوی محسن احسان، ظہیر کاشمیری، باقی صدیقی سلیم شاہد، عدیم ہاشمی، خالد احمد، احمد مشتاق، ثروت حسین، افتخار عارف اور عباس تابش شامل ہیں۔

اب اگر اردو نظم کے ارتقائی سفر کا تنقیدی جائزہ لیں جو نظریاتی اور فنی حوالوں سے نئے جمالیاتی مزاج کو چھوتا ہوا ان موضوعات تک پھیلا ہوا ہے جن کا تعلق پاکستان کے قیام کے بعد کے سیاسی ثقافتی اور معاشرتی منظر نامے سے بے نظیم نے آزاد اور معری نظم کے تجربے سے نثری نظم کی تحریک تک پاکستانی تاریخ

پاکستانی ادب کے دائرے میں سعادت حسن منٹو، انتظار حسین، مشتاق احمد یوسفی اور جوش ملیح آبادی جیسے قدآور شخصیات کے ادبی قدموں کے نشانات انمٹ ہیں۔ دائیں طرف 1980 کی دہائی میں بی بی سی کے لندن میں منعقد کیے گئے اردو مرکز مشاعرہ میں مشہور فیض احمد فیض نظر آتے ہیں، جو ضیاء کے دورِ حکومت میں جلاوطن دانشوروں کے لیے ایک پسندیدہ مقام تھا۔ یہاں ان کے دائیں طرف احمد فراز اور زہرہ نگاہ اور بائیں طرف افتخار عارف، جمیلہ دہلوی، شہرت بخاری اور گوپی چند نارنگ موجود ہیں۔

معراج ایم خان 1965 میں کراچی میں این ایس ایف کے ایک اجتماع میں فیض احمد فیض کے ساتھ

پاکستانی ادب– ایک جائزہ

تحریر: اصغر ندیم سید
ترجمہ: محمد ارشد ماکھن

پاکستانی ادب کی عمر تو پچھتر سال کی ہوسکتی ہے۔ مگر اس کی جڑیں تو ہزاروں سالوں تک پھیلی ہوئی ہیں اس خطے کی تاریخ و تہذیب کئی ہزار سال تک پھیلی ہوئی ہے جس کے تہذیبی عمل سے زبانوں کا جنم ہوا۔ ان زبانوں نے کئی زمانوں کا رس پیا اور اظہار کے متنوع قرینے پیدا کیے۔ پاکستانی معاشرے کے خد وخال انفرادی نوعیت کے ہیں لیکن یہ ہزاروں سالہ تاریخ میں مشترک ہندوستان کا حصہ رہے ہیں۔ اس لئے وہ مشترک تاریخ بھی ہمارا ورثہ ہے۔ مسلمان صوفیاء اور اولیاء اس ہندوستان میں اسلامی اقدار انسانی اقدار کے ساتھ انسانیت کا فلسفہ لے کر آئے اور اس سے پورے ہندوستان کو فیض یاب کیا۔ وہ بزرگ پورے ہندوستان کے طول وعرض میں اپنا پیغام پہنچانے میں کامیاب ہوئے۔ جس نے ہند میں اسلامی تہذیب کی بنیاد رکھی۔ پاکستان اسی تہذیب میں پھلا پھولا ہے۔ اس لئے ہمارا ادب اور زبانیں ان ہزاروں سالوں کے تہذیب و تمدن کے خمیر سے پیدا ہوا ہے۔

قیام پاکستان سے پہلے بھی پاکستانی زبانوں میں اظہار کے اعلی ترین اسالیب موجود تھے۔ اردو سے پہلے سندھی، پنجابی، سرائیکی، پشتو، براہوئی اور بلوچی میں ادب و شاعری کے شاہکار تخلیق ہو چکے تھے۔ صوفیانہ کلام لکھنے والے شاعروں میں سچل سرمست، شاہ لطیف بھٹائی۔ شاہ حسینؒ، بابا بلھے شاہ، وارث شاہ خواجہ غلام فرید مست توکلی، رحمان بابا میاں محمد بخش اور سلطان باھو ہما راتخلیقی ورثہ ہیں۔ اردو زبان نے ان پاکستانی زبانوں کا رس پیا ہوا ہے۔ شاید یہی سبب تھا کہ یہ پورے ہندوستان میں رابطے کی زبان قرار پائی۔ اس میں جو ادب اور شاعری تخلیق ہوئی اس کی جڑیں امیر خسرو، میرابائی، کبیر داس اور تلسی داس تک پھیلی ہوئی ہیں۔ اس اجتماعی ورثے سے اردو زبان وادب کی آبیاری ہوئی ہے۔ جس میں داستانوی اصناف شاعری اور نثری فن پاروں کی کئی اصناف شامل ہیں۔

قیام پاکستان سے پہلے ادب کی تین بڑی تحریکیں وجود میں آچکی تھیں اور ان کے زیر اثر شعر وادب کے اسالیب پیدا ہو چکے تھے۔ ان میں سرسید تحریک، رومانوی تحریک اور ترقی پسند تحریک شامل ہیں۔ انہی تحریکوں نے پاکستانی ادب میں بھی پاؤں رکھا تو پاکستان کے قیام کے وقت جو ہجرت ہوئی۔ اس کے نتیجے میں ہندوستان کے مختلف حصوں سے جو مسلمان خاندان یہاں آئے۔ ان میں باکمال صلاحیتوں کے حامل مصور، موسیقار، شاعر، آرکیٹیکٹ، ماہر اقتصادیات، فلسفی، نامہ نگار، ادیب، ماہر تعلیم اور دیگر علوم سے گہرا شغف رکھنے والے عالی دماغ لوگ تھے۔ ہمارے ادب کی خوش قسمتی ہے کہ فنون لطیفہ اور ادب کے شعبوں نے پاکستانی ادب کو انوکھا مزاج اور تخلیقی تنوع کا خزانہ دے دیا۔ اس طرح پاکستانی ادب نے آنے والی ستر د ہائیوں تک ار دو دنیا پر راج کیا اورایسا گہرا اثر پیدا کیا کہ آج اردوادب پر پاکستانی ادب کی ایسی گہری چھاپ ہے جسے کوئی نہیں مٹاسکتا۔

پاکستان کے وجود میں آتے ہی فسادات نے انسانیت کی توہین اور ظلم کے گہرے زخموں نے ہجرت کے تجربے پر انمٹ نقوش چھوڑے۔ ایسے میں پاکستانی ادب کے موضوعات اور تجربے میں واضح تبدیلی آئی اس کا اثر شاعری اور فکشن پر پڑنا فطری بات تھی کہ انسانی حقائق کا تجربہ انہی اصناف میں ہوا کرتا ہے۔ اس طرح پاکستانی ادب پر سرسید تحریک کی لبرل اور آزاد خیال سوچ کے گہرے اثرات کے ساتھ ہی رومانوی اور ترقی پسند تحریک کے امتزاج نے سونے پر سہاگہ کا کام دیا۔ ایسے میں اس کی شاندار مثال فیض احمد فیض کی شاعری ہے۔ جن کی غزل اور شاعری پر رو مانوی اور ترقی پسند تحریک کے گہرے اثرات ہیں۔

ایک بات جو پاکستانی ادب کا امتیاز ہے وہ علامہ محمد اقبال کی غیر معمولی شاعری کے موضوعات ہیں۔ پورے ہندوستان پر علامہ صاحب کی شاعری نے جو اثرات پیدا کیے اس سے ثابت یہ ہوا کہ پوری اردو دنیا اور اسلامی دنیا کو ایک ایسا نابغہ (Genius) نصیب ہوا ہے جس نے مسلم امہ کی آواز بن کر ہر طرح کے سامراج کو للکارا ہے اور دنیا کے تہذیبی اور سیاسی منظر نامے پر علامہ محمد اقبال کی شاعری نے انسانیت کے لئے جو اخلاقی معیار قائم کیے ہیں۔ اسے ابھی تک یورپ اور امریکہ کے فلسفیانہ اذہان نظرانداز نہیں کر سکے۔ علامہ محمد اقبال نے اردو زبان میں عربی، فارسی، ہندی زبانوں کے الفاظ کی آموزش سے وسعت

شبِ افسانہ، محمد خالد اختر، احمد ندیم قاسمی، اشفاق احمد، محمد کاظم و دیگر

23 جولائی 2020 کو ریڈیو پاکستان (اسلام آباد) میں مقبوضہ جموں وکشمیر کے مظلوم عوام کے ساتھ اظہار یکجہتی کے لیے منعقدہ محفل مشاعرہ میں ایک شاعرہ اپنی شاعری پیش کر رہی ہیں۔

اب اگر تنقید کا جائزے لیں تو بہت بڑے نقاد بھی یہاں سامنے آئے سب سے اہم نام تو خاتون کا ہے۔ جس نے ''''معیار'' کا تنقیدی مجموعہ دیا اور آج تک اسے کوئی بھی نظر انداز نہیں کر سکا۔ یہ ممتاز شیریں کا تنقیدی مجموعہ ہے۔ ہماری تنقید میں نظریاتی سطحیں بھی ہیں۔ فرمائشی پروگرام بھی ساتھ ساتھ چلتا رہا ہے۔ تنقید کا بڑا حصہ تدریسی ضروریات سے بھی تعلق رکھتا ہے۔ اس کا معیار بہت اعلی نہیں ہے اس دوران تنقید و تہذیب کی آمیزش سے تخلیقی تنقید کا دبستان بھی موجود رہا ہے۔جس نے متن کو تاریخی تناظر میں سمجھنے کی کوشش کی۔ اس کے ساتھ ہی جدید بیت، مابعد جدید بیت اور جدید مغربی نظریات کی تفہیم نے ہماری تنقید کو نئے تجزیاتی اصول اور پیمانے عطا کیے۔

جن نقادوں نے تنقید میں بحث کو جنم دیا۔ ان کے نام بے حد اہم ہیں۔ وزیر آغا حسن عسکری سلیم احمد انیس ناگی، جیلانی کامران، مظفر علی، سید سجاد، باقر رضوی، سلیم اختر، سہیل احمد خان، وقار عظیم، جمیل جالبی، اسلم فرقی، انتظار حسین، ممتاز حسین، محمد علی صدیقی، ناصر عباس، سید انور احمد، محمد حمید شاہد اور سراج منیر ایسے نام ہیں جنہوں نے سوال اٹھائے اور رجحان سازی ان کا وصف ٹھہرا۔ پچھتر سالوں میں نثر نگاری میں بھی اہم نام صاحب طرز ٹھہرے۔ پطرس بخاری، مشتاق احمد یوسفی، مختار مسعود، مقبول الٰہی شیخ، اے حمید، حمید اختر، ابراہیم جلیل اور قدرت اللہ شہاب (آپ بیتی) اہم سمجھے جاسکتے ہیں۔ اردو اور پاکستانی زبانوں کے ادب میں یہ پچھتر سال ہماری تہذیب وادب کے سنہرے سال تصور کئے جاسکتے ہیں

23 جولائی 2020 کو ریڈیو پاکستان (اسلام آباد) میں مقبوضہ جموں وکشمیر کے مظلوم عوام کے ساتھ اظہار یکجہتی کے لیے منعقدہ محفل مشاعرہ میں ایک اور شاعرہ اپنی شاعری پیش کر رہی ہیں۔

23 جولائی 2020 کو ریڈیو پاکستان (اسلام آباد) میں مقبوضہ جموں وکشمیر کے مظلوم عوام کے ساتھ اظہار یکجہتی کے لیے منعقدہ محفل مشاعرہ میں ایک اور شاعرہ اپنی شاعری پیش کر رہی ہے۔

منو بھائی ڈرامہ ''دشت'' کی ٹیم کے ہمراہ

اور تمدن کے انوکھے تجربوں کو نظم کے دائرے میں لانے کا فریضہ ادا کیا۔ اردو نظم کا سفر قابل رشک ہے غزل سے کندھے سے کندھا ملا کر نظم نے پاکستان کے نازک سے نازک تاریخی لمحوں کو بے حد حساس طریقے سے حسیاتی لحن کا حصہ بنالیا ہے۔ اس حوالے سے علامہ محمد اقبال ہی بنیادی حوالہ قرار پاتے ہیں۔ اس روایت میں فیض احمد فیض، جوش صحیح آبادی، حفیظ جالندھری، احمد ندیم قاسمی امنیر نیازی، احمد فراز، جیلانی،کامران وزیر آغا، انیس ناگی کشور ناہید، زہرہ نگاہ مجید امجد میرا تھا۔ ن۔م۔ راشد، اختر حسین جعفری، قمر جمیل، افتخار جالب، سرمد صہبائی جعفر طاہر، فہمیدہ ریاض سلیم احمد، افضال احمد سید، اصغر ندیم سید، سارا شگفتہ، مرزا عباس، تنویر انجم، ابرار احمد، آفتاب اقبال شمیم، احمد شمیم اور افتخار عارف نے حصہ لیا ہے۔ پاکستانی نظم نے دنیا کو بتایا کہ اردو میں اظہار کے تخلیقی زاویے کیا آسکتے ہیں ظاہر ہے اس جائزے کا دائرہ سعید محدود ہے ورنہ سینکڑوں نام اور بھی لیے جاسکتے ہیں جیسے نسرین انجم بھٹی کا نام مجھے سے رہا جا تا تھا۔ اس سے یہ ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ ہمارا ادب اور شاعری بے کراں ہے۔ اس کی وسعتیں محض ناموں تک محدود نہیں ہیں۔ فکری اعتبار سے اردو نظم نے پاکستان میں '' ضیا الحق کے مارشل لاء میں مزاحمتی تحریک کو جنم دیا اور استعارے کی آڑ میں سیاسی صورت حال کو علامتی انداز میں اردو نے قومی حمیت اور قومی وقار کو بچانے کا فریضہ انجام دیا۔

اب اگر ہم افسانوی ادب کے جائزے پر آئیں تو صورت یہ ہے کہ پاکستان کا افسانوی ادب دنیا کی زبانوں میں اپنی الگ انفرادیت اور تاریخی زمانوں کو اپنی گرفت میں لانے کے حوالے سے عظیم ادب بن چکا ہے۔ سب سے بڑی فخر کی بات یہ ہے کہ دنیا کے اہم ادارے نے دنیا کی تمام زبانوں کے فکشن سے سو عظیم کہانیوں کا جب غیر جانبدارانہ انتخاب کیا گیا تو اس میں سونمبر پر اردو کی واحد کہانی جو چنی گئی وہ سعادت حسن منٹو کی کہانی ''ٹوبہ ٹیک سنگھ '' تھی۔ اس فہرست میں دنیا کے عظیم لکھاری تھے جن میں مہا بھارت بھی تھی۔ کافکا تھا،ٹالسٹائی تھا، اور تمام نو بل انعام یافتہ فکشن لکھنے والے تھے۔ ایسے میں پاکستانی افسانے کا وہاں ہونا اعزاز کی بات ہے۔

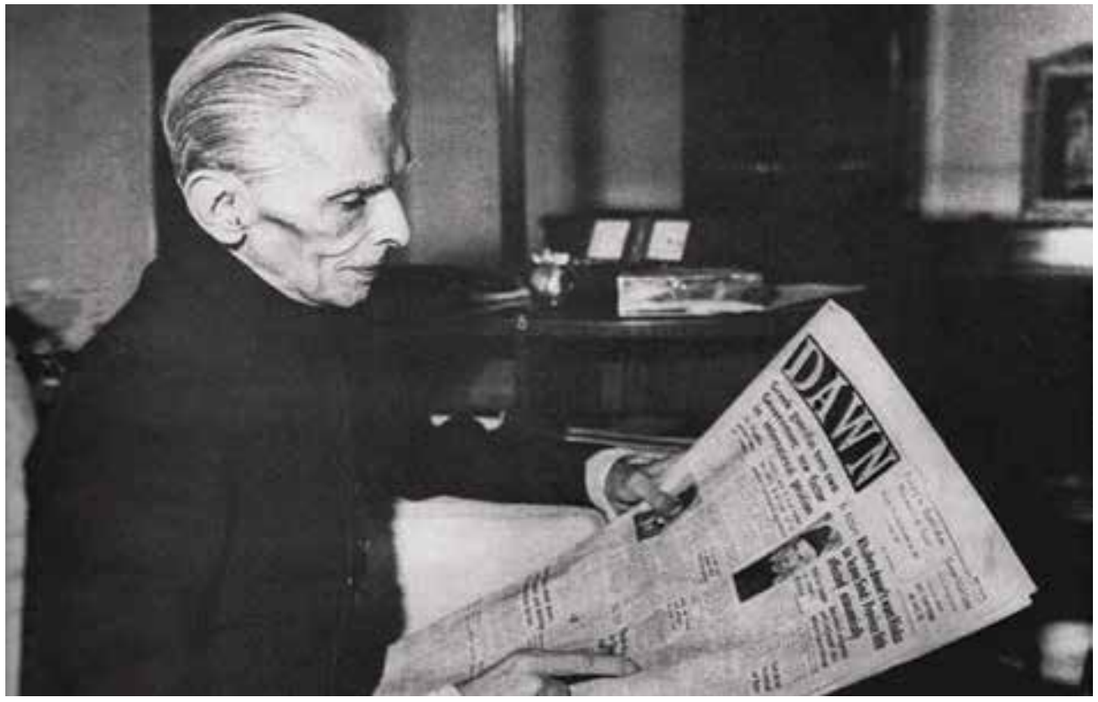
قیام پاکستان کے وقت جو افسانہ نگارپاکستان آئے ان میں بہت بڑے نام ہیں۔ اشفاق احمد، غلام عباس، انتظار حسین، شوکت صدیقی، اسد محمد خان، حسن منظر، منٹو اور اے حمید تو ہمارے دوست ہیں۔اب ایسے میں جو یہاں کے افسانہ نگاروں نے آنے والوں کا ستقبال کیا ان میں عبد الحسین، خدیجہ مستور، ممتاز مفتی، شارعزیز بٹ، احمد ندیم قاسمی، مرزا ادیب مظہر الاسلام، رشید امجد، مستنصر حسین تارڑ، احمد داؤد، شاہد، جمیلہ ہاشمی، اکرام اللہ، بانو قدسیہ، خالدہ حسین، زاہدہ حنا، کاشف رضا، انوار احمد، طارق محمود، غلام الثقلین نقوی، عرش صدیقی، نجم الحسن رضوی، اے خیام، انی حاد، مسعود اشعر، سمیع آہوجہ الطاف فاطمہ اور فہمیدہ ریاض شامل تھے جنہوں نے اپنے گہرے نقوش فنی محاسن کے حوالے سے ثبت کئے۔

اس افسانہ نگاری نے پاکستان کے سیاسی اور تاریخی واقعات پر علامت تجرید، استعارے اور حقیقت پسندی (surrealism) کی تکنیک کے ذریعے اپنی گہری بصیرت سے ایسے تجزیاتی مطالعے رقم کیے کہ ہماری تاریخ کے تمام پیچ اور جھوٹ واضح ہو کر سامنے آ گئے۔ اردو افسانہ نگاری نے پاکستان پر غیر جمہوری اور آمرانہ حکومتوں میں مزاحمتی کردار ادا کیا۔ ادب ہمیشہ سوال اٹھا تا ہے مزاحمت کرتا ہے اور تاریخ میں متوازی تاریخ ریکارڈ کرنے کا فریضہ انجام دیتا ہے۔ پاکستانی افسانہ نگاری دراصل پاکستان کی سیاسی تاریخ اور سماجی نا انصافیوں کا ایک اہم خاکہ ہے جسے کوئی بھی دیکھ سکتا ہے۔ قیام پاکستان میں فسادات ہوں۔ بنگال کا قحط ہو، سانحہ مشرقی پاکستان ہو، یا ملک میں مارشل لاؤں کے نتیجے میں پیدا ہونے والے انسانی حقوق کے المیے ہوں۔ پاکستانی افسانہ نگاری نے انسانوں کیلئے ہمیشہ سوال اٹھایا اور بھر پور جوابی مزاحمت میں کردار ادا کیا۔ ناولوں میں ''خدا کی بستی'' ''اداس نسلیں'' ''ایسی بلندی ایسی پستی' ''چلتا مسافر'' ''بستی آگے سمندر ہے'' ''نادار لوگ'' ''نئے چراغے نئے گلے'' ''خون جگر ہونے تک'' ''خوشیوں کا باغ'' ''دشت سوس'' ''راجہ گدھ'' ''صحرانورد کے خطوط''''بہاؤ'' ''ساکھ'' ''سلام باغ'' ''دشت امکان'' ''دیوار کے پیچھے'' ''علی پور حکم ایلی'' ''الکھ نگری'' ''انسان اے انسان'' ''چاکی واڑا میں'' ''وصال'' ''آنگن'' ''چار درویش اور ایک کچھوا'' اور ''مٹی آدم کھاتی'' ہے۔ یہ ایسے ناول ہیں جو متنوع تکنیک میں لکھے گئے ہیں۔ سب نے صرف پاکستان ہی کی سماجی سیاسی ثقافتی اور معاشرتی زندگی کی جدلیات کا مشاہدہ کیا ہے۔

پچھتر سال کے ناولوں اور افسانوں میں دردمندی ہے۔ محبت ہے۔ پاکستان سے وفاداری ہے، معاشرے کی بہتری کیلئے خواہ پیش ہے اور مستقبل کے پاکستان کی خوشحالی کی آرزوہے۔ کاش ان ناولوں کو پڑھ لیا جائے۔ کسی بھی قوم کی زندگی کا ورثہ حس مزاح ہوتا ہے اگر (Sense of Humour) حس مزاح نہ ہو تو قوم مردہ ہوتی ہے۔ پاکستانی ادب میں طنز و مزاح کا ایک دبستان موجود ہے۔ اب کوئی مشتاق احمد یوسفی کو بھول سکتا ہے پطرس بخاری سے صرف نظر کر سکتا ہے۔ اور پھر شفیق الرحمان، ابن انشاء کرنل محمد خان امتیاز علی تاج ضمیر جعفری، شوکت تھانوی مشتاق احمد یوسفی اور عطا الحق قاسمی تو بڑے نام ہیں۔ اور اگر ہم شاعری پر آئیں تو صرف چند نام ہیں۔ خط اور نگار، انور مسعود اور انعام الحق جاوید ہی کے نام آ سکتے ہیں۔

PRESS

Mujib ur Rehman Shami



Quaid-i-Azam looks at a copy of the "Dawn" on the occasion of his 71st Birthday at Karachi on December 25, 1947

Pakistan was home to several daily and weekly papers at the time of its creation. They were vibrant and influential lot. Lahore was by far the largest hub. A few of them were owned by Hindus mostly acting as mouthpieces of Congress, who migrated to India after partition. Lahore publishing scene was dominated by Muslim Press. Koh-e-Noor was the first Urdu newspaper followed by Akhbar-e-Aam and Paisa Akhbar. Daily Zamindar, taken over by Maulana Zafar Ali Khan in 1911, was the first Urdu newspaper which subscribed "Reuters" to cover World War-I. It may be mentioned that after World War I, several newspapers had arisen to prominence in the wake of Khilafat and Hijrah movements. They were driven more by political ideology than commercial considerations. Private businesses with advertising budgets were scant and thus newspapers relied either on circulation income or government advertisement.

When the Unionist party came into power in Punjab after 1937 elections, most of the Muslim press preferred to maintain good ties with the provincial government, in fact, they intentionally avoided any conflict at provincial level. Lahore gained more prominence as the heart of political activity after resolution for separate homeland was tabled by Muslim League in its annual meeting of March 1940. The congress newspapers pounced upon this with vigor and started naming it "Pakistan Resolution", though it was not officially declared by Muslim League as such. The editor of Daily "Zamindar", Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, a prominent political activist, orator of par excellence, a poet and a prolific writer, emerged as an ardent supporter. 'Inqilaab' was another prominent newspaper but Ehsan and Nawa-e-Waqt made their marks as strong proponents of Muslim League.

Hameed Nizami, a leader of Muslim Student's Federation, also rose to prominence as editor of Daily Nawa-e-Waqt. He was later succeeded by his brother Majeed Nizami. A new English daily named daily "Pakistan Times" was launched by Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din just few weeks before Pakistan officially came into being. A renowned poet with cerebral approach Faiz Ahmad Faiz was tasked with its editorship. Imroze, the Urdu newspaper of progressive press, started publishing under the editorship of Maulana Chiragh Hassan Hasrat. A semi-government publication "The Civil and Military Gazette" though managed to continue its publication for some time but couldn't survive. It is pertinent to note that early years of Pakistan presented an interesting political quagmire. The political elite was untrained in the affairs of government functioning whereas journalists were over enthusiastic which manifested itself in their political activism.

Muslim League was the sole representative party and thus absence of any opposition led to divisions within the party, a situation exploited equally by the Press as well. The ambition to actively participate in shaping the new state overshadowed the value of defining the boundaries. When Mian Mumtaz Mohammad Khan Daultana, Secretary General Muslim League Punjab and a strong opponent of first Chief Minister Iftikhar Hussain Mamdoot, replaced him, he temporarily revoked the declaration of Nawa-e-Waqt. The Pakistan Times and Imroze were also taken into military custody during Ayub Khan's military rule. The Press and Publications Ordinance was imposed, getting declaration was made difficult and newspapers were held accountable before the executive.

FIS wins 188 seats in Algeria's elections

FOUNDED BY QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

THE PAKISTAN TIMES

National English Daily with the largest circulation — Published simultaneously from Islamabad & Lahore

5,10,000 farmers to benefit from farm management

More incentives to tillers: DAP cut by 40%: import in private sector: Fertilisers adulteration cases for special courts: cotton export duty protection against world market trends: computer for land record, pass-books

Support prices of rice, sugarcane, cotton raised: 8% interest on tractors buying: loan limit waived off: surcharge on farm equipment removed: subsidy on gypsum

Recruitment policy to be announced today

Incentives to tillers: absentee landlord main hurdle

Update

Rifts surface in Israeli Govt.

Clashes in Yugoslavia

China agrees to supply 300 mw N-power plant

Speedy Courts to try adulteration cases

Nawaz hails accord

Bush in Australia

Nawaz for political solution of Afghan problem

The Pakistan Times wishes its readers a

New govt. in Togo

Teresa undergoes heart surgery; in serious condition

Pakistan recognises 5 Soviet republics

Ishaq, Nawaz greet Arafat

Gohar lauded for reconciliation efforts with PDA

Yeltsin best dressed man of 1991

The owners of Daily Anjam and Jang migrated from New Delhi and settled in Karachi, after it was declared as the capital of new state. Muslim League's official newspaper Dawn also shifted there. The publishing rights of Dawn were granted to Haroon Group to recognize its contribution in Pakistan Movement. Liaquat Ali Khan, the Secretary General of All India Muslim League had been managing the newspapers but as Prime Minister he stepped back with an intention to keep press independent of government interference. However, journalistic activism continued with substantial impact on politics. The author of biography of Quaid-e-Azam, "My Leader," Z.A. Sulehri started Times of Karachi.

Altaf Hussain, the Editor of Dawn, a forceful spokesperson of the Pakistan Movement and confidant of Quaid-e-Azam had the ears of Liaquat Ali Khan at that time. The United Front had an electoral victory against Muslim League in East Bengal in provincial polls; Governor General Ghulam Muhammad wanted to dissolve the first constituent assembly. Z.A. Sulehri went abroad to interview Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, the prominent leader of the United Front. Suharwardy demanded to dissolve the Constituent Assembly, as the Muslim League had lost the right of representation in East Bengal. This demand made a huge impact on Pakistan's politics and Governor General Ghulam Muhammad benefited politically.

Pakistani print landscape kept on expanding. Many new newspapers started publications from Sindh, NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and East Bengal. Sindhi, Bengali and Pushto journalism gained traction whereas growth in English press was also observed. Business Recorder, the first business English newspaper was conceived and launched. Millat in Gujrati, later, Daily Hurriat in Urdu and Daily Leader in English were also launched from Karachi by Mr. Fakhar Matri. Morning News was another prominent English newspaper published from Karachi and Dhaka simultaneously. The renowned writer Naseem Hijazi published Kohistan from Rawalpindi and Lahore with a record circulation.

Later, Daily Mashriq was launched and it was a trendsetter as it was the first newspaper which emphasied more on social issues rather than political. The editor of Azad, Abdullah Malik, had the distinguished honor of raising his voice against Yahya Khan military action in East Pakistan and becoming first victim. Later, Daily Wafaq was started by Mustafa Sadiq which became a leading newspaper during the opposition movement against Bhutto regime. Jurrat and Tajarat under the editorship of Jameel Athar and Aftab by Mumtaz Tahir were also started and are under regular publication till date. Today there are large number of quality English, Sindhi and Pushto newspapers but no other language could compete with Urdu press in terms of development and expansion, as it was the language of communication, spoken and understood in every corner of Pakistan.

Efforts were also undertaken to ensure welfare of the journalists. First Wage Board Award was established to determine journalists' salaries and other benefits in the era of Field Marshal Ayub Khan. Working conditions resultantly also improved comparatively.

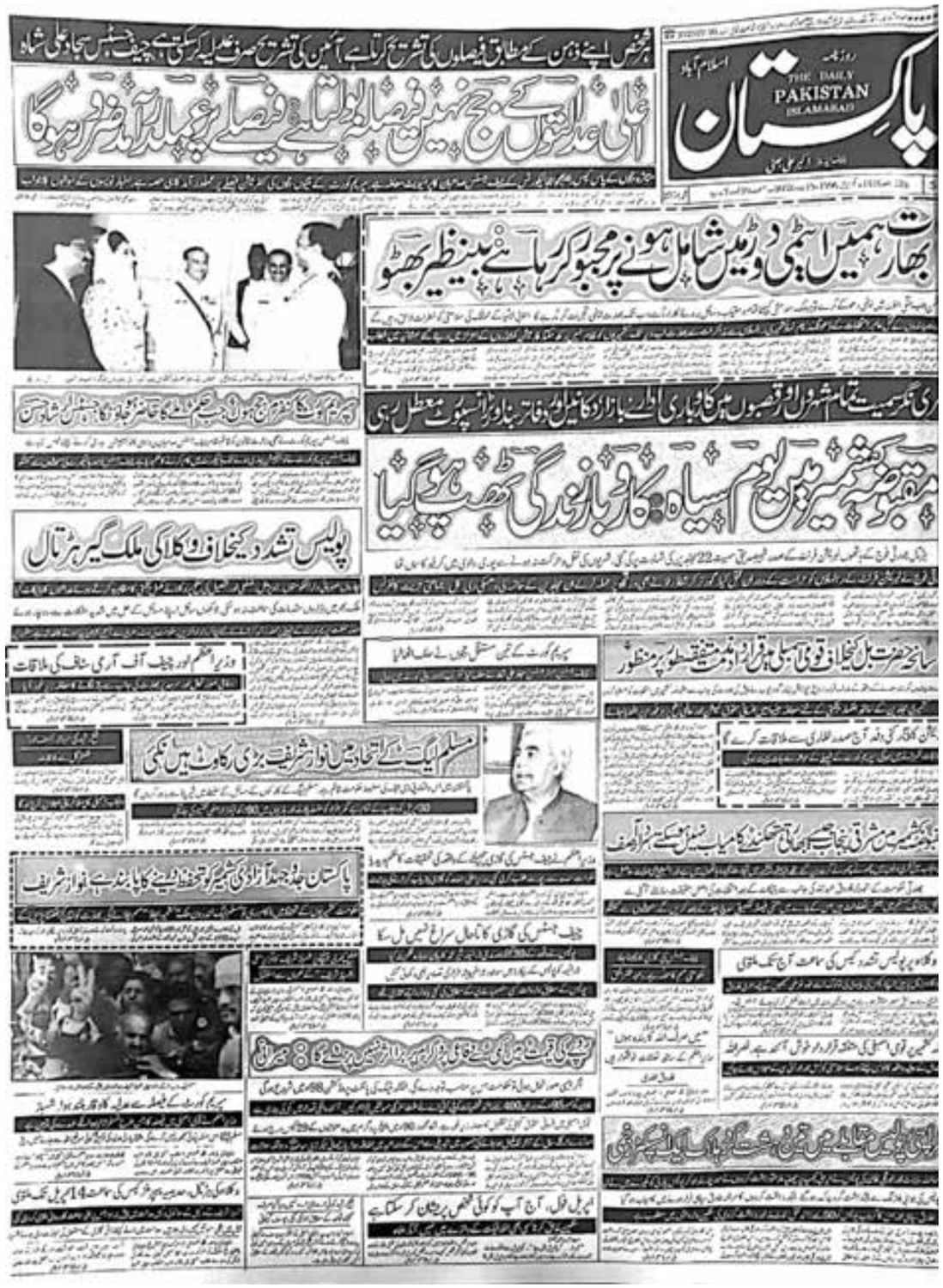
Concurrently, National Press Trust (NPT) was also established with a claim to provide resources for the publication of quality newspapers. The relocation of the capital from Karachi to Islamabad saw many newspapers starting their editions from Rawalpindi, as being an adjacent city of the capital.

It had not been a sunny ride throughout though. Press in Pakistan faced many ups and downs, endured countless sufferings and censorships. Late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto after coming into power nationalized NPT, the action though provided resources, but circulations tumbled. The Trust still works and possesses properties but the newspapers under its umbrella are either closed or sold. The government's domination was evident from the fact that the newspapers managed by the Trust played down the news of Fall of Dhaka with a headline, "Indian troops have entered Dhaka under an agreement". Introduction of Press and Publications Ordinance was another attempt to stifle the Press which was neither accepted by journalists nor by newspaper organizations. Prominent among which were All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS), Council of Newspaper Editors (CPNE) and Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ).

They kept on struggling against the imposition of ordinance till the Federal Shariah Court in one of its decisions (during the interim government of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan), declared the adverse clauses against the spirit of constitution. This eased the process of getting declarations for newspapers to a great extent. The newspaper industry later flourished by leaps and bounds, an array of new monthlies and weeklies sprang on the scene. It's an interesting fact that the monthly and weekly magazines played a significant role in shaping national politics. In the earliest days of Pakistan, Lahore-based weekly Chattan and its editor, Shorish Kashmiri, proved their mettle. Another weekly Iqdam was launched by renowned journalist Mian Muhammad Shafi. Progressive Press published weekly Lail o Nahar under the editorship of prominent writer Syed Sibt-e-Hassan.

After quitting Pakistan Times, Nawabzada Mazhar Ali Khan launched English weekly, Viewpoint, which proved itself as the center of learning for journalists. The launch of Urdu Digest under the editorship of Qureshi Brothers (Dr. Aijaz Hassan Qureshi and Altaf Hassan Qureshi) gave new outlook to journalism. Highly circulated monthly digests also started publication from Karachi the most notable among them was Subrang Digest under the editorship of Shakeel Adilzada. Daily Mashriq initiated a weekly newspaper for women, with a slogan "women's newspaper that men can also read". Another weekly Akhbar-e-Jahan was launched by Jang group from Karachi which is still one of the largest circulated magazine. In 1969, Urdu Digest Publications started weekly Zindagi, which was the beginning of a new chapter in weekly journalism.

Its fearless political reporting, bold and clear stance made it popular across the country, the government couldn't take the criticism and it became a prime target of political


روزنامہ
THE DAILY
PAKISTAN
ISLAMABAD
پاکستان
اسلام آباد

بھارت ہمیں ایٹمی دوڑ میں شامل ہونے پر مجبور کر رہا ہے: بینظیر بھٹو

پولیس تشدد کیخلاف وکلا کی ملک گیر ہڑتال

مسلم لیگ کے اتحاد میں نواز شریف بڑی رکاوٹ ہیں: نکمی

پاکستان جدوجہد آزادی کشمیر کو تحفظ دینے کا پابند ہے: نواز شریف

victimisation. When the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto came into power, as Chief Martial Law Administrator, the editors and publishers of Urdu Digest, Zindagi and Punjab Punch were arrested and tried in a military court. They were sentenced to imprisonment and fines were imposed. The declarations were revoked but the editors and publishers refused to obey the military court and boycotted it. After the closure of the weekly Zindagi, several weeklies, one after another, kept on publishing.

The Friday Times, English weekly under editorship of Najam Sethi, had also played an important role for the survival and stability of democracy. Daily Jasarat from Karachi and its editor Muhammad Salahuddin and Daily Mehran from Hyderabad and its editor Sardar Ali Shah also came under attack. Later, Muhammad Salahuddin continued to make his presence felt through weekly Takbir. Subsequently, Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance 2002 was enacted to implement 17-point "Ethical Code of Practice" for the press. As compared to the early days of Pakistan, the landscape of Print Journalism has almost completely changed today.

The newspapers are now being published from various cities. Regional cities like Multan, Bahawalpur, Peshawar, Quetta and Faisalabad are home to many publications. Jang, The News, Nawa-e-Waqt, Nation, Dawn, Express, Express Tribune, Business Recorder, Daily Times, Pakistan Observer, Pakistan Today, Khabarain, Daily Pakistan, Ausaf and many other newspapers are being published from different cities simultaneously. Sindhi and Pashto journalism has also flourished in Sindh & Khyber Pakhtunkhawa respectively. Sindhi newspaper Kawaish and Ibrat boast sizeable circulation whereas Pashto newspaper "Wahdat" claims its reach till Afghanistan.

Currently, 5598 newspapers and magazines are being published as per the statistics of Audit Bureau of Circulation, Pakistan. The print media has strong gate keeping protocols, every word passes through a critical eye, once published, it's saved forever. There is no margin for negligence or mistake in print media, which otherwise is very much evident in other forms of media. The industrial development has broken the monopoly of government advertisement and newspapers economy has become largely independent. However, due to its total reliance on imported newsprint and materials, its economy is vulnerable to currency fluctuation and global supply shocks. It is worthy to mention here that the journey of print media started with printing on stone plates, which led to the modern offset printing and now it has adopted modern technology to cope with the challenges of digital era.

The credit of replacing writing with composing goes to Mir Khalil ur Rehman, the founder of Daily Jang. He devoted sizeable resources and introduced computerized fonts. Now print media is actively adopting digital age and several newspapers have news websites visited by millions of readers every day from across the globe. The print media in Pakistan had to go through restrictions and hardships where many editors and journalists endured the hardships of imprisonment. Several lost their lives in the war on terror, but the flag of freedom of expression has been kept high through thick and thin. No one can deny the role of print media in the creation and development of Pakistan. It has been the greatest safeguard of democracy and promoter of national unity. Its sovereignty cannot and should not be compromised as no other medium can ever replace it.

PRESSMEN AT WORK

State of the art printing machines employed to produce best results

PRESSMEN AT WORK

Machine operator scrutinizing the quality of the prints to produce best quality

PRESSMEN AT WORK

Different departments of printing press

PRESSMEN AT WORK

A happy binder enjoying his work

RADIO

Dr. Muhammad Rashid Khan

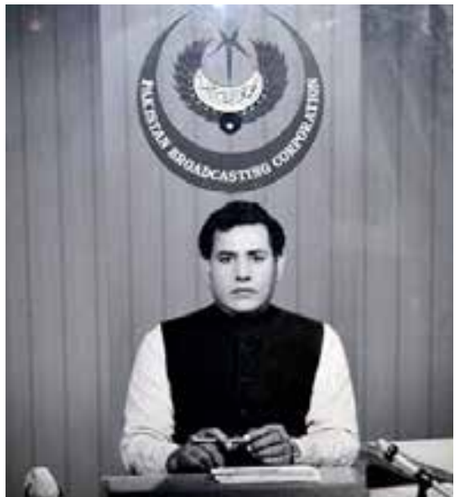
Radio Pakistan, a traveler now having travelled almost 75 years of educating, entertaining and informing the people it was meant for. Truly, radio is a magical medium due to its significant role in mass communication which makes it one of the most effective means of bringing about social change. At the time of Independence in 1947, Pakistan inherited three of the total nine radio stations present in the subcontinent and with the passage of time and progress made, Radio Pakistan currently has 62 radio stations providing programs in nearly 34 languages.

The words "This is Pakistan Broadcasting Service" which went on air at the midnight of August 14, 1947, marked the birth of Radio Pakistan, and it vowed to create a sense of nationhood to enlighten the masses about our religious and cultural heritage, a highly momentous job of creating unity among the Pakistanis. Radio has been a safe haven for the citizens of Pakistan since and during independence movement. At the time of partition, during the communal frenzy, Radio Pakistan Lahore provided a great humanitarian service by broadcasting messages from members of separated families helping them to reunite. Moreover, messages from Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other leaders kept the people calm and peaceful.

The first new radio station was set up at Karachi (the former federal capital) which began its transmission on August 14, 1948 and was then located in a barrack of Intelligence School at Queens Road. Maulana Shabbir Ahmed Usmani recited verses from the Holy Quran and Quaid-e-Millat Liaquat Ali Khan, the Prime Minister of

First insignia of Radio Pakistan

Anwar Bhezad
Legandary Urdu News Reader



Abdus Salam
Renowned Urdu News Reader

Shahista Zaid,
Renowned English News Reader

Surayya Shahab
Legandary Urdu News Reader

Nazir Begum

US President Richard Nixon

Jameel-u-din Alli at PBC Karachi

Mustafa Ali Hamdani made the 1st announcement of independence

Khalid Hameed Urdu Newscaster

Ishrat Fatima Urdu Newscaster

Pakistan, performed the opening ceremony. The broadcasting house of Radio Pakistan Karachi was later moved to its present location at M.A. Jinnah Road. The Headquarter of Radio Pakistan was also situated in Karachi and all major broadcasts were transmitted from this station. Radio Pakistan Karachi also has the distinction of having recorded the national anthem in its studios and it has also promoted the running commentary on cricket in the country.

Pakistan Broadcasting Service was the initial call signal of Radio Pakistan which was later changed to 'Radio Pakistan' by Zulfiqar Ali Bukhari, the then Director General of Radio Pakistan. He played a comprehensive role in the running of radio programs, as well as its administrative affairs. Z. A's love for our own language and culture could be seen in his effort to ensure that all words

Mr. Z. A. Bokhari
6-8-1947 to 3-6-1959

Mohni Hameed aka (Apa Shamim)

ARTISTS AT WORK

Saleem Gillani poet broadcaster and formal DG Radio Pakistan

Mushaira at PBC Karachi

Rehearsal of Radio Drama

Shakeel Ahmed, Pioneer English Newscaster

Saleem Gillani Former DG PBC and artist of PBC Lahore

Shaista Zaid served as an English Newscaster for four decades

Ashfaq Ahmed Drama, Fiction, Novel Writer at PBC Lahore

Noor Jahan singing national songs during 1965 war

ARTISTS AT WORK

Early days of Radio Drama

Faiz Ahmed Faiz planting a sapling at PBC Lahore

Interview of Women Activist Aalya Saarim Burney

Last Interview before death by Legandary Singer Mehdi Hassan

SP, Nahid Zamir poet Manzar Ayoobi at PBC Karachi

Asim Bukhari Pride of Performance at FM 94 Lahore

DG Radio Samina Waqar with cricket commentators and FM-101 Team

broadcast were pronounced correctly. Every singer was made to learn the correct pronunciation of each word in his song. He gave running commentaries on the radio on some of the historic occasions including the funeral proceedings of the Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Shaheed-i-Millat Liaqat Ali Khan.

With continuous advancements in equipment, Radio Pakistan progressed as Riaz Ahmed; the first chief engineer of Radio Pakistan played an important role in the installation of transmitters and studios. The monitoring department was also located at Karachi; all the major radio stations of the world were monitored here and the monitored material was also dispatched to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Radio Pakistan made another contribution to foreign affairs by projecting Pakistan, a new country, to the outside world; the external services were launched on August 14, 1949 providing broadcasts in four languages: Arabic, Persian, Burmese, and Afghan Persian. Apart from this, in times of trial, Radio Pakistan provided for the citizens' hope in shapes of different broadcasts.

An example of this is the 1965 war, where Radio Pakistan Lahore situated only a few miles from the international border, played a vital role in spreading optimism as the radio station's officers and staff showed exemplary courage and determination. Overnight taranas and other patriotic songs were composed and broadcast almost round the clock. Singers like Nur Jahan's popular naghmas, Aye watan kay sajeelay jawanon and Mera sohna shehr Kasur da, echoed throughout the country. From Lahore the eminent short story writer, Ashfaq Ahmed created his famous radio character Talqeen Shah to entertain and inspire listeners. Radio Pakistan lived up to the standards set by itself once again during the 1971 war.

The development of such a significant institution was vital and so the Government of Pakistan took steps for its development. The areas of activities of radio were expanded to Hyderabad (1951), Quetta (1956) and Rawalpindi (1960). Transcription Services, later renamed as the Central Production Unit (CPU) was established in 1960 for the production of finer programs. Later, facilities were provided at the CPU for production and recording of music items with sophisticated equipment and orchestra. In 1961, Radio Pakistan started the commercial service to broadcast the advertised programs and later in 1970, training facilities were opened in Islamabad and a station was opened at Multan as well.

Today there are 62 radio stations and this network covers 80 per cent of the total area and 98 per cent of the population. Radio Pakistan became the 'Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation' on the 20th of December,

ARTISTS AT WORK

FM 101 Islamabad DJs, Producers

DG Radio Shaheera Shahid in Radio Show

Jerry P. Bisson Mission Director USAID Pakistan

World Radio Day contest which PBC won

1972, which caused things to turn out for the better, allowing an increase in the pay scales to its employees. Furthermore, the world service was introduced catering to the overseas Pakistanis. With the introduction of TV, Radio had been pushed into the shadows but it is now again surfacing due to the launch of remodeled and improved FM programs. With this improvised style of broadcasting came a new lease of life for radio, not only among radio listeners but also for those who had long forgotten radio.

All these programs involved people. The hosts involved callers in conversation, besides playing requests. This caused a new kind of listenership to emerge. And to add onto this, the innovative yet witty style of presenting by the Radio Jockeys and female presenters has touched a chord with urban crowds thus becoming a rage in most cars and at homes. Lastly, it is pertinent to say that it is a matter of great pride that Radio Pakistan is competing with world's best radio broadcasting networks by adopting new mediums and technologies such as digital broadcasting, social media and YouTube. With the new generation joining in and revolutionizing the institution through technology, there is hope that Radio Pakistan will, with time and effort, continue its journey on the road of progress.

Technological Advancement

A CONSOLE TURNS ANY RECORDING INTO AN AUDIO DRAMA

CUEING PROCESS OF AUDIO TAPES BEFORE BROADCAST

LET THE AUDIO TAPES GET READY FOR CUT EDITING

DG radio Murtaza Sulangi giving a presentation about digitization of PBC

ERASING OF AUDIO RECORDINGS IN FEW SECONDS

ARTISTS AT WORK

Dr. Marilyn Wyatt, Development Outreach and Communications

Chinese Ambassador H.E Nong Rong's exclusive interview with FM-101

Program bachon ki duniya at PBC Karachi

Rita Akhtar, Executive Director USEFP and Saleem A. Razaque

German Ambassador to Pakistan Martin Kobler visited FM 10

Minister I.B. Aneesa Zaib Tahir Kheli interview at PBC Kohat

Poet Zaheer Kashmiri reciting poetry at PBC Lahore

Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi (Poet) and Ahmed Fraz(Poet) in a ceremony

TELEVISION

Akhtar Viqar Azeem

A famous Chinese proverb says a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. For television in Pakistan, this single step was taken on 26th November, 1964. It was an afternoon in the lawns of Radio Pakistan in Lahore, where then President Ayub Khan inaugurated Pakistan Television. That afternoon, at 3:45pm Qari Ali Hussain laid the foundation with the word of God Almighty, after which the President addressed the nation; it was a very unique concept for everyone in attendance that the air waves were carrying their picture from that lawn in Lahore to people's homes. This first broadcast was only telecast across ten kilometers to about 300 homes to which Phillips TV sets were gifted. To witness this wondrous moment, women, children, rather, entire families across neighborhoods gathered in these houses.

The evenings broadcast, including the weather forecast was all presented by Tariq Aziz, about whom the elderly remarked, 'the youngster speaks well, but stares a lot' – as he was gazing at the camera during the telecast. The schedule of the programmes run the first day was: 3:45 Recitation of the Holy Quran by Qari Ali Hussain 4:00 Opening address President Ayub Khan 5:00 Table Tennis match (from the studio) Commentator: Sultan F. Hussain 6:30 Evening news Tariq Aziz 6:35 Weather Forecast Tariq Aziz 6:40 Children's Programs: Make your own Aeroplane 6:55 Cartoon 7:00 News in Urdu 7:15 Quiz: Bujho tou jaanien Host: Ashfaq Ahmed 7:30 English film 8:00 Folk Music Singer: Tufail Niazi, Saeen Akhtar 8:50 Announcement for the next day programs 9:00 National Anthem. The duration of the first telecast ran over five hours, because of the opening ceremony.

In the coming days, the daily duration ran for three and a half hours. The broadcast would start at 6pm and would end around 9:15 with the national anthem. Mondays were off as one day was required for the maintenance of equipment. In the years to come, Pakistan Television was widely acknowledged for its drama serials; however, none was run on its first day. In the first week of operations, PTV's first drama 'Nazrana' was televised. The play was written by Najma Farooqui, a playwright from Radio and the cast was led by Qavi Khan, Kanwal Naseer and Munawwar Taufiq. The selection of the actors was given high importance not just for the first drama serial, but also in the years to come. In the inaugural programme, Tufail Niazi's performance was also included.

Madam Noor Jahan at PTV studios during song recording in 1965 War

How he was selected is a story worth telling. Mr. Aslam Azhar, the incharge programmes was impressed by the performance of a singer at Data Darbar, because of how easily he would hit high notes while still maintaining a smile on his face. His striking white teeth set against his ebony skin made his smile memorable. Upon asking, it turned out that Tufail was a resident of Multan, who had joined the Qawali party that day on an impulse. When asked if he would like to add his teacher or city's name to his, he preferred using 'Niaz' as he was a follower of a saint by the name. He was included in the inaugural day program for a folk item, after which he became known as Tufail Niazi. Just three years after the inaugural ceremony in Lahore, Television stations were also set up in Rawalpindi and Karachi in 1967. The year 1974 saw broadcast starting from Peshawar and Quetta as well.

Commerce Minister Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Khan of Hoti recording his speech for Television on the occasion of inauguration of Mobile Television exhibition in Rehana, District Hazara on October 27, 1968

Ubaidullah Baig, First Documentary Producer of PTV during Recording in forest of Chittagong Former East Pakistan 1970

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was the Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1974. He was also among those Ministers in 1964 that despite opposition from several cabinet members supported the setting up of television in Pakistan.

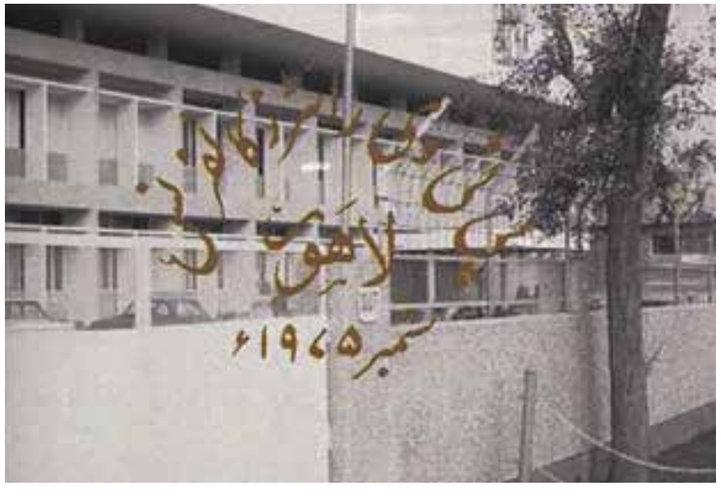
PTV First Election Transmission 1970 Mr. Agha Nasir First Director Programme with his team

He asked then Managing Director PTV, Aslam Azhar, how long it would take to set up television centers in Peshawar and Quetta. The answer was 1 year at the earliest. Bhutto smiled and replied," I'm not asking you to make an atom bomb, I'm asking about merely setting up Television. I want this done in three months". As desired by him, the centers were ready in that time. Programmes in regional languages were started from various centers; in Punjabi from Lahore & Rawalpindi, Sindhi from Karachi, Pashto from Peshawar & in Pashto and Brahvi from Quetta.

None of the producers could speak or understand

PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto inaugurating new building of PTV centre lahore in 1972

Brahvi and hence, the services of a Brahvi literature were sought to review the programme before it was aired. On one occasion, he was found in stitches of laughter upon hearing a folksong. Everyone around was astonished at this reaction stemming from cultural music. The matter was clarified once he was able to stop laughing. He explained that the plot of the song was, 'TV producers don't pay my fee. They mistreat me and also take my money'. The people who set up Television in Pakistan had a core objective in mind: the organization would work on the provision of Information, Education,



PTV Lahore Centre 1975

PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto & Nusrat Bhutto Visiting PTV

Recordings of dramas during the early days of PTV

Benazir Bhutto in a Current Affairs Program as an anchor

PTV Karachi Centre

PTVs famous Quiz Show, Neelam Ghar

PTVs famous Quiz Show, Neelam Ghar

Building of PTV News Centre Islamabad

Five Indonesian Mass Media representatives who visited the office of the Pakistan Television Corporation in Decca are seen in conversation with the General Manager of the Station and other officials

and then Entertainment to its audiences. Perhaps this was the reason that the first day's schedule focused on Information and Education primarily, with just one slot for Entertainment. With the passage of time and its demand, focus on Entertainment grew.

Information and Education however remained important – for a long time, Pakistan Television News Broadcast remained the most-watched programme. In the earlier days, each TV center was equipped with only one studio and that is where all the programmes were recorded, starting at 9 in the morning till 5 in the evening, with regular transmission starting at 6 pm. In the absence of the National Hookup, each center ran separate transmissions, simultaneous transmissions were not possible. In the rare occasions that demanded simultaneous programming, a set protocol had to be followed. Speeches by the President or the Prime Minister had to be broadcast simultaneously. At such times, the recording would be completed during the day and then flown on special Air Force planes to other cities.

It was in 1975 that different TV centers were connected to one another through the 'National Microwave Link'. Around a year later, PTV launched color television. The technology was first made available at a studio at Lahore TV Centre. For several days, the producers at this center tested out the new invention. The first song recorded using the new technology was sung by Naheed Akhter,'

TV ICONS

PTV's English News Caster Shaista Zaid in 1980s era

PTV's Urdu News caster Azhar Lodhi in 1980s era

Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Mr. Abdul Majid Abid visiting Pakistan Television Centre Lahore on December 27, 1986

Begum Salama Tasadduq, Founder of the Pakistan Housewives Association, Punjab, presenting in Lahore, on Wednesday, May 26, a television set to a girl student who won the first Prize in the raffle which was part of the week-long fun fair organized

Television Station Rawalpindi

TV ICONS

Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

Reshma

Taranum Naz

Farida Khanum

Khursheed Begum

Abida Parveen

Attaullah Khan Esakhelvi

Inayat Hussain Bhatti

Aati hai pawan jaati hai pawan'. The first play in color was 'Phool walon ki sair' written by Ashfaq Ahmed. Ashfaq Ahmed was one of those writers who had been connected with Pakistan Television since the start. He wrote the first Punjabi Program 'Tahli Thallay' that was broadcast from Lahore Center. Ashfaq Ahmed was among those writers who wrote original dramas keeping the television medium in perspective.

This was when other writers focused on famous plays that had been broadcast on Radio and could be adapted to the visual medium. Some people based their dramas on Urdu novels and short stories. Famous serials from this time included 'Khuda ki Basti', 'Shama', 'Jhok Sayal' and 'Ziddi'. In the lighter vein, serials like 'Uncle Urfi' and 'Kiran Kahani' were widely appreciated. 'Manto Rama' containing several short stories written by Manto was well-liked by audiences. Short stories by other writers were compiled under 'Pasandeeda Kahani'.

During the recording of 'Khuda ki Basti', the death of a leading female actor, Tauqeer Fatima presented a challenge for the producers. This was the first time such a situation arose and everyone was at a loss of how to proceed with the character. Some suggested removing the character altogether from the storyline, while others were against the idea of altering the award-winning novel. After to and fro for a few days, it was decided that the character will carry on and another female actor was roped in. A special news bulletin was run communicating this change so that there was no element of confusion left for the viewers.

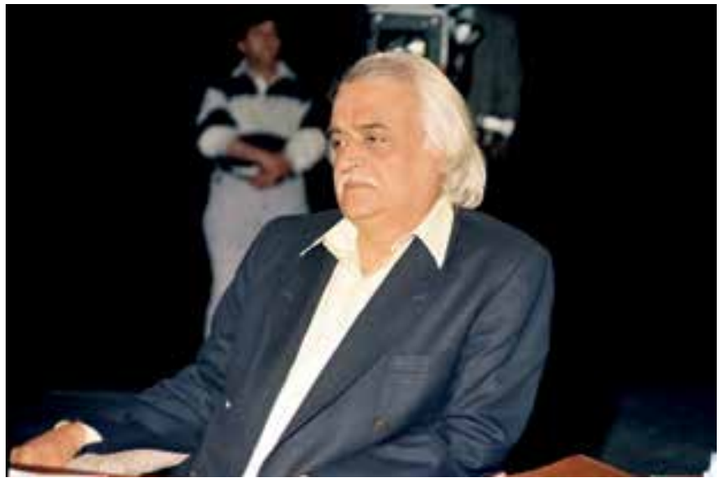
As original plays began being telecast more and more, writers started experimenting and extracting ideas from daily life – leading to famous serials like 'Waris' being made. Historic plays such as 'Aakhri Shab' were also written, which were loved by audiences. The plays were so well-liked, that roads would be empty on days a famous play was being televised. Not only that but wedding invitations also contained notices requesting guests to arrive on time as the day's play would be screened on a special screen during the event. In addition to drama serials, Musical and Quiz shows run by Pakistan Television were also widely appreciated. The country's famous artists and singers performed for PTV.

This led to several interesting incidents. A program by the name of 'Tarannum' was started with the Queen of Melody, Noor Jehan. Everyone was concerned with regards to the fee the artist would charge. When the topic was broached, the Queen of Melody replied, "You will not be able to pay me what I ask for, give me the contract you have brought, and I'll sign it with whatever you have offered" and thus, the programme was started on the prevailing fee structure. Similar was the case with Mehdi Hasan, who for his ghazals and the famous motivational song, 'Yeh watan tumhara hai' received

Famous PTV play Waris

Munni Begum – Pakistani singer

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan during a PTV Programme



Anwar Maqsood

only Rs.125. This was the prevailing amount at the time, as at that point, fee was based on the duration of the programme.

Kamal Ahmed Rizvi was perhaps the only artist who for his famous 'Alif Noon' received three times the remuneration for his work as the actor, director, and writer on the show. When the programme started, it was telecast live for audiences; Kamal and Nanna were often forgetful and would start delivering each other's dialogues. On one occasion, during a similar mix-up, Kamal Ahmed Rizvi left the set with the excuse of drinking some water. He returned to the set after glancing at the script. On the other hand, Nanna too was struggling with his dialogues. During the live show, Kamal advised him to go have some water as well. Nanna heeded the advice, and in this way, the episode was completed. In addition to 'Alif Noon', other comedy shows that gained popularity including 'Gar tu bura na maanay', 'Fifty-Fifty' and 'Sach Gap'.

Roohi Bano and Shafi Muhammad in a TV Serial

While today there are many channels dedicated to various subjects, for a long time, Pakistan Television shouldered the sole responsibility of airing Educational, Religious, Regional, Informative, and specially Children's content. Children's content included dramas, quiz shows, documentaries, and cartoons, however, out of all these; the most well-liked were shows that gave musical training. 'Padma ki maujain', 'Kaliyaan' and 'Hum suraj chaand sitaaray' were the various shows hosted by the famous music directors Musleh Uddin, Khalil Ahmed, and Sohail Rana. Several famous songs of today were sung during these shows for the first time including 'Sohni dharti Allah rakhay', Mauj Bhare Ya Aandhi Aye Diya Jalaye Rakhna Hai- and 'Tubhi Pakistan hai main bhi Pakistan hoon'.

These programs also introduced famous and talented vocalists like Nazia Hasan, Zohaib Hasan, Adnan Sami, Bushra Ansari, and Hadiqa Kiani. In Educational programs, Laeeq Ahmed Khan's 'Science Magazine' was famous, which telecasted the first space mission. The first broadcast transmitted through Satellite was in 1974, and the first international event broadcast was the World Boxing Match between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman that was run live on 30th October from

AJKTV 1st launching Ceremony, Feburary 5, 2004

TV ICONS

Nayyer Kamal & Durdana Butt in International Women Day talk show

Muhammad Nisar Ahmed, leading Director of PTV who introduced long plays in 80's

PTV special transmission election 2018 in PTV news

PTV News studio 2020

TV ICONS

Aziz Mian Qawal

Fareeda Khanum

Alam Lohar

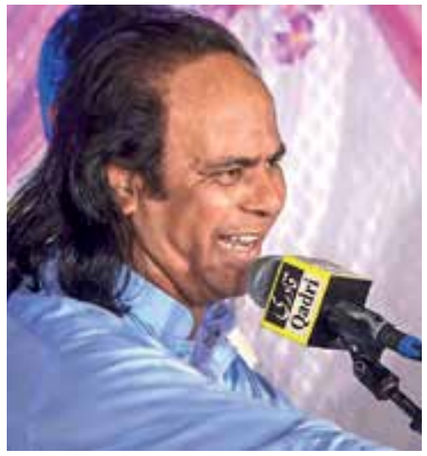
Alamgir Haq

Allan Fakir

Tahira Syed

Zarsanga, Pashto singer

Khalida Riyasat



Taskeen Ali Khan

Roshan Ara Begum

Surriya Shahab

Sabri Brothers Qawwal

Taskeen Zafar

Malika Pukhraj

TV ICONS

Famous PTV play Ankahi

Nayyara Noor

Tariq Aziz

Uzma Gilani

Rahat Kazmi and Marina Khan in famous PTV play Dhoop Kinaray

Arifa Sadiqqui and Nighat Butt in famous PTV drama Samundar

Actress Bindya of PTV drama serial Samundar

Benjamin Sisters

Hamid Rana and Sheeba Hassan in famous PTV drama serial Sona Chandi

The late Nasheela of Ainak Wala Jin

Ashir Azeem and Azra Aftab in famous PTV drama Dhuwan

Ismail Tara, Majid Jahangir, Zeba Shehnaz, Ashraf Khan, Arshad Mahmood, Sakhi Kamal, Adil Wadia, PTV drama serial Fifty Fifty

Shakeel, Arshad Mahmood, Azra Sherwani, Durdana Butt, Salim Nasir in famous PTV drama Aangan Tehra

Noor Muhammad Lashari and Ghazal Sadiqqui in famous PTV drama serial Marvi

LEGENDARY PERFORMERS

Marina Khan

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan

Iffat Rahim

Arifa Saddiqui

Huma Nawab

Faryal Gohar

Sakina Samo

Laila Zuberi

Waseem Abbas

Tauqeer Nasir

Firdous Jamal

Salim Nasir

LEGENDARY PERFORMERS

Uzma Gilani

Sania Saeed

Sameena Pirzada

Bushra Ansari

Kanwal Masood

Moin Akhter

Rahat Kazmi

Usman Peerzada

Tahira Syed

Jamal Shah

LEGENDARY PERFORMERS

Saba Hamid

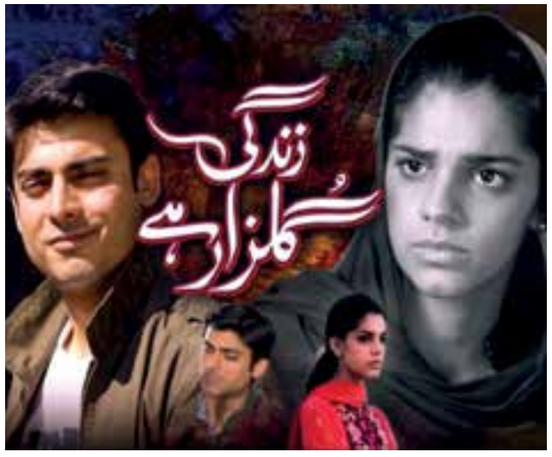
Talat-Hussain

Rafi Khawar aka Nannah and Kamal Ahmed Rizvi in the sitcom Alif Noon

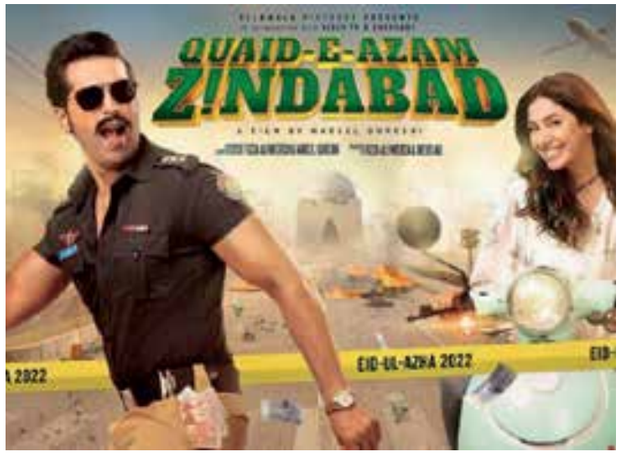
Muhammad Ali Shehki

Abrar-ul-Haq

Television drama Humsafar by HUM TV



Television drama Zindagi Gulzar Hai by HUM TV



Poster of the film Quaid-e-Azam Zindabad

Saba Qamar

Ali Azmat Butt

Arif Lohar

LEGENDARY PERFORMERS

Kinsasha, Zaire. The coverage of the Islamic Summit shown across the world cemented Pakistan Television's reputation as a professional organization.

The conference was attended by Shah Faisal from Saudi Arabia, Colonel Qaddafi from Libya, Enwar Saadat from Egypt, and Yasser Arafat from Palestine along with other prominent leaders of the Muslim World. While times are different now, back then facilities were a little harder to come by. Hence, equipment was brought in from Karachi and Rawalpindi to Lahore and International level facilities were provided to organizations worldwide. On this occasion Pakistan Television had prepared a special anthem in the voice of Mehdi Zaheer, this song is still a part of Islamic events worldwide, 'Allah hu Akbar, Allah hu Akbar, Allah hu Akbar'. Initially, Mehdi Zaheer was tasked with the composition of the anthem however, later the delivery of it in his distinctive voice ensured that he would perform it.

During the conference, news was telecast in French and Arabic as well in addition to Urdu and English. Former Minister Abida Hussain and artist Doctor Khalid Saeed Butt were among those who presented the News in French. Around this period, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto also launched her programme as an anchor person titled 'Encounter'. In this show, a younger audience discussed current affairs and politics. In the world of Sports coverage too, Pakistan Television stood out. In 1987, the Cricket World Cup was played in Pakistan and India. To ensure world-class coverage, Pakistan Cricket Board had requested a team of professionals from BBC to train the producers and cameramen. This team, upon witnessing the work of Pakistan professionals, returned saying "this team doesn't require any training; they are already doing a fine job." The year 2002 saw the Government of Pakistan move towards the addition of private channels in the arena.

At the time, the following objectives were in consideration: Improve the standards of information, education and entertainment; Enlarge the choice available to the people of Pakistan in the media for news, current affairs, religious knowledge, art, culture, science, technology, economic development, social sector concerns, music, sports, drama and other subjects of public and national interest; Facilitate the devolution of responsibility and power to the grass-roots by improving the access of the people to mass media at the local and community level; Ensure accountability, transparency and good governance by optimizing the free flow of information; And whereas, the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action; To this day, PEMRA has issued over one hundred licenses in different categories. These channels from the public and private sectors are working together to fulfill the aims and objectives that had been set out in 1964 by the pioneers of Television in Pakistan.

Ghulam Ali Khan

Malika-e-Tarannum Noor Jehan

PTV converts black & White transmission into colored. Naheed Akhtar performing her first colored song

Asad Amanat Ali Khan

LEGENDARY ARTISTS

Nazia Hassan

Adnan Siddiqui

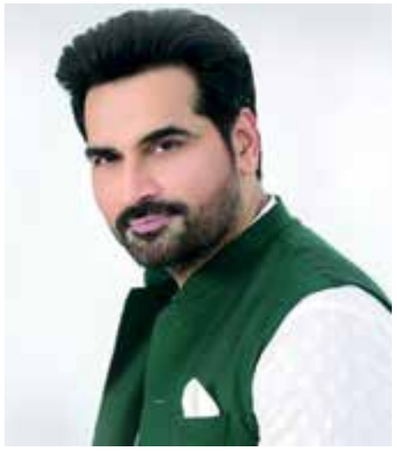
Sanam Marvi

Hadiqa Kiani

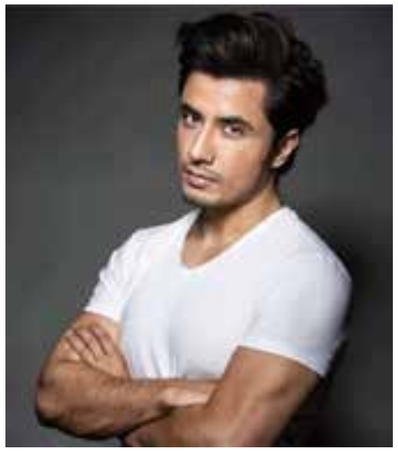
Atif Aslam

Dr Shaista Lodhi

Mahira Khan



Humayun Saeed



Ali Zafar

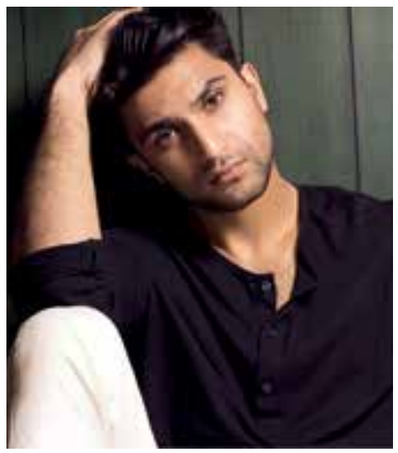
Sahir Ali Bagga

Fawad Khan

Shahzad Roy

Asim Azhar

Sajal Ali



Ahad Raza Mir

10 TV channel owners of Pakistan who changed the Media Landscape

Private TV channels diverse landscape

SPORTS

Mansoor Ahmed

Pakistan is a sports loving country and is known the world over through its excellent standing in the field of different games and achievements. It is an unprecedented example in the history of world that Pakistan has been No.1 for almost 20 years continuously in Squash. Likewise Pakistan can justifiably be as proud as a peacock after becoming world champion Cricket and Hockey. During the past years, a number of Medals have also been bagged by the Pakistan stars in different games at Olympics, Asian and Commonwealth level. Besides all these international major sports Pakistan is also a center of indigenous games. In fact, sports in total, is a part of Pakistan social life. Indigenous sport means the traditional sports and games of some certain areas. The sports or games played are celebrated by the residents of a certain locality with social enthusiasm and massive participation.

Such sports or games are always governed and regulated by simple code of ethics and local laws/varying rules. Like major competitive sports indigenous or traditional games & sports may also be indoor/outdoor aerial and fields games, for example Desi Kushti, Koudi or Kabaddi, Malkhra, Carem-board, Pitthu Garam, Yak racing, Tug of War, Pigeons Race, Wild Polo, Kite Flying, Gulli-Danda, Kho-Kho, Dog Race, Tent Pegging, etc. In the foundation of every society, a number of street games and home sports like Cards, Ludoo, Buzkashi, Bandar-Wanju, Shtapoo, Chore Sepoy and Dog Rabbit Race, keep majority of the local people engaged. (The term for different local traditional sports and street games are used above with their origin/basic mass). Every region has its own popular games and sports to be played and enjoyed by its residents.

Such games have always been an integral part of the area culture and significant sources of recreation for the local population, for example Dog fight, Kukur fight, Bttara fight are popular in Pakistan as local games of Sargodha, Mianwali and Bhakar, whereas Kabaddi, Shooting ball and Wangu Body are played in Faisalabad and its surroundings. Kite flying, Pigeon race etc. are famous in Lahore, Kasoor and Okara. Indigenous games not only inculcate the local population towards competitiveness but also offer opportunities to the youth to exercise their abilities through activities. Moreover, it is an admitted fact that indigenous sports/games have stronger hold on a society as compared to major professional games.

Like other societies of the world, Pakistan is very rich in the area of indigenous and traditional sports/games, which are a source of recreation excitement, competitiveness, togetherness and festivity. These games are demonstrated in almost all the territorial jurisdictions of the country round the year. But unfortunately such games have not been patronaged properly by the respective authorities. Realizing the strong hold of these local games, different nation are trying to demonstrate major international sports with regional brands and names just to attract and involve maximum population of the locality. This new experiment is going on so far with wonders of success. Leagues of different games and sports are the examples of this new trend.

SPORTS IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan, once part and parcel of the Sub-Continent, has a rich civilized history of the past.

People of this region of the world have been cherishing and celebrating their religious, cultural and other traditional events, embracing the different religious background. Such events, establish traditions afterwards which are still being followed in this region of the world. The area now comprising Pakistan has got its own regional traditions. In different parts of the country, various traditions are being followed. As such, sports of this country fall within two categories. The first category is the indigenous sports which are chiefly displayed in the rural areas. Recently, 14th August has been declared as the International Traditional Sports and Games day. The popular traditional sports include Kabaddi, free style polo, bull racing, wrestling, traditional karate, traditional archery etc.

Early triumphs - Mubarak Shah of Pakistan wins the 3,000 meter steeplechase at the Asian olympics in 1958

WINNERS

Hassan Sardar, the best centre forward in Pakistan's history of Hockey

Javed Miandad smashed Chetan Sharma for a last-ball six to steer Pakistan to victory in the Austral-Asia Cup final in Sharjah, 1986

Minister for Culture Sports and Tourism Agha Tariq Khan at the Final of Pakistan vs China Basketball match in Islamabad on January 18, 1989

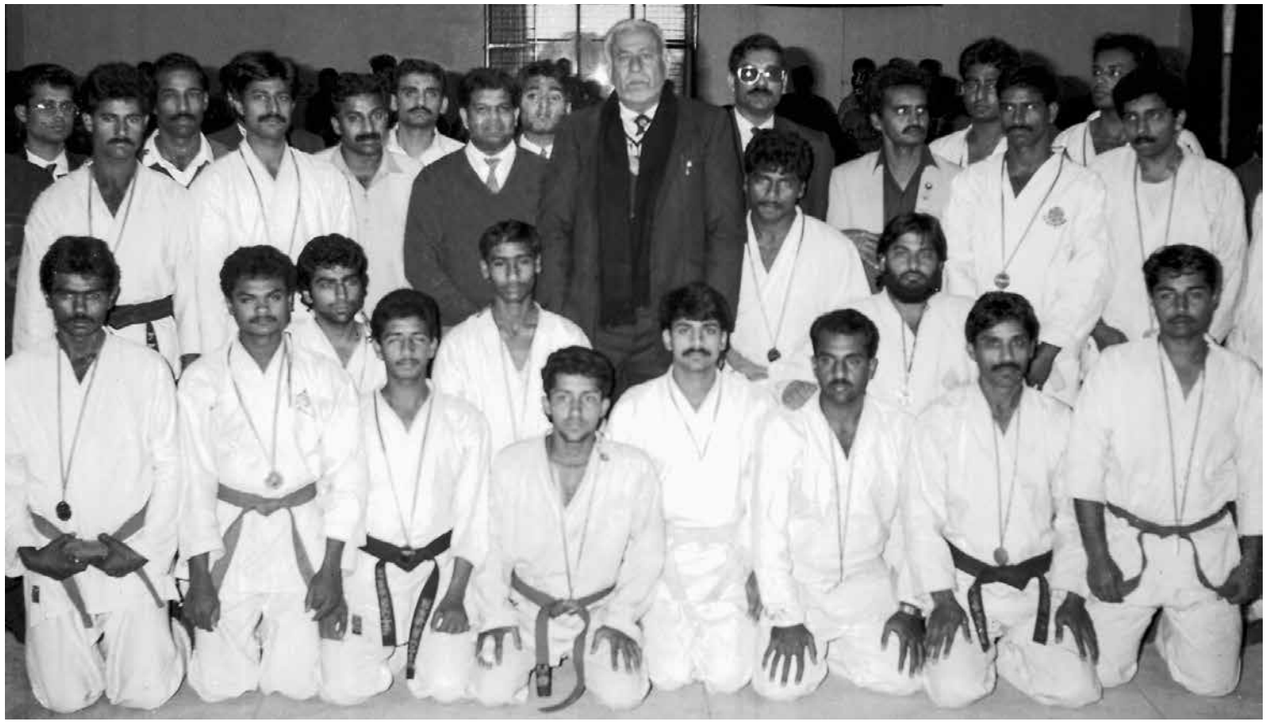
The Federal Minister for Culture and Sports Agha Tariq Khan being introduced to the hockey players inaugural ceremony of polygrass in Islamabad Complex

WINNERS

Minister of State for Sports Malik Muhammad Ajmal Khan addressing the participants of the 6th tour de Pakistan cycle race in Rawalpindi on May 4, 1991

The second category comprises the Organized Sports which are universally recognized and are played in internationally organized countries. The Father of the Nation, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had a great love for sports, knowing well the vital role played by sports in the development of Nations and inculcation of discipline among the masses. In a meeting with the Organizing Committee of the First Pakistan National Games held at Karachi, the Quaid-i-Azam said to the first President of Pakistan Olympic Association, Mr. Ahmed E.H. Jaffar:- " Dedicate yourself to sports promotion, for when you and I are gone, leadership will go into the hands of Youth and Youth is our wealth, a raw material, that must be hammered into shape, into burnished steel to strive and smite in defence – the defence of the integrity and solidarity of Pakistan – the defence of the ideology of Pakistan."

In the early part of our national life, Pakistani athletes did rather well at the Asian level. Pakistani sportsmen also creditably performed well at World level and dominated in Squash, Cricket and Hockey for many years. Over the year, our interest got eroded and the stock that had been steadily built in the sports began to fade out. Fresh talent was not harnessed in time and our standards went down steeply. However, hope lives on and with essential measures in place untapped potential of our players can be harnessed to gain enormous achievements in this field.



Advisor Sports Khawaja Ali Mohammad with the successful participants of Karate Chairmanship held in Rawalpindi

Weight-lifting

WINNERS

Jahangir Khan after becoming men's champion at British Open Squash Championships at Wembley 1988

Jahangir Khan - The best squash player of all times. He remained unbeaten World Champion from 1981 – 1993

Jansher Khan – Ranked No. 1 in squash (c. 1988 — 1998)

Jansher Khan in action

Jansher Khan won the World Open a record eight times, and the British Open six times. Jansher Khan is widely regarded as one of the greatest squash player of all time

WINNERS

Samiullah Khan – The Flying Horse of Hockey

Shahbaz Senior – Legendary Hockey Player

Hockey World cup

Nazir Sabir

Snooker player Ahsan Ramzan

Ahsan Ramzan – Boxer

Muhamad Ali Sadpara – Pakistani high-altitude mountaineer

Glimpses of Cricket World cup 1992

The athletes running and toiling to surpass

Muhammad Asif – Snooker Champion

First Women Cricket team 1997, The 1997 World Cup squad with captain Shaiza Khan (seated, centre), vice-captain Kiran Baluch (standing, extreme left) and coach Jodie Davis (middle row, left)

Jinnah Stadium, South Asian Federation (SAF) Games Opening Ceremony Islamabad, March 2004

2009 T-20 world cup winner jubilation

Jubilation after winning 2009 T-20 World cup

2009 T-20 world cup winner lifting trophy

WINNERS

President Asif Ali Zardari with T-20 World Cup winning Pakistan Cricket Team at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on June 25, 2009

President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with the players of Pakistan under-16 Boys Hockey Team, the winner of the Asia Cup tournament, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on April 18, 2013

Prime Minister Mian Muhammd Nawaz Sharif and Chairman PCB Mr. Najam Sethi with Pakistan Cricket Team at the Reception Ceremony to celebrate the success in ICC Champions Trophy-2017 at PMO, Islamabad July 4, 2017

Cricket all-rounder Bismah Maroof

Shehroze Kashif – youngest climber in the world to summit K2 on July 27, 2021

Paragliding in Khanpur

Arshad Nadeem – first javelin thrower from south Asia to cross the 90 metre mark in 2022 Commonwealth Games

Glimpses of Pakistan Super League

Nooh Butt – lifted a record-breaking 405 kg overall in the 109 kg-plus category of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham 2022

Shandoor Polo Festival

Khanpur Parasailing

Kunhar River Rafting

Gaddafi Stadium Lahore

Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium

Younus Khan Sports Complex - Miran Shah North Waziristan

YOUTH

Hanan Ali Abbasi

Youth is an age of discovery, dreams and destinations. The History of Pakistan is laden with efforts of youth in which they played an indispensable part in foundation of Pakistan particularly youth from famous institution - Aligarh College were at the forefront with father of the Nation Mr. MA Jinnah during political movement of creation of Pakistan. The students of Aligarh College promulgated the message of Muslim League at every single doorstep. Similarly our youth played its vital role in all the important movements of our National history. Today once again the development and betterment of Pakistan lies in the hands of country's energetic and talented youth to achieve real national destination of unity, progress and excellence. Youth of Pakistan has proven and made the country proud in all sections of society. Despite facing many hurdles Pakistani Youth is ready to achieve heights in the field of technology and e-commerce utilizing the most advanced approach.

To channelize their veiled potential there is a dire need for execution on the concept of "National Youth Commission", which is proposed by the Government of Pakistan during the Budget Deliverance 2022 on July 1,2022. This Commission will open new doors of sustainable opportunities for the youth of Pakistan to fly the green crescent flag globally. Our homeland has given us the opportunity to form the National Youth Assembly, which is one of the first national level youth platforms in Pakistan. It is an absolute honor for our organization and country that in 2012 my efforts were also acknowledged globally and I was awarded the Commonwealth Youth Award, from young achievers of 54 other countries of the World.

In order to solve new socio-political intricacies, energetic and smart individuals having fresh minds and new approach are required as they have abilities to manage challenges of modern age. Comparatively the youth of today's era is different and far ahead in every sector of society than the people who lived a generation ago. Dozens of Young Pakistanis have made their mark in different fields of life, such as sports, politics, entertainment, technology, trade, education, health, communication and so on. I had the opportunity to represent Pakistani youth in more than fifty cities of the world and wherever I visited I deeply felt that if merit based opportunities are given to our Youth they can effectively portray a positive image of Pakistan on global platforms.

I believe that if the youth of Pakistan get state sponsored patronage, they can play a vital role in the acknowledgement of country at international level. In modern times, when some global media agencies are pushing our country towards isolation, there is still a great deal of optimism, expectation, and possibilities for our nation's success. If youth of this country is properly guided, trained, educated, and informed, they can accomplish great things for our homeland. The concept of true democratic development and good governance is largely associated with youth. Young people constitute mainstream electoral voters in Pakistan. However, parliaments over the years mostly have less youth participation in the role of young legislatures. It is high time for our decision makers to create more space for dynamic young leaders at Provincial and National level so that they can also play crucial role in progress and uplift of Pakistan in comity of nations.

Quaid-i-Azam in an informal chat with the muslim students of University of the Punjab along with Law Minister Sheikh Khursheed Ahmed at Mamdot Villa, Lahore, 1946

Quaid-i-Azam along with Fatima Jinnah with Muslim League National Guards, 1947

Quaid-i-Azam with a group of Women National Guards at Karachi, 1948

Quaid-i-Azam sharing the "hall" with the group of students in Quetta, June, 1948

Haroon Tariq who broke the world record by obtaining 87 A's in his IGCSE O and A levels

Haris Khan – Youngest Smart Phone App Developer

Babar Iqbal – Youngest Certified Computer Record Holder

Federal Minister for Youth Affairs and Chairman National Volunteer Movement Shahid Hussain Bhutto giving shields to the winners at UET Taxila University on May 13, 2010

Nazgul Hazara Karate Champion

Laraib Atta – visual effects artist in Hollywood

Ali Moeen Nawazish – first in the world to secure 22-A's in his A Levels, 2009

Karishma Ali, Footballer, represented Pakistan at Jubilee Games in Dubai

Aisam ul Haq Tennis Player

Ahmad Nawaz – Pakistan school shooting survivor - takes charge as Oxford Union President

Ali Zafar

Bismah Maroof Cricket Captain

Sana Mir Pakistani crickter

Arfa Karim

FUTURE OF PAKISTAN

Naila Kiani becomes the second Pakistani woman to scale the mighty Everest

Samina Baig - First Pakistani woman to climb Everest, K2 and the Seven Summits

Sajid Sadpara, 1st Pakistani to scale Mount Everest, without supplemental oxygen

Mirza Ali Baig mountain climber

Babar Azam-Only cricketer in the World in the top five rankings across all formats, ranked as the number one batter in ODIs and number three in Tests and T20Is.

Iman Qureshi Pakistan female top tennis star

CUISINE

Mehboob Mando Khel

Before we move on to our delicious and the most beloved Pakistani cuisine, it would be unfair not to mention the ingredients used to make the most amazing food. If anyone had a chance to travel abroad and to view the markets there, he will find a very small variety of locally produced ingredients and a large number of food products usually imported from around the world. Fortunately, our land is blessed with one of the best locally produced food ingredients in the world. You will seldom see imported products in the markets. Good quality and variety of mangoes, cherries, apples, grapes, watermelon, sweet melon and dry fruit products to name a few are readily available. Our Rice varieties are considered one of the best in the world and exported in large quantities. Our goat meat, lamb, beef and desi chicken stand tall among the best in the world.

Wheat, pulses and spices, most of the ingredients used are locally grown and of premium quality. Pakistani cuisine has been growing and improving steadily over the years. It's been almost 36 years I am in this profession but the growth I have seen since 90's has been phenomenal. Starting first with the most frequently consumed and liked dish "KARAHI". It is claimed that if one travels from Karachi to Khyber by Road, after every 50 km, the taste of "KARAHI" changes which is so true. Our "MITHAI" variants have increased manifold and its quality and taste is considered premium internationally and exported to many countries. Even in the far flung areas our street food is the best in terms of variety and taste and is available at reasonable prices that a common man can afford.

The best Pakistani street foods with variety and taste are: "SAMOSAS" "PAKORAS" "KABAB" "PARATHA ROLL" "BUN KABAB" "HALWA PURI" "DAAL CHAWAL" "CHANE BHATURE" "QATLMA" "PULAO" and "BIRYANI". Our variety and taste of BIRYANI has improved a lot with the passage of time. Before we used to have just chicken, mutton or beef Biryani but now we have "TIKKA BIRYANI" "ZAFRANI BIRYANI" "SINDHI BIRYANI" and the list is very long. Peshawar's Namak Mandi is among my favorite places for meat dishes, be it Karahi, Tikka, or Pulao. Pakistani Nimco with its extensive varieties and unique taste is considered among the best one and exported to many countries. Even the fresh frozen range is in high demands in abroad and exported, like "SHAMI KABAB" "SEEKH KABAB" "CHAPLI KABAB" "SAMOSA", "NAAN" "SHEERMALL" and "TAAFTAN".

Baluchistan has very unique varieties of foods to serve Sajji, Karahi, Tandori Naan, Rosh, Khada Kabab, Air dried meat famously known as 'LAANDY' but its actual name is 'PARSANDA', usually cooked in Pulao, Daal, Paalak, or just boiled in water. Baluchistan coastal areas offer the best variety of fresh and dried fish dishes. Port city of Gawadar offers fresh catch and Balochi style cooked fried fish, fried prawns and fish Sajji. It has a very unique delicious taste. Sindh is a very fertile land which offers a variety of top quality fruits, vegetables, chilies, pulses, fresh and sea water fish, desi chicken and eggs and many type of cattles. "PALLA" is a fresh water fish, unique to Sindh and prepared in most unusual way and it tastes superb.

TAWA fish is served almost everywhere in Sindh if one gets a chance to travel on the highway. Food streets phenomena has been developed since last 20 years throughout Pakistan and many large cities have established food street corners which served much delicious food at one place. Swat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is famous for its fruit farms and wild river trout fish. Karachi being the largest and most populous port city in Pakistan is also home to people from all over the country. Many ethnic communities live here and carry along their rich collection of cuisine. Karachi is famous for its Biryani, Haleem, Nihari, Qorma, Kofta, and Pulao.

Punjab being the largest province also offers the most varieties of food to the locals and tourist. Lahore as a metropolis has to offer one of the most sought after dishes. Its Chicken Ginger, Lahori Charga, Chikar Cholay, Paye, Harissa, Nihari, Daal Chawal, Halwa Puri, and Pasta are indeed worth tasting. Chinniot in Punjab offers the most favourite "Kunna" cooked with very few ingredients in a clay pot on wood fire and it has a unique and unforgettable taste. Chicken tikka is one dish which has evolved and is loved all over the country.

It is available in almost all major cities and small towns. Our bread variety has grown exponentially over the time, Sada, Roghani, Tillwala, and Garlic naan, Taaftan, Kulcha, Paratha, and Chappati. Our rural areas and small towns also offer a variety of famous and most delicious foods, Sobath from D.I. Khan, Painda, from most parts of KP, Katwa Gosht, from DG Khan, Ghate Rooje from Charsadda, Chapli Kabab from Landi Kotal, Sohan Halwa from Multan and fried fish from Sheikhupura.

Popular Pakistani dish Tikka Botti

CUISINE BALOCHISTAN

Phirki

Laandhi

Abgoosht

Rosh

Khadi Kabab

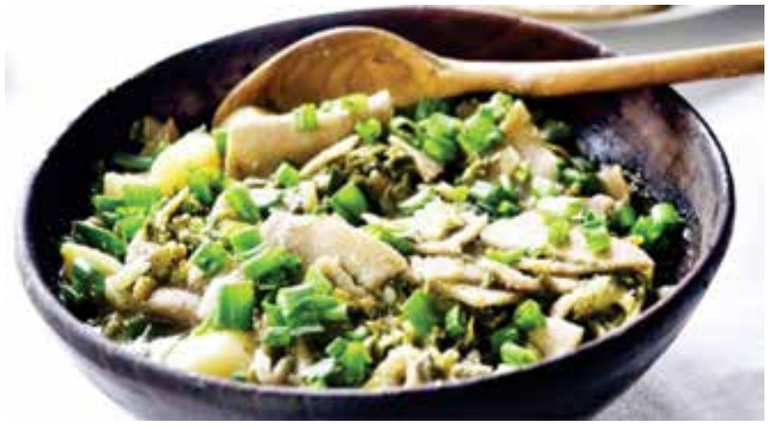
CUISINE GILGIT-BALTISTAN

Go Lee

Chap-Shoro

Balay

Gittey



Hoilo Garma

Marzan

Dao Dao Soup

Mantu

CUISINE KASHMIR

Dum Aalo

Kashmiri Goshtaba

Kashmiri Muji Gaad

Rista

Rogan e Josh

Kashmiri Matschgand

Yogurt Lamb Curry

CUISINE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Bolani

Chapli-Kabab

Chopan Kabob

Kabuli Pulao

Namkeen Tikka

Shinwari Charsi Tikka

Shinwari Karahi

Mutton Kunna

CUISINE PUNJAB

Kunna Gosht

Aalu Gosht

Bheen Gosht

Chicken-Tikka

Halwa Puri

Cholay Bhature

Dal-Makhani

CUISINE SINDH

Dal-Pakwan

Kheer

Sindhi Kadi

Nihari

Pallo

Sai Bhaji

Koki

Sindhi Biryani

Bhugal bhaji

MOUTH WATERING

"LASSI" the most commonly used drink in summers has gone from thin salted to fruit flavored. "NAMKEEN ROSH" being a delicacy from Quetta is now served in major cities and liked by all and sundry. "CHAAT" varieties have also grown manifold like "CHANA CHAAT", "FRUIT CHAAT" "CHANA PAPRI" "CHOLAY" and "PANI PURI" are few of the types available in almost every nook and corner of the country. It is a happy and proud moment to see that Pakistani cuisines are improving day by day in terms of quality,variety and taste.

Makhni Daal

Sobath as locally called a delicious dish enjoyed by the whole family

Mutton Do Piyazah

Typical Lahori Breakfast, Anda Chana

Daal Lobia Massala

Qatlama a traditional food available at every fair in rural areas. Qatlama in traditional Turkish means "folded", which comes from the verb qatlamaq "to fold", likely referring to the traditional method of preparation

MOUTH WATERING

A vendor busy in roasting corn cob for customers at his roadside setups

Chapli Kebab or Kabab is a Pashtun-style minced kebab, usually made from ground beef, mutton or chicken with various spices in the shape of a patty

Making of Pakora a spiced fritter

Local vendor selling Sweets and Pakoras

Barbecue ready for taste buds

MOUTH WATERING

Vegetable paratha

Kabab

Famous traditional dish, Sarson Ka Saag

Makai Ki Roti

MOUTH WATERING

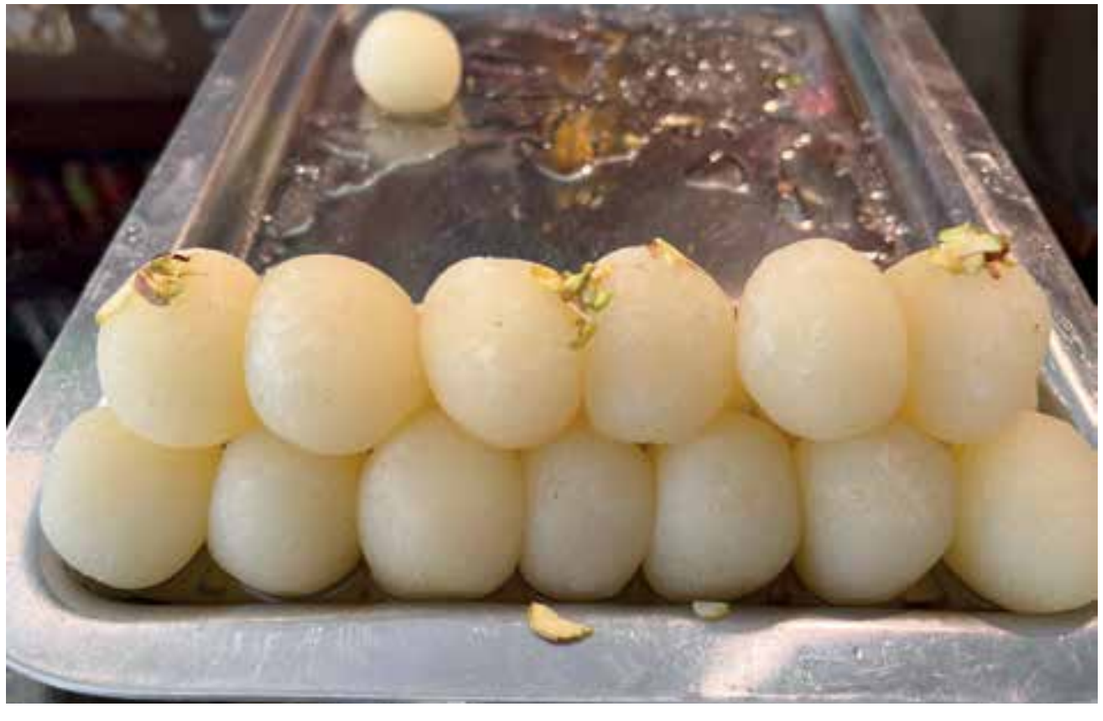
Paya shorba

Raita

Biryani with Salad

MOUTH WATERING

Barfi



Ras gullay

Jalebi

Pakistani Sweets

Thaal, traditional bohra dish

Haleem

Balochi Sajji

Peshawari Kahwa

Gol Gappay

Traditional Paan Making

WRITERS' SNAPSHOT

PARLIAMENT
Zafarullah Khan

Zafarullah Khan is a civic educator, human rights advocate, and researcher. Currently he is serving as the Chief Executive, Ideas for Vision 2047. He launched first-ever 'Constitutional Literacy Campaign' in the country for the citizen's sensitization with their social contract-the Constitution of Pakistan. He wrote book titled "Consistent Parliamentary Cord: Fundamental Rights of the Citizens of Pakistan". Mr. Khan served as Executive Director (May 2016-April 2019) of Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) of the Parliament and member National Commission for Human Rights. In 2016, Mr. Khan was given Human Rights Award (Civil and Political Rights) of Federal Ministry of Human rights by the President of Pakistan.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry is a Pakistani diplomat and Director General of Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad. He served as the Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States. Previously, he served as the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Pakistan's Ambassador to the Netherlands and the spokesperson of the Foreign Office.

REGIONAL SECURITY AND GLOBAL PEACE
Lt Gen Nauman Mahmood

Nauman Mahmood is Lieutenant General in the Pakistan Army currently serving as the 35th President of National Defence University since November 23, 2021.

ECONOMY
Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha

Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha is a Pakistani politician and economist. In April 2022, she was appointed as a State Minister in the newly formed 34-member Cabinet.

AGRICULTURE
Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad is Vice Chancellor of the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi since January 2013. Prior to his present position Prof. Niaz was serving at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad as Dean of Faculty of Agricultural Engineering & Technology.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman

Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman is a Pakistani organic chemist and is currently serving as Professor Emeritus at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences at the University of Karachi and as Chairman of PM Task Force on Science and Technology. He has twice served as the President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences (2003-2006, and 2011-2014).He was the Federal Minister of Science and Technology (2000-2002), Federal Minister of Education (2002) and Chairman Higher Education Commission with status of Federal Minister (2002-2008).

SOCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN
Senator (R) Javed Jabbar

Senator (R) Javed Jabbar is a public intellectual who makes contributions to leading think tanks, research centers, and public forums on a range of subjects. Javed Jabbar's 15th book "Pathways – selected writings 2010-2015" won the UBL Literature Prize for the Best English non-fiction book at the 9th Karachi Literature Festival 2017. His 16th book "What is Pakistaniat?" is prescribed in leading institutions. He is the founding chairman of the South Asian Media Association, Colombo, 1992. He is a former Senator and has served in 3 Federal Cabinets as Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Science and Technology, Petroleum and Natural Resources, and Adviser to the Chief Executive of Pakistan on National Affairs.

EDUCATION
Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman, HEC

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed assumed the charge of Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) on August 1, 2022. He has previously served as Chairman HEC from 2014 to 2018, Executive Director HEC from 2013 to 2014 and as Member (Operations and Planning) HEC from 2005 to 2011. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed has played a key role during the last two decades to formulate and implement reforms in the higher education.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
Khawar Mumtaz

Khawar Mumtaz is a Pakistani women's rights activist, feminist author and university professor. She is the Former Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) who served for three consecutive terms from 2013 to 2019.

INTERFAITH HARMONY
Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali

Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali is the 10th descendant of Hazrat Sultan Bahoo, an eminent Sufi Saint of the sub-continent. He is known as a young scholar, Secretary General of Islahee Jamaat & Aalmi Tanzeem ul Arifeen, Chairman of the research based think-tank "Muslim Institute" working under the Mission of Unity, Stability & Leadership in Muslims.

HUMAN RIGHTS
Riaz Hussain Bhutto

Riaz is currently working in Pakistan Red Crescent Society national Headquarters, Islamabad. He is seasoned media and development expert with excellent outreach across the national media networks. He has worked on various media projects covering national politics, Kashmir issue, youth affairs, and Human Rights in Pakistan. Riaz holds an additional qualification of LLB with extensive experience in Human Rights, Free Legal Aid, Provincial Disaster Management, Small Industries Corporate matters at large.

TOURISM
Aftab Ur Rehman Rana

Aftab Ur Rehman Rana is currently serving as Managing Director, PTDC. His main areas of interest are sustainable tourism, ecotourism, adventure and youth tourism. Aftab Rana writes regularly on the places of tourist interest and about issues related with tourism trade. He has received a number of awards including the Trainer of the Year Award from the South Asia Tourism Human Resource Development Project (SATHRDP), Commonwealth Asia Award for Excellence in Youth Work and Better Pakistan 2010 Excellence Award in the field of Tourism.

CULTURE
Jamal Shah

Jamal Shah is an actor, a director, a painter, and a social worker. He is currently Director of HunerKada Academy of Arts in Islamabad founded in 1992 and the brand ambassador for the production of Telenor TV's film "Girdaab". His acting career has been littered with hits, as well as the famous mini TV series Traffik that earned nominations for six BAFTA awards and won three. The series also won the International Emmy Award for the best drama serial. Jamal also starred in the 1992 film K2, directed by Franc Roddam. In 2007, Jamal became the executive director of the Pakistan National Council of Arts.

ART
Salima Hashmi

Salima Hashmi is a Pakistani painter, activist and essayist. She is daughter of the renowned poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz (1911-1984), and a professor of art for thirty years at the National College of Arts in Lahore. Salima Hashmi is currently the dean of the School of Visual Arts at Beacon house National University in Lahore. Believing that "male writers have neglected the history of Pakistan's women", she took on a monumental task: writing and recording the life and work of female artists in Pakistan in her book "Unveiling the Visible: Lives and Works of Women Artists of Pakistan".

FILM
Aijaz Gul

Aijaz Gul is a renowned film critic, teacher, and writer who is based in Islamabad. He received his early education from Aitchison College, Lahore, and went on to study Cinema at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. "Noor-e-Jehan: The Melody Queen" and "Journey through Lens: Pakistani Cinema" are two of his four books which explore Pakistani films. His book titled "Journey through Lens: Pakistani Cinema", co-authored by Jamal Sohail, is a visual journey of the Pakistani cinema from its origin in 1947 to the modern age that features the authors' vision for the Pakistani cinema.

LITERATURE
Asghar Nadeem Syed
Translated by Muhammad Arshad Makhan

Asghar Nadeem Syed is a writer and poet. He is famous for his scripts in Pakistani dramas on PTV and STN. He is famous for his TV drama, Chaand Grahan, broadcast on STN. Most of his scripts carry societal issues, including women's exploitation, feudalism, politics, and media. In 2006, he received the Pride of Performance Award from the Pakistan President and was awarded the Best Writer by PTV. In 2020, he became one of the directors of PTV. Aadhe Chand Ki Raat, Tarz-e-Ehsas, and Adhoori Kulliyat are the books penned by Asghar. Some of the serials written by Asghar are "Nijaat", "Hawaien", "Pyas", "Maigh Malhar", "Ghulam Gardish", "Riyasat", "Bol Meri Machli", and "Khuda Zameen Se Gaya Nahin".

PRESS
Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami

Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami is a top Pakistani journalist and columnist. He is Editor-in-Chief of Daily Pakistan and Analyst at Dunya News program Nuqta-E-Nazar. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami is the founder of Qaumi Digest and Zindagi Magazine. He writes columns for Roznama Dunya and Roznama Pakistan.

RADIO
Dr. Muhammad Rashid Khan

Dr. Muhammad Rashid Khan is currently serving as an Associate Professor, Punjab University. He is contributing to the field of Mass Communication as an academician, researcher, PR practitioner, broadcaster, journalist and media consultant for over 30 years. Presently he is supervising 4 PhD thesis and has supervised over 50 MPhil thesis in the past.

TELEVISION
Akhtar Viqar Azeem

Akhtar Viqar Azeem is currently the Senior Vice President, HUM Television, Islamabad. He has also contributed many books which include the history of Pakistan Television and the World Cup cricket. His book on PTV was declared as the best book of the year in 2016. Akhtar received civil award of Pride of Performance from the Government of Pakistan for services in the field of TV production in 2002, and a Lifetime achievement award from the Graduate Cultural Awards Committee in 2003.

SPORTS
Mansoor Ahmed

Mansoor Ahmed khan is currently serving as Deputy Director General Pakistan Sports Board. He played table tennis at national level. He served as convener badminton and cricket. He also acted as captain at Islamabad Club. He was the chief of the mission of Asia Games and was accredited for Olympic Games, Common Wealth Games, Islamic Games and South Asia Games.

YOUTH
Hanan Ali Abbasi

Hanan Ali Abbasi founded National Youth Assembly (NYA) for youth empowerment. Now, the NYA is a leading legally formed national entity. NYA has brought together future leaders from more than 100 Districts of Pakistan. He was the very first Pakistani to receive a prestigious Commonwealth Youth Award, 2013 in the field of Democracy and Human Rights.

CUISINE
Mehboob Mando Khel

Mehboob Khan is a well-known Pakistani chef. He began his career as a chef in 1986. On ARY Zauq, he is best known for his cooking shows Zauq Zindagi and Good Healthy Life. He is currently serving as a Judge in the "Master Chef Pakistan". His Cooking Style Gourmet has outperformed expectations in Pakistani cuisine, Asian cooking, Chinese food, and South African food. His wellness principles prompted the publication of his first cookbook, "Food for Life", that highlights around 50 nutritious cuisines.