

**Message of President Asif Ali Zardari on the Occasion of the 79th Independence Day of
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
14 August 2026**

On the occasion of the 79th Independence Day of Pakistan, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all Pakistanis at home and abroad.

14 August is a day when we remember the sacrifices that made Pakistan possible. We pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the leaders and workers of the Pakistan Movement and all those who gave up their homes, security and livelihoods in the struggle for a homeland.

But independence is not only a historic achievement. It is also a responsibility that each generation must carry forward. The Pakistan that was created through the democratic will of its people must continue to grow stronger, more secure and more prosperous. Our task is not only to remember what earlier generations achieved, but to add to it through our own work.

The past year has reminded us of the strength of the Pakistani nation. The events surrounding Marka-e-Haq demonstrated that Pakistan seeks peace, but also possesses the resolve and capacity to defend its sovereignty and national interests. The lesson of strength is ultimately a lesson of responsibility. A country that can defend itself must also use its strength to prevent conflict, protect peace and serve the interests of its people.

The security and stability we enjoy today have come at a great cost. On this Independence Day, we pay tribute to the martyrs of our Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies and police, and honour the sacrifices of their families. Their courage and commitment have helped safeguard our nation against external aggression and the threat of terrorism. The people of Pakistan remain deeply grateful for their service.

Pakistan's role in the efforts to facilitate dialogue in the region is an important example of this responsibility. Pakistan has effectively used its channels of communication, its geographical location and diplomatic capital to encourage dialogue and de-escalation at a time when wider conflict could have serious consequences for the region and the world.

Pakistan's approach is clear. We believe that disputes, no matter how serious, must ultimately be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy. Our security is linked to the peace and stability of our neighbourhood and the world at large. Pakistan will continue to support efforts that reduce tensions, protect regional stability and create conditions for cooperation.

This is also a time to look inward and focus on the work that will determine Pakistan's future. We must strengthen our economy, create greater opportunities for our young people, improve education and skills, strengthen institutions through series of governance, economic and social reforms to ensure that the benefits of development and democracy reach every part and community of the country.

Pakistan's greatest strength is its young people. Across the country and around the world, they are demonstrating their talent in science, technology, business, education and the creative industries. Our responsibility is to give them the education, skills and opportunities they need to realise their potential. By investing in our youth today, we are investing in Pakistan's future.

For ordinary Pakistanis, national progress is measured in practical terms. It means a young person finding the skills and opportunity to build a career. It means a family being able to access quality education and healthcare. It means farmers, workers, traders and businesses being able to plan for the future with greater confidence. The strength of Pakistan will ultimately be judged by whether our national progress improves the lives of its people.

We also renew our solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirm our support for their legitimate struggle for their rights. Pakistan will continue to support a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of its people and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

On this occasion, I also want to reiterate that despite historical differences, we have always respected and supported the national sovereignty of our neighbour Afghanistan and expect the same reciprocity. It is sad that the current interim regime of Afghanistan is allowing and supporting a cocktail of terror groups to use their soil for launching attacks against neighbouring countries including Pakistan. It is sad the Taliban regime of Afghanistan is collaborating with India in launching terror attacks against Pakistani civilians and security personnel. They are doing this to distract us from the peace building efforts of Pakistan, recognised by entire world.

I warn them to stop these evil actions against the people of Pakistan and assure all and sundry that the armed forces of Pakistan are capable of defeating these evil designs.

On this Independence Day, I call upon all Pakistanis to contribute to the country's progress in whatever field they serve.

May Allah Almighty protect Pakistan, grant peace and prosperity to our people, strengthen our country and guide us towards a better future.

Pakistan Zindabad.
