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PRESS RELEASE

**MESSAGE FROM DR ARIF ALVI
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
(ON THE OCCASION OF QAUID-E-AZAM DAY ON 25TH DECEMBER 2020)**

Islamabad: December 24, 2020

As we celebrate the 144th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, we pay him a rich tribute for his role in the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent. We pledge to follow his ideals to make Pakistan a strong and prosperous country.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah propounded the two-nation theory. He championed the rights of minorities and declared that members of every community will be treated as citizens of Pakistan with equal rights, privileges and obligations and that minorities will be safeguarded and protected. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to building a state that respects the diversity of its people and provides equal opportunities to its citizens irrespective of their religion, caste, creed or colour.

On this day, we must also remember the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) who have been subjected to the worst form of state-terrorism for over seven decades. India has unleashed a reign of terror against them and has imposed a complete lockdown since last year. We urge the international community to compel and shame India to stop committing human rights violations and grant Kashmiris their right to self-determination as promised under the UN Security Council resolutions.

Currently, the entire world is facing the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, and I urge the nation to exhibit self-discipline and follow health guidelines to contain the spread of the virus. We need to display the same spirit of discipline which we did during the first wave of the pandemic.

Pakistan Paindabad.