AMBASSADOR’S MESSAGE

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony Held at Embassy of Pakistan Washington D.C

Independence Day Greetings from U.S. Secretary of State

Pakistan Flag Hoisted on the State Capitol Building, Hartford, Connecticut

Pakistan Day at Nassau County, New York

Pakistan Association of Greater Boston (PAGB) organized virtual Jashn-i-Azadi celebration

Foreign Minister’s Honours List

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August 3, 2020 WEBINAR: Kashmir’s Continuing Ordeal: A year after August 5, 2019


August 5, 2020 WEBINAR: Crisis in Kashmir | A Webinar hosted by the Consulate General of Pakistan, Houston

August 6, 2020 WEBINAR: Human Rights Crisis in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir | A Webinar hosted by the Consulate General of Pakistan, Los Angeles

August 7, 2020 WEBINAR: One Year of India’s Military Siege of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir | Hosted by the Consulate General of Pakistan, Chicago

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Pakistani envoy talks Kashmir, Coronavirus | THE WASHINGTON DIPLOMAT

Pakistan Ambassador not ruling out another war with India over disputed Kashmir region | THE WASHINGTON TIMES

US-Pakistan Relations and South Asian Peace and Security | THE CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Kashmir’s only hope of freedom from Indian tyranny is the United States | THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

A World Away, Kashmir Dreams of American-style Justice | INTERNATIONAL POLICY DIGEST

The Cost of Ignoring the Crisis in Kashmir | THE NATIONAL INTEREST

What’s Happening In Kashmir Needs To Be Stopped | CREATIVE DESTRUCTION MEDIA

"Technology is our hope...it is a low hanging fruit” - Ambassador on ‘REPAINT PAKISTAN’

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Why Youthful, Conservative Pakistan Is a Coronavirus Bright Spot | THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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Dear Friends,

We proudly celebrated Pakistan’s 74th Independence Day on 14th August. The Embassy and our Consulates General across America joined the Pakistani nation as well as the Pakistani American community in celebrating this day with traditional zeal and fervor. We reaffirmed our pledge to make Pakistan a great nation, despite heavy odds, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A unique feature this year was the announcement of the Foreign Minister’s Honours List – a recognition of individuals and organizations of the Pakistani community living all over the world, who stood out through their exemplary contributions and efforts in service of their nation. This year’s theme was contributions towards COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts. I particularly want to congratulate awardees from the U.S., that included several organizations and individuals from a number of states. We are proud of your contributions and this recognition is well deserved. I have no doubt that many others from among you will join this distinguished list in years to come.

The other, rather somber anniversary this August was Youm e Istehsal (Kashmir Siege Day) which marked the first anniversary of India’s heinous acts of August 5, 2019, when it unilaterally revoked Article 370 and Section 35 A of its Constitution, thereby altering the status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). The Kashmiri and Pakistani diaspora across the U.S. came out to protest India’s actions with a wide range of activities expressing solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren, ranging from billboards on Times Square, truck displays, aerial banners, and candle light vigils. A series of webinars and other activities were organized where panelists shed light on various legal, human rights and historical aspects of the Kashmir Dispute and urged the U.S. to play its part in resolving this long standing dispute.

Pakistan will continue to raise its voice at all international fora to articulate the just demand of the Kashmiri people for the right to self determination as enshrined in UN Security Council resolutions. We are heartened to see that many Senators and members of Congress made public statements urging India to end its barbarity and give the Kashmiri people their rights.

The Kashmir issue also received unprecedented exposure in U.S. media with almost all front line newspapers and TV channels running prominent stories highlighting the plight of the Kashmiri people, particularly at the hands of Indian security forces since August 5, 2019.

In other news, Pakistan’s remarkable record of containing COVID-19 pandemic and our economic resilience also attracted international headlines. Through timely and smart interventions, Pakistan has been able to limit the number of COVID-19 cases in the country and many sectors of the economy have resumed day to day activities.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have lost their loved ones or who have been impacted by COVID-19. We hope the situation in the U.S. and the rest of the world will also improve.

AMBASSADOR’S MESSAGE

Dr. Asad Majeed Khan
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the U.S.
Independence Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony Held at Embassy of Pakistan Washington D.C.

To celebrate the 74th Independence Day of Pakistan, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan Washington D.C. on August 14, 2020.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan hoisted the Pakistani flag. Special messages of President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan to the nation were read out on the occasion.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan lauded the sacrifices of the nation and its tremendous resilience in the face of hardships and difficulties. He particularly acknowledged the contributions of the diaspora in Pakistan's national and economic development, and their role in helping Pakistan combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Read here.

Independence Day Greetings from U.S. Secretary of State

Read here.
Pakistan Flag Hoisted on the State Capitol Building, Hartford, Connecticut


Pakistan Day at Nassau County, New York

Nassau County Legislative Building lit in green and white to mark Pakistan’s Independence Day - August 14, 2020.

Pakistan Association of Greater Boston (PAGB) organized virtual Jashn-i-Azadi celebration
FOREIGN MINISTER’S HONOURS LIST

As part of his initiative to reach out to Overseas Pakistanis, and in the context of 14 August celebrations, the Foreign Minister honoured 86 Overseas Pakistanis from the world over for contributing to combating the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Individuals and Organizations that had assisted in alleviating the suffering of humanity during these challenging times in any form or manner were recognized for their efforts. Categories of honourees included those being recognized posthumously; medical professionals; donors; facilitators and Associations. Congratulations to all nominees, especially Pakistani-American organisations and individuals for inclusion in the FM Honours List for outstanding services during COVID-19 pandemic:

1. APPNA (Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America), United States (Parep Washington)
2. Dr. Rashid Chotani (Parep Washington)
3. Shine Humanity Organization (Parep Los Angeles)
4. Pakistan American Chamber of Commerce (Parep LA)
5. Council of Pakistan (CoP) (Parep LA)
6. Mr. Ansir Junaid (Parep Chicago)
7. Pakistan Women’s Association of Michigan (PWAM) (Parep Chicago)
8. Mr. Nasiruddin Rupani (Parep Houston)
9. Prof. Dr. Asim Shah (Parep Houston)
10. Mr. Saeed Sheikh (Parep Houston)
11. American-Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) (Parep NY)
12. Pakistani-American Youth Society (PAYS) (Parep NY)
13. Dr. Ijaz Ahmed (Parep NY)

Read [here](#).
Community Celebrates Independence Day
The Embassy Observes Youm-e-Istehsal

To express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people on completion of the one-year military siege of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Youm-e-Istehsal was observed in the Embassy by observing one-minute silence at 11:00 am. The messages of President and PM were read out by DCM and Ambassador at the occasion.
Kashmir’s Continuing Ordeal: A year after August 5, 2019 - Watch [here](#).

Indian Oppression in Kashmir: A Burden on Humanity’s Conscience- Watch [here](#).

Crisis in Kashmir | A Webinar hosted by the Consulate General of Pakistan, Houston - Watch [here](#).

One Year of India’s Military Siege of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir | Hosted by the Consulate General of Pakistan, Chicago - Watch [here](#).

Human Rights Crisis in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir | A Webinar hosted by the Consulate General of Pakistan, Los Angeles - Watch [here](#).
Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, held a meeting with the Consul Generals and Trade Officers at USA to review the Trade and Investment activities and to discuss and finalize specific actions of economic outreach for the remaining part of 2020.

Digital Video Conference on Trade & the GSP, USTR+ITA+US Embassy with MoC, TDAP, PITAD and team of TI Os in Pakistan. Discussion continues around building capacity of Pakistani exporters in achieving maximum GSP utilization.
India's oppressive siege of Kashmir tramples human rights | THE WASHINGTON TIMES
By Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan | August 4, 2020

Over 70 years of attempts to put down the Kashmiri people’s struggle for self-determination has not worked. It is time for us to find a just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in line with the U.N. Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

In the meantime, as the siege of Kashmir enters its second year, Kashmiris await attention of — and action by — those who espouse the causes of freedom and human dignity to compel India to end one of the longest and most humiliating sub-humanization of Kashmiris in recent history.

Read here.

“Kashmir looks to America for moral leadership.” | NEWSWEEK
Op-ed by Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan | July 17, 2020

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 here.
Ambassador Khan: There’s Reason To Be ‘Optimistic’ About Afghan Peace Prospects | THE WASHINGTON TIMES
August 11, 2020

In an exclusive interview, Pakistani Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan also said the U.S. will continue to wield influence in Kabul through a critical economic support role after American troops depart under a deal the Trump administration reached with the Taliban back in February.

Read here.

Pakistani envoy talks Kashmir, Coronavirus | THE WASHINGTON DIPLOMAT
August 5, 2020

“international reaction and response has not been commensurate with the level of repression that we are seeing in Kashmir,” adding that Pakistan will continue to “extend political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiris.” – Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan

Read here.

Pakistan Ambassador not ruling out another war with India over disputed Kashmir region | THE WASHINGTON TIMES
August 10, 2020

Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan offered a generally pessimistic view of any chance for successfully walking back tension between the two nuclear-power neighbors.

“You have a border where you have over 2,000 violations since January. The Line of Control is hot,” he said. “No one can or should rule out the possibility of a larger confrontation.” – Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan

Read here.
US-Pakistan Relations and South Asian Peace and Security | THE CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS
August 13, 2020

Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan discussed how might the relationship between Pakistan and the US change in the midst of global crisis, and Pakistan government’s outlook for peace and security in South Asia given recent developments in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

Watch the discussion here.

Kashmir’s only hope of freedom from Indian tyranny is the United States | THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE
By Salman Bashir former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Abrar H Hashmi, Consul General of Pakistan in Houston | August 18, 2020

The United States, that far-off land half a world away from Kashmir, is a beacon of freedom, liberties and justice to people around the world, so it has to play its lead role against human rights abuses of Kashmiris. By doing what is right and just, the United States will have asserted its moral authority and justified its preeminent position as a force for good in a world that is crumbling under the petty ambitions of a few. You are Kashmir’s only hope.

Read here.
India’s international scrutiny and censure continues to grow, and its dismal disregard of human dignity and fundamental rights and freedoms is being meticulously documented by human rights, civil society organizations, and the international media. Images of youths’ pellet-pocked faces, of widows mourning their husbands, and of a 3-year old sitting atop his grandfather, shot dead in the street by Indian soldiers, are imprinted on the world’s consciousness.

The UN human rights machinery has consistently highlighted India’s noncompliance with its international human rights obligations.

The international community, particularly the U.S., must take immediate cognizance of the humanitarian crisis in IIOJK and hold India accountable for its crimes.

Read more.

Protecting the rights of the people of Kashmir is a moral, as well as legal, imperative for the nations of the world.

The international community must speak up and hold India accountable for its crimes—and there is no country better suited to lead the charge than the United States of America. In the twentieth century, the United States repeatedly stood up in defense of those who are oppressed, threatened, and or vulnerable. Under U.S. leadership, the world fought back the forces of fascism, communism, and totalitarianism in all its forms.

Read here.
It is incumbent upon the international community to ensure that India is made to immediately stop the genocide of Kashmiri people; halt unjustified land grab in IIOJK; stop India from unilaterally altering the geographic and demographic status of IIOJK; scale down the number of its armed forces and paramilitary forces both inside IIOJK and along the LoC and let the Kashmiris exercise their legitimate right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The United States has supported the Kashmiris and recognizes the principles underlying their just cause. In the backdrop of the continued genocide of the Kashmiris at the hands of the extremist Indian government, we urge and appeal to the US to continue to play its role and to use its influence to make India immediately cease its illegal actions in IIOJK.

Read [here](#).

"Technology is our hope...it is a low hanging fruit” - Ambassador on ‘Repaint Pakistan’

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan appeared in a live interview with Irfan Murtaza on YouTube channel RePaint Pakistan on August 25, 2020. Watch [here](#).
Why Youthful, Conservative Pakistan Is a Coronavirus Bright Spot

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Read at The Wall Street Journal.

Pakistan's ministry of health says country recorded lowest death toll since March | CNN

Read at CNN.
Pakistan has transformed into a COVID-19 success story
SPECTOR USA

While far from over, proud to see #Pakistan’s commitment to limiting the spread of COVID-19 produce good results, thanks to PM @imrankhanPTI’s smart lockdown strategy. We are determined to continue social distancing & follow proper safety precautions.

Pakistan is the Hot Asian Stock Market Hungry for Foreign Cash
BLOOMBERG

Pakistan’s stock market has rebounded more than 30% since March.

The rebound has helped make Pakistan equities Asia’s best performers since the end of March isn’t done yet, according to some money...
Asad M. Khan @asadm17 · Aug 13

Proud of the Pakistani American individuals and organizations who have been recognized today by @SMQureshiPTI in FM Honours List for their role in combating COVID-10. You are the true Ambassadors of Pakistan @ForeignOfficePak @PakEmbassyDC @APPNA_Central #FMHonoursList

Spokesperson MoFA @ForeignOfficePk

FS Sohail Mahmood held wide-ranging virtual consultations with Amb. David Hale, U.S. Under Secretary for Political Affairs at @StateDept.

Two sides reviewed 🇮🇳 & 🇺🇸 bilateral relationship, its present trajectory & future direction. @State_SCA @asadm17 @usembislamabad

Read here.

Asad M. Khan @asadm17 · Aug 21

Pakistan’s long term economic outlook to remain “stable” according to Standard & Poor’s (S&P). This reflects Pakistan’s economic resilience despite COVID-19 pandemic. Moody and Fitch have already issued similar outlooks. @PakPMO @FinMinistryPak @ForeignOfficePk @SMQureshiPTI

Asad M. Khan @asadm17 · Aug 21

On Int Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism Day, we remember victims of terrorism everywhere. We pay tribute to over 70,000 Pakistanis who fell victim to terrorism. Our special gratitude to those in uniform who made the ultimate sacrifice in 🇮🇳’s war against terrorism.

Asad M. Khan @asadm17 · Aug 21

Pakistan is on the road to economic recovery in the midst of COVID-19. Indeed we have more work to do & we will continue to strive for the betterment of our country & people.

Pakistan’s long-term outlook ‘stable’: Standard & P...

New York-based rating agency forecast real GDP to recover to 1.3pc during the current fiscal year. ₦dawn.com
KASHMIR HIGHLIGHTED IN U.S. MEDIA

Read here.
KASHMIR SIEGE DAY IN THE U.S.

Read here.
Pakistan’s Long-Term Outlook ‘Stable’: Standard and Poor’s

The Standard & Poor’s (S&P) rating agency affirmed Pakistan’s ‘B-’ long-term and ‘B’ short-term sovereign rating while maintaining a ‘stable’ long-term outlook.

The New York-based rating agency also affirmed ‘B-’ long-term issue rating on Pakistan’s senior unsecured debt and sukuk trust certificates.

Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood today held wide-ranging consultations with Ambassador David Hale, U.S. Under Secretary for Political Affairs at the U.S. State Department.

The two sides reviewed Pakistan-U.S. bilateral relationship, its present trajectory, and future direction. The Foreign Secretary said that Pakistan attached high priority to its relationship with the U.S. with a focus on enhanced economic engagement and people-to-people contacts. He reiterated Pakistan’s desire to forge a strong and mutually beneficial economic partnership with the United States. Foreign Secretary added that a broad-based and enduring partnership between the two countries, as envisioned by Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Trump, is a factor of stability in the region.
Ambassador Paul W. Jones on Pakistan

"WE'RE PROUD TO PARTNER WITH PAKISTAN BECAUSE WHEN PAKISTAN THRIVES, THE WORLD IS A BETTER AND SAFER PLACE."

Ambassador Jones

US Consulate Karachi visits Mohenjodaro

Pakistani-American becomes first woman to serve as Dean of MIT’s School of Science