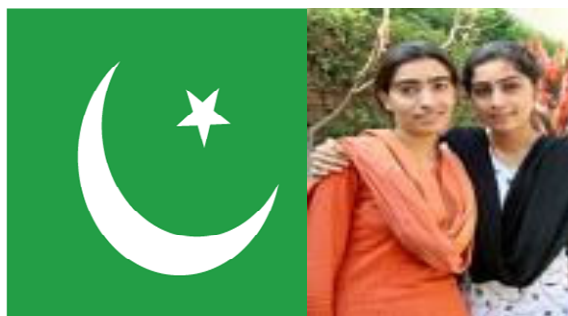


Pakistan



Background: The separation in 1947 of British India into the Muslim state of Pakistan (with two sections West and East) and largely Hindu India was never satisfactorily resolved, and India and Pakistan fought two wars - in 1947-48 and 1965 - over the disputed Kashmir territory. A third war between these countries in 1971 - in which India capitalized on Islamabad's marginalization of Bengalis in Pakistani politics - resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. In response to Indian nuclear weapons testing, Pakistan conducted its own tests in 1998. The dispute over the state of Kashmir is ongoing, but discussions and confidence-building measures have led to decreased tensions since 2002.

Geography:

- **Location:** Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea, between India on the east, and Iran and Afghanistan on the west, and China in the north.
- **Area Comparative:** 11½ the size of Ireland.
- **Climate:** Mostly hot, dry desert, temperate in northwest, arctic in north.
- **Natural resources:** Land, extensive natural gas reserves, limited petroleum, poor quality coal, iron ore, copper, salt, limestone
- **Natural hazards:** Frequent earthquakes, occasionally severe, especially in the north and west; flooding along the Indus after heavy rains.
- **Environmental issues:** Water pollution from raw sewage, industrial wastes and agricultural runoff, limited natural fresh water resources, a majority of the population does not have access to potable water, deforestation, soil erosion, desertification.

People:

- **Population:** 164,741,924
- **Birth rate:** 27.52 births per 1000 population
- **Infant mortality:** 68.84 deaths per 1000 live births
- **Life expectancy:** *Total population:* 63.75 years, *male:* 62.73 years, *female* 64.83 years.

**Government:**

- **Type of government:** Federal republic
- **Administrative divisions:** 4 provinces, 1 territory and 1 capital territory
- **Independence:** 14th August 1947 (from the UK)
- **National Holiday:** Republic Day, 23rd March 1956

Religion: Muslim 97%, other, including Christian and Hindu, 3%

Economy:

- **Unemployment:** 6.5% plus substantial underemployment
- **Population below the poverty line:** 24%
- **Agricultural products:** cotton, wheat, rice, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables, milk, beef, mutton, eggs
- **Industries:** Textiles and apparel, food processing, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, paper products, fertiliser, shrimp

Education:

- **Literacy:** *Definition:* age 15 and over can read and write. *Total population:* 49.9%, *male:* 63%, *female* 36%.
- **Languages:** Punjabi, Sindhi, Siraiki, Pashtu, Urdu, Balochi, Hindko, Brahui, English (official), Burushaki and other.

Communication

- **Telephone lines:** *Landlines:* 5,162,798, *mobile:* 48,289,136.
- **TV Stations:** 20
- **Internet users:** 10.5 million

Asylum: According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) statistics in 2005 there were fewer than 100 asylum claims in Ireland by Pakistani nationals.

Internally Displaced Persons: The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre notes that as of October 2006, while tens of thousands have fled conflicts, there is no estimate available of the total number of displaced persons.

Migration: In the first five months of 2007 the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment issued 224 work permits to Pakistani nationals.

Sources

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