Asad M. Khan @asadm17

I congratulate American people on their 244th Independence Day. Over the years, our two great countries have closely worked together to pursue peace, prosperity and happiness for our peoples & will continue to do so in future.

@WHINSC @State_SCA @ForeignOfficePk

Asad M. Khan @asadm17

Grateful to @realDonaldTrump for donating 200 ventilators (100 delivered) and for standing with the people of Pakistan during this difficult time. COVID-19 is a global threat that our two countries are fighting together.
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Dear Friends,

July was another active month for the Embassy, as we gradually resumed our activities while ensuring that all necessary precautions for COVID prevention and safety were in place.

This month, Pakistan received 200 ventilators from the U.S. Government through USAID to help in the fight against COVID-19. The generous donation of 200 ventilators came from the White House itself and we are very grateful for this support at a time of need. The U.S. Embassy has delivered and handed over the equipment to NDMA in Pakistan in two batches of 100 ventilators each during the month of July. They will go a long way in meeting the needs of the COVID-19 affected patients in Pakistan.

There were two significant developments during the month. Pakistan and the U.S. became partners under the Hague Abduction Convention on July 1. This will put in place the legal framework to resolve parental child abduction cases between the two countries, effective October 1, 2020. The other development was Pakistan’s significant rise in the NTI’s Nuclear Security Index 2020, where it was the “Most Improved” country in nuclear security – a proud moment for our scientific community.

Our outreach activities have largely shifted to the digital platform. This month, the Embassy organized two webinars. The first one was on Pakistan-U.S. Educational Cooperation and it was well attended and widely followed. Participants included the U.S. State Department, U.S. Embassy in Islamabad as well as academics from Pakistan and the U.S. who discussed how education cooperation between our two countries could be further enhanced, especially given the challenges emanating from COVID-19. The second webinar was held on Pakistan-U.S. IT Cooperation. This was held by our Consulate General in New York and included policy makers and senior government officials dealing with IT policy in Pakistan as well as practitioners. Participants discussed how IT sector cooperation had tremendous potential that needed to be explored and fully capitalized.

Meanwhile, Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) continued unabated, despite nearly a year having elapsed since the abrogation of Article 370. To highlight the plight of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters, I gave detailed interviews in the media (the Washington Diplomat) as well as at a webinar hosted by Amb. Dr. Akbar S. Ahmed of the American University. I also wrote an opinion piece that was carried by Newsweek to bring the world’s attention to the tragic condition of the Kashmiri people in IIOJK. Kashmir also continued to receive attention from the U.S. media as we near the month of August, which will mark one year of Kashmir’s brutal siege by India.

On the economic front, Pakistan decided to open the Pak-Afghan border for transit trade. This would help boost Pakistan as the hub of regional trade. Pakistan also successfully developed its indigenous ventilator which could be ready for sale abroad very soon. Our manufacturers received orders from leading international brands for protective equipment as well.
PAKISTAN-U.S. COOPERATION AGAINST COVID-19

AMERICA PROVIDES 100 VENTILATORS TO PAKISTAN TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RESPONSE

The United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in cooperation with Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority, has donated a shipment of 100 brand-new, state-of-the-art ventilators to support Pakistan in its fight against COVID-19. The ventilators arrived in Karachi on July 2 and will be deployed in hospitals across Pakistan. This donation delivers on President Donald Trump’s generous offer of these critically needed supplies and supports Pakistan’s urgent response to the pandemic.

Read more here.

“The United States stands with Pakistan in its fight against coronavirus. These American-made ventilators will help Pakistani patients in the most acute need of medical care.” — Ambassador Paul W. Jones, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan.

We laud the commitment of diaspora organizations to help communities in South Asia & the US fight COVID. @APPNA_Central offers a series of training webinars for healthcare providers dealing w/ the impacts of COVID, including one for critical care nurses. appnamerit.com

Great collaboration from @NIH_Pakistan & @CDCgov supporting Pakistan’s Field Epidemiology & Laboratory Training Program & @USAID working to strengthen the public health system across the country. These partnerships are all examples of strong Pakistan-U.S. cooperation on COVID-19.
UNITED STATES AND PAKISTAN TO BECOME PARTNERS UNDER THE HAGUE ABDUCTION CONVENTION

On July 1, 2020, the United States accepted Pakistan’s accession to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Convention). The Convention will enter into force between the United States and Pakistan on October 1, 2020, and will put in place an internationally recognized legal framework to resolve cases of parental child abduction between our two countries. As partners, we will enhance our shared commitment to protecting children and open a new chapter in the vibrant U.S.-Pakistan relationship.

Read details here.

PAKISTAN ‘THE MOST IMPROVED COUNTRY’ ON NUCLEAR SECURITY INDEX (NTI) 2020

NTI Nuclear Security Index 2020 categorized Pakistan as the most improved country with weapons-usable nuclear materials. Pakistan improved its score by 7 points, its Security and Control Measures score increased by 25 points due to actions to strengthen its regulations. Pakistan scores high (67-100) in Domestic Commitments and Capacity, medium (34-66) in both Security and Control Measures and Global Norms, and low (0-33) in Quantities and Sites, owing to its continued increases in quantities of weapons-usable nuclear materials, and low in Risk Environment.

Read more about key steps taken by Pakistan here.
PAKISTAN-U.S. EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION “THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST GLORIOUS CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF PAKISTAN-U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS”

The Embassy of Pakistan held a webinar on Pakistan-U.S. Educational Cooperation on July 8, 2020. The webinar comprised of eminent speakers including senior officials from both, the U.S. and Pakistan sides as well as representatives of the academia.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan highlighted education as a glorious chapter in the history of Pakistan-U.S. bilateral relations and emphasized the need for continued cooperation in the educational domain and thanked the U.S. government for its valuable partnership over the years.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Cooperation Ms. Marie Royce encouraged Pakistan students to consider the U.S. as their number one destination for higher education. She reaffirmed U.S. commitment to enhancing educational cooperation and said both sides need to continue to work together to achieve greater successes.

Watch the complete video at the following links:

“PAKISTAN-U.S. IT COOPERATION: UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL”


Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan emphasized IT sector as one of the best performing sectors of Pakistan’s economy. He said that the current Government’s policy has led to phenomenal growth in the IT sector during the last two years. Both Pakistan and U.S governments have identified business and investment as key priority areas and are working together to engage private sector and IT led startups.

[Watch full video here](#).
‘American values have become universal values. The moral compass at the heart of this country is one that people around the world, regardless of religion, race, or nationality, would love to see embodied in their own countries.

Today, those values are under assault in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir today is a burden on the conscience of the international community. The world cannot remain a bystander while systematic attempts are underway to deprive Kashmiris of their identity as well as fundamental rights through stealth and deceit. The international community, particularly the United States, cannot let India get away with its brutal oppression of the Kashmiri people under the cover of the coronavirus pandemic. The world must join the United Nations and other international human rights organizations in demanding an end to India's egregious human rights violations in Kashmir.’

Read the Op-Ed here.
“KASHMIR IS ENDURING A DOUBLE LOCKDOWN” - THE WASHINGTON DIPLOMAT, GLOBAL 360 WEBCAST SERIES: PAKISTAN: REGIONAL PEACE, KASHMIR AND CORONAVIRUS


Ambassador Khan underlined the grave humanitarian situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and urged the international community to take note of the gross human rights violations taking place in Occupied Kashmir. He warned that the unresolved nature of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and India’s alarming drift towards Hindu nationalism posed a grave threat to peace and stability in South Asia.

Speaking on Government efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19, Ambassador explained Pakistan’s “smart lockdown” strategy and Prime Minister Imran Khan’s flagship “Ehsaas” poverty alleviation program.

Watch the full video here.
Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan participated in a virtual event titled “The Future of Kashmir & the Challenges of COVID-19,” organized by the School of International Service (SIS), American University on July 14, 2020. The discussion was moderated by Professor Akbar S. Ahmed, the Ibn-Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University.

Ambassador Khan drew the attention of the audience to the ongoing human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). Ambassador highlighted India’s use of the Covid-19 situation to advance its agenda in Kashmir through repression and violence.

Ambassador also briefed the audience on the Covid-19 situation in Pakistan and the measures taken by the Government to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic.

Watch the complete video here.

“Over 8 million people in IOJK were living in an ‘open-air prison’ during a raging pandemic, and Indian Government through arbitrary arrests, disappearances, torture and the use of pellet guns continued to suppress the just struggle of Kashmiris for their right to self-determination.”- Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan
On the occasion of the 89th Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Kashmir (Kashmir Martyrs’ Day), the Government and people of Pakistan joined Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LOC) and across the globe to pay homage to the 22 innocent and unarmed Kashmiris who stood up for truth and justice against the tyranny of the Dogra force in 1931. Their extraordinary courage and sacrifice kindled a valiant struggle for the Kashmiris’ right to self-determination that continues to-date.

On 89th anniversary of the historic Kashmiri struggle against then Dogra Rule & now the against the repressive fascist Indian regime, we pay homage to 22 freedom fighters who embraced martyrdom. This day is a reminder that Kashmiris have been resisting oppression for a century.

Today, on Yaum-e-Shuhada-e-Kashmir, we salute Kashmiris for their continued struggle against the illegal & barbaric Indian occupation of Jammu & Kashmir. The Shuhada of 13 July 1931 were the forefathers of today’s Kashmiri resistance.

Pakistan has always stood steadfast for the Kashmiri right to self-determination and will continue to support this just struggle till IOJK is liberated from the clutches of Indian illegal occupation. That day is not far.

Their descendants have, generation after generation, laid down their lives for freedom and today they continue to valiantly fight & defy a Hinduuta Supremacist regime bent on demographic engineering to wipe out the Kashmiri people & their identity.

An historic day that crowns the sacrifice of martyrs of 13th July 1931
22 Kashmiris shot dead in an attempt to complete the call for prayer
Martyrdom occurred outside Srinagar Jail by soldiers of Dogra Ruler Maharaja Hari Singh
RUTHLESS KILLING OF A CIVILIAN IN IIOJK ENRAGES THE INTERNET

A 3 year old child sits on his grandfather's lifeless, bullet ridden body in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. This is the real face of Modi’s fascist India. #KashmirBleeds

Searching for words to describe this picture of grief & helplessness of the Kashmiri people in IOJK today.
#Kashmir #IndianBrutality #KashmiriLivesMatter
THREATS AND CENSORSHIP ARE THE PRICE FOR QUESTIONING NARRATIVES ABOUT KASHMIR | THE WASHINGTON POST

Just last month, Kashmiri journalists were given a 53-page document with new media guidelines by the local administration that sought to create a more nationalist narrative of the stories emerging from the valley. A disturbing part of the Orwellian document read that “any individual or group” held to be circulating content deemed objectionable by the government shall be “de-empanelled,” which would mean that a publication could lose all advertising revenue and would no longer be considered an accredited publication. “There shall be no release of advertisements to any media which incite or intend to incite violence, question sovereignty and integrity of India,” the document stated.

Speaking the truth about Kashmir comes with a heavy price. The threats against me are part of the broader strategy that is also seeking to silence Kashmiri journalists. But we have an obligation to tell the world what’s happening without fear of offending the government and nationalist partisans or losing access to high-level officials.

Read the Op-Ed here.

KASHMIR’S MEDIA SURVIVED BLACKOUT – BUT WARN OF SHRINKING FREEDOMS | CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Most journalists view India’s new media guidelines as an attempt to encourage self-censorship. Ms. Bhasin, whose newspaper has been barred from publishing government advertisements, says that it is an attempt to “kill journalism through a systemic policy of surveillance and control of media.”

“Much of this was already happening,” she says, adding that the new policy is not only “a tool to suppress journalists who ask uncomfortable questions but also individuals who exercise their right to free expression.” Kashmiri journalists are left with just two options, she adds: “either they become vehicles of government publicity departments or continue their work professionally at the risk of facing consequences.” Though much internet access has been restored, most major newspapers here have continued to refrain from questioning the government or reporting on conflict.

Read more here.
Under Modi’s orders, large detention camps have been constructed and populated with hundreds of thousands of Muslim citizens throughout Kashmir. Removed from their homes and consolidated into squalid conditions, the detainees are denied basic life support and medical treatment. These camps have become incubators of COVID-19.

To the people of Kashmir, Modi’s camps bring back memories of Italian General Graziani’s 1930s concentration camps in Libya where hundreds of thousands of Muslims were left to die of starvation and disease. As with Graziani, Modi is conducting slow-moving genocide, disguised as national security.

Rather than today’s national leaders declaring a mistake years from now, the world must stop sitting idle while innocent people are either being killed or held in concentration camps waiting for starvation and disease to take their toll. The citizens of Kashmir need tangible help today, not words of sympathy or a holocaust museum built in their honor decades from now.

Read more here.
VIRUS PROTECTION GEAR SALES SEEN REVERSING PAKISTAN EXPORTS FALL

Pakistan expects exports to recover, aided by demand for personal protective equipment amid the coronavirus pandemic. Abdul Razak Dawood, the trade adviser to Prime Minister Imran Khan, said exports of PPE, masks and other protective gear -- a new market -- have increased. Textiles, which account for half of the nation’s export, is also seeing a pickup in orders, he said.

Supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic has meant Pakistan secured its first sportswear order from Hugo Boss AG, according to Ijaz Akhtar Khokhar, chief coordinator at Pakistan Readymade Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Pakistan plans to give tax incentives to any global brand that opens an office in the country, said trade adviser Dawood.

Read more here.

PAKISTAN ROLLS OUT FIRST LOCALLY PRODUCED VENTILATORS

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