

Monthly FORESIGHT Islamabad

PAKISTAN DAY

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PAKISTAN RESOLUTION DAY

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Chief Editor Note

In this time the Islamic Republic of Pakistan finds itself in a critical situation in both domestic and international affairs. With the upcoming general elections only a few months away, political tensions are high, and we can anticipate a flurry of political activity.

On the economic front, the nation is still dealing with a number of issues, including rising inflation and a widening trade deficit. Recent attempts by the government to address these issues through a combination of policy reforms and austerity measures have produced mixed results, and it remains to be seen whether they will be successful in turning the tide.

Meanwhile, the country's relations with its neighbors continue problematic. The recent escalation of tensions with India over the Kashmir problem has once again focused attention on the two countries' long-standing dispute. Similarly, the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and its potential consequences for Pakistan remain a cause of concern.

We delve deeply into these and other pressing problems confronting Pakistan today in this issue of our magazine. Our expert team analyses the current state of affairs and provides insightful comments on what the nation can expect in the future.

We hope that this issue will be a useful resource for our readers as they negotiate Pakistan's complex and ever-changing political and social landscape.

Sincerely,

*Tanveer Ali
Maken*

PAKISTAN DAY

Celebrating Unity, Diversity, and Progress

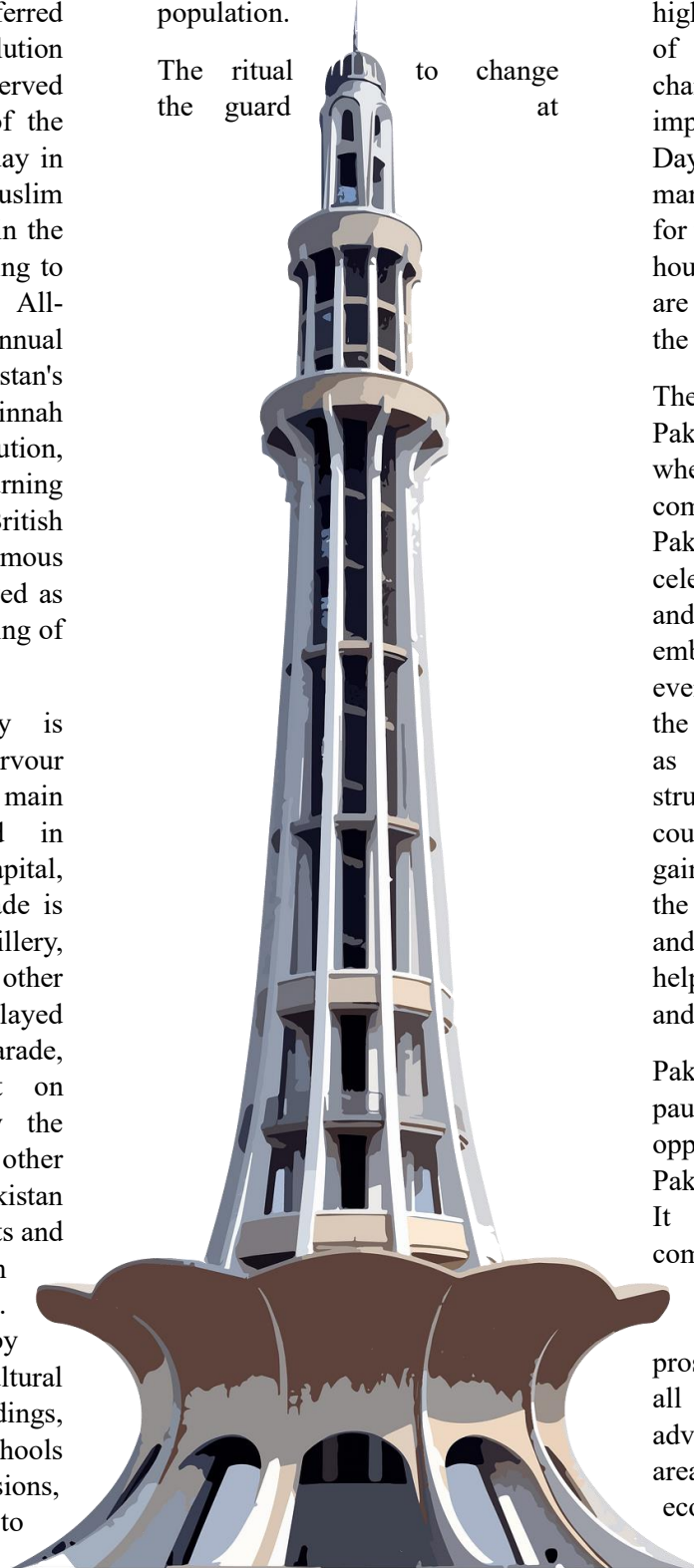
Tanveer Ali Maken

Every year on March 23, Pakistan celebrates Pakistan Day, also referred to as Pakistan Resolution Day. A public holiday is observed to remember the passing of the Lahore Resolution on this day in 1940. An independent Muslim state should be established in the Indian subcontinent, according to this historic decision. The All-India Muslim League's annual meeting was where Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah delivered the Lahore Resolution, which was a significant turning point in the fight against British authority. The unanimous approval of the motion served as the foundation for the founding of Pakistan.

In Pakistan, the holiday is observed with tremendous fervour and patriotism. The main festivities are performed in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, where a large military parade is conducted. Tanks, artillery, marching soldiers, and other military hardware are displayed during the procession. The parade, which is live broadcast on television, is attended by the president of Pakistan and other prominent leaders. On Pakistan Day, a number of other events and activities take place in addition to the procession. These consist of speeches by well-known leaders, cultural performances, poetry readings, and flag-raising rituals. Schools and colleges hold discussions, quizzes, and other events to

commemorate the day and inspire patriotism in the younger population.

The ritual to change the guard at



Muhammad Ali Jinnah's grave in Karachi is one of the day's highlights. The guard at the tomb of Pakistan's founder is being changed during the solemn and impressive ritual. On Pakistan Day, people can also honor the martyrs and heroes of the struggle for freedom. In mosques and other houses of worship, special prayers are said, and wreaths are placed on the martyrs' graves.

The day is observed not only in Pakistan but also in other nations where a sizable Pakistani community has settled. The Pakistani community gathers to celebrate their national identity and culture, and Pakistani embassies and consulates host events and activities to recognize the occasion. Pakistan Day serves as a poignant reminder of the struggles and sacrifices the country's citizens made in order to gain freedom. It is a day to honor the variety and unity of Pakistan and to reaffirm our dedication to helping our nation create a better and more promising future.

Pakistan Day is an occasion to pause and consider the opportunities and challenges Pakistan is currently experiencing. It is time to reaffirm our commitment to removing the many barriers to development and working towards a more prosperous and tranquil future for all Pakistanis. Pakistan has advanced significantly in many areas recently, such as the economy, schooling, and healthcare. But there are still

a lot of problems to be solved, like hunger, corruption, and terrorism.

On Pakistan Day, all Pakistanis should band together and strive to overcome these obstacles. It is a day to honor our accomplishments and to reaffirm our dedication to forging a better and more promising future for our nation.

Pakistan Day serves as a reminder of the value of cooperation and solidarity among all citizens. It is a day to honor Pakistan's diversity and to acknowledge that our variations are what make us powerful. We can surmount any obstacle and accomplish any objective by working together and valuing our differences.

In conclusion, Pakistan Day is an essential and significant day in Pakistani history. It is a day to honor our sense of national identification and to recommit to working towards a better and more promising future for our nation. Let's band together as Pakistanis and strive to make our country more prosperous, tranquil, and cohesive.





Reminiscing the Resolution – March 23, 1940

The day Muslims of subcontinent resolved to strive towards achieving independence. Today, of all the days, let us commemorate the sacrifices and struggles of our forefathers.

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Pakistan's economy is facing several challenges, with inflation being one of the most pressing. Inflation has been a persistent problem for Pakistan, and if not accurately measured and

and where inflation is misread, as it indicates a lack of stability in the economy. Reduced foreign investment can lead to a decrease in economic growth, as

investment is crucial for the growth of any economy.

Inflation misreading also has a disproportionate impact on the poor, as they spend a higher proportion of their income on

INFLATION MISREADING

A Threat to Pakistan's Economic Growth

Azhar Jatoi

controlled, it can have a significant impact on the country's economic growth. Inflation misreading is a severe threat to Pakistan's economic growth, and it is crucial that the government takes appropriate measures to address it.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the average inflation rate in Pakistan increased from 3.9% in 2015 to 10.7% in 2020. The inflation rate has increased significantly over the last few years, and misreading inflation can have several costs for the economy, including reduced economic growth and increased poverty rates.

Inflation misreading can lead to reduced economic growth by decreasing the purchasing power of consumers. Inflation causes an increase in the prices of goods and services, which reduces the amount of money consumers have to spend on other things. This, in turn, leads to a decrease in demand for goods and services, which can lead to a decrease in production and ultimately, a decline in economic growth.

Furthermore, inflation misreading can also impact foreign investment in Pakistan. Foreign investors are unlikely to invest in a country with high inflation rates



basic necessities such as food and housing. If inflation is misread and not controlled, it can lead to an increase in the cost of basic goods, making it difficult for low-income households to afford basic necessities. This, in turn, can lead to an increase in poverty rates in the country.

To prevent inflation misreading from becoming a threat to Pakistan's economic growth, the government needs to invest in accurate data collection and analysis. The government needs to ensure that it has accurate and up-to-date information about inflation rates and trends to make informed decisions about monetary and fiscal policies. Effective policies, including setting appropriate interest rates and controlling money supply, are also essential in controlling inflation.

Moreover, the government needs to communicate effectively with citizens about inflation and the measures being taken to control it. This can help to build trust and confidence in the government, which can prevent social unrest and create a stable economic environment.

In conclusion, inflation misreading is a severe threat to Pakistan's economic growth. It can lead to reduced economic growth, increased poverty rates, and reduced foreign investment. It is crucial that the government takes appropriate measures to address inflation misreading by investing in accurate data collection and analysis, implementing effective policies, and communicating effectively with citizens. By taking these measures, Pakistan can prevent inflation misreading from becoming a threat to its economic growth and stability.





A week after being re-elected as China's President, Xi Jinping made a momentous move

Despite its reputation as a passive diplomatic actor, China had been preparing for this juncture for some time. Iran proposed

Concurrently, in July 2022, the Saudis detained an Iranian pilgrim who had raised his phone in Masjid al-Haram in Mecca,

RISING DRAGON

How China's Diplomatic Mediation is Reshaping the Global Landscape

Nidaa Shahid

by acting as a mediator in the unexpected rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Many see the move as a new level of ambition for Mr. Xi, who is attempting to project himself as a global statesman in the escalating rivalry between China and the United States. Mr. Xi can be seen as seizing on the waning American power in the area and presenting China as an alternative to and for future diplomatic solutions by taking credit for brokering a peace deal in the Middle East.

diplomatic talks to resume relations with Saudi Arabia in 2021, but the latter declined due to deep security disagreements. Eventually, in an effort to improve relations, both sides decided to negotiate with each other through Iraq, led by then-Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, who acted as a facilitator. The two countries conducted five rounds of intensive talks in Baghdad in 2022, but the talks came to a halt when al-Kadhimi was replaced as Prime Minister of Iraq by Mohammad Shia al-Sudani.

showing a picture of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, adding to the unease and effectively halting the dialogue process. Although Iran ultimately obtained the release of the detained pilgrim, the momentum of the negotiations was lost, not least because Iraq's political situation had changed and Prime Minister Sudani had shown little interest in continuing to play the role of a mediator. Frustrated by the disruption, Saudi Arabia asked China to act as a go-between when President Xi Jinping visits Riyadh in December 2022. As a



result, a series of China-driven talks between the two historic adversaries began.

In February 2023, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi paid a visit to China, where President Xi greeted him with a 21-gun salute in Tiananmen Square, a gesture never before shown to any Iranian high-level official in any Western city. The red carpet was seen as important in assuaging Iranian concerns about China's position as a facilitator. During his visit, the Chinese Premier also revealed the terms of the Saudi plan to Iran's President, as well as his offer to mediate the proceedings as a neutral third party.

With Chinese mediation, the two parties achieved an agreement and issued a joint statement on March 10, 2023, promising the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two. In addition to other diplomatic gestures, the two

sides decided to reopen embassies in their respective capitals. The Saudi King has also invited the Iranian President to Riyadh for an official tour, which would be the first visit to the former by an Iranian president in twenty-four years.

The success of this agreement places China firmly in charge of Middle Eastern politics, a role that was traditionally reserved for global power players such as the United States and Russia. It also demonstrates China's desire to supplement its economic power in the region with diplomatic clout. China's strategy to mediation in this specific dyad has also been distinct from that of the United States, which has frequently used military intervention and sanctions to address regional conflicts. China has instead adopted a more diplomatic stance, emphasising dialogue and negotiation. This strategy has also

proven effective in other areas, such as Africa, where China has already established itself as a key mediator in a number of disputes.

China is positioning itself as a leader in multilateralism and non-interference with this newest diplomatic overture. The Saudi-Iran agreement, which is consistent with China's involvement in the area, focuses on mutual economic benefits and a more Eastern-centric diplomatic outlook. Some experts, on the other hand, see this effort as nothing more than a strategy to expand China's global political influence in order to dethrone the United States as global policeman, judge, and jury.

At the same time, China's diplomatic attempts are fraught with difficulties. Its policy of not interfering in the domestic affairs of the nations for which it mediates while also promoting



trade and investment has been criticised for ignoring human rights violations and authoritarian regimes. Furthermore, China's growing economic influence in the area has alarmed some countries, especially the United States, about the strategic implications of China's expansion.

As China attempts to become a more active power broker and mediator not only in the Middle East but also internationally, it must manage the inherent challenges that such a role entails. Regardless of how effective this agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran has been, China is still a relatively new player in the field of international mediation and may lack the experience of traditional mediators such as the United States and other Western powers.

In this case, Saudi Arabia and Iran already had extensive and interdependent economic ties with China, which aided the three parties in reaching a diplomatic settlement. Furthermore, according to some analysts, Iran and Saudi Arabia were already seeking to improve relations, a scenario that China was able to take advantage of in order to increase its diplomatic clout. Despite his desire to make China the worldwide go-to for diplomatic mediation, President Xi may find it more difficult to mediate between countries that are less amenable to resumption of ties. As a result, much remains to be seen before deciding whether China, under a third-term Xi, has emerged as the new global diplomatic mediator and to what extent it can replace the existing global order of mediators and facilitators, which includes the United States, Russia, and European powers.





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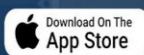
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Politics in Pakistan has always been a turbulent affair. The country has been plagued by corruption, violence, and political instability for decades. Political parties in the country have often resorted to violence to further their agendas, and this has resulted in a number of deaths, injuries, and property damage.

The use of violence in politics is not a new phenomenon

In order to address the issue of violence in politics in Pakistan, there is a need for a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach. The judiciary needs to be strengthened and made independent, so that politicians are held accountable for their actions. The state needs to crack down on armed militias and militant groups, and ensure that they are not used to further political agendas. Effective political institutions need to be established, so

FROM DEBATES TO FIGHTS The Reality of Politics in Pakistan

Tanveer Ali Maken

in Pakistan. It has been a part of the political landscape for many years. However, the situation has worsened in recent years, with an increase in the number of violent incidents reported during elections and other political events.

One of the main reasons behind the use of violence in politics in Pakistan is the lack of a strong and independent judiciary. The judiciary in Pakistan has been criticized for being weak and corrupt, and this has allowed politicians to get away with illegal and unethical activities. Many politicians have used their influence to manipulate the judiciary and avoid prosecution for their crimes.

Another reason for the use of violence in politics in Pakistan is the presence of armed militias and militant groups. These groups have been used by political parties to intimidate voters and opposition candidates, and to ensure their victory in elections. The state has also used these groups to further its own interests, which has led to a proliferation of such groups in the country.

The use of violence in politics in Pakistan has also been fueled by the absence of effective political institutions. The political parties in the country lack internal democracy and are often controlled by a few powerful individuals. This has resulted in a lack of accountability, and politicians are able to get away with illegal and unethical activities without facing any consequences.

Furthermore, the use of violence in politics in Pakistan is also driven by economic factors. Many politicians in the country are involved in corruption and embezzlement of public funds. This has resulted in a widening gap between the rich and the poor, and has led to widespread anger and resentment among the population.

that politicians are held accountable to the people they serve. Finally, there is a need for greater economic development and job creation, so that people are not forced to turn to violence as a means of addressing their grievances.

In conclusion, the use of violence in politics in Pakistan is a serious issue that needs to be addressed urgently. The country cannot afford to continue down this path, as it is leading to widespread unrest and instability. There is a need for a concerted effort by the state, civil society, and the international community to address this issue and ensure that politics in Pakistan is conducted in a peaceful and democratic manner.



The impact of social media on our daily lives is pervasive and often goes unnoticed. It has transformed our communication patterns and the way others perceive us, granting a platform for expression to all who wish to participate. Additionally, it has revolutionized the political landscape, enabling politicians and citizens to use online platforms to share their thoughts and viewpoints on various candidates and policies.

While social media could be viewed as a valuable political instrument, recent news analysis suggests that there are dissenting opinions on its usefulness.

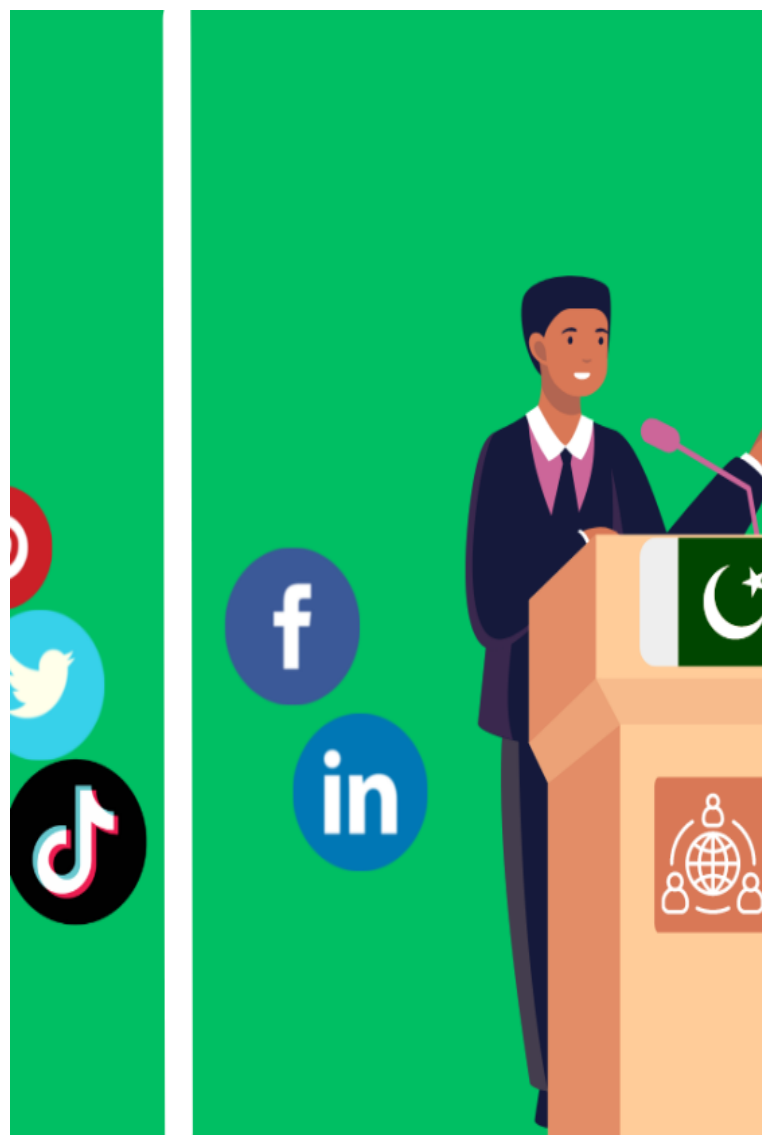
Social media has had a significant impact on the world of politics over the past decade. It has revolutionized the way political campaigns are run and has given a voice to people who were previously ignored. This article will explore the ways in which social media is changing politics and the impact it has on the political landscape.

1. Increased Political Participation

Social media has provided a platform for people to express their opinions and share their views on political issues. This has led to an increase in political participation, especially among young people who may not have been interested in politics before. Social media has made it easier for people to get involved in political discussions and to stay informed about political events.

2. Dissemination of Information

Social media has also changed the way information is



BEYOND THE BALLOT BOX

The Impact of Social Media on Modern Politics

Batool Ali

disseminated in the political world. News travels faster on social media platforms than it does through traditional media channels. This means that political campaigns can quickly respond to events and get their message out to the public faster than ever before.

3. Real-Time Feedback

Social media has also given politicians real-time feedback on their policies and actions. Politicians can quickly gauge public opinion on issues by monitoring social media channels. This allows them to make informed decisions that are more likely to be supported by their constituents.

4. Targeted Advertising

Social media has also made it easier for political campaigns to target specific groups of voters with tailored messages. Campaigns can use data analysis to identify voters who are likely to support their candidate and target them with specific ads. This has made political advertising more effective and cost-efficient.

5. Increased Transparency

Social media has also increased transparency in the political world. Politicians are now more accountable to their constituents than ever before. They are constantly under scrutiny on social media, and any missteps or



unethical behavior can quickly be exposed and shared with the public.

6. Increased Polarization

However, social media has also increased political polarization. Social media algorithms are designed to show users content that is likely to be of interest to them. This means that people are often exposed only to opinions that align with their own, which can create echo chambers and further divide the public on political issues.

7. Spread of Misinformation

Social media has also made it easier for misinformation to spread in the political world. Fake news stories and propaganda can quickly be shared on social media platforms, and it can be difficult to distinguish between real and fake information. This can have a significant impact on political campaigns and can even influence the outcome of elections.

In conclusion, we can say Social media has transformed the political landscape, providing an unprecedented

level of engagement and access for politicians and voters alike. According to a Pew Research Center report, as of 2021, 69% of Americans use social media, making it a vital tool for political communication. The use of social media platforms by politicians to engage with voters has become increasingly prevalent in recent years. For instance, during the 2016 U.S. presidential election, then-candidate Donald Trump used Twitter to communicate directly with his followers and express his views on a wide range of issues, bypassing the traditional media channels. In addition, social media has become a powerful tool for political campaigns, allowing candidates to connect with their supporters and raise funds more effectively than ever before.

Moreover, social media has enabled citizens to engage more deeply in political issues and has given them a voice in the political process. Social media platforms provide a way for citizens to connect with each other, organize, and raise awareness about important issues. For example, in 2018, survivors of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, used social media to organize a nationwide

student-led march for gun control, which drew hundreds of thousands of participants. Social media has also allowed citizens to hold their elected officials accountable by sharing information and calling attention to issues that might otherwise go unnoticed. Overall, the rise of social media has created new opportunities for political engagement and has helped to make the political process more accessible and transparent.

In conclusion, the influence of social media on politics is undeniable. It has transformed the way politicians communicate with their constituents, enabled citizens to participate more fully in the political process, and created new opportunities for political engagement. As the use of social media continues to grow and evolve, it will undoubtedly have an even greater impact on the political landscape in the years to come.

SOCIAL MEDIA



POLITICS



The vast glaciers of the Himalayas, Karakoram, Hindu Kush, and Pamirs, spreading across the highlands of Central and South Asia, are considered to be the globe's third pole. Interestingly, these mountain ranges converge over Pakistan administered Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) in a unique way, making the region the undisputed core of the third pole. While mega glaciers underscore GB's significance for regional hydrology and ecology, the region's ability to connect Asia's key peripheries makes it a distinctive geospatial entity. Notwithstanding growing climate change concerns and the need for a concerted climate action, India has recently been expressing an intent of confrontation vis-a-vis GB. India's Defense Minister's

words, to give a try to its "two-front war" mantra. With general election in India due next year, the ruling party has to show to its public a disposition of a great power. Challenging both its nuclear rivals at a time would serve to win greater public mandate on the one hand, while on the other, the feat would put to test New Delhi's partnership with Washington. For now, Washington appears to be turning a blind eye towards New Delhi's actions in Kashmir. Any Indian actions to come eyeball to eyeball with China are likely to get the support of the U.S. Under the prevailing situation, it is imperative for Pakistan and China to take immediate measures to halt India from taking another unilateral decision and carry out any kind of

Kashmir for invading and imposing ill practices of slavery and forced labor, revolted against the Raj and acceded to Pakistan. India considers GB as a part of the then state of Kashmir and lays claim on it. Ironically, Pakistan's inability to give constitutional status to GB and its linking the region to Kashmir are making the situation more complex. While New Delhi's unilateral decisions accentuate complexities of an already complicated situation, Islamabad has optimistically been pushing for implementation of UNSC resolutions and arrangement of a plebiscite across the territories of GB, Ladakh, and Kashmir.

Nevertheless, keeping GB in a state of limbo does not bode well

GILGIT-BALTISTAN and the Geopolitics of the Third Pole Kashif Hussain


statement, "not to stop until reaching GB" seems to be an extension of the belligerent policies being adopted by the Modi government, especially towards Kashmir and Pakistan. By getting hold of GB, India could attempt to not only disconnect Pakistan and China but also get access to Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Given China's strategic and economic interests, especially the country's recent mega investments in GB's infrastructure under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Beijing has become a direct stakeholder in the region. Thus, India's intentions of adventurism in GB might also have the motivation of killing two birds with one stone, or in other

adventurism in the third pole's core.

A growing economy, popular government, and U.S. support seem to be a part of the reason behind India's coercive diplomacy and policies. Meanwhile, Pakistan's passive reactions emanating out of the state of confusion to decide the fate of GB and a lack of internal cohesion are other factors New Delhi appears to be capitalizing on. Islamabad seems puzzled whether to constitutionally mainstream GB or keep it in a contested state to retain its international status at the United Nations. Both geography and history indicate GB to be a distinctive region and having a separate identity than Kashmir's. The locals, wary of the Dogras of

for China's interests in the region. China and Pakistan concluded a border agreement in 1963 and ceded land to each other. During the following decade and a half, both countries constructed the strategic Karakoram Highway (KKH) — the only road link between the two countries. The recent push under CPEC to improve regional economic opportunities has brought mega investments to GB, to upgrade the KKH by constructing state-of-the-art tunnels through rugged mountains. Considerable investment is also being done to enhance power generation capacity. China must be cognizant of the fact that GB's geographic position provides a perfect opportunity for expansion of its geoeconomic initiatives to

An aerial photograph of a mountain range with a river valley. The mountains are rugged and brownish, with a river winding through the valley. The sky is clear and blue.

Afghanistan and Central Asia. However, India raising a question on the sovereignty issue related to the project has added to tensions. This gives the U.S. a perfect justification not only for non-recognition of China's economic initiative but also to discourage its European allies from taking part in it.

While this remains to be a key concern for China, India's unilateral maneuvering in its immediate neighborhood seems to be a graver concern. Beforehand, New Delhi's unilateral decision to annex Kashmir's autonomous status has dented the delicate equation of regional stability. The ongoing India's aggressive rhetoric of trespassing and reaching GB reeks of a country pursuing regional hegemony, or in other words, challenging China's regional supremacy. This is coming at a time when the U.S., in its latest National Security Strategy, has committed to bolstering alliances and partnerships against China.

There is a reason Pakistan and China need to take India's intent of confrontation seriously. Before the last general election, the Indian leadership made similar statements vis-a-vis Kashmir, and materialized what was said, immediately after the polls. Despite listening to repeated calls from the Indian leadership to change the status quo in Kashmir, Pakistani and Chinese authorities were irresponsive. Therefore, it is time for both Beijing and Islamabad to take immediate steps not only to avoid geopolitics but also to force New Delhi to use a different lens when perceiving this vital geospatial territory.

Given the significance of GB for regional ecology and hydrology, Islamabad and Beijing must make

climate action a priority over geopolitics in the region. China has already been undertaking extraordinary research to preserve its glaciers and promote eco-friendly trends over ecologically sensitive places. Capitalizing on this, Pakistan and China should make efforts to establish a climate-centric regional consortium of third pole countries. An agenda to declare the third pole a collective regional or global asset and make ways to declare it a nuclear weapons free zone would certainly help reduce hostilities. Furthermore, making its core, GB, a top priority for undertaking climate action, and promoting eco-friendly trends of tourism and energy generation would also benefit regional countries. This is so because it will help advance an amiable environment and avoid geopolitical volatilities. India joining this consortium would be crucial for its success. However, New Delhi's non-participation would confirm that the country is soon going to materialize its confrontational rhetoric. In that case, Pakistan and China, while continuing efforts to preserve the environment, will have to take more drastic measures. Maybe, it is time to ensure the security of the third pole's core. Therefore, China and Pakistan must transform their partnership into an alliance by preparing for joint air and ground defenses to deter India from taking another unilateral action detrimental for regional stability. Failing to deter India from taking any kind of misadventures could result in a limited or total war over a region comprising the most glaciers outside the polar zone. Such an eventuality will certainly have global consequences.

With the rapid advancement of technology, the demand for skilled IT professionals is on the rise, creating an exciting and lucrative field for those seeking a career in this industry.

Below is an introduction to the top ten companies of Pakistan. By being associated with them you can start the best career. These companies offer excellent training and career development opportunities, making it a great place for fresh graduates to start their career.

Aspirants can find careers in software development, data analysis, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, machine learning and more.

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S&P Global (NYSE: SPGI) provides essential intelligence. They enable governments, businesses and individuals with the right data, expertise and connected technology so that they can make decisions with conviction. From helping their customers assess new investments to guiding them through ESG and energy transition across supply chains, they unlock new opportunities, solve challenges and accelerate progress

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/systems-limited/jobs/>

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Careers Page:

<https://gomotive.com/company/careers/#search-jobs>

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4. Northbay Solutions

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Ahsan Mukhtar

for the world. They are widely sought after by many of the world's leading organizations to provide credit ratings, benchmarks, analytics and workflow solutions in the global capital, commodity and automotive markets.

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2. Systems Ltd

Systems Limited is a globally recognized IT software solution company offering state-of-the-art professional services and BPO offerings in the technology landscape. Up and running since 1977, the company has positioned itself as the top IT company in Pakistan and provides computing strategies and solutions to Government and Private Organizations.

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i2c Inc. drives innovation to the global digital payments and banking industry with a multi-function platform built for endless possibilities. Advanced “building block” processing technology at its core provides a vast suite of credit, debit and prepaid solutions—all from a single global SaaS platform. This enables clients to dynamically configure payment solutions with unparalleled flexibility, agility and performance while maintaining highly secure and reliable payments.

Careers Page: <https://www.i2cinc.com/careers/>

8. Afiniti

Founded in 2006, Afiniti is a world-leading applied artificial intelligence company that uses patented technology to pair customers and contact center agents based on how well they are likely to interact. Afiniti uses a cutting-edge AI solution to identify and predict patterns in human interactions, subsequently using these predictions to optimally pair customers with contact center agents.

Careers Page: <https://careers.afiniti.com/>

9. Confiz

Confiz is a global, fast-growing, next-generation IT firm committed to creating high-impact value for its clients through the promise of technology. The company was founded in 2005 and has now grown to a workforce of more than 600 team members working from offices in the US, Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia. Confiz delivers an entire spectrum of IT solutions including Cloud Services, Data Analytics, Business Intelligence, Footfall Analytics, Microsoft Power Platform, Microsoft Dynamics 365 ERP and CRM, Bespoke Development, and Consultancy.

Careers Page: <https://www.confiz.com/careers>

10. Techlogix

Techlogix is a global IT Services, Consulting, and Business Solutions company that helps its clients achieve enterprise transformation by harmonizing people, business processes, and technology. Their globally distributed development teams build high performance solutions leveraging their practice-specific delivery methodologies. Our people combine the spirit of engineering excellence with a strong commitment to deliver a delightful end-to-end customer experience.

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WHY KAZAKHSTAN is Hosting the Astana International Forum this Year

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

In an increasingly polarized world, Kazakhstan often plays the role of a bridge between East and West, North and

In the face of global challenges, we remain committed to global cooperation by championing dialogue, trade, multilateralism,

amplify voices which are often minimized.

The Astana International Forum is unique because it offers a platform



South. This is a product of our unique history and geography. For centuries, Kazakhstan has been a meeting point between cultures, fostering not only diversity amongst our peoples, but a true spirit of mutual respect. That is why the value of global cooperation comes naturally to us. It is in this spirit that we have crafted our multi-vector foreign policy, which has served us well for many years.

and the exchange of ideas. We will continue to defend international law and to pursue constructive engagement with nations across the world. In this context, we have launched the Astana International Forum, a new international conference which will be a tool for rebuilding a culture of multilateralism on a global level. Most importantly, the Forum will also provide new means to

for global middle powers to discuss their views and positions on the issues of today, and to put forward their own solutions to these issues.

The first challenge we are to address at the forum is around foreign policy, security and sustainability. We all know that global peace and stability are currently under threat by tensions between major world powers. Meanwhile, other international

issues, such as nuclear disarmament and the refugee crisis, continue to put pressures on shaky international systems and alliances. Moreover, the rise of nationalism and populist movements in many countries continue to complicate international relations, making it more difficult to find common ground on issues that require a coordinated global response, and we are facing an increased risk of turning to short-term unsustainable solutions to long-term problems. That is why it matters that we come together at the Forum – to help set us on the right direction to protect our collective future.

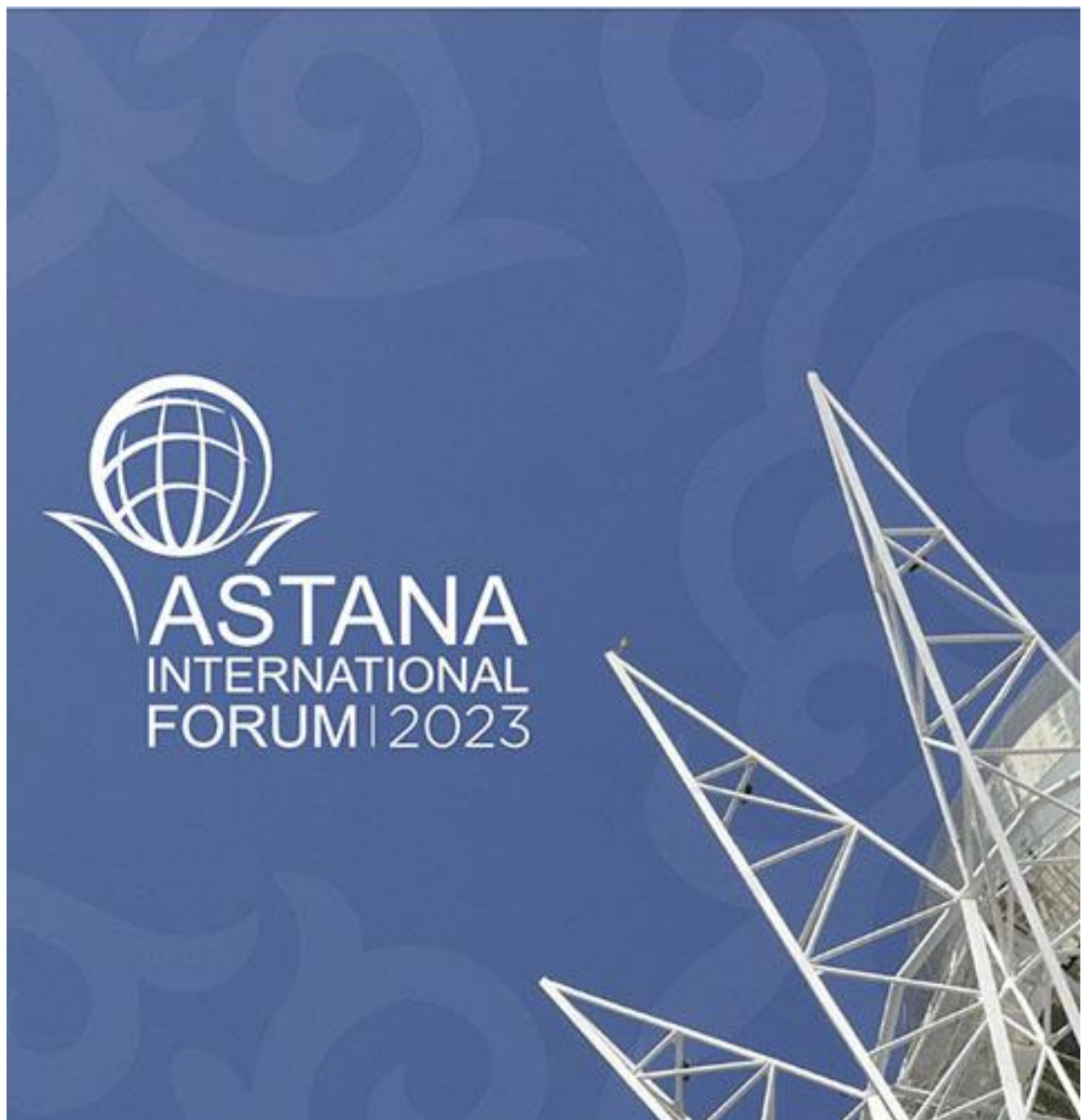
The second challenge which requires global coordination is climate change. Its consequences have a devastating impact on the planet, with rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity all taking a toll. At the same time, the world's dependence on fossil fuels is making it increasingly difficult to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change. On the other hand, we cannot overlook the critical role of the oil and gas industry in ensuring energy security and in the energy transition.

The energy transition is a complex matter which must be approached with caution to ensure that the developing world is not left behind.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a sharp economic downturn globally, with many nations, businesses, and individuals struggling to stay afloat. In addition, rising income inequality and the ongoing trade tensions between major world powers are also causing instability in the global economy. The third challenge focuses on the economy and finance, highlighting the need for a coordinated global response to these economic, environmental, and security challenges.

While these challenges may seem daunting, they can also be seen as opportunities for global cooperation and progress. By working together, the international community can address these issues at the Astana International Forum and contribute to a more stable, equitable, and prosperous world for all.

I look forward to welcoming global leaders from both public and private sectors to the Astana International Forum this summer to identify actionable solutions to these challenges. Let us come together to find a new way forward through strong and inclusive global cooperation.



Detective Jones had never faced a case like this before. The Grooming Thief was striking all over town, stealing hair products, makeup, and other personal grooming items from unsuspecting victims. At first, it seemed like a harmless prank, but as the thefts continued, the people of the city grew more and more alarmed.

Jones knew he had to catch the thief before they struck again. He spent countless hours analyzing surveillance footage, interviewing witnesses, and following leads, but the thief always seemed to be one step ahead.

obsessed with beauty and had felt like she could never measure up to the images she saw in magazines and on social media. Stealing grooming supplies had given her a sense of control and power that she had never felt before.

Jones listened to Poppy's story with empathy. He knew that everyone had their own demons to face. But he also knew that what Poppy was doing was wrong, and he had a duty to bring her to justice.

Poppy was arrested and charged with theft. As Jones led her out of the building, he couldn't help but feel

GROOMING THIEF

A Detective's Dilemma

Shanze Toor

One day, Jones received a tip from an anonymous source. The source claimed to have seen the Grooming Thief entering a rundown old building on the edge of town. Jones wasted no time and headed straight to the location.

As he approached the building, Jones noticed something strange. The door was unlocked and slightly ajar, as if someone had left it open on purpose. Jones cautiously pushed the door open and stepped inside.

The inside of the building was dimly lit and filled with an overwhelming odor of hair products and perfume. Jones carefully made his way through the cluttered space, trying not to knock over any of the piles of grooming supplies that were stacked everywhere.

As he moved deeper into the building, Jones heard a noise. It sounded like someone was humming a tune. Jones followed the sound until he reached a small room at the back of the building.

Inside the room, Jones found the Grooming Thief. Or, more accurately, he found her. It was a young woman with a friendly smile and a head full of brightly colored hair. She was sitting at a makeshift vanity, surrounded by stolen grooming supplies.

Jones was taken aback. He had been expecting a hardened criminal, but instead, he found a young woman who seemed more like a beauty enthusiast than a thief.

The woman introduced herself as Poppy and explained that she had been stealing grooming supplies as a way to cope with her own insecurities. She had always been

conflicted. On one hand, he had caught the Grooming Thief and solved the case. On the other hand, he had uncovered a deeper issue that he knew wouldn't be solved by simply putting Poppy behind bars.

Jones thought about Poppy's story for days afterward. He wondered how many other people in the city felt the same way she did, and what he could do to help them.

In the end, Jones decided to leave the ending of the story open-ended. He knew that the Grooming Thief case was just a symptom of a larger problem, and he wasn't sure how to solve it. But he also knew that he had to keep trying. He had to keep listening to the stories of the people he encountered and doing what he could to make their lives better.

As he walked through the city, Jones couldn't help but smile. He knew that there were still mysteries to be solved and stories to be told, and he was excited to see where his next case would take him.

The next day, Jones received a call from his colleague, Detective Smith. A beauty supply store on the other side of town had been robbed. Smith asked Jones if he wanted to team up and solve the case together. Jones agreed and headed over to the store. As Jones arrived at the beauty supply store, he noticed that there were no signs of forced entry. He turned to Detective Smith and said, "This doesn't look like the work of the Grooming Thief. It looks like an inside job."

Jones and Smith started to investigate the store, looking for any clues that could lead them to the culprit. They interviewed the store employees, checked the security

footage, and examined the shelves for any missing items.

After hours of searching, Jones finally found a small piece of evidence that broke the case wide open. It was a receipt for a large purchase of beauty supplies made just before the robbery. Jones immediately recognized the name on the receipt – it was one of the store's employees.

Jones and Smith quickly apprehended the employee and brought her in for questioning. The woman, whose name was Emily, confessed to the crime. She had been struggling to make ends meet and had stolen the supplies to sell them for extra cash.

Jones felt a sense of relief that the case had been solved, but also a sense of sadness. He knew that Emily's situation was not unique. Many people in the city were struggling to make ends meet, and some turned to crime as a result.

As Jones left the police station that evening, he couldn't shake the feeling that there was still so much work to be done. He vowed to continue to fight for justice and to do what he could to help those in need.

The next day, Jones received a call from a local shelter. They had received a large donation of grooming supplies, but they were in desperate need of someone to help organize and distribute them. Jones immediately offered his

services, knowing that this was just one small way he could make a difference in the lives of those in need.

As Jones spent the day at the shelter, organizing supplies and talking to the people who came in for assistance, he felt a sense of purpose that he hadn't felt before. He knew that solving crimes was important, but he also knew that there was so much more to being a detective than just catching criminals. It was about understanding people, empathizing with their struggles, and doing what he could to make their lives a little bit better.

As the day drew to a close, Jones headed home, feeling tired but fulfilled. He knew that there would be more cases to solve and more mysteries to unravel, but he was ready for whatever came his way. For Jones, being a detective wasn't just a job – it was a calling, and he was determined to do it well.



A joint (28 February 2023-Islamabad) event was organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy of Kuwait in Islamabad today to mark the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Kuwait and Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar was the chief guest at the event.

Minister of State Khar hailed the historic bilateral relationship cemented over past six decades. She highlighted deep-seated nature of relations between the two countries, characterized by fraternal ties, common aspirations and values as well as bright prospects for future cooperation. The Ambassador of Kuwait in Islamabad Nassar Abdulrahman Jasser Almutairi also shed light on the history of brotherly relations between two countries and its people, spanning over sixty years.

A commemorative logo of 60th Anniversary was

Pakistan and Kuwait celebrate 60th Anniversary of establishment of Diplomatic Relations

unveiled in the joint event. A photo exhibition was also inaugurated by the Minister of State, depicting various aspects of the bilateral relations between the two countries as well as high-level exchanges. Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, UN and Government officials, business community, academia, media, and civil society attended the joint event.

Kuwait hosts a significant Pakistani diaspora playing a critical role in the development and prosperity of both nations. The joint event marked the beginning of year-long activities that would be organized both in Kuwait and Pakistan with a view to transforming the fraternal ties into more concrete and mutually rewarding economic relations.

News Updates

The Mission organized Pakistan Culture Day in collaboration with the American University of Science and Technology (AUST), Beirut on 23rd February

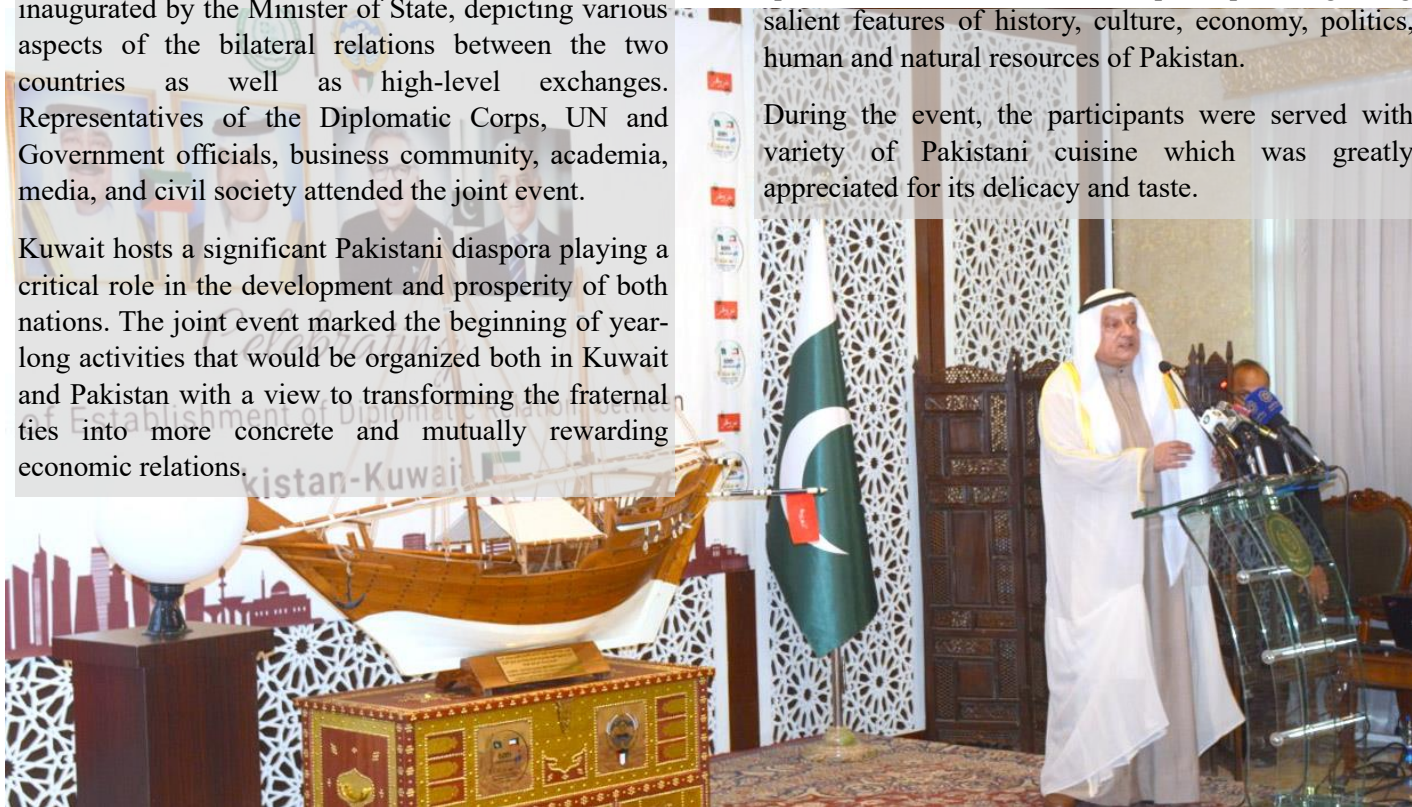
2023. The event was attended by a large number of students and faculty members from various disciplines, who showed keen interest in socio-cultural diversity of Pakistan. Highlights of the event included display of Pakistani handicrafts, books, short documentaries on Pakistan as well as panaflexes depicting various aspects of the country.

Pakistan Culture Day in collaboration with the American University of Science and Technology

The event was inaugurated jointly by H.E. Mr. Salman Athar, Ambassador of Pakistan and Prof. Hiam Sakr, President of the American University of Science and Technology (AUST)

During welcome speech, the President of AUST gave a short introduction of Pakistan and appreciated the Mission's efforts for holding this cultural day to create awareness amongst the students about cultural diversity in Pakistan. On this occasion, the Ambassador, in his speech, briefed the students and participants regarding salient features of history, culture, economy, politics, human and natural resources of Pakistan.

During the event, the participants were served with variety of Pakistani cuisine which was greatly appreciated for its delicacy and taste.



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اور ایک دردمند پاکستانی ہونے کا ثبوت دیں



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