

Monthly FORESIGHT

ABC Certified

Islamabad

EID AL ETIHAD

Celebrating Unity and Progress UAE's
53rd National Day 2024 P09

GLOBAL ALLIANCES

AMIDST TURMOIL

Lukashenko in Islamabad P12

EMPOWERING PAKISTAN'S YOUTH

The Role of MoST in Driving Tech-
Enabled Education P17

FROM BAKU TO BELÉM COP29

Pledges, Progress, and the Path
Ahead in Global Climate Action P25

FROZEN HOPE

The Winter Agony of Gaza's
Displaced Millions and
Struggle for Survival P20



CELEBRATING UNITY, CONNECTING THE FUTURE

53

Celebrating the spirit of togetherness,
PTCL Group warmly wishes the people of the
United Arab Emirates a happy 53rd National Day.



روح الاتحاد
53 SPIRIT OF THE UNION
اليوم الوطني
NATIONAL DAY
دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

A Message of Gratitude and Pride from President Sheikh Mohamed on UAE's 53rd National Day

On the esteemed occasion of Eid Al Etihad, marking the 53rd National Day of the United Arab Emirates, President Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan conveyed a heartfelt message that reflects his deep affection for the nation and its people. In a handwritten note shared on X, Sheikh Mohamed addressed the citizens and residents of the UAE with warmth and sincerity. "To the people of the UAE," he wrote,

"On the occasion of Eid Al Etihad, we take pride in the UAE and its people, both citizens and residents.

Thank you for your determination.

Thank you for your efforts.

Thank you for all that you do for this nation."

The handwritten note stands as a symbol of personal connection and reverence, embodying the significance of National Day as a moment to reflect on the collective contributions of every individual to the UAE's success. This traditional yet powerful gesture not only amplifies the gravity of his words but also underlines the essence of leadership rooted in humility and authenticity. The President's heartfelt acknowledgment glorifies the resilience, determination, and unity of the UAE's people as pillars of the country's extraordinary progress.

President Sheikh Mohamed's note serves as a reminder of the enduring values that have propelled the UAE to its remarkable stature in the global community. On this day of pride, his message inspires the citizens and residents of the UAE to continue striving towards excellence, innovation, and shared prosperity. The handwritten tribute resonates deeply, reflecting a leadership style that honours the essence of human connection and the profound importance of every individual's contribution to the greater national vision.



Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid

Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, said:

“We thank God for the blessings of this dear country, we remember the founders, we celebrate the achievements of the march, we congratulate the people of the Union.”

“We renew our loyalty to the President of the Union and the pledge to preserve the gains of the Union, and we motivate the sons to sacrifice their lives to preserve the future of this Union. Every year, may the people of the Emirates be well. Every year, may our people be well. Every year, may our people be in security, safety, prosperity and stability. May God protect the United Arab Emirates.”



Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mualla

Ruler of Umm Al Quwain, said:

"Day on which we express our pride in the comprehensive renaissance achieved by the UAE, its honourable leaders, and its dear people, who have transformed it into a unique model of unity and a strong pillar."

Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi

Ruler of Sharjah, said:

“On this day each year, as we celebrate this most cherished national anniversary, we proudly remember those who were resolute in their determination to pursue the path of integrated unity.”



Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi

Ruler of Fujairah, said:

“Over the years, the unity of the people has been the key to the UAE's strength, with each generation building on the legacy of the one before.”



Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi

Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, said:

"Reminds us of the historic efforts of our founding fathers, whose unity of will and hearts, along with their aspirations for this land and its people, laid the groundwork for a strong and united nation."

Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi

Ruler of Ajman, said:

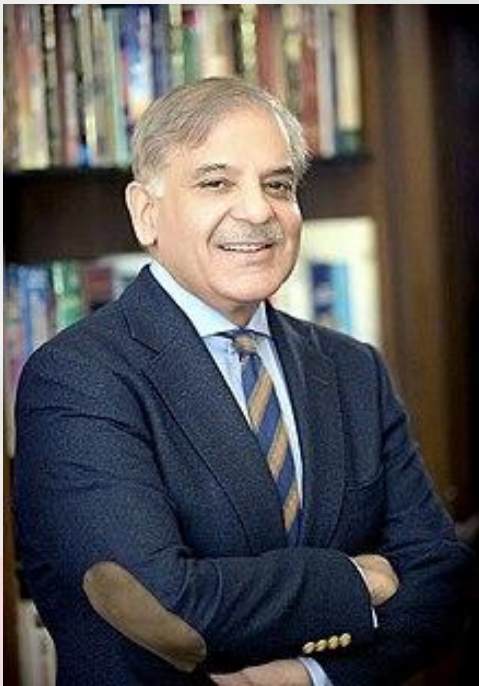
“The anniversary of Eid Al Etihad fills us with pride for a forward-looking nation that has outpaced many others in its progress and development.”



Pakistan's Heartfelt Felicitations to UAE on National Day

PM Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Honors

a Journey of Unity and Progress



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended heartfelt felicitations to the leadership and people of the United Arab Emirates on the momentous occasion of their 53rd National Day. Reflecting on the UAE's remarkable journey, he stated, "The progress and prosperity achieved by the UAE stand as a beacon of inspiration. The commitment to excellence through innovation and modernization, championed by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, continues to set exemplary standards globally."

He emphasized that the UAE's achievements are a testament to its visionary leadership, which has not only transformed the nation into a hub of innovation and cultural vibrancy but also strengthened its position as a global center for trade, investment, and diplomacy. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted how the UAE has successfully harmonized tradition with modernity, creating a unique identity that resonates with millions worldwide.

Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to its fraternal bond with the UAE. "Pakistan has always remained a steadfast brother and partner of the UAE. We look forward to further deepening our relationship, transforming our shared history into a dynamic and mutually beneficial economic partnership that contributes to regional peace, stability, and prosperity." He concluded by expressing hope for continued cooperation and prosperity for the UAE and its people in the years to come.



Celebrating the UAE's 53rd National Day

Smart Innovations Shaping the Future of Smart Homes in UAE

As we commemorate the UAE's 53rd National Day, it is essential that we recognize the role that technology can play and is playing in shaping the UAE's future. As a global leader in smart technology adoption, with initiatives like Dubai's Smart City project and Abu Dhabi's Vision 2030 that have changed the global digital landscape, UAE is the birthplace of the future of technology. At Smart Innovations, we are proud to contribute to this vision by providing flexible and integrated smart home solutions that improve the quality of life for residents and businesses across the UAE.



Smart Innovations specializes in integrating technologies that are adaptable, flexible and affordable, into our smart home systems. Our solutions empower consumers to control lighting, temperature, security, entertainment and almost every aspect of their living and workspace conveniently through touch and voice commands. We understand that in a living, breathing country like the UAE, automation goes beyond convenience and adds up to energy efficiency—an essential aspect in a region where climate control is of utmost importance. Our commitment extends beyond residential applications as we also provide innovative solutions for hospitality and commercial sectors, enhancing guest experiences and operational efficiencies in hotels and businesses alike.

Looking ahead, Smart Innovations is dedicated to expanding our impact in the UAE's tech and smart homes landscape. We aim to introduce more advanced solutions tailored to local needs while developing partnerships that align with the UAE's sustainability targets. As we celebrate this significant milestone in the nation's history, we reaffirm our commitment to innovation as a brand embedded in local traditions, helping to create smarter homes and communities that contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future for all. Happy National Day UAE!

A proud resident,

Muhammad Zeeshan Shahzad
CEO/Founder

smartinn

UAE's Pioneer Smart Automation Brand

Your One-Stop Smart Solution

We offer a Complete range of Smart Products to transform your places into a fully connected, intelligent environment.

08 +

Product
Categories

120 +

In-house
Products

05

International
Offices



UAE Headquarter

Phone : +971 547755055
Address : Office 2009, Tameem house,
Barsha Heights, Tecom, Dubai, UAE.

LONDON Office

Phone : +44 7405 339037
Address : 128, City Road, London,
EC1V 2NX, United Kingdom.

Editor in Chief

Tanveer Ali Maken

Executive Editor

Syed Mushraf Abbas Naqvi

Joint Editor

Kanwar Muhammad Sohail

Deputy Editor (Overseas)

Dr. Abdul Rauf

Founding Content Head

Prof. A. D. Maken (Late)

Advisor

Dr. Zafar Iqbal

Legal Advisor

Advocate Nazeer Tabbsum

Sub-Editors

Mian Jazzak Allah

Batool Ali

Zain Ali

Staff Reporter

M. Yasir Amin

Bureau Chief Lahore

Khawaja Anique ur Rehman

Online / Web Editor

Batool Ali

GM Marketing & Sales

Ahsan Mukhtar

Photojournalist

M. Aziz ur Rehman

Computer Operator

Rana Farukh Javed Khan

Composing & Designing

AzizHorea

Head Office

Office # 03, Plot # 36B, Hussain Plaza,
Amin Town, Koral, Islamabad

Email: foresightislamabad@gmail.com,
info@foresightmags.com

Website: www.foresightmags.com

Printer: Roohani Art Press, Expressway, Islamabad.
Email: roohaniartpress2019@gmail.com

Price Rs. 700/-

Chief Editor Note

As we approach the close of another transformative year, this December edition of Foresight Magazine reflects on the narratives that have shaped our world and continue to guide us into the future. From celebrations of national pride to the global challenges of climate change, this issue encapsulates the essence of resilience, unity, and progress amidst uncertainty.

Our lead story, "EID AL ETIHAD: Celebrating Unity and Progress," shines a light on the UAE's 53rd National Day. This celebration is not just a testament to the nation's remarkable progress but also a reflection of its unwavering commitment to unity and visionary leadership, offering lessons for other nations seeking stability and growth.

In a world marked by geopolitical turbulence, "GLOBAL ALLIANCES AMIDST TURMOIL" covers Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's visit to Islamabad. This event is a reminder of how nations can forge new alliances to navigate the complexities of a shifting global order, presenting opportunities for mutual growth and regional stability.

Closer to home, "EMPOWERING PAKISTAN'S YOUTH" explores the pivotal role of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) in revolutionizing tech-enabled education. As Pakistan's youth stand at the forefront of tomorrow, this piece highlights how innovation and education can unlock the immense potential of a generation poised to lead.

Meanwhile, "FROZEN HOPE" brings us the chilling reality of Gaza's displaced millions as they endure the agonies of another harsh winter. Their unyielding struggle for survival amidst unimaginable hardship underscores the urgent need for global solidarity and humanitarian intervention.

Finally, our coverage of COP29 in "FROM BAKU TO BELÉM" delves into the pledges and progress of global climate action. As nations unite to address the most pressing environmental crises, we examine the commitments made and the work that still lies ahead to secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

As we turn the page on 2024, this edition serves as both a reflection on the trials of the past year and a celebration of the strength, innovation, and collaboration that have carried us forward. We thank you, our readers, for your continued engagement and commitment to exploring these critical issues with us.

Here's to a brighter, more united, and sustainable future in 2025.

With warm regards,



Tanveer Ali Maken

EID AL ETIHAD

Celebrating Unity and Progress

UAE's 53rd National Day 2024

Tanveer Ali Maken

The UAE National Day, or Eid Al Etihad, stands as a vibrant celebration of unity, heritage, and progress. This historic occasion commemorates the pivotal moment in 1971 when the seven emirates united to form a single, cohesive nation—setting the stage for the creation of one of the world's most dynamic and innovative countries.

In 2024, the UAE proudly marks its 53rd National Day, a testament to over five decades of visionary leadership, resilience, and collective ambition. This year's theme emphasizes sustainability and collaborative action, reinforcing the nation's unwavering commitment to

building a brighter, greener future. Across the emirates, both citizens and residents unite to honor this significant milestone, reflecting a shared pride in the journey the UAE has undertaken and the aspirations that continue to guide it.

The National Day celebrations are especially vibrant in Dubai, where the spirit of unity and festivity takes center stage. This year's festivities coincide with a two-day public holiday on December 2 and 3, as announced by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE), providing residents with a long weekend to revel in the occasion. Though work resumes shortly

after, the memories of parades, fireworks, and cultural displays will linger in the hearts of all.

The National Day holiday, observed annually on December 2, commemorates the formation of the UAE in 1971. It marks the day when six emirates—Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, and Fujairah—joined together to form the nation, with Ras Al Khaimah becoming the seventh emirate just months later. This day is not only a time to reflect on the UAE's past achievements but also an opportunity to celebrate the unity that has powered its success.

In honor of this landmark occasion, buildings across Abu





Dhabi were illuminated in the colors of the national flag, symbolizing the spirit of unity and cohesion. These displays reflect the UAE's commitment to continuing its journey towards a more prosperous future under the banner of the union.

Unity: The Heart of the UAE's National Project

Unity is the cornerstone of the UAE's national project. People across the country have been celebrating the official holidays of National Day and Commemoration Day. While these two occasions may differ in focus and tone, they share an essential theme: unity. Indeed, the 53rd anniversary of the UAE's founding is known as Eid Al Etihad, or the Festival of Unity. Over the course of just a few generations, the UAE has transformed itself from a collection of disparate emirates into a modern nation that leads in innovation, space exploration, and

global diplomacy. Through it all, the vital ingredient has been unity.

The first step towards unity was the political unification of the emirates in the early 1970s. Over the decades, a culture of unity has been nurtured, one that cherishes the rich Arab and Islamic heritage of the country while embracing the values of tolerance and coexistence. These principles have become the bedrock of the UAE's national identity and have enabled the country to welcome people from all over the world to contribute to its collective progress.

If unity was the foundation upon which the UAE was built, it continues to be the guiding light for its future. The UAE of 2024 is a cosmopolitan nation that draws strength from its diversity. Yet, its core values—pride in heritage, respect for differences, and a commitment to mutual success—remain unchanged. These values are the glue that binds the country

together, driving its people to achieve more as one.

Culture as a Unifying Force in the UAE

As the UAE celebrates Eid Al Etihad, it reflects on more than five decades of extraordinary progress and innovation. The festival, held against the stunning backdrop of Jebel Hafeet in Al Ain, also offers an opportunity to look back at the nation's journey. Al Ain, with its 5,000-year-old tombs marking the dawn of the Bronze Age, serves as a reminder of the UAE's deep-rooted history as it continues to move towards the future with ambition and confidence.

The UAE's growth has been driven by leadership that has seamlessly balanced respect for its rich heritage with an embrace of the future. This respect for tradition, paired with a commitment to innovation, has been the cornerstone of the country's remarkable stability and success. Eid Al Etihad, therefore,

is not just a time for celebrations; it is a time to honor the cultural legacy that has been nurtured alongside the nation's progress.

In the UAE, culture is not confined to annual celebrations. It is woven into the fabric of daily life, influencing the collective consciousness and values of the nation. Through initiatives to preserve and promote Arabic art, literature, music, and traditional practices, the UAE ensures that its cultural heritage is safeguarded for future generations. By fostering spaces where both Arab and international artists can thrive, the UAE positions itself as both a custodian of Arab culture and a beacon for a global cultural renaissance.

On the international stage, the UAE has emerged as a cultural hub that connects the Arab world to the global community. The country's dedication to preserving its heritage while embracing international diversity serves as a model for how culture can unite an increasingly fragmented world.

The UAE's cultural initiatives not only attract global attention but also build bridges between civilizations, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation on a global scale.

The UAE: A Beacon of Progress for Future Generations

From modest beginnings, the UAE has transformed into a global hub for innovation, showing that with vision, unity, and determination, great achievements are within reach. At the heart of this transformation lies the nation's leadership, which has consistently been guided by the foresight of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and the continued vision of President Sheikh Mohamed. Under their leadership, the UAE has embraced the future with confidence and ambition.

One of the UAE's greatest strengths is its commitment to research and development. By investing heavily in cutting-edge technologies, the UAE has positioned itself at the forefront of

global advancements in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum computing, and space exploration. Institutions such as the Advanced Technology Research Council, the Technology Innovation Institute, and Edge are at the forefront of this revolution, driving groundbreaking solutions that will not only transform the nation but also contribute to a more sustainable world.

The path ahead is filled with promise and challenges. To maintain this momentum, the UAE must continue to invest in education, foster public-private partnerships, and cultivate a culture of curiosity and resilience. As the nation celebrates Eid Al Etihad, it is not just the achievements of the past that are being honored, but also the limitless potential of the future.

As the UAE continues to soar, driven by unity, innovation, and the enduring spirit of its people, there is no doubt that it will remain a beacon of progress for generations to come.





GLOBAL ALLIANCES AMIDST TURMOIL

Lukashenko in Islamabad

Aneeq ur Rehman

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's three-day official visit to Pakistan, from November 25 to 27, 2024, at the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, holds significant diplomatic importance despite receiving limited public attention. The visit was overshadowed by ongoing political turmoil and protests in Islamabad, where the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan had sparked unrest. As protesters clashed with law enforcement, high-level discussions between the delegations of Pakistan and Belarus took place in the Minister's House, reflecting Pakistan's focus on maintaining its international commitments amid domestic challenges.

Diplomatic circles view the visit as a notable step in Pakistan's foreign policy, particularly in the context of strained Western relations with Russia. Belarus, a key ally of Russia, shares close ties with Moscow, and Lukashenko is considered a trusted confidant of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Given this backdrop, the visit attracted considerable interest from Western capitals, which continue to monitor Islamabad's evolving international alignments. Some analysts suggest that Pakistan's outreach to Belarus signals an effort to diversify its foreign relations and reduce reliance on traditional Western allies, particularly as the country grapples with economic challenges and seeks to secure financial support from the International Monetary Fund.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Belarus, a milestone that both nations celebrated by reaffirming their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif acknowledged Belarus's active participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of Government Meeting hosted by Pakistan in October 2024. Both sides agreed to deepen political dialogue, enhance inter-parliamentary relations, and expand trade and economic cooperation. Discussions also emphasized the importance of regional economic integration and connectivity, with both nations expressing a shared resolve to create a sustainable and comprehensive partnership.

Economic collaboration featured prominently in the talks, with agreements to promote joint ventures in agriculture and industry, particularly in the production of high-tech agricultural machinery. Recognizing Belarus's advanced capabilities in agricultural manufacturing and Pakistan's agrarian-based economy, the two nations identified significant potential for mutual benefit. Efforts were also directed toward addressing trade barriers and regulatory challenges to facilitate smoother market access for key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, health products, and industrial goods.

The discussions extended beyond economic matters to address critical international and regional issues. Both leaders expressed grave concern over the escalating conflict in the Middle East, including the devastating humanitarian crises in Gaza and Lebanon. They called for an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire, stressing the need for the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid and a peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with United Nations resolutions. Pakistan also briefed Belarus on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, reiterating its stance on resolving disputes peacefully under the UN Charter and Security Council mandates. The leaders jointly reaffirmed their support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state based on the two-state solution.

The visit also highlighted science, education, and culture as priority areas for enhanced cooperation. Both nations agreed to strengthen ties between their scientific communities through joint research initiatives under the Joint Commission on Science and Technology. They acknowledged the progress made over the past decade in science and technology and outlined plans for collaborative projects in this domain. Education was another focal point, with both sides committing to expanding academic cooperation, facilitating student exchanges, and fostering cultural ties through art, music, literature, and other people-to-people programs.

During the visit, Pakistan and Belarus signed 15 important agreements and Memorandums of Understanding, including a "Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Belarus for the period 2025–2027." These agreements aim to formalize and expand collaboration across various sectors, including trade, technology, agriculture, and culture.

The discussions also touched on the global implications of technological advancements, emphasizing the transformative role of artificial intelligence and its potential to reshape economies and international relations.

The visit concluded with President Lukashenko expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the people of Pakistan for their warm hospitality. He extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Belarus at a mutually convenient time, signaling a deepening of ties between the two nations. While the visit took place against the backdrop of domestic unrest and international conflicts, it serves as a reminder of Pakistan's commitment to pursuing a proactive foreign policy aimed at fostering global partnerships and ensuring regional stability.

In the pursuit of peaceful resolutions to international disputes and the development of Pakistan's economy, the visit of President Alexander Lukashenko to Islamabad, coupled with the successful hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Heads of Government Meeting in October 2024, stands as a testament to the government's diplomatic achievements in challenging times. However, the significance of these accomplishments has been overshadowed by the tumultuous backdrop of political unrest, marked by tear gas and the clamor of protests in the streets.

The Pakistani nation aspires not only for the peaceful resolution of international conflicts but also for stability and harmony within its own borders. Addressing internal disputes with the same determination shown in international diplomacy is essential to creating a unified vision for the country. Only then can Pakistan's strong foreign policy and international commitments resonate effectively on the global stage, fostering economic growth and securing a prosperous future for its people.



Honouring 53 Years of Growth
PBBC Celebrates the UAE's National Day

On behalf of the Pakistan Britain Business Council, I extend heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes to the people of the United Arab Emirates on the occasion of the 53rd National Day.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we take pride in being part of the vibrant landscape of the UAE for the past decade. At the Pakistan Britain Business Council, we have strived to be at the forefront of innovation and excellence in fostering bilateral business and trade relations. Our commitment to delivering quality service, assistance, and dynamic specialized solutions aligns with the progressive spirit of the UAE.

Over the past decade, our journey in the UAE has been a remarkable tapestry of collaboration and growth. As a business council, we have diligently worked to create opportunities and strengthen partnerships between the UK and UAE, while extending our influence and network across South Asia, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and East Africa.

On this National Day, we express our gratitude to the UAE for its continuous support and look forward to many more years of collaborative success and innovation.

Best regards,

Dr. Sonia Saleem
Director
Pakistan Britain Business Council





Celebrating the UAE's 53rd National Day

Asian Business Forum's Commitment to Continued Growth

On the occasion of the UAE's 53rd National Day, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes to the people and leadership of the United Arab Emirates. This day marks a remarkable milestone in the nation's journey—celebrating over five decades of unity, progress, and prosperity.

As we reflect on the UAE's tremendous achievements, it is with great pride that the Asian Business Forum continues to strengthen and deepen its relationship with the UAE. Over the years, the UAE has emerged as a hub of innovation, business excellence, and cultural harmony, making it an ideal partner for fostering international trade and collaboration.

At the Asian Business Forum, we remain committed to supporting and nurturing bilateral ties between the UAE and Asia, promoting opportunities for growth, innovation, and mutual success. We believe that the UAE's dynamic vision, coupled with our collective efforts, will lead to greater economic cooperation and global partnerships.

On this significant occasion, we look forward to further collaboration, shared success, and continued prosperity in the years ahead.

Once again, congratulations to the UAE on its 53rd National Day. May the nation continue to thrive in peace, unity, and progress.

Warm regards,

Khurram Shahzad
Founder & President
Asian Business Forum



WORLD SCIENCE DAY for Peace and Development 10 November

M. Aziz ur Rehman

WORLD SCIENCE DAY 2024 for Peace and Development 10 November

Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.

By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening



our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable.

The Day offers the opportunity to mobilize all actors around the topic of science for peace and development – from government officials to the media to school pupils. UNESCO strongly encourages all to join in celebrating World Science Day for Peace and Development by organizing your own event or activity on the day.

Why Science Matters: Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures

In today's rapidly evolving world, the strength of a country's educational system plays a pivotal role in shaping the development of its people. The quality of education directly influences a nation's social progress, technological advancement, and economic growth. For Pakistan—home to a youthful and growing population—a modern, innovative, and technology-driven educational system is no longer a luxury but a necessity. By embracing advanced technological tools, Pakistan has the potential to transform its education sector, equipping its youth with the skills needed to drive economic growth and compete on the global stage.

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) in Pakistan is already spearheading initiatives to integrate technology into various sectors, including education. However, these efforts must be intensified to ensure that the next generation possesses the expertise required to thrive in a dynamic global economy. Pakistan's education sector faces multiple challenges, including a shortage of skilled teachers, outdated curricula, and inadequate facilities. Overcoming these hurdles demands a shift from traditional teaching methods towards innovative approaches. Developing a strong technology and skill teaching workforce, coupled with reformed curricula and fresh ideas, is imperative. This

transformation begins with robust teacher training programs designed to shift entrenched mindsets and foster constructivist pedagogies, subject mastery, and effective assessment practices.

According to the Pakistan Education Statistics 2021, the country's literacy rate stands at approximately 60%, lagging behind several neighbouring nations. This disparity is further amplified by a pronounced rural-urban divide, with rural areas suffering from limited access to quality education and technological resources. Moreover, the skills imparted in schools and universities often fail to align with the needs of modern industries. A World Economic

EMPOWERING PAKISTAN'S YOUTH The Role of MoST in Driving Tech-Enabled Education

Noor Ul Ain

The writer is a Public Relation Officer to Federal Minister of Science & Technology.





Forum (WEF) report on the future of jobs highlights the increasing demand for skills in data analysis, artificial intelligence (AI), digital literacy, and other advanced technologies. Unfortunately, Pakistan's educational framework has struggled to keep pace with these demands.

Technology, however, offers an opportunity to bridge many of these gaps. Integrating technological tools into classrooms can revolutionise teaching methodologies, boost student engagement, and provide access to an expansive reservoir of knowledge and innovative resources. To revitalise its educational system, Pakistan can explore several key technological strategies and tools, which hold the potential to reshape its future, including:

E-learning Platforms & Digital Classrooms: E-learning platforms have become increasingly popular all over the world. With the help of websites like Google Classroom, Khan Academy, and Coursera, Pakistan can give students access to top-notch education, especially those who live in rural areas. Projectors, iPads, and other

interactive technology can transform teaching methods in digital classrooms, making lessons more engaging and accessible.

Machine learning and Artificial intelligence (AI): AI is useful for evaluating student performance, personalizing learning experiences, and giving relevant feedback. Teachers can devote more of their time to teaching by using AI-driven educational solutions to automate administrative tasks. AI can also assist in the identification of learning gaps, offering students individualized learning pathways to help them overcome challenges.

Online coding and STEM programs: Pakistan's educational system must prioritize STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education due to the increasing need for qualified workers in technology-related industries. Students can learn vital coding skills early on and get ready for future professions in data science, AI, and software development by using online coding platforms like Codecademy, Udemy, and edX.

Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR): Both

technologies offer immersive, interactive learning environments, have the potential to improve educational experiences. For example, AR can bring historical events to life in history classes, and VR can simulate surgery in medical education. In technical and vocational training, these technologies can also be utilized to let students practice skills in a virtual environment before using them in real-world situations. Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology has started a number of projects to update the educational system because it understands how important it is to include technology into the classroom.

Several noble initiatives include:

National Digital Transformation Strategy: The Ministry has been developing a national strategy for digital transformation that attempts to incorporate technology into education and other areas. The approach is centered on ensuring that digital skills are included into the curriculum and building a more inclusive digital infrastructure.

The STEM Education Program: The Ministry of Science and

Technology of the Pakistani government launched the STEM education program to encourage students—particularly girls—to pursue jobs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This program follows the global trend of encouraging STEM to fill the skills gap in the technology sector.

The Pakistan Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (PRIC): Program pushes academic institutions and research centers to conduct studies that could result in developments in a number of areas, including education technology. The PRIC initiative seeks to generate goods and services that can aid in the growth of the education sector by encouraging university and industry partnership.

Technology Parks and Incubation Facilities: The Ministry of Science and Technology has set up a number of technology parks and incubation facilities to aid in the expansion of the nation's tech sector. These facilities encourage creativity and entrepreneurship while giving young people a chance to create technological solutions that could enhance educational frameworks.

The Digital Pakistan Vision, which was introduced by the Pakistani government in 2018, seeks to use technology to empower people, companies, and the government. The Ministry of Science and Technology has played a crucial role to implement this vision, which involves improving broadband access, developing digital literacy initiatives, and encouraging e-governance. This goal has prompted the government to establish digital platforms like DigiSkills, which provide

Pakistanis with free online training in a range of digital skills.

By implementing technological advancements in the education sector, Pakistan can bridge the skills gap between industrial demands and educational standards. The adoption of digital learning platforms has the potential to greatly raise Pakistan's educational standards, according to World Bank's report. Along with fostering innovation and productivity, it would give students the tools they need to compete in a global market that is becoming more and more digital.

Furthermore, Pakistan may develop a skilled labor population that draws in foreign investment by promoting an educational system that prioritizes innovation, coding, and digital literacy. The incorporation of technology into education will demonstrate to international investors that Pakistan is a progressive, technologically literate country dedicated to developing a workforce with the necessary skills. This would then result in more money being invested in tech-related sectors like e-commerce, software development, and artificial intelligence, which

would boost the economy and create jobs.

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), adoption of educational technology is closely linked to higher economic growth and job creation in emerging economies. Pakistan may become a competitive player in the global knowledge economy and unleash the potential of its youth by concentrating on this industry.

In order to give Pakistan's youth the skills they need to succeed in the twentyfirst century, technology must be included into the country's educational system. In advancing digital education, the Ministry of Science and Technology has already achieved great progress; nevertheless, additional funding and work are required to guarantee that technology is available everywhere in the nation. By focusing on improving the education sector using state-of-the-art technical tools, Pakistan can create a trained workforce that can compete internationally in addition to fulfill local economic demands, which will increase investment, create more job opportunities, and sustain economic progress





FROZEN HOPE

The Winter Agony of Gaza's Displaced Millions And Struggle for Survival

Irshad Ahmed Khan

The United Nations has described the upcoming winter in Gaza in the most sombre terms, warning of “diminishing conditions for survival.” With a Mediterranean climate, Gaza’s winters bring cold, rain, and dampness, creating harrowing challenges for a population already battered by relentless conflict and deprivation. For those whose lives have been reduced to mere survival, the misery of being perpetually hungry, wet, and cold intensifies the struggle to stay alive.

The destruction in Gaza is staggering 60 percent of residential buildings and 80 percent of commercial infrastructure have been demolished. Nearly 90 percent of Gaza's population, about 1.9 million people, are now displaced within the enclave, with many forced to move multiple times. Since October alone, an estimated 131,000 people have been driven out of their homes, highlighting the scale of collective suffering. Everyone in Gaza has lost everything, livelihoods, and even the semblance of stability.

Winters are especially unforgiving for war-affected families living in makeshift shelters. Thin canvas tents offer little defense against the biting cold, with icy winds slicing through their fragile walls. Warm clothing, blankets, and heating are luxuries beyond reach for most. Children and the elderly, the most vulnerable, face heightened risks of hypothermia and respiratory illnesses. The cold, combined with limited access to food and clean water, exacerbates their hardships, making every winter night a desperate battle for survival. This situation underscores the urgency of global solidarity and the need for immediate humanitarian assistance.

As rain begins to fall in November and December, it brings with it the risk of disease. Those forced to sleep outdoors or in overcrowded shelters face exposure to water-borne illnesses such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid, polio, and Hepatitis A. Heavy flooding could

further contaminate water supplies, compounding the public health crisis.

The blockade that has suffocated Gaza since June 2007 has left its people resourceful yet tragically under-resourced. In northern Gaza, the area hardest hit since the outbreak of the recent Israel-Hamas conflict, bakeries and communal kitchens have been shut down. Essential services like water provision, nutrition support, and sanitation are virtually nonexistent. Reports describe families relying on nothing but jackets for warmth, as simple winter supplies like socks or shoes are unaffordable in a shattered economy. Even used clothes in local markets are prohibitively expensive for many.

International law defines adequate housing as a fundamental human right, guaranteeing security of

tenure and protection against eviction or destruction. Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights recognizes housing as an essential component of the right to an adequate standard of living. Yet for millions in Gaza, housing has become an unattainable ideal, a distant memory of what life once was. As the United Nations reminds us, “Housing is a right, not a commodity.”

Gaza’s plight is a stark reminder of the human cost of prolonged conflict and blockade. The international community must act urgently to alleviate the suffering of a population enduring the compounded cruelties of war and winter. Without immediate intervention, the coming months will deepen the despair of an already devastated people, challenging the world’s conscience to uphold the basic rights and dignity of those caught in the crossfire of history.



PRESENTING ISLAMABAD'S PREMIUM CORPORATE TOWER

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION
AVAILABLE ON RENT

800 to 10,000 Sq. Ft.
on a single floor

multiple floors each of
10,000 Sq. Ft also available

Very exclusive and premium Corporate Office Tower in New Blue Area looking over scenic Margalla hills and F9 Central Park. Ground plus thirteen floors with additional service floor. Direct access from Jinnah Avenue and Ibn'e Sena Road. Ample front parking with dedicated 3 basement floors parking for offices facing Ibn'e Sena Road.

PAKLAND
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

PAKLAND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (PVT.) LTD.

Pakland Tower 2
New Blue Area
4, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad

(0347) 400 0411
(051) 848 8631
☎ (0336) 555 1058

ppmpl.com.pk/tower2
info@ppmpl.com.pk

PAKLAND
TOWER 2

HBL

UAE National Day

HBL wishes the people of UAE a very Happy National Day.
May this year bring peace and prosperity to the nation.



FUTURE LEADERS HONORED

Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Honors Graduates' Achievements

Desk Report

The National University of Technology (NUTECH) marked a significant milestone by hosting its 3rd Convocation Ceremony at its Islamabad campus. The event celebrated the academic achievements of 164 graduates from disciplines including Engineering, Information Technology, and Technology, and was attended by a distinguished gathering of officials, faculty, parents, and students.

The Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, alongside notable attendees such as Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, and Rector NUTECH, Lieutenant General Moazzam Ijaz (HI, M). Medals were conferred upon high achievers, with Gold and Silver Medals awarded in recognition of their exceptional academic performances.

NUTECH stands out as Pakistan's first "University for Industry," a pioneering institution dedicated to integrating academia with industrial needs. Established as a federally chartered university under the administrative umbrella of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), NUTECH is recognized by key national accrediting bodies, including the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), and National Technology Council (NTC).

The university is envisioned to be an internationally acclaimed technology-driven research institution, producing industry-ready professionals, leaders, and a hi-tech skilled workforce. NUTECH's commitment to advancing existing and emerging technologies is evident in its comprehensive curriculum and focus on research and vocational training, making it a cornerstone for technological innovation in Pakistan.

In his keynote address, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui commended the graduates for their perseverance and success. He highlighted NUTECH's growing recognition as a leader in fostering innovation and bridging the gap between academia and industry. "The country has fulfilled its duty by providing you with quality education; now, it's your responsibility to contribute to its development. This nation, built on an

ideology, needs your efforts to shape a brighter future," he remarked, inspiring the graduates to embrace their role in the nation's progress.

Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, also extended his congratulations and reiterated the importance of institutions like NUTECH in driving Pakistan towards a knowledge-based economy. Rector NUTECH, Lieutenant General Moazzam Ijaz (HI, M), emphasized the university's mission to produce graduates equipped with the skills and mindset to lead in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

The convocation ceremony was a moment of pride and reflection for graduates and their families. Parents, faculty members, and students celebrated the culmination of years of dedication, hard work, and academic pursuit. With degrees in hand and words of encouragement from esteemed leaders, the graduates left the event not only with a sense of accomplishment but also with a renewed sense of purpose to contribute meaningfully to the country's future.

The 3rd Convocation at NUTECH underscored the university's pivotal role in shaping the next generation of innovators, leaders, and change-makers, reaffirming its status as a beacon of excellence in education and research.



COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, marked a critical juncture in global climate negotiations,

the "Baku to Belém Roadmap," aiming to address the financing gap and scale global efforts.

The 29th UN Climate Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, concluded with a mix of modest

FROM BAKU TO BELÉM

COP29

Pledges, Progress, and the Path Ahead in Global Climate Action

Prof. Zulekha

setting the stage for future action as the world heads toward COP30 in Belém, Brazil. The summit delivered a significant yet insufficient milestone: a new climate finance target of \$300 billion annually by 2035, tripling the previous goal. While this commitment provides a foundation for mobilizing resources to help developing nations tackle climate change, it falls short of the \$1.3 trillion experts deem necessary. Negotiators also agreed to launch

Despite some progress, including advancements in carbon market guidelines and cooperative initiatives, the summit highlighted deep divisions, particularly over the transition from fossil fuels and adaptation financing. As the journey continues from Baku to Belém, the focus must remain on galvanizing ambition, delivering tangible outcomes, and ensuring that no nation is left behind in the fight against climate change.

achievements, lingering disappointments, and ambitious plans for the future. The negotiations, centered on climate finance and global action, yielded critical, though insufficient, outcomes to address the growing challenges of climate change.

Key Outcomes

1. New Climate Finance Goal

Delegates agreed to a new finance target of at least \$300 billion annually by 2035, tripling the





previous goal. This includes public and private finance, with a broader objective of mobilizing \$1.3 trillion annually to meet the needs of developing nations. Despite the progress, the figure remains well below what is required to support low-carbon transitions and shield vulnerable communities from climate impacts.

2. Global Stocktake and Fossil Fuel Transition

COP29 failed to build on COP28's historic call for transitioning away from fossil fuels. Discussions on fossil fuel reductions and the broader Global Stocktake outcomes were deferred to future negotiations, frustrating many stakeholders.

3. Carbon Markets and Adaptation

Progress was made in operationalizing the Paris Agreement's Article 6 on carbon markets. However, adaptation discussions were marred by disagreements on implementation indicators, leaving critical decisions to be revisited at COP30.

4. Loss and Damage Fund

Additional pledges brought the fund's total to \$759 million, far short of the \$580 billion annual need by 2030. Key decisions on incorporating loss and damage into national plans were postponed.

5. Collaborative Initiatives

Notable pledges included reducing methane emissions from organic waste, scaling global energy storage, and forming "continuity coalitions" to sustain momentum across sectors like health, food systems, and urban climate action.

Challenges and Frustrations

Many developing nations expressed frustration over insufficient financial commitments from wealthier countries and the absence of concrete plans to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The failure to finalize a comprehensive strategy for adaptation and equitable finance distribution highlighted the deep divide between developed and developing nations.

Next Steps: The Road to COP30

The coming year will be pivotal as countries prepare for COP30 in

Belém, Brazil. Key priorities include:

- **Strengthening Climate Finance:** Implementing the \$300 billion goal, enhancing financial system alignment with climate needs, and exploring innovative finance mechanisms.
- **Submitting Robust NDCs:** Nations must unveil new, ambitious emissions-reduction targets for 2035 and align these with transformative policies.
- **Advancing Adaptation Goals:** Finalizing global adaptation indicators and securing greater support for vulnerable nations.
- **Operationalizing Carbon Markets:** Ensuring transparency and efficacy in carbon credit trading under the Paris Agreement framework.

COP29 laid a foundation but underscored the urgent need for heightened ambition and collaboration to address the escalating climate crisis. The focus now shifts to turning promises into tangible action, with COP30 serving as a critical milestone in this journey.

Estd. 1860
MURREE BREWERY

TERIFIC FLAVOUR FUZION



The Need for Trade and Religious Tourism Revival Between Pakistan and India Insights from Asfandyar Bhindara

Desk Report

During a visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Asfandyar Bhindara, Member of the National Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary for SAFRON, shared his views on the critical need for Pakistan and India to revive trade relations and ease visa restrictions for religious tourism. In his media interaction, Bhindara emphasized that both of these steps could significantly benefit both countries economically and socially.

Reviving Trade: A Win-Win for Both Countries

Asfandyar Bhindara expressed that the resumption of trade between Pakistan and India is essential for the economic growth of both nations. He argued that opening up trade would help reduce inflation and stimulate economic activities in both countries. According to Bhindara, the decision to suspend trade during former Prime Minister Imran Khan's tenure was a mistake that negatively impacted both countries' populations.

He stated, "When trade increases, the level of animosity between both nations decreases. The economic interdependence created through trade fosters peace and mutual respect." Bhindara strongly believes that improved trade relations will not only bring economic benefits but will also help reduce political tensions. He further noted that such steps would create a more positive atmosphere, moving beyond the

political rhetoric often seen in the media.

Facilitating Religious Tourism: A Path to Enhanced Cooperation

Another key area highlighted by Bhindara was the need for improved facilitation of religious tourism between Pakistan and India. He pointed out that religious tourism should be allowed without any unnecessary hindrances and that both sides face complaints regarding visa restrictions for religious pilgrims. He appealed to the governments of both countries to make it easier for individuals wishing to visit religious sites, urging them to implement visa facilities that would allow for seamless travel for pilgrims.

"The solution is simple, but the lack of political will on both sides is the main obstacle," Bhindara remarked. He cited the success of the Kartarpur Corridor as a positive example, which has greatly facilitated Sikh pilgrims traveling between India and Pakistan. He suggested that such initiatives should be extended to other religious sites to promote peace and better understanding between the two nations.

A Political Perspective on Religious Tourism

Bhindara emphasized that religious tourism should be free from political interference. According to him, allowing citizens to visit religious sites in both countries could lead to stronger interpersonal ties, which,

in turn, would foster better diplomatic relations. By promoting people-to-people exchanges, he believes that both governments could create a more harmonious and cooperative atmosphere between the nations.

Addressing the Drug Trafficking Issue

In addition to trade and tourism, Bhindara also addressed the growing issue of drug trafficking in Pakistan, particularly through drone technology. He acknowledged that while criminals and smugglers constantly adapt their methods, states have the ability to think ahead and develop advanced strategies to combat such threats. He stressed the importance of enhancing surveillance and coordination to curb drug smuggling, which is increasingly affecting both countries.

Asfandyar Bhindara's comments provide a constructive perspective on how Pakistan and India can move toward a more peaceful and cooperative future. By reviving trade relations and easing visa restrictions for religious tourism, both countries stand to gain not only economically but also in terms of fostering mutual respect and understanding. Bhindara's call for action is an important reminder for both governments that there is significant potential for positive change if they take concrete steps toward cooperation in these areas.

10th December is celebrated worldwide as International Human Rights Day. This day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations, aimed at promoting and protecting the basic rights of all human beings across the globe. However, as we observe this day today, it is crucial to reflect on the ongoing

towards a more people-friendly approach so that law enforcement agencies can fulfill their true purpose of serving the public.

On the international front, regions such as Palestine and Kashmir have become examples of the worst human rights violations. The ongoing oppression of the Palestinian people by Israel is

the international stage. Awakening the global community in support of the oppressed people of Kashmir and Palestine is both our moral and diplomatic responsibility. At the same time, we must take strong measures to end human rights violations within our own borders. By ensuring access to education, healthcare, and justice, we can build a better

International Human Rights Day and the Current Situation in Pakistan

Muhammad Irfan Chadhar

violations of human rights within our society and around the world.

Looking at the situation of human rights in Pakistan, it is clear that we face numerous challenges. Violations of the rights of women, children, and minorities are consistently being reported. Issues such as domestic violence, child marriage, and harassment in workplaces highlight the social ills in our society. Rising poverty, lack of access to education and healthcare, and difficulties in obtaining justice are depriving the public of their fundamental rights. The slow pace of the justice system and corruption create additional barriers for the common people, preventing them from accessing justice.

When examining the behavior of the police, it becomes evident that the disrespectful attitude of law enforcement agencies towards the general public is a serious violation of human rights. The police often resort to excessive use of force, unfair arrests, and harassment of ordinary citizens. This, in turn, breeds distrust among the public and weakens the hope for justice. There is a dire need for police reforms and a shift

well-documented. Destruction of homes, land seizures, and the abuse of innocent children and women are glaring violations of human rights and raise serious questions for the global conscience. The desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and continued attempts to crush the Palestinian struggle for freedom persist. The silence of world powers regarding Israel's atrocities is a clear contradiction to the principles of human rights.

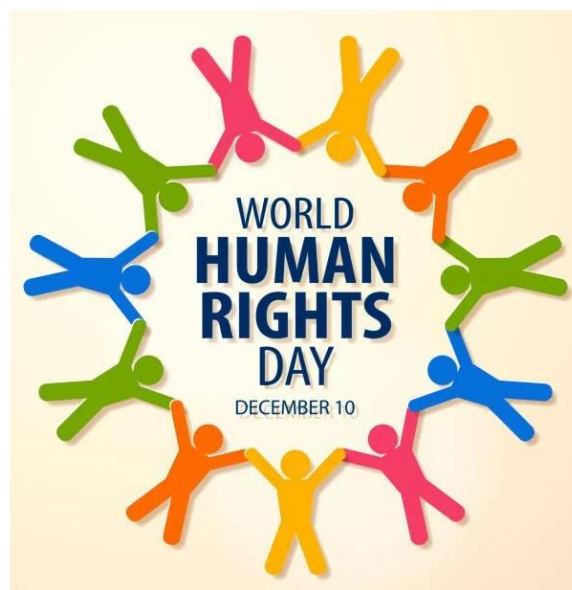
Similarly, the actions of the Indian government in occupied Kashmir represent clear violations of human rights. Illegal occupation, extrajudicial killings, restrictions on freedom of expression, and communication blackouts have turned life in Kashmir into a nightmare. The brutal actions of Indian forces, fake encounters, and the use of pellet guns have left thousands of Kashmiris maimed and homeless. The global silence and failure of justice institutions have led to widespread despair among the Kashmiri people.

In these circumstances, Pakistan must intensify its diplomatic efforts to highlight these issues on

society.

This day reminds us that the protection of human rights is not only the responsibility of the government but also the duty of every individual. We must speak out against the injustices happening around us and stand in solidarity with the oppressed. We must understand that without the protection of human rights, the dream of a civilized and peaceful society can never be realized. This is the true message of Human Rights.

May Allah protect us all and keep Pakistan safe and secure, now and forever. Ameen.





UAE

HAPPY NATIONAL DAY
TO OUR REMITTANCE PARTNERS

National Bank اور Pakistan



ENTERTAINMENT

Kabhi Bhi, Kaheen Bhi!



WATCH **60+** LIVE TV CHANNELS
1 Month **FREE** Trial

Available on:

androidtv



nayatv.nayatel.com