



# PAKISTAN REVIEW

Monthly Newsletter of Pakistan High Commission, London

## PRESIDENT FOR SWIFT ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGY



President Dr Arif Alvi called for swift adoption of information technology, artificial intelligence and virtual learning, and termed it essential for development of nations. The president was addressing the Pakistan Innovate Conference and National Idea Bank Grand Finale on 27 January 2022.

The president said the development in this hi-tech era did not require huge investment; rather, small startups could

outshine the giants. He urged the universities to multiply the number of their enrollment to feed the local as well as the international market.

Citing Pakistan's youth bulge, the president said many countries wanted to absorb tech graduates from the market for which the universities increase the number of their students.

The President distributed cash prizes and shields among 18 toppers of the

competition who were shortlisted from 21,000 aspirants in six categories including education, e-commerce, agriculture, natural resources and construction. He thanked the National Idea Bank and Sir Syed University for their efforts in the initiative



## "PUT PAKISTAN ON YOUR TRAVEL MAP" VIRTUAL PANEL SHEDS LIGHT ON PAKISTAN TOURISM



The High Commission for Pakistan, London and Capra Falconeri Traveller magazine jointly organized a virtual panel discussion entitled "Put Pakistan on Your Travel Map" on 31 January 2022. The purpose was to attract international tourists to make Pakistan their next travel destination and uncover its hidden treasures.

The panelists included famous Scottish photographer Colin Prior, Jonny Bealby of Wilde Frontiers, multi-award-winning travel journalist Emma Thomson and wildlife photogra-

pher Ghulam Rasool. Anam Hussain, founder and creative director at Capra Falconeri Traveller hosted the event.

The expert panel shed light on the adventure, culture, nature and wildlife that tourists are most likely to experience when they visit Pakistan. They shared powerful insights and tips based on their experiences across the diverse landscapes of Pakistan – from the mountainous northern territories to the vibrant city streets. The panelists also shared their perspectives on developing the tourism sector in Pakistan.

In his remarks on the occasion, High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan spoke about Pakistan's tourist attractions including diverse landscapes, cultures, fauna & flora and history. He said Pakistan tourism offered a great value proposition which includes diversity, cost effectiveness, uniqueness, and a complete package from adventure to health tourism, and from spiritual journeys to sports, cultural and literary activities.

The High Commissioner shared that the Government of Pakistan had made

travel and tourism a high priority with e-visa and visa on arrival for citizens of 65 countries, including the UK. He said Pakistan was open for business and tourism.

A diverse group of travel enthusiasts joined the online discussion and asked questions about tourism opportunities in Pakistan.





## INVESTMENT CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER

The Consulate General of Pakistan in Manchester together with Pakistan Britain Business Council (PBBC), with the support of Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce hosted a Conference titled 'Pakistan; A Land of Opportunities' in Manchester on 27 January 2022. The event was attended among others by High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan; Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Pakistan, Rt. Hon. Mark Eastwood; Chairman PBBC Julian Hamilton Barns; Senior Advisor Campbell Kier; noted British Pakistani entrepreneur Aneel Musarrat as well as officials and office bearers of the Business Council, the High Commission and the Consulate General.

Addressing the Conference, the High Commissioner highlighted the reforms being undertaken by Pakistan to facilitate a business-friendly environment. He said that the United Kingdom was Pakistan's strategic partner. This partnership was deepening through growing linkages in diverse fields. The UK, being the 3rd largest export market for Pakistani products, accounted for approximately 8% of Pakistan's global exports. The High Commissioner noted that in 2021, despite the pandemic, Pakistan's exports to the UK increased by 33%, thus crossing the milestone of



US\$ 2 billion for the first time. He said, Pakistan's GDP, despite the pandemic, grew by 5.37% in 2020-21, which was the second highest growth in 14 years.

Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Pakistan, MP Mark Eastwood, showed strong desire to improve existing trade and investment relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. He

shared that he would be visiting Pakistan soon along with a business delegation to explore further opportunities to enhance bilateral trade. He further said that he was a supporter of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and the United Kingdom and wanted to see strides taken in this direction.

Julian Hamilton Barns, Chairman

PBBC made a presentation highlighting the business opportunities in Pakistan.

A large number of businesspeople as well as community notables participated in the event.



## VIRTUAL KHULI KATCHEHRY HELD AT THE HIGH COMMISSION



High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan held a virtual 'Khuli Katchehry' with the British Pakistani community on 18 January 2022. It was attended by a large number of diaspora

members.

The High Commissioner redressed issues pertaining to NICOPs, POCs, Passports and property matters in Pakistan. He also assured the community

members that their complaints would be taken up with the concerned authorities in Pakistan.

As per directions of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the High Commissioner

holds the Virtual Khuli Katchehry every month.



## UNAUTHORIZED PAKISTANI VISA APPLICATION WEBSITE

It has come to the attention of the High Commission that an unauthorized Pakistani visa application website with the domain name <http://pakistanvisaonline.org>

line.org is operational.

In order to avoid any potential misuse of personal data or financial loss, Overseas Pakistanis are advised to use only

the official visa website of Pakistan: <https://visa.nadra.gov.pk/e-visa/>.

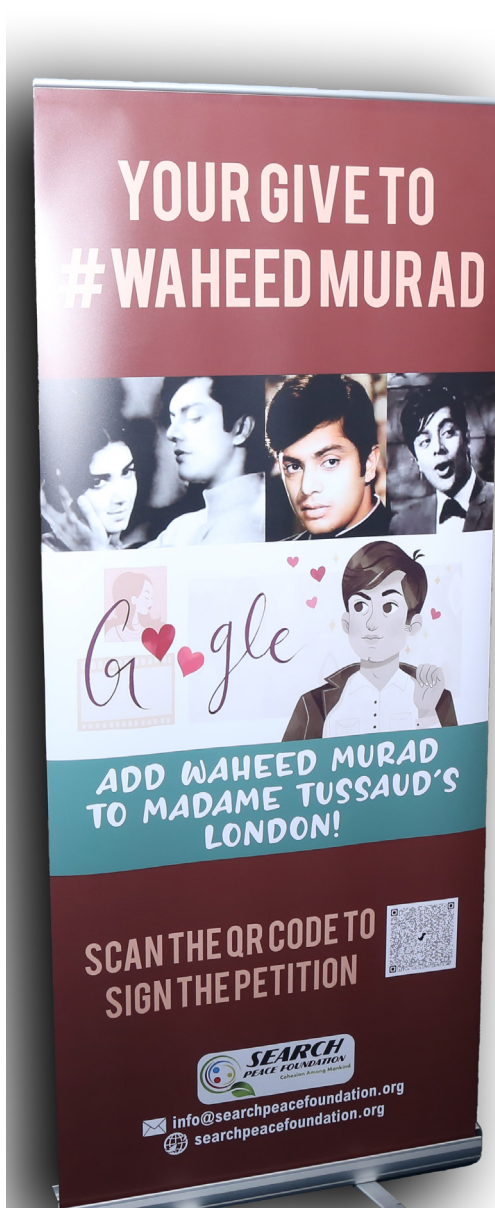
The High Commission has already approached the concerned authorities

for appropriate action in this regard.





## LIFE AND WORK OF WAHEED MURAD CELEBRATED AT THE HIGH COMMISSION



The High Commission organized a cultural evening on 21 January 2022 to celebrate and pay tribute to the life and work of Pakistani film icon, Waheed Murad. The event was organized in collaboration with the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis and Search Peace Foundation, as part of Pakistan's 75th Anniversary celebration. A large num-

ber of British Pakistanis turned up for the cultural evening.

High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan, together with his wife Amb. Leena Salim Moazzam welcomed the guests and shared their memories of the golden era of Pakistani cinema. Speaking on the occasion, the High Commissioner said the Mission would

be organizing more cultural events in future to connect the diaspora with Pakistan and its rich cultural heritage.

Local singers enthralled the audience with songs from Waheed Murad's films. The attendees also reminisced about their association with Waheed Murad and his films. They paid tribute to him for his contribution towards the devel-

opment of Pakistani cinema.

An online petition for installation of Waheed Murad's statue in the famous Madame Tussaud London was also launched on the occasion.

Ms Esther Das, a British Pakistani fan of Waheed Murad, moderated the event.



## OPENING OF FEDERAL TAX OMBUDSMAN FACILITATION DESKS AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS AND CUSTOMS BORDER STATIONS

The Office of the Federal Tax Ombudsman has been providing facilitation to the aggrieved taxpayers through redressal of their complaints against the Federal Tax functionaries comprising the department of Customs, Income Tax, Sales Tax and Federal Excise.

In continuation of the effort, Federal Tax Ombudsman Office Facilitation Desks for redressal of international passengers, have been established at International Airports at Islamabad, Karachi, Quetta and Lahore to facilitate the overseas Pakistanis.



To further extend the facility, the Office of Federal Tax Ombudsman plans to open similar facilitation desks at Border Customs Stations all over the country in the coming months.

The Government of Pakistan is committed to providing maximum facilitation to the overseas Pakistanis and opening of these Desks at the country's international airports is yet another step towards that direction.





# Bursting with Blossom in Hunza



A number people often ask how soon can they venture into the mountains. Indeed some winters are long and harsh which makes it challenging for trekkers if many routes are not yet open. But for those of you who delight in simply soaking up the beauty, for a few short weeks the Hunza Valley in springtime is a sight to behold. In fact all over Gilgit Baltistan, it is time to put the winter behind you as bare tree branches up and down the valley burst into life.

Yes, it is the season of blossom and one of nature's ways of telling us that Spring has arrived in style.

Blossom is the term given to a cluster of flowers that bloom on any plant but blossom trees tend to be associated with those trees that bear fruit. Hunza is famed for its delicious fruit such as cherries, apricots, peaches and almonds so the blossom is equally varied with wonderful hues ranging from wistful whites to magical magentas.

Cherry blossom is very symbolic for some cultures especially in Japan where

it is a metaphor for the transient nature of life. One can appreciate how the changing blossoms - the extreme beauty and quick death, can be seen alongside our own mortality. It comes as no surprise, then, that many Japanese tourists visit our magical mountains every year during the blossom to witness nature's festival of colour. And what better a place than Hunza to be spoilt with many mountains over 7000m, it has some of the finest mountain panoramas in the world. Not only does Hunza have great infrastructure for hotels and restaurants

but the people have a reputation for being incredibly warm, tolerant and hospitable.

The best time to experience the blossom is from the beginning of March to the first week of April when temperatures rise along the valley from the relatively low altitude town of Gilgit as far as the last town before China, Sost.

If you get a clear day with no rain, you are in for an unforgettable visual feast.



Instagram

@pakistanhcuk



twitter

@PakistaninUK

Visit our website for news, updates  
and announcements

<https://www.phclondon.org>



facebook

@PakistaninUK1



YouTube

@Londonphc

Please follow Pakistan High Commission London social media accounts and keep in touch with latest updates