THE STORY OF PAKISTAN
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INDEPENDENCE DAY AND OUR OBLIGATIONS

Dear Kids, Assalam-o-Alaikum!
It is finally that time of the year when the glorious month of August comes into our lives, bringing with it the delightful festivities and celebrations. The streets and walls in cities and towns across Pakistan are painted green, everybody is dressed up in the sparkling attire, and the beautiful flags with crescent and star are seen fluttering everywhere. It is not just the day, the 14th of August, but it is the entire month that brings to us joy and fills in us added spirit. By the way, don’t forget taking snaps and sharing with us pictures of the flags you hoist on your rooftop and decorate your home with buntings. On our part, Hilal for Kids – that is completing three years of launching this August – has come up again with excellent write-ups, which will not only increase your knowledge but will also remind you of how our forefathers’ relentless struggle and sacrifice paid off; how we won the most precious and sacred goal of a separate homeland, a sovereign state, an independent country!

Dear Readers!
In the last seven and a half decades, Pakistan has come a long way from a small country fighting for its survival and finding for it a place in the comity of nations to a strong and vibrant Pakistan with a heritage to be proud of and a lot many accomplishments in fields of education, technical & technological skill, indigenous industrial, economic and defence development. There is no dearth of talent. Every day, new and brilliant minds come forward with innovative ideas on how to better serve the country and push it forward to attain self-reliance. Remember, this all hasn’t happened without paying a price. Hundreds and thousands of people lost their lives while migrating to Pakistan. Thousands have lost lives in wars with India, and during the two decades long war against terror. We have also survived a number of disasters, including devastating earthquakes and ravaging floods. The recent Covid-19 pandemic is a huge challenge we still face. While emerging out strong and triumphant, we’ve proved that to us freedom is much more important than anything else because it is the only way that leads to enhanced expressions of creativity, increased productivity and an overall quality of life.

Dear Friends!
We don’t have to stop here. We have ahead of us gigantic tasks of achieving excellence and magnificence. We may have differences, but we will have to set them aside. Bigger challenges demand greater concords. We prove this in testing times, why not in normal situations? And you know ‘normal’ has changed anew. In this info age, nanotech, cyber and hybrid warfare environment, influencing minds through dis-info labs and artificial intelligence, the ‘new normal’ brings with it smouldering mysteries. We have to remain vigilant and face such onslaughts prudently. Hats off to the Quaid’s vision; one wonders how deep he discerned into the future: “My young friends, I look forward to you as the real makers of Pakistan, do not be exploited and do not be misled. Create amongst yourselves complete unity and solidarity. Set an example of what youth can do. Your main occupation should be in fairness to yourself, to your parents, in fairness to the State, to devote your attention to your studies. If you fritter away your energies now, you will always regret.”

Therefore, dear ones, our exuberance on Independence Day demands from us a promise to rejuvenate our spirits and pool in maximum to the glory and magnificence of our country through developing “a sound sense of discipline, character, initiative and a solid academic background. You must devote yourself wholeheartedly to your studies, for that is your first obligation to yourself, your parents and to the State.” (Quaid’s address to the students of Islamia College Peshawar, 12 April 1948)

Until next time. Have a Happy Independence Day!

Farooq-uz-Zaman
The creation of Pakistan is not a chance or a spontaneous happening rather it is a story of long years of struggle. Since Pakistan Resolution, passed in 1940, Independence Movement gained momentum and became popular demand of the Muslims. But the struggle for freedom and identity was started with the war of Independence 1857.

- Sir Syed Ahmed Khan (17 October 1817–27 March 1898) timely judged that Muslims could safeguard their interests only if they excel in education. He launched Aligarh Movement, established Aligarh University, which proved as a milestone towards Pakistan Movement.

- Indian National Congress was established in 1885 to give the people of subcontinent a representation in the legislative process. However, it was heavily dominated by the Hindus which couldn’t represent the Muslims well. Sir Syed Ahmed advised Muslims to stay away from politics and not to join the Congress.

- All India Muslim League (30 December 1906) was founded to protect the interests and political rights of Muslims. Mohammad Ali Jinnah joined the All Indian Muslim League in 1913.

- Lucknow Pact (1916) was a milestone initiative
in the subcontinent's political history that paved the way for separate electorate for Muslims and allowed representation to religious minorities in provincial legislatures. Mohammad Ali Jinnah played a pivotal role in the Lucknow Pact between Indian National Congress and All India Muslim League.

- Khilafat Movement (1919-1924) was a protest aimed at restoring the Ottoman caliphate. The movement was unsuccessful and came to an end gradually when in 1922 Turkey moved towards democracy and nationalism, and finally Mustafa Kamal abolished Khilafat in 1924.
- Jinnah presented 14 Points in 1929 to counter Nehru Report. His Points show his deep political understanding and farsightedness.
- The 25th annual session of All India Muslim League (1930) was held at Allahabad in which Allama Iqbal delivered his khutba (lecture), in which he gave vision of independent state comprising of Muslim-majority provinces.
- A series of conferences (1930-1932) was held under British Raj at London between Hindu and Muslim politicians to discuss constitutional reforms in India. These are named as 'Three Round Table Conferences'. Jinnah attended the first and second while Allama Iqbal attended the second and third round table conferences.
- Now or Never; Are We to Live or Perish Forever? (1933). Ch Rahmat Ali suggests the name of independent Muslim state as Pakistan.
- The Government of India Act (August 1935) was passed by the British Parliament which stated for the establishment of a Federation of India that will be made up of provinces of British India and some or all of the Princely states.
- Lahore Resolution (23rd March 1940) was passed in the historic session of All India Muslim League at Minto Park Lahore. It was later named as Pakistan Resolution.
- Gandhi started Civil Disobedience Movement
(13 October 1940) but it did not gain popularity amongst Muslims, and Jinnah himself called it a campaign to pressurize the British Raj to recognize Congress as an authoritative and representative.

- The World War-II (1939) broke out and the British Government sent senior minister Sir Stafford Cripps to India leading the Cripps Mission in March 1942. Mohammad Ali Jinnah rejected the mission as it did not acknowledge a separate homeland for Muslims of India.

- Pakistan Movement gained momentum and Pakistan became the only united goal of the Muslims of British India. (A rally in Lahore in 1946)

- Jinnah-Gandhi talks (1944) started where Gandhi tried to defer Jinnah to let to go of the concept of sovereign Pakistan. The Quid rejected.

- Simla Conference (1945) was held between Lord Wavell and political leaders. It proposed an agreement for the self-rule of India that provided separate representation for Muslims. All-India Muslim League rejected it refusing Congress as a dominant party for a new Executive Council.

- Central and Provincial Legislature elections (1945-46) were held in which Muslim League won all 30 seats reserved for Muslims. In the provincial election held in early 1946, Congress won most of the non-Muslim seats while Muslim League won 95% of the Muslim seats.

- Cabinet Mission (1946) arrived in India to find a solution to the political deadlock. To form the interim setup All India Muslim League accepted it and Quaid-i-Azam nominated Liaquat Ali Khan, I. I. Chundrigar, Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, Ghazanfar Ali Khan and Jogendra Nath Mandal to the cabinet.

- Lord Mountbatten (March 1947), the last viceroy of British India, arrived and announced that the power would be handed back to Indians by
June 1948. Quaid-i-Azam held his stance for a separate homeland and the creation of Pakistan. Lord Mountbatten announced the partition of the subcontinent on June 3, 1947.

The Indian Independence Act (July 18, 1947) was passed which created two separate dominions; Pakistan and India and provided for the complete end of British control over affairs from August 15, 1947.

The creation of Pakistan (14 August, 1947) came true under the dynamic leadership of Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the gems of Muslims Leaders. This independence (Azadi) came at a huge cost with over 11 million refugees left their homes, and over one million sacrificed their lives for Pakistan.

Quaid’s address to the first Constituent Assembly at Karachi (11 September 1947).

Long Live Pakistan! 💥💥

MY BELOVED PAKISTAN

Khadija Qamar Kiani

Allah has blessed us with independence and a sovereign country Pakistan as a result of long struggle by our forefathers like Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Iqbal and many others. In the process, our nation laid down thousands of lives while achieving Pakistan in 1947.

This August has brought us another Independence Day. This day asks us to think what Pakistan has given us? It is really the most beautiful country and landscape in the world. We are a beautiful nation, full of life and happiness. Our people are intelligent and talented, hardworking and hospitable.

Pakistan gives me freedom, identity and status. Wherever I go I am known as Pakistani. Here I enjoy the status of Class One citizen, freedom of speech, religion and life. This country gives me respect, dignity and honour and protects my basic rights, wealth and property. Pakistan has given me beautiful home, excellent school and loving teachers.

Pakistan has rich culture and amazing traditions. Its army is one of the best forces of the world. It defends Pakistan on borders and protects us within the territories. Our jawans and officers have laid down their lives for the defence of motherland. Our strong defence guarantees us sovereignty and freedom. The brave sons of soil join the armed forces with a spirit of sacrifice and self-pride. I also wish to become a soldier.

I love Pakistan more than my life. It has given me so much. I love Gilgit, Skardu, Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Abbottabad is my dream place. I often visit Murree Hills, too. I am proud to be a Pakistani. Long Live my beloved country, Pakistan! 💥💥
Happy Independence Day

Youth’s Resolve to Make Pakistan Strong and Educated

The role of youth, particularly students in the development of a country, is like a backbone without which the human body cannot maintain its momentum. Their unflinching resolve can change the fate of a nation. They have a vital role to play in the uplift of country since they are an integral part of any transformation. Auspiciously, Pakistan has been blessed with the most vibrant, highly talented and skilled youth that comprises over 64 percent of total population. They are passionate, hardworking and dedicated towards national cause. To celebrate this year’s Independence Day, Hilal for Kids comes up with a new idea and arranges brief messages of few brilliant Pakistani students who have a wish to change the destiny of Pakistan by their contributions and efforts. Here are some of them:

Our Resolve Cannot Be Shaken

I wish you all a happy Independence Day. I recently completed my Bachelor of Commerce from Allama Iqbal Open University. Currently, I am a student of web developing and data coding. My mission is to make my country efficient as Pakistan is not far behind in the field of information technology and data coding. I believe that youth can make Pakistan most vibrant and developed country in the world. We should remember that unity has strength. We should work together in order to make Pakistan prosperous. We are Pakistanis and our resolve cannot be challenged.

Ilahi Bakhsh, age 22, Karachi

Long Live Pakistan!

I am a student of BS Criminology at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro. I want my country crime free. My role model is Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. We should follow his footsteps. My only wish is to make my country safest place in the world. The Independence Day requires us to remember our forefathers’ great sacrifices that they gave during Pakistan Movement. You should try to make Pakistan strong by utilizing your energies in the field you are expert in. Pakistan should be our priority. Long Live Pakistan!

Ghazanfer Ali, 22, Jamshoro
We are Pakistan

I'm a student of Grade 6. My slogan is: “we are hope; we are Pakistan”. It was amazing for me to know that how our forefathers and great leaders achieved Pakistan after a long struggle, hard work and sacrifices. I strongly believe in Quaid’s quote “Education is a matter of life and death to our nation. The world is moving so fast that if you don’t educate yourself, you will not be only left behind, but will be finished up.” I want to be a leader following the footsteps of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. I urge young fellows to come forward and contribute for the stability and prosperity of Pakistan.

Muhammad Ahsan Shiraz, age 9, 6th Class, Rawalpindi

Healthy Pakistan

I am a student of Operation Theatre Technology (OT Tech) at the Iqbal College of Health Sciences, Fateh Jang. My role model is our beloved Holy Prophet (PBUH). It is my wish to serve my country. I want Pakistan disease free. I believe that sincerity is the key to success and by following this golden principle we can make Pakistan healthy.

Arslan Naseer, 23, Attock

A Blessed Land

I am Aliya Ashraf. I am in 6th Grade at St. Mary’s School, London. I want to become a medical doctor. My role model is our Holy Prophet, the Last Messenger of God (PBUH). Pakistan is a blessed land. It has been ranked among the most beautiful and amazing countries with its hospitable people, natural landscape and geographical position. I want to see it clean and green. On the auspicious occasion of Independence Day, I want to give my fellow youth a message that they should give respect to the country and countrymen. Keep it clean and green.

Aliya Ashraf, 10, London

One Nation, One Destiny

Happy Independence Day to my fellow countrymen! I am Rabbea Naveed. I am in Class 3, at Comprehensive Model High School Sargodha. My role model is the Poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal. His poetry inspires me a lot which is full of hope. He stresses upon doing constant struggle. Youth have always been at the forefront and their participation during the Pakistan Movement was awesome. If today’s youth follow Iqbal’s message, they can turn Pakistan into a great nation. We are one nation and our destiny is one, too.

Rabbea Naveed, 8, Sargodha

Be Honest and Punctual

Dear fellows, you know honesty is the best policy. Without it we cannot achieve our goals and objectives. A nation cannot grow amongst dishonest people. I always try to follow the teachings of Islam and the Holy Prophet (PBUH) who teaches us to be honest with our people and country. So, we should be honest with our work, show commitment and fulfil our promises. My aim is to serve my countrymen, even with small deeds that can help improving others’ lives.

Muhammad Moaz, 19, 3rd Year, Superior College, Sargodha

Serve Humanity

I want to do something exceptional for my country in whatever field I opt, in my life. To be positive is as good as you are. You should learn more and more. You must improve your skills and use them for the benefit of your country and its people. It is our responsibility to help the people wherever and whenever they need.

Muhammad Burhan Abdullah, 15, 9th, APS (FWO), Rawalpindi

Pakistan First

To serve my country is my prime objective. I want to improve the conditions of daily wagers in Pakistan, particularly I want to work against child labor. Youth is the engine of the country; they should focus on their studies with dedication and commitment. We need to take steps to improve educational standards and literacy rate in Pakistan.

Urooj Fatima, 21, 2nd Year, COMSATS University Islamabad
Thank You Pakistan!
I am Saira. Recently, I have completed my BS Honors. My wish is to make my parents and country proud. My role model is Hazrat Umar bin Khattab (R.A). I admire him for his charismatic personality and statesmanship that is prerequisite for running the matters of a nation state. I love Pakistan. I am proud to be a Pakistani. I shall contribute my energies for the safety and defence of my beloved country. Pakistan gives me respect and the right to live. Thank you Pakistan! The most precious thing we have at this age is ‘Time and Spirit’. Youth is the golden period of our life and we can conquer the world if we want to. My fellow youth! Don’t waste this time! It is up to you. You can make your youth days constructive. So, be productive and set your goals. I am sure that one day you will achieve what you want.

Saira Naveed Elahi, 22, BS Honors in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Gujrat

Peaceful Balochistan, Peaceful Pakistan
I am Qamber Ali from Turbat, a district of Balochistan province. I have aims to serve the common good values. As the recent pace of development in Balochistan is portraying a significant outlook, I am hopeful for a peaceful and sustainable growth in Balochistan in days to come. The youth of Balochistan are the future of Pakistan. After the long freedom struggle of our forefathers, it is us for the collective “we” that can serve Pakistan in defence, civil service, public policy, journalism, regional and international affairs. Unity, Faith and Discipline is the only way forward for us. Since there is much to serve for the people of Pakistan, the fellow youth of Pakistan have the strength to work and stay committed to their dreams for the future of our beloved homeland, Pakistan.

Qamber Ali, 21, BS Hons Political Science, Gouv College University, Lahore

Nation Builders
I am from Havelian, KPK. I am fond of reading books. My passion is to join and serve Pakistan Army. Pakistan should be proud of its youth. I think engaging youth as nation builders can be a key strategy to improve the country’s outlook. We should always keep in mind

Representing Pakistan Abroad
We being Pakistanis carry the responsibility of representing Pakistan in the best possible way. The precious identity of being Pakistani has to be well taken care of. No matter wherever we live, wherever we go, our love for Pakistan runs in our veins like blood. This warmth can be felt when we meet fellow countrymen abroad. The heart begins to pound heavily when we meet and greet Pakistani brothers and sisters there. The love that we feel has been transferred to us from chest to chest through our ancestors. We as nation are united and we have always stood as one unit in difficult times. We want others to know that we stand for peace and harmony. We spread the word of love not terror. Pakistan is the land of beauty. It is a place worth visiting.

This message of peace must be spread and spoken out loud through the behaviours of every Pakistani especially by our beloved expatriates, as they represent Pakistan in every corner of the world.

Nokhaiz Haider, UK

Quaid-i-Azam’s advice to students: “Pakistan is proud of her youth, particularly the students, who are nation builders of tomorrow. They must fully equip themselves by discipline, education and training for the arduous task lying ahead of them”.

Syeda Huda Gilani, 15, 10th, Govt Girls High School Havelian, Abbottabad

An Engine of Growth
As a passionate student of Allied School, I always stood first in my class. Pakistan is my beloved homeland. It is a land of opportunities. Its youth have a lot of potential. They must be engaged in character building, which is a right step in right direction. Young people are full of vibrant ideas. Their ideas can show the country a new path towards sustainability. We should work for our country and we can simply contribute to this country by abiding by law. We must adhere to the sanctity of law and follow it. As youth, we owe Pakistan a lot. One effective way to pay back is to study hard and stay and serve our dear homeland.

Areej Asif, 11, Class 6th, Allied Public School, Rawalpindi
“Don’t Let My HEART Die!”
GIVING LIFE TO PAKISTAN
Zaina Liaqat

Blood pools up at his feet, and for the first time, it feels like the soil has cried. “Stay with me a bit longer,” he pleads to the bleeding body as if begging time to slow down. 60 seconds counting down, and he realizes death follows a clock of its own. He tries to keep a steady hand, aiming at the enemies’ base, but hot, streaming tears start blurring out his vision. Despite his training in the army camp, he realizes that the one thing they cannot teach you is how to tackle death. 50 seconds for death to arrive, and his rifle runs out of bullets. The fire from the enemies’ side dies down too. Instinctively, dropping down his weapon, he crouches down beside his friend, and tries to recall how to deal with such a crisis. But his brain doesn’t play along. It stares straight into his friend’s eyes, almost lifeless, yet surprisingly shining with light. 40 seconds, and he hopes that his friend pushes hard out of death’s arms till he reaches the medical camps. Isn’t it all about having a strong will power? Little does he know, falling into the arms of death is much easier than falling into a life’s regret? And that is precisely where he is falling now. Regrets are piling up in the back of his mind. Why couldn’t he take the bullet for his friend? Isn’t it always like that in every heroic story? But in this story, only death is crowned a hero. 30 seconds, and he can still hear a faint, prolonged breath. And then, his friend’s mouth begins to form a smile. He lets out a laugh. And he succumbs to the hope of living. In all these years of friendship, he never paid attention to the sound of his friend’s laugh, and it was then, he realized how some sounds haunt you, and this laugh would ring in his ears forever. Lying there on the dusty grounds, with not a person in sight, not an animal in sight, it was war. But it only felt like war because his friend was dying and he couldn’t reach out for help. 20 seconds to go. And he hopes for some last words before his friend dies. But followed by the laugh, was only silence. Silence that was killing him. As he reaches out to grasp his friend’s hand, the grip loosens. He knew this was the moment he dreaded, as the hand falls off. 10 seconds to go for death, but his friend had died too soon. Isn’t that what everyone would say, ‘He died too soon’ but there’s no soon and early in the world of death. He couldn’t stop his tears and it felt like that was the only gift he could honor his friend with. And with a crippling realization, he knew he would never be able to visit his friend’s grave. But what use was a piece of stone when it never talked back? It felt, as if something inside him had died too, but he was quite unsure. Five seconds, but what point does this countdown make any more when death had already come and swept off a beautiful soul? He thinks death is greedy, to take the purest souls.

And while he sat there, for what seemed like an eternity, he felt like his friend’s dead body began to talk back. “Don’t let my heart die”, those were his last words. Or was he hallucinating? Graves don’t talk back, do they? He tried putting dirt on – but hope didn’t die. He tried piling more dirt, but his conscience didn’t die. More dirt yet love didn’t die. And that’s when it hit him – there are some things that are so strong in our possession, even death cannot take them. And his friend’s heart was one of them. He would have to walk off from the bleeding body, but this time, death had given a gift. The gift of a heart – his friend’s heart had refused death, and as dirt remains dirt, the heart kept beating.

With all the pain, and the tears stinging in his eyes, he felt the soil tremble with the weight of bearing such patriotic blood. And with 1 second to go, he realized how he felt his own heart die. Yet his friend’s heart lived on. In the memories of love. In stories of hope. So it was his turn to laugh now. Because seeing his friend’s body, he knew that in the world of death, no matter how many bodies it takes, there’s something death cannot set eyes on. The heart of someone you love.

(Zaina is in 3rd year MBBS)
My dear Homeland!
I am a 13-year-old girl living in the Middle East; my heart beats with your beats, I breathe because you live.

We the Pakistanis here had earlier this year celebrated the 23rd March, the Pakistan Day, with utmost fervor, and watched the Joint Services Parade on PTV live from the parade ground, Islamabad. This year, I also wished to be personally present on the 23rd March parade, or at least in this independence month, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it appeared difficult.

My dear Pakistan!
Though I haven’t been able to touch your soil, yet I feel every moment of mine being in your lap, feeling your warmth, being safe and secure. My heart is filled with your love, and the love of my fellow Pakistanis, brothers and sisters, and above all the valorous soldiers of Pakistan Armed Forces who have made us so proud with their acts of gallantry and courage – displayed during the war against terrorism and the various wars against the enemy. I along with my family, while watching the parade, the soldiers marching, the troopers parachuting and the commandoes chanting Allahoo-Allahoo, always get us enthralled and mesmerized. You live in our dreams, indeed.

I have heard stories from my parents that you are so beautiful a country that people love to visit your places in high mountains and valleys, in northern areas and snowclad hills. Your lakes and beaches and planes and plateaus, rivers and green grassy fields – all present captivating scenic beauties. I really want to walk barefoot on your soil from Gwadar to Khunjerab, from Karachi to Khyber and from Chaman to Kashmir. I wish to sniff your smell and taste your fragrance and scent. I want to breathe much in your airs and in the areas from east to west and north to south. I really love to eat the variety of foods you have in the various cultures of yours – in Sindh and Punjab, Balochistan and KP, Kashmir and GB, or in the buzzing cities of Peshawar and Lahore, Quetta and Karachi, Gujranwala and Hyderabad, or Swat. I have heard about the salt and goldmines, about the museums and mausoleums, historical buildings and mosques, forts and tombs and I love to visit those places, and see with my own eyes the rich heritage you have in your folds.

My dear homeland, I have a great inspiration to do something the best for you in my lifetime. In order to contribute on my part, I am reading some books on your history, my beloved country, about the Pakistan Movement or the Independence of Pakistan, and the founding fathers of Pakistan. Right now, in my hand is a tiny booklet that carries the quotes and speeches of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. I am feeling as if the Quaid himself speaks to me, asking me to “work, work and work”, and in return I am giving him my word that “Yes, my dear Quaid, I shall follow your sayings in letter and spirit, and shall ever work for my personal buildup as well as for the benefit, success and glory of my motherland.” I also have
books, which the ISPR has recently published, relating to the history of Pakistan, the Two-Nation Theory, and struggle for a separate homeland.

I assure you, my dear homeland, that we the new generation, the kids and the youth, shall be honest and sincere, committed and dedicated, and shall display the height of devotion, extraordinary hard work and exemplary professional skills while contributing our part towards your economic development, our people’s prosperity and wellbeing, and the security and safety of our homeland. We shall come out clear, very clear. We are sorry that in the past we didn’t do enough but now we have realized that we have to excel in education, in all practical fields of life, in order to compete the world.

My beloved country, you might be thinking that what made me, ‘the mad girl’ to suddenly write a letter to you and the answer is, ‘I love you’, I really miss visiting you, kissing your land and breathing in your air. Please accept my love and my prayers for your glory and shine, for your safety and bliss. I have been told that you get perturbed over our disunity and extremist beliefs, negative tendencies and blame games. Thank you very much, dear Pakistan, this is your big heart that you have accommodated such a large and heterogeneous strata of societies and yet you motherly treat all without discrimination. You are brave, strong and capable of doing anything, regardless of what they all say or do. That is exactly why you are standing tall, firm, strong and resolute. I have seen the storms you have surpassed your way through, and you are battling through more. These only make you stand proud like a roaring lion while the moon glows and the sunlight heightens at your peaks.

Just live on, my beloved motherland, don’t you see you have sons of soil and daughters of your own who are everready to defend every inch of you and to sacrifice their everything for your integrity, honor and sovereignty. I tell you, our love for you comes from our ability and study, capability and knowledge, innovation and skill, creativity and intellect. Our strength for you comes from the will to keep you clean and green, beautiful and serene. We promise to grow more trees and protect the wildlife. We have to care about the milk in the farms and other edibles in the market to be pure and clean, unadulterated and unpolluted. As a result of which, we will give you a healthy and strong generation that will play its part with a soldier’s spirit who isn’t just a gun-shooter, a master in rolling tanks, or an ideal-planner but a role model for others in love, bravery and sacrifice.

Long live you, my dear Pakistan!

(Elizeh is student in a Middle Eastern country)

My Land
Asma Ishaq

It blows some soothing breeze here,
This is my Motherland where I feel care!
From the clouds, it comes down a rain,
That grows green crops with no vain.
Its mountains, sea and the desert,
All are a manifestation of the sacred.
May the mountains of my Motherland!
Stand graceful sending the happy bend.
May the blissful gales fan sheer pleasure!
And the love among people fade never.

This soil produces sons with no fear,
Brave mothers raise them with care.
The gentle sea-waves touch down the shore,
To instill unity in nation with hope, for sure.
My Land resides in the hearts like a beloved,
I love it every day more like any devoted.

Mom & Motherland
Saba Ejaz

Sit with me, my mom!
I’ll tell you my tales
Praise my achievements
Comfort my fails
And you can’t imagine
Who I’ll grow up to be
I’ll remember our cuddles
And all your advice
As mommies are friendly
And wonderful and wise
I might just be tiny
But I’ll look up in awe
Your smile and your warmth
All that I’m searching for
So is my Motherland
Then when I’m grown up
We’ll sit side by side
Both eyeing each other
With immeasurable pride
And unconquerable will
With all my love for you, mom!
And you my beloved Motherland!
Land: Friends! Summer has become terrible. My both friends – water and air – are no more supportive. Out there, it’s an unbearable hot; the reason is something anonymous?

Water: I try my best to keep you hydrated and green, but even I can’t make my marine life completely happy. Then how can I take care of yours? Something or someone anonymous is continuously damaging me and my life partners.

Land: Your life is better than mine. See my roots; cracked and freaking. My partners are dying and dying. My baby plants have gone weak.

Water: That’s not my fault. Imagine my life years ago. I had had a lot many species, and now very few are left.

Land: Your species have drowned and died but ours have cut and buried. Many areas are left devoid of vegetation.

Water: I’m the most important part of life. Without me, everything would die.

Air: Excuse me! Without me, you can’t even breathe. Then how only you are important?

Water: You are kidding me. Ever ask this land a day without me. They would starve.

Land: No argument, friend! Nature has created everything important in different ways. We three are interlinked.

Air: My freshness depends on you.

Land: But this deforestation is taking me and the climate to two extremes – hot or cold. Depends on where you live.

Land: I’m in the middle of you both. The air blames me, and water blames too. But don’t you think there’s someone else there who is responsible for all this?

Water: Believe me! That anonymous has polluted me. Harmed me and finished me.

Air: It’s important to show our benefits to Earth so that we are no more the target. Otherwise, I can’t see something good for us in coming years.

Water: I’m full of food for the species on Earth. Tasty, scrumptious!

Land: I grow the basic crops that meet the needs of the living beings – the heterogeneous fruits and those juicy vegetables. Then why nobody cares?

Air: High above everything, I was the coldest layer but now my temperature is increasing. Believe me, something is there after us...

Land: Anonymous? But who is it? What do they want? Why don’t they benefit from us, rather than destroying us?

Water: Let us teach them, and become a partner in keeping this Earth cleaner, greener and more peaceful place for living.

Air: We need someone to help us with this. Otherwise, no one would care. I’ll lose my purity; land, you will lose your greenery; and water will become dry. Isn’t it?

Land: I agree with you, both of you, but it’s time for the guardians and custodians of the planet Earth to think for a better tomorrow. It’s now or never.

Habitats: Thank you for the call, Land, Air and Water! We are equally worried about your concerns, your rights and their preservations.

Air: Who is this Habitat? Finally, God has sent
someone to take care of us?

**Habitats:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. They are included in a UN Resolution called the 2030 Agenda or what is colloquially known as Agenda 2030. The SDGs were developed in the post-2015 Development Agenda as the future global development framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals which ended in 2015. The 17 SDGs are: (1) No Poverty, (2) Zero Hunger, (3) Good Health and Well-being, (4) Quality Education, (5) Gender Equality, (6) Clean Water and Sanitation, (7) Affordable and Clean Energy, (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth, (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, (10) Reducing Inequality, (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities, (12) Responsible Consumption and Production, (13) Climate Action, (14) Life Below Water, (15) Life On Land, (16) Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, (17) Partnerships for the Goals.

**Land:** We wholeheartedly thank you for approaching us at the right time. Can you tell us who is continuously damaging me and my friends?

**SDGs:** Sad enough! We feel shy while telling, but they are the humans themselves, none else. They cut trees and they throw waste in water streams. The pollution on land and in water pollute the air too. Keeping in mind your three beautiful friends: SDGs have made three goals that relate to you and your advantage. They are: Climate action, life below water and life on land.

**Air:** Grateful to you. Climate action relates to me. Once this issue is controlled, I am sure life on land and in water will become easy and pleasant.

**SDG:** True that. Let me share something interesting and related to land and water. Once the climate is in control, we can bring life back both in water and on land. This will automatically make the air as fresh as it was once.

**Land:** Interesting. Can you share with my friends the study you have made so far?

**SDG:** Sure. According to recent report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 1 million plants and animal species today face extinction because of the human activities, including the humans caused climate change. Protecting Nature and biodiversity offers a powerful, Nature-based approach to tackle climate change. Ecosystems like forests and wetlands are considered climate solutions because they absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

**Land:** Perfectly noticed. I ask the humans to start plantation. *One man one tree. One home ten trees. One school thousand trees.* Believe me, Earth will become heaven. Life will become the easiest. Moreover, the planet will restore its oxygen cylinders and the plant will save our families. If deforestation was not done, we would be enough to provide oxygen to the Covid-19 patients. So better luck next time. Still, I suggest some active participation from humans, and that is: a) End deforestation and restore degraded deforestation; b) End desertification; c) Ensure conservation of mountainous ecosystems; d) Protect natural habitats; e) Start plantation drives; and f) Conserve and restore freshwater ecosystems.
SDG: Land, you are always welcoming and supportive. Humans need to join hands together and prove that they are the strongest ones. Now coming to the life below water, our study on it brought tears.

**Water:** Already we are in a liquid form, so nobody can notice our tears. It’s of immense pleasure that someone is finally thinking about our next years.

SDG: You are on the dot. Let me tell the humans what have you been and what have they ended you up with. Healthy the oceans and seas are essential to our existence; they cover 70% of our planet and we rely on them for food, energy and water. Yet, we have managed in doing tremendous damage to these precious resources; we must protect them by eliminating pollution and overfishing, and immediately start to responsibly managing and protecting the marine life.

Water: Thankfully, you have highlighted the issues we are facing. My suggestions to the humans, specifically the new generation, are: a) Reduce marine pollution; b) Protect and restore ecosystems; c) Reduce ocean acidification; d) Promote sustainable fishing; e) Conserve marine and coastal areas; and f) Say no to overfishing.

SDG: It is precise, and to the point. You’ve shown the kids and humans the key to a better water land making your water streams safe and secure.

**Air:** If the humans follow the suggestions of the land and water, believe me I already feel half better. These measures will balance the air composition. I don’t address the humans, but my hope on Earth is from kids. Hope they absorb this all positively.

SDG: We are teaching and training them on very basic levels. They are enthusiastic and hard-working, they are learning and implementing. They celebrate World Environment Day with zeal and zest. That shows their interest.

**Kids:** We are sorry for what we have been doing so far. But it is our promise from today that we shall take care of you – Water, Air and Land. We shall protect the Mother Earth and your basic elements. We shall plant trees, conserve the habitats and species; we shall stop deforestation and ensure sustainable cities and nations; we shall also ensure their healthy and good living; we shall not pollute the air, land and water; we will keep the water clean and protected; and we shall also reduce the carbon emissions.

**Friends!** Let’s join hands for a better future. We want a healthy and happy life. That’s possible only if we make our resolutions our habits. Take care of surroundings like our homes. Protect the species as a gift of Nature. These are not the duties of a single man; we need to follow them collectively and teach the illiterate. Our motto is a healthier, cleaner and purer Pakistan.  

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The Beauty of Nature

Shaheer Ali Daud

**Nature** adds meaning to life on the planet Earth. It is in fact the treasure house of every important element that sustains life. Nature has placed everything useful in order and with a purpose. The flowing rivers, beautiful valleys, high mountains, deep oceans, vast skies, changing seasons, absorbing raindrops, mesmerizing moonlight, chirping and singing birds, etc. – everything natural is part of Nature. In fact, we can’t count the blessings of Nature bestowed upon us, the humans. Nature has social, psychological and economical values; like, mountains protect us and keep the balance of earth intact, rivers and plants feed us, while the earth sustains us.

There are countless creatures living on this planet. All are serving us with a predefined purpose. No creature either walking, trotting, running or crawling on earth or flying into air, is made useless or without a purpose. It is Nature that has made the life possible on earth. We are dependent on seasons, rivers, mountains, birds, trees, plants, fountains – everything. In fact, mankind as a whole is dependent upon Nature. Nature indeed is the kind mother, great teacher and best friend.

We all need to protect Nature. But, unfortunately, we the humans are ill-treating it. By not taking protective measures, we are actually harming it. It is falling back due to angry, greedy and lustful actions of us. We need to conserve it, its beauty and its greenery; we need to spread awareness, so to halt the ongoing damage to mother Nature.

(Shaheer is in 5th Grade)
Our Scenic Balochistan

Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan, is well known for its natural beauty and people’s hospitality, unique culture and different languages. It has Iran on west, Afghanistan on northwest, KPK and Punjab on northeast-east, Sindh on southeast and Arabian Sea on south. Balochi, Pashto, Brahui and Persian are the languages spoken. Its capital is Quetta, the largest developed city of the province. Balochistan has 26 districts and each has its own specialty. Here is a brief description of some of the districts:

**Awaran**
Awaran is situated in the south of Balochistan, located at the distance of 725km from Quetta. It is famous for oasis of dates that produces more than 15,000 tons per annum. Wheat and barley are other main crops of the district.

**Zhob**
Formerly known as Fort Sandeman or Appozai, Zhob is located on the bank of Zhob river, 337km from Quetta. It was named Fort Sandeman during the British era. It was named “Zhob” on 30 July 1976 by Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

**Chaghi**
Chaghi is the largest district in Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan on north and Iran on west. Chaghi is famous for Pakistan’s nuclear tests on 28 May 1998.

**Pishin**
Pishin is one of the beautiful districts of Balochistan province. Its valley is equipped with thousands of fruit orchards which present a spectacular and outstanding view, especially in summer. Pishin is famous for its fertility. Lake Bund Khushdil Khan is famous tourist spot here. It is a man-made lake that is 5km long and 2km wide at a distance of 16km from the Pishin valley. Its cool gentle water and beautiful landscape attracts lot of visitors.

It is one of the most beautiful places in Pishin that holds most of the attention of the visitors because it does not loses its beauty in any season. The Pishin Rest House in autumn seasons: how appealing to the eyes it looks! The serenity, the cool breeze, the perfect warmth of the sun – everything seems so perfect here – even the fresh air we breathe.
Abdul Sattar Edhi was a great humanitarian, legendary philanthropist and social activist. From adopting orphaned children to saving lives of the trapped or wounded, and burying the nameless dead, Edhi did everything. He was called the Angel of Mercy and the Richest Poor Man – because of his outstanding services to humanity.

The Making of Edhi
Edhi was born in a Memon Muslim family, in a village near Junagarh in January 1928. His father Shakoor raised him in a simple manner. His mother used to give him extra paisa as pocket money only to help the needy. He cared his mother much after she suffered paralysis. He was 19 years old when she died. Her death sparked a desire in him to care for the elderly, the poor and the needy. In 1965, he married Bilquis, a nurse by profession and compassionate mother by instinct. This gave a spur to his mission and together they embarked upon the journey of serving the humanity.

A Humanitarian
At the time of Independence in 1947, young Edhi witnessed a great deal of agony and pain while migrating from India to Pakistan. He saw Muslims being killed, families suffered and properties ravaged. In his early life, it was the most horrific human migration, which met with loot and bloodshed while crossing the borders. After reaching Karachi, despite personal sufferings, the young man extended all possible help to the needy in the refugee camps. This galvanized in him the passion of devoting his life for serving the humanity and mitigating the people’s sufferings. “No religion is higher than humanity”, was his clarion call. What he preached, he practised. He was more than a man. He made every second of life count in the service of people and wished to see every soul live in peace and tranquility.

Edhi Foundation
He started off by taking a small step. In 1951, when he was only 23, he bought a small dispensary at Mithadar to provide free medical service to the poor. People showed faith, showered love and poured hefty donations. When in 1957 the flu epidemic erupted, Edhi erected camps on the outskirts of Karachi and provided free immunization. This enabled him to form a trust
named “Edhi Foundation”, which within a few years expanded to a large network of nursing homes, free dispensaries, orphanages, maternity wards, women shelters, rehabilitation centres, morgues, blood banks, schools, cancer hospital, free meals, and a countrywide fleet of ambulances. His foundation provides free services of burial, free accommodation for orphans, the destitute and handicapped. Edhi Foundation’s welfare network is the biggest in Asia with 335 Edhi Centres, 13 Edhi homes housing 6000 people, 1800 fleet of ambulances, 7000 volunteers including teachers, doctors, 40,000 trained nurses, and countless volunteers. Edhi was himself an officially registered guardian of about 20,000 abandoned babies. 50,000 orphans are also taken care of by the foundation. In 1985, Edhi Village was built. It has a huge complex with free kitchens, workshops, sewing machine centres, electrical equipment and recreation rooms. One side of the complex caters 1500 mental patients whereas there is housing facility for 250 children, too. Edhi’s air ambulance service includes 3 planes and a helicopter.

In the 1993 floods in Punjab, his ambulances and workers rescued over 50,000 people. 

**Services Abroad**

Edhi stretched his services to other countries as well and provided rescue, relief and rehabilitation help to war ravaged or natural disaster hit people, without discrimination. When the hurricane, *Katrina*, hit the United States, he donated $100,000 for the victims. After 9/11, a donation of $100,000 was granted to Pakistanis who lost their jobs in New York. Be it a famine in Ethiopia in the year 1985 or the Gulf war of 1991, his relief teams reached every corner of globe. He contributed his share when various earthquakes hit Nepal. He personally delivered medicines to the poor and needy in Bosnia, Ethiopia and Afghanistan.

**His Death and Legacy**

The man who remained worried for others gave no time to his own health. Kidneys failure put him on ventilator. He passed away on 8 July 2016, at the age of 88, and was laid to rest in his own established Edhi Village. The State of Pakistan awarded him official funeral in befitting manner. The Government of Pakistan awarded him the prestigious *Nishan-i-Imtiaz* in 1989, besides national awards by federal and provincial governments as well as civil society. The world recognized his services by awarding *Ramon Magsaysay Award* for public service-1986, *Lenin Peace Prize* for services in the Armenian earthquake-1988, *Paul Harris Fellow* from Rotary International Foundation-1993, *Hamdan Award* for volunteers in humanitarian medical services UAE-2000, *International Balzan Prize* for humanity, peace and brotherhood, Italy-2000, *UNESCO Award* in recognition of his life-long efforts-2009, etc. The *Guinness Book of World Record-2000* declared his foundation the largest voluntary ambulance organization of the world. The iconic Abdus Sattar Edhi and his wife Bilquees Edhi were nominated for Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. His widow, Bilquis, and son, Faisal, are now running the foundation.

**Edhi an Inspiration**

Edhi weaved the fabric of humanity with compassion and love. He led an exemplary life. He practised simplicity: grey *tunic* and *pyjamas* with scuffed sandals was the only attire he had. He lived in a two-room apartment. His favourite food was *roti* and *achar*. His entire cause can be summed up in three words: “humanity above religion”.

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**I Am Patriot**

**Kabir Raza**

A land earned through sweat n’ blood
Sacrifices offered just like a flood
14th August was the day of my country’s birth
Nothing can match its glorious worth
Unity, Faith n’ Discipline is the treasure we hold
These are the words that my Quaid has told
Our love for land flows as the mighty Indus
The faith in Allah is always within us
Our courage stands as high as Karakorum
Bravery in our veins that will always run
Live without this *Motherland* I cannot
As I am a Patriot.

(Kabir Raza is in Class 5, his poem won the 2nd best position in the Inter Beaconhouse “Pen a Poem” Competition 2021)
Ali Cogia and Gold Coins

Hassan Ali Bhatti

This story comes from the traditional Arabic tales “The Thousand and One Nights”

Ali Cogia’s friend had completely forgotten about the jar. But one day, the wife of his friend wanted to eat olives. Her husband remembered the jar of olives which Ali Cogia had given him. He went to his shop and opened the jar. The olives at the top were bad. To see that the rest of the olives were better, he shook the jar. Surprisingly, some gold coins dropped in the dish. Ali’s friend got amazed and took all the gold coins with him and replaced that jar with another fresh jar of olives.

One month later, Ali Cogia returned. The next day he went to see his friend. His friend was surprised to see Ali back. Cogia asked about the jar. His friend gave him the key of his shop and Ali rushed to the shop and took the jar home. When he took the olives out, there was no gold. He went to his friend and told him about the gold. His friend had the answer ready. “You only told about the olives, you didn’t tell about any gold.” Ali got angry and went to the judge and Cogia told his story. The judge asked Ali to prove that there were gold coins in the jar. He couldn’t prove it, and the judge dismissed the case.

Ali Cogia, who wanted justice, wrote a letter to Caliph Harun-ur-Rashid, asking him for help. The Caliph called both Ali and his friend to be present in the Caliph’s court next morning. That night the Caliph went out to the town and saw some children playing in the moonlight. He hid himself in the dark and watched. The two boys were acting like Ali Cogia and his friend. The Caliph remembered Cogia’s letter and about their case. The boy acting like Cogia told his story and the other boy, acting as judge, called two other boys acting like expert olive sellers. The experts tested the olives and found that the olives were in perfect condition. The boy acting as judge said, “How strange that Ali left the town for seven long years, and the olives were still fresh? Whereas the olives rot after three years.”

Seeing this, Harun-ur-Rashid and his deputys got stunned. Next morning, the Caliph called the boy who acted as a judge. The boy was nervous though, yet the Caliph honoured him much and asked him to sit beside him. When Ali Cogia and his friend came, the Caliph declared, “This boy will judge your case.” The boy called two real expert olive sellers who tested the olives, which were fresh. The boy asked them, “Does the olives’ freshness last for more than three years?” The experts said, “No.” The Caliph stood up in rage. Ali Cogia’s friend started trembling. He confessed that he had stolen the gold coins and replaced them with fresh olives. The Caliph sent Ali Cogia’s friend to prison and got recovered the gold coins and handed over to Ali. Cogia thanked the Caliph for the justice, and went home happily.

(Hassan is in Class 6)

Haniya Makes Pakistan Proud

Pakistan’s Haniya Minhas becomes the first girl from the country to win the Asian Tennis Federation event. She won the title at the 14&U Sobir Cup Asian Tennis Federation tournament in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, after beating second seed Sumaya Tukhtaeva in the final.

The 10-year-old defeated Tajikistan’s Sumaya 6-1, 6-0 in straight sets while extending her impressive run at the tournament without losing a set. Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) President Salim Saifulah Khan and federation’s executive committee congratulated the young prodigy on her achievement. “It is a great honour for Pakistan and Pakistan Tennis Federation that such a breakthrough has been made by a Pakistani girl. Haniya’s triumph will prove to be an inspiration for other players, especially young girls, and serve as a motivating factor for upcoming players,” he said.
“Happy birthday, Rija!” Mahzaiv said, hugging her friend. The birthday party began with magic show in the garden. Everyone was amazed at the magician’s clever tricks. But then suddenly, Rija’s mum, Rubi, ran onto the stage. “Stop the show!” she cried. “I can’t find my necklace!”

“Your diamond necklace?” asked Rija’s dad worriedly.

“Mummy’s always losing her jewels and panicking,” said Rija crossly. “I bet it is not stolen at all. And it ruined my birthday party!”

Mahzaiv wanted to help Rija. “I might just go to the toilet, Rija,” she said. On the way up to the house, Mahzaiv heard a scream behind a hedge. Behind the hedges she found Rija’s two little sisters in their house. They were dressed as princesses.

“It’s mine! Give it back!” said Zara.

“No, I got it first!” said Mahain. She was waving a sparkly necklace.

“Hello, you two,” said Mahzaiv. “Where did you get that lovely necklace?”

“We borrowed it,” said Mahain. Mahzaiv laughed. “I think we’d better tell your mum,” she said.

Rija’s mum was very happy to have her necklace back. “Next time, just ask before you borrow my things,” she said, giving Zara and Mahain a hug. “Now let’s find Rija and get this magic show started again!”

After the magic show was over, Rija’s mum made another announcement. “Good news!” she cried. “My necklace has been found. And to celebrate, all the girls are invited to try on my jewelry collection.”

Rija clapped excitedly. “Come on everyone!” she cried. “This is going to be the best birthday ever!”

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**The King of All Fruits**

Zartasha Hayal

Allah has blessed us with countless blessings. He created a number of delicious fruits for us to eat. Pakistan is home of many fruits. Mango is one of them. It is our national fruit. It is also called the king of all fruits.

There are many types of mangoes found in Pakistan such as Dussehri, Langra, Chaunsa, Neelum and Totapuri, etc. Mangoes from Multan and Sindh are very much famous across the world. Its size varies from 5cm to 25cm. It is very juicy and tangy with yellow, pale and green colours.

Mangoes have many benefits; a mango contains iron, small amount of phosphorus, pantotenic acid, calcium and selenium, which boost our immunity and help control high cholesterol level in our body. Mangoes contain high level of pectin, Vitamin C and fiber. It helps us to glow our skin. Antioxidants, which mangoes usually have, protect our body from cancer. It burns superfluous calories from our body and helps us in losing weight. Mango leaves help cure diabetes. A mango is a storehouse of Vitamin-A, which is good for eyesight. It is also good for digestion. It prevents us from the heatstroke.

We can share some interesting facts about mangoes as mangoes were first grown in Asia over 5,000 years ago. It reached from Asia to Middle East, East Africa and South America during 400 AD. There are nearly 400 types of mangoes found all over the world. Its trees are tall and grow up to 131 feet. A mango tree may live up to 300 years. Langra is one of the most famous types of mangoes. Bangladesh regards mango tree as its national tree.

There is a good news coming up for the people who are suffering from diabetes. All those patients, who are unable to take sugary fruits, now can take mango leaves as a remedy because Pakistan has recently introduced sugar-free mangoes for them.

We can use mangoes in shakes, fruit salads, ice-creams and popsicles. Mangoes are also used in smoothies. Mango salsa and mango pickles are very much famous in Pakistan, and all over the world.

Friends! Eat mangoes wherever and whenever you like but you must avoid eating mangoes before you go to bed. It may be harmful after taking the meal as it may cause nutrients absorption. An hour before or after taking the meal may be best time for you. I love eating mangoes; do you?