

# AZEEM MONTHLY ENGLISH MAGAZINE



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**AZEEM EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Azeem Educational Conference (Regd)**, established on 1st January 1978, is a non-profit organization which aspires to guide, inform and educate the masses through various modern channels. The chief motto of AEC is, "Awareness, Education & Confidence".

One of the basic objectives of AEC is to encourage the masses to get awareness about several fields including culture, literature, science, mental health etc. through modern ethical practices.

AEC intends to inculcate the values of social awareness, development, constructive journalism, cultural harmony and positivity among the society. AEC works on its mission through different projects comprising monthly Azeem English Magazine, quarterly "The Journal of Cultural Perspectives", mental health workshops, webinars and various training projects.



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

One of the prime objectives of Azeem English Magazine has always been to illuminate the minds of our readers by opening windows of knowledge, enlightenment and awareness through diverse content. AEM dispatches more than 750 copies all over the country including all universities, public libraries, prison libraries, embassies & consulates, leading schools and colleges on gratis basis. AEM feels proud in its outreach goals and widespread readership.

*Happy Reading!*

**Muhammad Ali Farooqi**  
Editor-in-Chief





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**SIMMAT MANSHA**

Eid-ul-Fitr, also known as the "Festival of Breaking the Fast", is here in mid-May. This is also a gift after a long month of fasting, with salah and festivities. The day starts with the Salah which is attended by the members of the family, the Women prepare the sweets to celebrate the festival.

This Eid, let us check up on the neighbors and close friends who are unable to spend on themselves, or who are depressed. Let us be there for the people and share our happiness with them. The major objective of this festival is to end the prejudices and to be closer to one another and spread positivity. Furthermore, Eid is a brilliant way to educate our children about the Islamic values of brotherhood, social harmony, and peace.

Eid-ul-Fitr is not only a festival that people celebrate but it's a reminder that when you follow Allah and do the good deeds, He rewards you with the best days. So, be grateful, grab more Eidi, have more sweet, and spend time with your family. Also, don't forget that pandemic is not over yet; follow SOPs and try to avoid unnecessary physical contact with other people.

# LET'S MEET

**Chaudhry Moazzam Majeed**  
*Youngest MD in Media Industry*



**At such a young age, you are helming Aur Network as Managing Director. How do you feel being on such a high designation?**

Honestly, I keep on pendulating on different sides of the spectrum. I feel nervous, as I am quite young and it is a lot of responsibility however, simultaneously, I see it as an opportunity for massive learning. I feel excited when I realize that I can, through Aur Network, work for my nation on broader perspectives. I am all geared up to serve the audience

and to work on building a positive image of Pakistan. I would like to add that it becomes stressful sometimes, as I manage all the management functions of our entertainment and news channel. But, touchwood, I have a really dedicated and supportive team; everybody guides me and we walk together whenever there is a difficulty.

**In the modern era, where everyone is practicing individualism; I feel your inclination is wholly towards collective effort. I would like to hear from you about it.**

You are absolutely right. I believe in collective identity, and I would like to give credit to my father. He has struggled a lot in his life, and he has always thought about serving people, he has always been more concerned about how people around him can benefit from his education and work. He strives for the collective betterment, and he has transferred his vision and approach in me as well. I believe that every human has some unique potential and he must be given a platform to prove himself, and this is what Aur Network does.

**Who has been your inspiration in your life?**

There have been a lot of inspirations in my life (smiles). First of all, I would say, I am what I am solely because of my father. I have seen him working very sincerely; there were times when he would work on holidays too. This really inspires me, his dedication and love for work has always motivated me, and now, I try to imitate him. I



focus on excelling professionally, and most of all the significant thing which I have learnt from him is to maintain a balance in life. I am fully involved in work in the office hours and enjoy myself when I am with my family or friends. This keeps my life smooth and contented.

**What are three secret ingredients that are indispensable for personal and professional fineness that you had incorporated in your life?**

This is a fascinating question. Passion tops the list of my three magic ingredients. I have always been passionate about myself, about my work and about my life. We should always do what we are passionate about; and if it is not our work, then we should take our passion along. For instance, football is my passion; and I spend my time playing football. Second ingredient is honesty --- honesty with your work coupled with positive intention. You literally grow with sincerity; I always look for options to explore more in terms of work. Even I include my friends and deserving people in my vision, since collective effort and teamwork pays you off rightly. Last but not the least factor is persistence; I have never stopped trying. Despite many ups and downs, I remain stuck to my goals and leave everything on God, and trust me, it does wonders.

**Life is not a bed of roses and you are extremely positive in your conduct. How do you manage negativity and backlash in your life?**

I simply ignore it (laughs). I don't

waste my time dealing with haters; I just keep on moving. I have been inherited with strong will and determination. Having said that, I just focus on my work, and there you go—no time for backlash.

**Apart from work, what do you do in “Me Time”?**

I spend my time with my family and friends. I play football and listen to music. Plus, I have a strong bond with God, I talk to him through my prayers. Precisely, I don't let my “me time” get diluted with any other energy.

**What are your future goals?**

I want to uplift the standards of Pakistani society. I want to expand my business on an international level and make my country and parents proud. I plan to produce content that would not only entertain the masses, but would also educate them. I believe entertainment is the best tool to spread awareness on various issues like mental health, women empowerment, poverty etc. Furthermore, I have great plans to engage our youth in content creation.

**Chaudhry Abdul Rasheed**

*Chairman AUR Network*

**Being a Chairman, please tell us what values does Aur Network aim to promote?**

Well, quite frankly, we don't plan to follow the bandwagon. Our philosophy is to impart values and social norms by keeping in consideration our social responsibility. We aim to educate and inform the audience at



the same time. If you see, we have a lot of social issues in our society, and our audience needs thorough guidance about it, we just want to produce a platform where we could facilitate the masses. We don't run after commercialism; we believe in quality content.

### **How do you see the current media standards? Are you happy with them?**

No, I am not happy with the current media standards, they are only portraying the bitter facts of the society, and ignoring the beautiful part. I also feel that boundaries and limitations should be practiced by the media seriously.

### **Keeping in view the benchmarks set by the media, how Aur Network is going to be different than its contemporaries?**

Well, the basic objective of Aur Network is to promote and reinforce social and moral values among the masses. We aim to highlight the

positive aspects of our society and construct a good image of our nation.

### **You have served PEMRA for a very long time; being a veteran media person, how do you plan to incorporate your experiences and approach in Aur TV?**

I firmly believe in encouraging young talent. Our country is a place which is full of talented people in various fields. Aur is a platform which welcomes ideas, quality content and a positive vision. So, our plan is to include young people who are innovative and can make a true difference.

### **What change would you like to bring in Pakistani Media?**

My answer would be quite straightforward i.e., focusing on the positive avenues of our society. I feel that the media has a great role in image building, so I would really like it to showcase content which would be helpful in not only creating a good image of our society, but also, in spreading social and cultural values. I assure you that Aur Network is going to make a difference in this regard.

### **What message would you like to give to our young generation?**

I would really invite them to self-reflect: are they utilizing their freedom in the right direction? They have so much potential; they can do wonders. They just don't self-actualize and understand the purpose of their life.







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# SOLIDARITY WITH WORKERS ON THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR DAY



**Sara Noor**  
Writer, Novelist, Dramatist

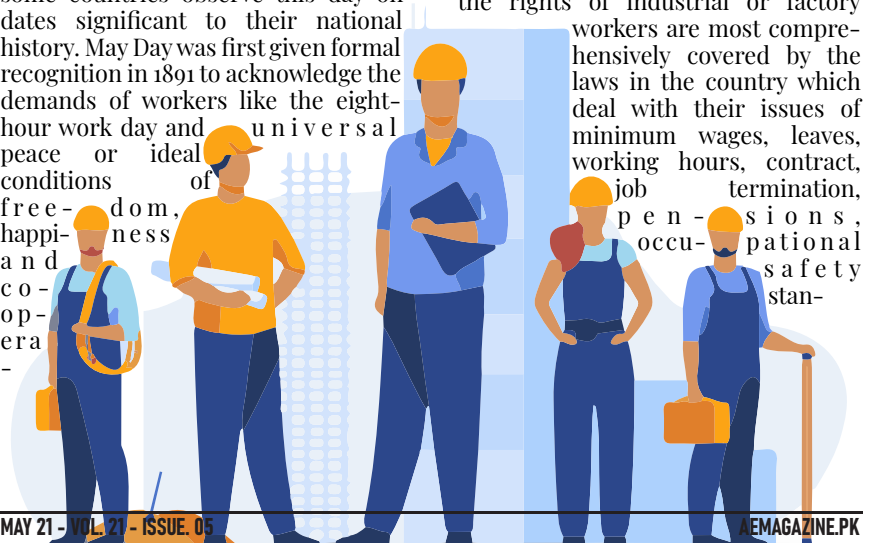
4 MINUTES READ

You may know someone who works eight to twelve hours a day or more as a domestic worker or security guard or driver or mason or cobbler or gardener or industrial laborer etc. These are all job titles that never appear in answer to the question we are all asked in primary school: What do you want to be when you grow up? These professions and workers do not capture our attention unless we need any menial and difficult task done. Internationally, the number of these workers run in billions. In most countries, May 1 is celebrated as the International Workers' Day, whereas some countries observe this day on dates significant to their national history. May Day was first given formal recognition in 1891 to acknowledge the demands of workers like the eight-hour work day and universal peace or ideal conditions of freedom, happiness and co-operation.

tion amongst all people.

Some workers work in their country of origin while others are migrant workers. The International Labor Organization (ILO), a specialized tripartite agency of the UNO comprising trade unions, governments and companies, works for the social and economic uplift of the workers. It has given various recommendations and conventions for safeguarding the interests of workers. One such convention is the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in 1998 which ensures five labor standards including: freedom of movement, right of collective bargaining and elimination of forced labor, child labor and discrimination.

Pakistan is signatory to 36 conventions of the ILO out of which 31 are in force. Of the many kinds of workers, the rights of industrial or factory workers are most comprehensively covered by the laws in the country which deal with their issues of minimum wages, leaves, working hours, contract, job termination, pensions, occupational safety stan-



ILLUSTRATOR: FREEPIK

dards, protection from abuse, right to unionize etc. Two such laws are the Industrial and Commercial Employment (Standing Orders) Ordinance 1968 and the Punjab Shops and Establishment Ordinance 1969. The rights of domestic workers are also protected through law. One such piece of legislation is Punjab Domestic Workers' Act, 2019. Besides, the Articles 11, 17, 18, 25 and 37(e) of the Constitution of Pakistan also guarantee labor rights.

In spite of legislation, there is poor implementation of law and hence, the condition of labor rights in Pakistan needs reform so that it can meet human rights and international labor standards. We, the general public, can adopt some practical and effective steps as informed citizens to improve the general condition of labor rights in the country. This May Day, we can resolve to do the following in our personal capacities:

**a.** We can treat our household workers (the kam wali masi, khansamaa, chowkidar, driver etc.) Kindly, not burden them with excess work, speak with them politely and pay them their full wages in case they take a day or more off due to unavoidable circumstances.

**b.** We should be aware of the factory conditions of local brands through news and boycott their products in solidarity with their workers. The protest by Khaadi workers in May 2017 should be kept in mind when 32 workers demanding their rights under Pakistani law were fired by the management. If the public takes a principled stance to ensure fairness, it can

pressurize the factory owners to pay more attention to human welfare than filling their too-full coffers!

**c.** We can also help any needy worker in our social circle through alms. In case of severe human rights abuse amounting to sexual assault or threats to life, those holding power can offer legal help and protection to serve as deterrents and motivation for others. Last but not the least, the state must ensure efficient implementation of labor laws according to international standards, local economic conditions and social practices. The dignity of labor can be preserved through these small but sure steps.

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# Expression, Acceptance and the Unnoticed Artist

3 MINUTES READ

Feelings, sensations, observations occur natural to all living beings. But it's only us, the sapiens with a built-in feature to explain and express what we feel, or what we observe: our point of view, the pictures we imagine, the notes we take, in our head. There are ways to 'let it out'. One way is to communicate about it, talk about it, to be vocal about it, to literally put it in words. We talk about a specific phenomenon which could be as random as the moon on a dark night or as specific as the "Super Moon" on a particular day.

We are likely to talk about it if we feel something about it, something special, it could be anger, or sadness, or happiness, or excitement. One would talk and be over it. But, sometimes, to some individuals it won't be about just a mere talk. So, there are other ways to explain and express. A poet would write it out, a painter would imagine it, and put its feelings on a canvas filled with patterned brush strokes, a musician would perceive and play a

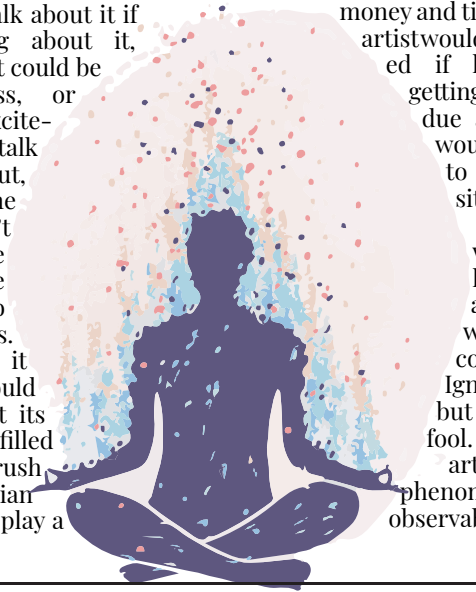


**Tahir Inqalab Syed**  
Observer, Poet, Rap-Artist,  
Writer, Analyst

few notes and call it a melody while vlogger would just simply vlog it. The artist: any artist is a very sensitive being, the sensitivity an artist puts into creating art is quite sensational in its nature. So, it's safe to say that the job of an artist is simply to express, in different forms, through different mediums.

To feel "wanted" is another built in feature present in us, sapiens. Everyone is more likely to be among people where one is more wanted, and not most. After expression, what an artist craves: is a praise, an applause, or just a simple 'wah wah'. So, the artist(s) struggles to put blood, sweat, tears, money and time in its art. An artist would get demotivated if he/she is not getting the due/undue attention. They would do anything to avoid such a situation.

Attention is what an artist lives for, and acceptance is what an artist could die for. Ignorance is bliss, but only for the fool. Never for the artist. The phenomenon is quite observable that a



ILLUSTRATOR: FREEPIK



struggling/starting artist(s) never gets enough attention from their friends and family: specially in the South Asian region. And when they 'blow up' everyone usually wants a share in their glory. But not many artists get famous, not all get their well-deserved recognition, some get lost in the process. The process is a game of belief/disbelief, hope/despair.

**"You have to keep breaking your heart in order to open it first"**

-Rumi

Many musicians get unheard before making it, many painters unnoticed before creating it, many poets are unread before expressing it. An artist desires applause, but is more likely to get lost. There is rather a clear sky, than a cloud with a silver lining for an artist in Pakistan. Your people don't support you, many are against you, even your fellow artists hate you. Expression and attention, ideally should go hand in hand. But sadly, most of the artists are left handicapped with not enough appraisal from the audience. Not trying to be an enabler here, but the audience should extend a hand to the artist and be the driving force. Think about it, a world without art. There was a quote that once surfaced on social media which goes as 'Earth without Art would just be "EH" and that won't make any sense.'

However, social media has revolutionized the scene for the artists as well as for art. It's less hectic for artists these days, to get the approval that they seek and the support that

they need. To the audience: your artist friend needs your support when they are struggling and not when they are successful. If you never had extended a hand when they struggled, do not complain if they get famous and ignore you, and to the artist: you are appreciated!

**"Your biggest supporter is an unknown person, and your biggest hater is someone you personally know"**

@ [tsyed1735@gmail.com](mailto:tsyed1735@gmail.com)

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**hashtagstack.com:** The most advanced hashtag generator

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## DOES ART EDUCATION MATTER?



**Eman Pirzada**  
Visual Artist, Art Critic

3 MINUTES READ

**B**eing a recent graduate in fine arts, after spending 4 years in an art school, I wonder, Is it really important for someone to get formally trained from an art institute in order to become an artist? There's something of a controversy surrounding this topic. On one hand, self-taught artists wear the label like a badge of honor, while the ones with formal art education may call their work Naïve art. Well you can learn ANY subject you want, either online or through an institute. Here are some pros & cons related to it.

**Pros:** You may learn best in a traditional way, in an artistic environment & through a proper system to understand dynamics of art world. You'll have an organized, focused curriculum & direct access to professionals, opportunity to explore other media, styles and techniques. Academic recognition shows that you are serious about art. Your Fellows & teachers will become mentors and artistic peers. You develop communication skills and a thick skin. Jealous & vindictive fellows will push you to get better and have a hidden curriculum to weed out artists who can't cope with criticism. You may also get mates who inspire you and your passion. Most people who offer opportunities

usually don't seek out independent artists.

**Cons:** Institutes often restrict pupils to explore new avenues freely which suppresses originality and creativity. It may force you to fit into a predetermined mold or train your mind for a particular trend. Their environment may not suit you. Instructors may lack experience of creating and marketing their art. There's a great temptation to create pieces in the style, unintentionally, inspired by works of your fellows. Institutes can be cost prohibitive. You learn at your own pace & have the benefit to take as much time as you need to perfect a skill; plan and learn only what's necessary for the art YOU want to create or resist the existing trends & traditions, your approach becomes unique. Spending four years in an art institute and being dictated is, honestly, not an ideal situation for you.

There are certainly many other benefits to both sides of the equation, art school & being self-taught both are viable ways to achieve a successful art career, they each have their own pros & cons to consider. Whichever way you choose to go, it will take substantial amount of work & dedication to develop both your ideas & skill. While there's no BEST WAY to receive an education on, or learn how to create, ART.

Here are some art feature for this month.

**Raahima Salaar (Printmaker)**

*"Children are not things to be moulded but are people to be folded"*

— Jess Lair, author

This body of work revolves around a story of a childhood memory that persists till date. The purpose of illustrating that scares me to the core of my heart is to let go of all negative impact it has on me. These illustrations aim to express the process of being harmed followed by silence. Choosing brush strokes rather than words to speak about a distressing memory from my early days was the only way I found confidence to put it out there. Children are mentally innocent. They are so vulnerable to being easily trapped into an adult's intimidating persona that they are unable to point out that what happening to them is not right. These paintings ought to depict the struggle of an innocent girl who failed to perceive what happened to her was wrong.

#### 'Calm Before Storm'



Size: 12x7 inches

Medium: Mixed Media on Montwall

#### Emaan Pirzada (Miniature Painter)

Moving from place to place, being displaced several times and not being settled anywhere physically or mentally compelled Eman to preserve those places. As each time she had to begin a new modus operandi making her contemplate what she could have been. She dealt with this ever changing/evolving statuesque by expressing myself in the form of art as she find her work to be a platform where her mental and emotional attributes meet her cognitive ties whereas, the visuals show those spaces as she affiliate to them, not particularly as they were, forming a mind palace.

#### 'Chaos'



Size: 10.5x11 Inches

Medium: Watercolor, Gouache, Graphite, Pen, Photo Transfer, Tea Wash and Collage on Wasli.

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*Emaan Pirzada is an NCA graduate with expertise in miniature painting. She loves to explore mixed media such as graphite, gouache, water color, photo transfer, pen and collage on wasli.*



# Sabean - Mandaeans

REMNANT OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATION



**Faiz Mahmood**

Asst. Professor of English,  
Educationist, Social Worker

4 MINUTES READ

**M**andaeism or Mandaeanism, also known as Sabaeism, is a monotheistic and gnostic religion (gnostic means collection of religious

ideas and systems which originated in the first century CE among early Christian and Jewish sects). Its supporters, the Mandaeans, revere Adam, Abel, Seth, and especially John the Baptist (a name they have attributed to Prophet Yahya A.S).

Mandaeans are counted among the Semites (Abrahamic) religion and speak an eastern Aramaic Dialect

called Mandaic. The name Mandaeans is believed to come from Aramaic Manda which means "Knowledge". Outside the Middle East they are known as Arabs. They do not consider themselves Arabs as they themselves demand to be distin-

guished from the remnants of Arabs in the area and plead to be given a separate identity from them. They are more commonly known as "Subba" (Sabean) an Arabic name meaning Baptist; that's why they are also known as "Christian of Saint John" (John the Baptist – Prophet Yahya A.S)

Sabean are also mentioned in the

Holy Quran along with Christians and Jews but modern scholars reject it and contend that the people mentioned in the Holy Quran are not present day Mandaeans.

Sabean – Mandaeans are a lingo-religious minority originated in the first three centuries in Mesopotamia (present day Iraq). This religion has been in practice

primarily around Euphrates and Tigris and Parts of Southern Iraq and Khuzestan Province of Iran.

Their total population worldwide is from 50000 to 70000. Before the invasion of Iraq, they were concentrated in Iraq but afterward they emigrat-



IMAGE: TWITTER



ed to North America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Presently they are 3500 to 6000 in Iraq struggling not to become extinct in the near future.

### **Belief System:**

Sabeian - Mandaeanism is a very private, singular and strange religion as far as its beliefs are concerned.

“They are very simple people who claim to possess a secret law of God, which they preserve in beautiful books. Their writing is a sort of middle way between Syriac and Arabic. They detest Abraham because of circumcision and they venerate John the Baptist above all. They live only near a few rivers in the desert. They wash day and night so as not to be condemned by God”

Their cult has the following prominent features:

- A belief in the “Supreme formless entity” who has created the world;
- Soul is portrayed as a captive which returns to the Supreme Entity at death;
- Planets and stars influence everything;
- Adoption of Seasonal and traditional rites to which they have ascribed mysterious meanings;
- They prohibit sorcery, adultery, witchcraft and alcohol;
- Secrecy is enjoined upon its followers.

### **Rituals:**

Panja festival is the main religious event of the year which continues for five days. During the festival they submerge themselves in the river to cleanse and wash their sins known as Baptism following their Patriarch

John the Baptist (Prophet Yahya A.S.). They wash their food in the water and also drink it. Their holy Book is Ginza Rba, they believe, is the first book of Adam, Seth (Shees) and Yahya (PBUT).

### **Current Challenges**

They are the most persecuted religious minority in present day Iraq. They are rich people, mostly goldsmiths and gold traders, so are exploited by both type of warlords - Shia and Sunni. They are kidnapped for ransom, robbed and persecuted. But the persecution was not due to their faith, but due to their wealth. Every faction out there demands money whenever they want. It puts them in a difficult position. They are forced to attend religious festivities of Shia and Sunni communities, and have to align themselves with the faction in whose territory they are living in; otherwise, they have to face the music and wrath of the community they are surrounded by. They are proclaimed pacifists - against carrying off arms even in self-defense. The Sabeian - Mandaean community has a dearth of economic opportunities, employment and education.

Due to these circumstances the community has moved to many different destinations worldwide which, however, saved their lives yet posed many other challenges like preservation of their culture, traditions, beliefs, and finding suitable partners from their own community for their children.

✉ *Faiz Mahmood*

@ *mahmood.faiz786@gmail.com*

# Technical Skills for Coastal Youth of Balochistan



**Tuba Azeem**

Doctoral Candidate at  
Victoria University of Wellington

## 6 MINUTES READ

In other parts of the world, there is a stronger tendency to integrate host communities when there is a mega engineered project underway. The authorities open vocational centers, upgrade academic institutions, and offer work to the local youth in the project. They invest in the idea of stewardship. Pakistan's vision of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) also includes the wellbeing of people and the promotion of socio-economic development in the region. For the coastal belt, collaboration in fisheries, coastal tourism, logistics, and construction of a connectivity infrastructure are intended under the CPEC. The marine resources of Balochistan will play a vital as well. However, to utilize them

positively, the inclusion of several thousand coastal youths is critical.

Pakistan endorses the right to education; fundamental and part of the Constitution as well committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 5 to provide inclusive and equitable quality education and learning opportunities for the youth. However, in the coastal belt of Balochistan (700km), over 95% of the local schools consist of a mere single room with a single teacher. More than half of the coastal youth have no access to education. The majority cannot afford paid education. There are major coastal settlements with the population divided between Lasbela (544292) and Gwadar (263514) districts of Balochistan. However, the scattered populace in small coastal towns present a situation where a school is inaccessible, lacking transportation, infrastructure and digital connectivity.

IMAGE: DAWN.COM

Hub is the first industrial area of the coastal region of Balochistan, bordering Sindh. The skilled labor force is high in demand. However, only low-wage paying jobs are available because people do not fall under skilled-labor criteria. The government runs, not a single school. The Citizens Foundation (TCF) in Goth Haji Alano has a private school up to Matric level as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of HUBCO. However, a pass-out of TCF school requires an additional skill-based diploma to earn a work placement. Lacking vocational training has resulted in incompetent, useless human resources. As a result, a significant coastal youth population has become drug-addicts. The situation is similar in the fishing towns of Kalamat, Pasni, and Chur Bander, which are part of Pasni tehsil of Gwadar. The areas are swamped with drug mafia.

The share of employed fishery workers with technical or vocational training as major occupational groups is about 13 % under the Pakistan Employment Trends (2018). A decrease in employment share has been seen in fishing by 38% under the Pakistan Labour Force Survey (2017-2018). Even the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) does not invest in indigenous coastal industries and skills.

Gadani, which is famous for its beach and ship-breaking yard, is a large coastal tehsil in district Lasbela. However, labor is preferred and brought from the Pashtun belt. The local youth has mostly remained

unemployed in the shipbreaking industry and instead live on artisanal fishing. Another primary fishing site on the coastal belt, Dam Bandar, is known for the marine riches and Sonmiani bay. However, the local youth, despite the hard fisherfolk, complain of dated skills in the fishing sector. Similarly, Kund Malir, which is famous for its golden beach, only has a functional primary level school. Due to the potential for maritime tourism and hospitality, the coastal youth of these areas want to acquire 21st-century skills in the related professions. Gwadar town, which is the hot spot for CPEC induced development and other strategic infrastructure, only campus of the University of Turbat is situated there. A school was inaugurated in collaboration with Chinese in Gwadar and provided with teaching staff. While according to some, the quality and student to teacher ratio at the institution is not satisfactory. Recently, the groundbreaking of the Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute was held at Gwadar. However, it will take two more years to kick start the classes. Jiwani, which borders Iran, is a last coastal town of the coastal belt of Balochistan, does not have any vocational institute. The fishing towns of Sur Bander and Pishukan are not any different.

The only less stressful practice comes from Ormara, known for Jinnah Naval Base and Cadet College Ormara. Bahria Foundation School is operational in Ormara as well as the Cadet College of Pakistan Navy. The Cadet College accepts 50% enrollment from Balochistan with a full

scholarship, out of which a 50% quota is reserved for students from the coastal belt. The Pakistan Navy employs close to 500 locals and generally enjoys a good reputation in the vicinity. However, the area lacks a vocational institute for the youth.

Lacking the necessary endowments to avail the opportunities that would arise from CPEC, the coastal youth fear of getting marginalized from the development activities, explains a study conducted by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad on perceptions mapping of Coastal Communi-

ties of Balochistan. “With a lack of potential skills and quality education, the locals are not offered work in considerable numbers in the ongoing projects. The Chinese involved in the project prefer to bring their labor from China. The nonlocals moving from other parts of the country to Gwadar would have better chances to thrive with superior knowledge and skills than the local population”. Therefore, the coastal youth want to reconnect with the sea, to their ancestral profession and the traditional

sea. They are keen to learn modern 21st-century skills and carry on with the legacy of their forefathers who are hereditary fishermen and seafarers. The coastal youth will eventually prove a milestone in all the efforts of the federal government, Navy, and the maritime agencies to make Pakistan a maritime nation in the world. It would diffuse deep-rooted grievances against the state that are projected out disproportionately.


The government should initially declare an education emergency for the coastal belt. Conduct a detailed



survey of the coastline of Balochistan to determine actual on-ground education facilities, vocational centers, and teaching capacity. Then devise a sustainable framework towards educational policy focusing on specialized maritime skills and bridge the gap with infrastructure and employment of qualified educationists.

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**Uzma Sabeen**  
Drama Teacher at NAPA Karachi

### 3 MINUTES READ

Today, we have a number of social media platforms for us to express and share our thoughts. What if I tell you that all of these platforms function in a closed circuit and they have a strong influence on one another? Narrowing down the previous statement: the use of TikTok is increasing day by day. Frankly, our youth is using this platform to express their feelings and ingenuity. Recently, the news was all over the place that Tik Tok has been banned in Pakistan. However, I believe banning an app is not the solution; we need to create healthy platforms for our youth where they could share their creativity. Anyhow, let us discuss its effects on mainstream theatre? Why is Tik Tok more popular these days when theatre is not happening physically? The charm of theatre is in its liveliness. Theatre is exclusive, and what makes it unique; is its instant response from its audience and the impromptu performance of the artist on stage. There is no second chance in theatre. One has to give his/ her perfect performance every time. The number of audiences is limited because it is performed in a certain space having limited seats. The



VS.



location is also specific and has its own restrictions. Most of the theatre artists in these days of COVID-19, shifted from theatre to Tik Tok, because Tik Tok is providing them a platform to share their performance on a broader platform. In Tik Tok, you can do your performance again and again until you get the perfect shot. Theatre is like a watercolour painting where you have to put a master stroke once and forever; there is no chance of inaccuracy. Tik Tok is like an oil painting, where you can make mistakes and there is always a possibility to redo your bad strokes. The theatre artistes are inclined towards Tik Tok because there is a rehearsal first and then you have to record the final take. One can also be experimental with the locations in making the video. In the time of lockdown, theatre artists have made a lot of Tik Tok videos and now they have millions of followers on it. In this way, the Tik Toker has a huge canvas to paint. They have their followers internationally; not just in their respective cities. I think that Tik Tok gives an artist more recognition and the artist has a large number of audiences. This enormous number of following will also help the artist on stage. The general public are more attractive to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

# Mystery of Aurangzeb's Pirated Ship



Anam Shehzaddi  
Muhammad Ali Farooqi  
Ph.D. Scholars, Historians

4 MINUTES READ

History is always been full of mysteries. The more researchers discover it the more stories come out with new aspects and concepts. No doubt discoveries in history are linked with excavations and technological advancement is making it easier and authentic. Recently, an amateur historian and metal detectorist is becoming famous due to his unusual discovery of Arabic coins linked to the seventeenth century's Mughal ruler Aurangzeb, found in the meadow in Middletown. These coins were minted in Yemen during the 17th century and recently found after excavations from Rhode island, some of them from the U.S and UK. According to Jim Bailey, there were no American colonies in India or even Middle East. So for sure, the coins came here by pirates of that time. These coins proved the rise of piracy in the West, at that time when everyone was praising white supremacy and eulogizing them as the torchbearers of enlightenment. This discovery shows the eye-opening reality and demands to look into the story in an objective and unbiased way.

This discovery opens new mysteries of Henry Avery, the cruel and the



IMAGE: DAWN

killer pirate, notorious for his brutal murderous behaviour. Jim Bailey and other researchers say those Arabic coins are linked to Indian Mughal ruler Aurangzeb of the 17th century. They constructed the story by linking the pieces of the incomplete story and connecting it to Captain Henry Avery. According to researchers, a great royal ship named *Ganj-I-Sawai* was

captured by the pirate Henry Avery and his crew on the 7th of September in 1695. The ship belonged to Mughal ruler Aurangzeb and it was on its way back towards India from Mecca and most of the people on it were pilgrims. But pirates killed all of them brutally and dishonoured their women. As the ship belonged to the Mughal ruler so the pirates expected it to that it can be a big treasure hunt for them. So, attacked the royal ship and looted more than tens of millions of dollars worth of gold and silver. After getting all the booty Avery rushed towards the Bahamas. Henry Avery born in West Country. He was known as John Avery and Long Ben. At the initial stages, he was appointed as a mate on a ship that was hijacked and sailed to Madagascar. He grew his crew later on. He and his crew sailed to the West Indies. *Ganj-I-Sawai* proved a huge hunt for him but after that, his several men got captured by the British govt and hanged. Henry Avery got fame as the king of pirates, highwayman and a murderous pirate. When Aurangzeb found out about this incident, he at once demanded punishment for of Henry Avery from East India Company. So they put a heavy amount of reward on Avery's head. At that time Surat was a significant place in India and a major trade hub. Every year around 15 thousand pilgrims used to travel from that place to Mecca. Khafi Khan, the Persian scholar, historian and civil servant of the Mughal empire, writes about this incident that Avery's act soured relations between the East India Company and the Mughal

empire. Khafi Khan writes about when the Mughal officials and governor of Bombay Sir John Gayer talked.

“...the discourse turned upon different topics, pleasant and unpleasant, bitter and sweet; questions and answers were made. Of these questions, one was about the cause of the arrest of his agents. Trusting that God and His Prophet would protect me, I said in answer: ‘You do not take upon yourself the responsibility of the shameful deeds committed by your men, which are condemned by all sensible men.’”

Hence, the 17th century was full of this kind of incidents when pirates and robbers looted people who were carrying any kind of treasure or wealth. Aurangzeb demanded justice from East India Company with the condition of friendly trade relations but as East India Company had no links with Henry Avery, it could not capture him. Aurangzeb condemned this act while British officials were trying to save their trade relations. This incident is condemnable as 15000 pilgrims were not just looted but also ruthlessly slaughtered while their fellow countrymen, the English, claimed to be the torchbearer of the enlightenment. This highlighting aspect of the article brings forth the fact that even the so-called politically and economically developed nations have dark sides too so they should objectively investigated and questioned.

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**Dr Rao Nadeem**  
Anthropologist, Asst. Professor at QAU

#### 4 MINUTES READ

**F**estivals are a global occurrence and a common feature of human society since the agriculture is known to humans. With the introduction of agriculture, humans started dwelling in stationary state in settlements and that required seasonal markets for exchange of goods and provide

occasions that interrupt the routine and let the social fabric reknit and rejuvenate.

*Mela* is the term used in Urdu and Punjabi to mention folk festivals that are associated with festivities around some sacred occasion or space or saint. The festivals are essentially social in nature, the members of society participate in the folk festivals to make it meaningful. Festivals are to entertain; therefore, the festivities are too diverse to entertain the

## FESTIVE BEINGS: FESTIVALS, CARNIVALS, MELA



IMAGE: DAWN

junctures for trade, many festivals grew out of these seasonal market gatherings. Apart from Market; religion is another driving force for festivals, religion provides a world-view that is chronologically festive. Humans since their animistic beliefs are in a reciprocal relationship with spirits, deities and divine, thence the fairs and carnivals to celebrate these reciprocal relationships. Folk Festivals are important markers in any social calendar. They are the

aesthetic and cultural needs of the people. South Asian people are very fond of such festivals or *Mela*, *Kumbh Mela* is one of the largest such festival that is religious in its orientation and takes place every twelve years in February and March. *Kumbh Mela* takes place in former Allahabad, that is renamed Prayagraj, at Triveni Sangam (confluence of three rivers) of Ganges, Yamuna and Sarasvati (now dried) rivers. Similarly, *Mela Charaghan* (festival of lights – although



Diwali or Deepan wali, a Hindu festival, is also translated as festival of lights) in Lahore is annual death celebrations of a Punjabi poet, revered as saint, Shah Hussain.

Music, dances, circus, sports and shops are often part of *Mela* festivities. Food stalls are often spotted between other stalls and vendors, although charity in the form of food is a major aspect of South Asian festivals that occur within sacred spaces of shrines. The folk expressions of a festival or *Mela* are quite idiosyncratic; the setting is often surrounding either a significant religious place, for instance a shrine, and usually the annual gathering is fixed around harvest season when the villagers have surplus amount to spend. This interplay of veneration and gaiety is observable in *Mela* taking place around shrines. The patronage for the *Mela* is provided by the district or tehsil administration or the local elite or caretakers of the shrines.

Lok Virsa *Mela* is an annual celebration of folk culture of Pakistan; including food, music, crafts and creativity that is celebrated in Islamabad. Lok Virsa is a public organization that curates the folk culture of whole Pakistan within the vicinity of its premises by gathering the folk artists and craftsmen from all parts of Pakistan.

Carnivals and food festivals are the contemporary forms of jollity and joviality that transformed the orientation of festival. For instance; three or four decades ago 'Horse and cattle show' in different districts of Pakistan was a common feature that reflected

the significance of agricultural base of Pakistan, whereas after rapid urbanization and shift of focus from agricultural base to an urbanized service and industry-based economy and a hasty growth of real estate boom the festivals transformed accordingly and Islamabad Food Festival 'Islamabad Eat' is one such example of food festival. This is often a sponsored event where food outlets contribute.

Given that festivals are the moments of joy and jollity, therefore; the literary festivals are also arranged and they are more about ideas and books as a source of pleasure rather than food and sports.

Festivals, irrespective of their nature, are a great source of sociability, economic transactions, pleasure and to distinguish homo-sapiens from other species.

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# Found After Being Lost Forever



**Fatima Altaf**  
Psychologist, Painter

3 MINUTES READ

**S**un was about to come up, five men in uniform were around the body, one of them was capturing photos of that lifeless corpse. The dead looked different, broken bones, blood all around him. HE LOOKS HORRIBLE! THE DEAD LOOKS HORRIBLE! I LOOK HORRIBLE.....!

How do I know where to begin? I suffered a state of depression some time back when I was involved in an emotionally draining and toxic relationship, while at the same time trying to complete a law degree. However, the relationship eventually ended and I completed my law degree. In all these difficult years, I felt so low, confused, lost and did not

know which way to turn. There were times when I felt suicidal either in public; with friends or alone I felt dissociated all the time, with every breath I took. I had thought of ways; a number of ways of killing myself, playing it through my mind like a little picture-show. I thought of how it would look and how all those I was acquainted with would respond to it. Those considerations really terrified me at the time. I became alcoholic, had insomnia, anorexia, and experienced a ten-pound weight loss. I became aloof, stopped visiting the only person I felt like could help me, my childhood friend who was busy in his life, a successful lawyer: a good son, husband and father. He was everything I have always wanted to be, at least someone was living that life, someone was happy unlike me. My family can't help. They don't know

ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK



how and I don't blame them in the slightest. But they don't understand what it must be like living in my head. They still treat me as if I should just get on with it! All through my life when someone committed suicide, the people left behind keep saying, 'why didn't he ask for help? Why didn't they say there was something wrong?' I started planning my suicide because that was the only way out, for me at least killing myself was the only way out of the pain I was going through. I planned to jump off the bridge, but had to "get drunk" because "I didn't have the guts" [to kill myself]. I viewed death as a "relief."

One night, finally, I gathered all the strength, I couldn't feel anything. I tried to feel sad for the ones I was leaving behind; my family and my only friend, but I couldn't feel anything. Finally, I reached my destination. I smiled and without even having a second thought I jumped and everything got dark. It felt like the blood moon was on the rise.

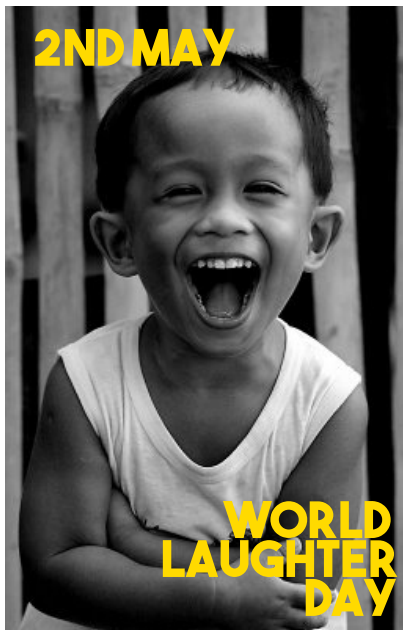
It has been 48 straight hours and no one even noticed my absence. I was staring at the comatose (unconscious) me, the dead me! Hoping and thinking to find the relief for which I longed for, but is there any relief or is it just a lie? I can't make sense of anything now, I am so afraid of the dead me, I couldn't bear to have a closer look. Finally, after two days, I saw police approaching the dead me, I have been found after being lost forever.

Two days dead and I am unable to find the relief I yearned for. The only

hope for me was being dead but what now when I am dead, what next? Two days and I am even more restless than I was while breathing. Two days dead and I know that suicide is not the answer. I would never like to go through the same experience again but if I do, I will always have to believe that no matter how bad things seem they will always get better. Help was out there, help was out there, I was not alone but I chose to be alone, forever alone.

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## The Science of Addiction



**Ummara Sheraz**  
Science Geek, e-journalist,  
Culture & Entertainment Writer

3 MINUTES READ

When we often think of addiction, we think of someone with a substance abuse problem. So those that have a less shallow understanding of how an individual overdid something to a point of no return.

That's why addiction isn't limited to substance abuse but to gambling, the thrill from extreme sports, etc. In some cases even love. Yes, 'love' has the same effect on the brain as a drug would. So what is that effect that certain behaviors like gambling can have on the brain, i.e. addiction?

When it comes to substance abuse, these chemicals mimic our body's natural neurotransmitter called dopamine. Dopamine is created by the brain as a reward response. Aside from making you feel great, reward responses cause the brain to remember such behavior, i.e. positive reinforcement. Repeat this a few more times and now you are stuck in a cycle.

So now that the brain knows 'good job', this is a 'good job'; it encourages you to keep doing. That's when we try to take away the stimulus that activated the reward response, a narcotic substance, a behavior, or a person,

our brain doesn't understand why. So can we even blame people for falling down the spiral of addiction? Some people might not even be aware that they might get tangled up in a lifelong struggle.

**"Addiction is not a moral failing, a choice, or a character flaw. Addiction is an illness."**

### Runs in The Family

In fact, people can have a genetic predisposition to substance abuse. You have probably noticed how different medication affects all of us differently. One medication that worked for you, might barely affect someone else. Then there are people that will end up sick from the same treatment. Differences like these are



ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

caused by a difference in genes. The American Psychological Association (APA) states that;

**“at least half of a person’s susceptibility to drug or alcohol addiction can be linked to genetic factors.”**

That’s roughly half is actually between 40–60%. Genetic mutation is why humans have survived as a species. We adapted to make us better suited for an environment. Yet these genetic changes have their cons. Like inheriting addiction genes. They might allow medication to better work for you, but leave you more vulnerable to addiction.

There’s no one gene behind this genetic disadvantage, and variations in multiple genes determine your genetic tendency to addiction. Additionally, environment factors like stress, trauma, etc also play a part. So even if you do have genes that leave you more at risk, a better environment might be what kept you healthy. Again these environmental factors are a coincidence.

### Changes in The Brain

In the long run, addiction changes areas of the brain that are critical to judgment, decision making, learning and memory, and behavior control. Scientists believe that these changes might help explain the compulsive and destructive behaviors of addiction.

This might explain why there is no reasoning with an addict when they are seeking that reward response and

avoiding the withdrawal of whatever they are addicted to. Why do people stay in toxic relationships to avoid the withdrawal of heartbreak? Why do people continue to abuse drugs despite the chemicals gradually killing them?

So not only are some people more susceptible to addiction, addiction affects their brain in a way that the only reason they don’t respond to reasoning the way an average individual would. Seeking rehabilitation and trying to quit goes against what their brain is telling them. That is why recovery is a constant uphill struggle and people relapse so often.

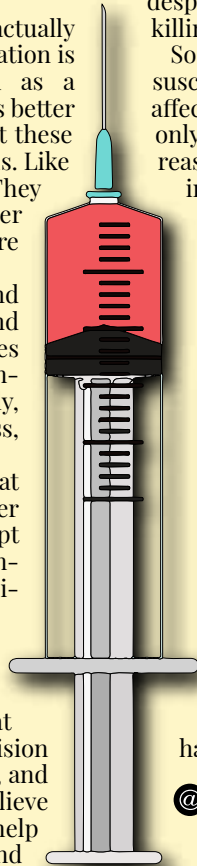
We need to understand that addiction is a disease that could happen to any one of us. We are just lucky that social factors and genetics kept us from falling down that downwards spiral.

There is nothing we could have done to avoid this disease, had environmental factors and genetics not been in our favor.

So much like any other disease don’t hate the addict, hate the disease!

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**8TH MAY  
WORLD  
RED CROSS  
DAY**





## HOLIDAYS IN SUMMER: BEST PLACES TO VISIT IN PAKISTAN



**Saira Batool**  
Nature Photographer, Blogger,  
Media Student

4 MINUTES READ

*"I may have stumbled; and stammered at your unexpected push, but the breeze anchored me and I learnt the art of survival"*

**Vijaya Gowrisankar**

There are countless amazing options for tourists when it comes to places to visit in Pakistan. Mountains, rivers and breezy meadows for the adventurous, culturally enriched sites and fantastic dining for the foodies. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has again headed up to a threatening level, but let's stick to our belief that with supreme care, we would be able to defeat it. Fingers crossed; let's believe that the lockdown will be lifted hopefully by June or July; and so, it will be the best time of season to visit a few valleys in Pakistan. The blazing green fields and forests, windy meadows, rivers waving the glorious shades of bright blue-sky mirrored crystal clear seems as if telling the imagery of a wonderland. Summer brings lots of joy and flamboyant cheers with it. The best things about summers in Pakistan are mangoes, summer break, bright breezy mornings and oh! Certainly, holidays at hill stations. Yes! Long Travels!

So, let us have a quick look at the best summer places we can visit in Pakistan after the lockdown uplifts.



**1. Kumrat Valley:** Places like Nathiagali, Shogran, and Hunza are known to most of us. But there's a cached gem and most soothing valley in Upper Dir district, KPK is known as the Valley of Kumrat; rarely known to tourists. This beautiful valley has a glorious landscape with a streamed river and sky touching pine trees. The summer winds and blazing greenery gives a glance of fantasy Greenland.



**2. Hunza Valley:** The valley is a district called 'District Hunza'. Located in KPK, the valley acquires

dazzling meadows and trees laden with orange, white and pink flowers give delightful scenery. This place changes its colors with changing seasons. In aesthetic mountains, one feels retired from mental and physical illness. If one wishes to see the most magnificent and epic sunset, then buckle up and head to Eagle's Nest around golden hours.



**3. Swat valley:** The valley comprises infinite lush forests, landscape, mesmerizing peaks and wildlife. Swat valley is the most wanted place for adventure in summers like ziplining, hiking, camping etc. Swat is well known as "mini-Switzerland of Pakistan". It has various tourist attractions. Some of them are Kalam Valley featuring Ushu Forest and famous ahodand lake and so on. All these attraction provide swat with a scenic beauty and the hospitable people of swat make it even more appealing.

**4. Payee Meadows:** Payee meadows are located 6km away from Shogran. The colorful and astounding flowers in the windy season with white background of Makra Peak gives awe-inspiring scenic views. There's a lush and vivid green meadow on the top of Paya ridge accompanying the



fanciful view on Malika Parbat peak.

**5. Deosai Plains National Park:** Deosai National Park is well known for its rich and amusing flora and fauna. It is referred to as the roof of the world as it is a high-altitude alpine plain acquiring the 2nd highest plateau in the world. The weather here is unpredictable but most suitable for summer holidays. One moment, the sunlight is majestic and the clouds overcast the sky summoning thunderstorms and icy winds, in the blink of an eye. During spring, the plains are covered in wildflowers of all hues, tints and shades, attracting butterflies gives a lovely scene. Deosai plains is renowned for its deafening silence, despite its colorful splendor. If one loves solitude, the place welcomes you into its heart.



📷 [syr\\_shots](#)

# National Necrotizing Fasciitis Awareness Day



**Tehreem Shah**

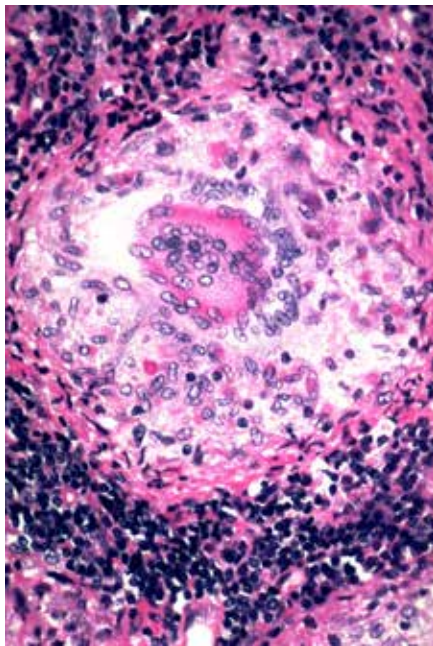
Mental Health Enthusiast,  
Socio-political Content Analyst

## 2 MINUTES READ

It is observed on May 31 since 2017. The awareness day provides resources to victims of the disease. It is less known among masses. Mortality rate of this disease is 24% - 34%. We are hopeful; necrotizing fasciitis can be partly prevented through proper hand washing and adequate wound care.

## Risk Factors

As per the center of disease control, there are an estimated 9,000-11,500 cases of necrotizing fasciitis occur each year, having an outcome of 1,000-1,800 deaths yearly. Generally, it is too quick but it varies from case to case. When antibiotics cannot reach all of the infected area due to eaten tissues by bacteria, in such a situation to amputate the dead tissues/organ is essential to save the patient's life. Immunocompromised individuals



with weak immune systems are more prone to get affected; it includes HIV and cancer patients, diabetic patients with penetrating injuries and

advanced age. Diabetic patients have compromised immune systems and statistics show diabetic individuals have a tendency to not heal up their wounds. Insects and animal bites in penetrating injuries.

Immunosuppressive drugs (e.g., prednisolone) are given in the organ transplant case which in turn increases the risk of infection. Immunosuppressive diseases e.g. peripheral vascular disease, diabetes mellitus contrib-

utes to add more to infection. Surgery, minor invasive procedures/precipitating events, cesarean surgery (traumatic), natural childbirth (non-traumatic), acupuncture, joints and intravenous drugs have been noticed as a risk factor.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 45**

IMAGE: FLICKR



**Amir Hassan**  
Penetration Tester,  
Cybersecurity Enthusiast

2 MINUTES READ

**I**n the modern world where everything is going digital, from our daily lives to work spaces; there exists a threat. A threat which could put our digital data at jeopardy.

Security threats are not new. Apart from the ones that are mostly unknown to security analysts and software vendors. We call them zero-day attacks. It may not sound very dangerous to you, but ask a security researcher, and he or she will tell you how hazardous these unfamiliar threats can be; especially for large-scale enterprises and sensitive organizations such as military institutes.

And the amount of damage they can cause is even hard to calculate. Every organization faces such threats, and no wonder they would because Criminals are smart and they always tend to adapt to clever techniques to steal the data. Any weak security link can be a huge opportunity for them to infiltrate the security infrastructures thus leaving the security researchers to think about the possible reasons for a breach.

Of course, detecting a zero-day attack can be as hard as finding nails in a sand, but the real challenge is to

stop them before they start. One possible solution is the fast patching of software and applications. However, implementing these fixes can be delayed because of the need to triage (assess) threats, or one could simply overlook a threat in order for it to successfully take place.

According to a research, the estimated average delay in applying a patch to a vulnerable endpoint is 102 days, due to triage testing and implementation procedures. The result is a big gap, leaving the application or a software exposed to the new form of threats, and before a new patch could come and take place, chances are pretty much that the application might have been compromised somewhere by someone.

Now the question is, can we prevent zero-day attacks? Well, no one can guarantee 100 percent protection, but maintaining good cyber hygiene can stop these attacks up to some extent. Now, this doesn't mean that one should spend endlessly on heavy antivirus software and firewalls. However, having proactive email security solutions and educating end-users and employees can decrease the chances of your company falling victim to these notorious threats.

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**in** Amir Hassan



## ZERO-DAY ATTACKS & SECURITY THREATS




**DISCOVER**

A Story Screened by Emaan, Shama, Shahid & Marina Khan  
**HAYA**



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On the Verge of its Life

# Betelgeuse



**Ahmad H. Nadeem**  
**Waleed Yousaf**  
8th Grade Student, Writer

4 MINUTES READ

In the vast expanse of space, there are numerous mysteries. For

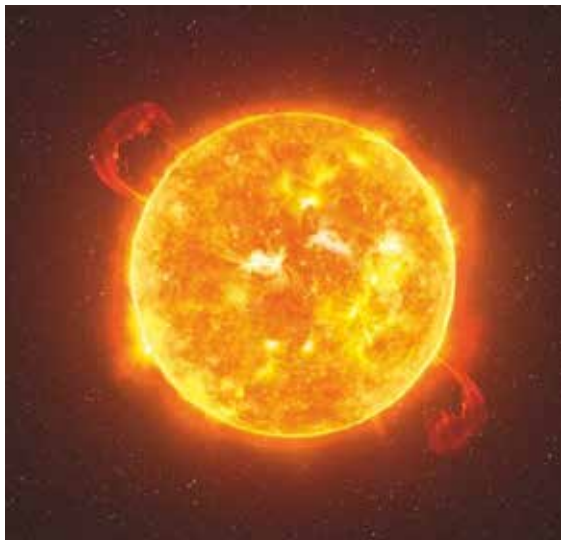
instance, what is inside the black holes? Why is the universe expanding? How will everything end? Another such mystery is the fate of the various types of stars. Betelgeuse, a red supergiant, is one such star which deserves special attention.

But, what exactly is a red giant? Basically, it is a star that is at its last final stages of stellar evolution, and has a weak atmosphere; hence, it expands at exponential rates. An average red giant has a surface temperature of approximately 4700°C. Mainly, there are seven types (categorized as different numbers) of stars, which are classified as types O,

B, A, F, G, K and M—from hottest to coldest. The types O and B are the brightest and hottest; Sun is a G type star. As for red giants, they can be of any size; from 30% of solar mass to 8x solar masses.

The stars of categories K and M are most likely to become red giants at the last stages of their lives.

Now, how does a red giant initially form? It happens when a star—



approximately the size of our Sun—burns up all its hydrogen, with the passage of time. Afterwards, the star starts to collapse due to its own gravitational pull. This happens till its helium, formed due to fusion of hydrogen atoms, starts

to make carbon. With that, the star has the aid of a carbon/hydrogen-driven chemical process, which it uses as a new fuel. Because of this process, the energy released pushes out the outermost layer of the star, and helps prevent the star from collapsing soon. This is the start of the formation of a red giant.

But, what is so special about Betelgeuse? First, it is large, in fact

super massive, or roughly 950 times larger than the Sun. Not surprisingly, it is among the brightest stars in the night view. It is predicted in many scientific researches that since the Betelgeuse is in the last stages of its life, it can become a supernova anytime now, which could be either today, or in the next million years! But first, what is a supernova? Well, to explain simply, 'A supernova is a large explosion that takes place at the end of a star's life cycle'. It is, indeed, a catastrophic event.

As reported in many articles, the Betelgeuse is 'acting strange'. It is mainly because of its 'noticeable' dimming, which has captivated many scientists and astronomers. This can be the sign of a possible supernova in the near-to-distant future.

Back to Betelgeuse: Situated 641.4 light years away from us, its mass is  $2.188 \times 10^{31}$  kilograms. How big are these numbers? Well, one Betelgeuse is equivalent (in terms of volume) to 950 suns, which is HUGE! Also, it emits 7,500 times as much energy as that of the Sun in one second, and its mass is 12 times more than our Sun.

What if we had Betelgeuse in our solar system? Well, it would engulf the orbits of the following planets (and Asteroid belt): Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter.

Now, imagine what would happen if Betelgeuse explodes today: Well, if a supernova is close enough to Earth, it can send high energy gamma rays (the radiation) to earth which are extremely dangerous to life. A supernova about 2.7 million years ago caused a 'mass extinction' on Earth.

Coming back to that disastrous supernova, it caused—or contributed—to mass extinction about 450 million years ago, during the end-Ordovician extinction.

Wondering what mass extinction is? In actuality, it means that most of life goes extinct, but not entirely all. Further, it is very difficult to wipe out all life on Earth, especially micro-scope life, which is quite resistant to dying in harsh conditions.

Anyways, now I come to the question of how will the Betelgeuse supernova look like in our skies? It will be immensely bright. It will be the third brightest object in the sky, and will easily be visible in the dayskies' as well. In fact, it will look like another moon, albeit half one, and will likely stay in the sky for a few weeks before it starts losing its luminosity. The supernova would be easily visible in all parts of the planet.

I stargaze every night. Each star. Each constellation. Each astronomical body. With great interest and keenness. Including that of Betelgeuse, which will always have a special place in them. Realizing that it is about to explode into a supernova anytime now, I feel mixed emotions; both disappointment and excitement. Finally, as the great astronomer Carl Sagan says, 'somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known'.

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# Are We Morally Weak? or Dead?



**Hassan Bilal Ahmed**  
Doctor, Writer

2 MINUTES READ

Society is an amalgamation of different kinds of individuals, scores of behaviors, and certain moral codes. Amazingly these all factors of society are interlinked which breed on the fertilizer of humanity to form a social fabric that signifies the amenable characters of the people native to it. There was an era when sympathy, honesty, condolences, manners, and compassion happened to be the indicators of Pakistani society, but haplessly they have been abolished by the mutual efforts of ours.

Anything that militates the masses because of us, is a sign of loose morality. For instance; a general sense of illegitimate hegemony, the common culture of bribery, kickback & nepotism, clamorous voices in public places, breaching queues at concerned places, loud belching & sneezing openly while sitting in gatherings, flaunting at unauthorized arms, derogating the submissive, uploading obscene pictures on social

media, and associating yourself with a well-renowned personality are those social obstacles that even don't come into any accounts.

Citing the viral videos on social media anyone can assume, we are in such a hurry that we don't grant time to the next vehicle in a line to make a turn, our lurching respect gets hurt if a traffic warden asks for documents, and we tend to influence him using our links. Another social endemic is the prevalence of a trend in which it is seen that a few people eat in their cars and then discard the leftovers openly on the roads ignoring the proclamations of religion or ethos. A few years ago, people were ready to help each other, but now people make videos and upload on social media and the tyranny remains persistent.

This trend of considering yourself above law is equally present in most of the politicians, civil servants, military officers, and the common civilians are also prey to it. A report tells 2,094 ghost employees working in utility stores corporation, and in another case, dozens of people were getting paid from the national exchequer without their tangible existence as a pilot, teacher, or contractor. Everybody must remember that negation of moral values has never been a sterile mistake. The only way to get back on track is everybody should practically evaluate themselves, try to accept mistakes, and spread a sense of tolerance.

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## ACTIVE LISTENING

### AN ETHICAL DEMAND



**Zil-e-Huma Junjua**  
Psychologist,  
Content Developer, Writer

2 MINUTES READ

Conversation is a skill and very important part of every culture or socialization. Conversation is an interactive communication, and requires some etiquettes to conquer this skill, as it provides you a social support and helps you to put things in perspectives. Whether you are sharing for the purpose of giving advice, sharing information or to just vent out. It also makes you more resilient and improves your coping for the uncertainty.

From my learning, I have understood that people took conversation just to talk it out their experiences, opinions and ideas without realizing the fact that it is a two-way process. When talking about conversational protocols, first and foremost is not only active talking but active listening. We misunderstand the skill of conversation; we cut people off and focus on what we want to say without even listening and having a firm belief that we know what they are going to say.

We should treat conversation as an opportunity of learning something out of it, and be an active or better listener rather than just

spilling your beans around. To be an active and mindful listener, it is our ethical responsibility which is overlooked in our societies. It develops empathy and patience to avoid and resolve conflicts between individuals, and as a result of it peace and happiness can be ensured.

According to Anneli Blundell, an author, speaker, and communication expert, there are a few reasons which make the individual engage in behavior of cutting people off. The topmost reason is that it becomes a learned behavior: as a child, we acquire this behavior from our environment. It's a narcissistic thing: when the conversation no longer revolves around you, you just step in and try to turn it around yourselves. It can also be a reason for internal insecurity; to avoid judgments or trauma, vulnerability and inferiority complexes, we unconsciously cut people off as a

defensive mechanism. Sometimes, we get excited and enthusiastic during conversation regarding certain points. One of the significant reasons; it's a power play i.e., when you feel you are losing the conversation, you pool in. Long story short, it happens when you are totally unaware and you don't consider the emotions of others. The only cure to this disease is to self-reflect and to take feedback of your loved ones. All the best!



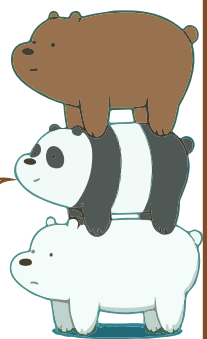
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# Help the Car to Reach Home





**Hey! Can You Color Us?**





# FRUITS CROSSWORD

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10

# FIND SEVEN DIFFERENCES



# Maye Bomb



**Ibrar Bazmi**  
Writer, Novelist



3 MINUTES READ

“Finally, the bomb arrived ... *Maye Bomb* has arrived!”. Saying this, screaming, we rushed to the room on the top floor to hide ourselves. We were filled with fear, as the old woman who used to live next to our house and was always after us, appeared yet again complaining about us.

We used to call her “bomb” because she had a bulky physique and resembled a bomb. When she would shout, her grave voice would spread in the surroundings just like the sound of an explosion. I was not so afraid of her, but when she would loudly scold and curse, it would be no less than the destruction of a bomb. Her tongue was sharp, her heart was soft, and her eyesight was weak.

Her house was on the left side of our home. There was only one room and a bathroom, which was visible from our rooftop. She would often be seen busy with her chores in the large open podium of her house or lying on a bed due to illness. If she would be angry, there would be a disaster. But when she would love somebody, she would do it whole-heartedly. Her mood was very unpredictable.

I was the only one in the neighborhood who would help her in her outdoor tasks. My mother specifically

asked me to help Mayee Bomb. I did not miss any opportunity to help her.

One day, I was waiting for my 4th grade result. I brought milk from Bazar for Mayee. She said to me, (*Putter tera natejja kadon ana ae!*) “Son! when will your result come?” I said Maa Jee! It will arrive tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. She replied, “Allah will surely give you success, and when you will be successful, you have to bring Laddoo (Sweet Balls) for me, iotherwise, (*te main teriyan lattan bhan deniyan ne*), I will break your legs.” I got out of there in fear and ran away.

Eventually the result came, I succeeded with good grades, sweets were distributed all over the neighborhood but I forgot to give sweets to *Mayee Bomb*. Suddenly, her’s threat came to my mind. Well, apart from being naughty I was obedient and considerate as well. Therefore, I conceived an idea and added two more friends in the plan.

We took an empty box of sweets from my house. We made clay balls just like Ladoos and placed them in sweet box, took out the silver topping from the kitchen and decorated the clay laddoos and after beautiful packaging, we took it to Mayee Bomb.

Finally, we knocked at her door. A voice came from inside, (*we kon ae?*) “Who is that?” I replied, “Maa Jee! I’m here; I have brought you some sweets.” Mayee bomb came to the door, snatched the box and blessed us with duas and good wishes. “May Allah make you a great (*wadda*) officer, may Allah give you success. (*tun chan wangu chamken*) You shine like the

moon.

As soon as she went inside; we rushed to our rooftop to see Mayee eating mud Laddoos.

We saw *Mayee Bomb* gently putting the package in front of her with a big smile; un-wrapping it with high hopes. Finally, after opening the sweet box, due to her weak eyesight, she confused the clay laddoos with the real sweet laddoos. As soon as she had a bite of clay in her mouth, we closed our ears and eyes in anticipation. The next moment *Mayee* exploded, and she started cursing us; her grave and angry voice was touching the skies. " (we tera bera ghark sataya naas!)"To hell with you people, Hay, you little demons, you..., you... You made such a bad joke to me ..." she picked up the box and walked from her house to our home screaming and screaming." ...

*Mayee Bomb* came; she has arrived. Saying this, yelling, we fled to the room on our roof top hide ourselves in fear; we found a place in a small room to hide ourselves.

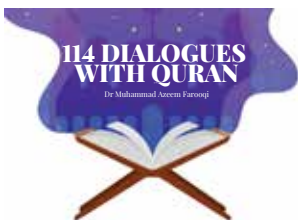
The next moment we also saw Abu (my father) entering our home, what happened after that? You all know well, who gets hurt when a bomb explodes?

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### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

those who are already famous through Film, TV and now through social media. As we witnessed in this PSL season 2021, the 'Pawri Girl' who became an international sensation; has been hired as the brand ambassador of Zalmi (Peshawar cricket team) and other brands. There are other programmes, which are based on 'social media stars', are now getting more ratings than the regular artists. Cumulatively, in Pakistan, I think if these Tik Tokers get some training in acting; they will have an upbeat future. As we see in foreign countries, this social platform has been used by trained artistes and they have really raised the bar of creativity. It will also help theatre as these Tik Tok artists would attract a huge number of audiences in performing. Most social media platforms are a threat to theatre because it gives total control to the viewer and one could have private viewing. In this way people will come back to the shared viewing in a group. The Tik Tok stars can attract people to theatres again, all we need to do is to create platforms for them.

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## ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERIES

# Cold Testing



**Saeed Babar**  
Management Consultant  
Education, FCMA, MS(Fin)

3 MINUTES READ

Now that you have an amazing idea of a business venture. You don't fly high and land on a dream spot. You can fly high and also land on a dream spot but that needs thorough planning, not endless planning. Just the necessary to have an understanding of various parts of running a successful business. It is just like having at hand Google Maps that shows the path to your destination, a guide that keeps you on the right way.

Allah (SWT) is *Al-Hakeem* (The Most Wise) as well as *Al-Khabeer* (The Knower of Reality), He has

created "Ponder" connotes careful thinking, thorough thinking, reasoning. In the Quran forty nine verses of the words from the root "aqalu (عقل)" meaning "to reason"

have been used.

Indeed, the worst of living creatures in the sight of Allah are the deaf and dumb who do not use reason. (8:22)

Aristotle said "The mistake lies in the beginning; as the proverb says, 'Well begun is half done;' so an error at the beginning, though quite small, bears the same ratio to the errors in the other parts." To avoid the errors at the beginning and Well beginning requires a thorough thinking about the implementation of the idea. We do not need to invent the wheel, it has been invented and developed for use in many ways. There are plenty of resources on the internet that will teach you how to write your Business Plan or a Road Map. One such resource is <https://steveblank.com/>.

This site is dedicated to startups. It has many Tools and Tips on "how to begin". One of the tools that this site offers is "Business Model Canvas". It is

downloadable and free. It also provides a tutorial on how to use it. It has nine segments:

**Customer Segments:** Who are the customers? What do they think?

**Channels:** How do we reach our customers? What are the most effective ways to reach them?

**Customer Relationships:** What type of relationship do we want to establish with our customers? How do we deliver the value proposition?

**Revenue Streams:** How do we generate revenue? What are the different ways to monetize our business?

**Cost Structure:** What are the major costs involved in our business? How do we manage our costs?

**Key Resources:** What resources do we need to make our business model work? How do we acquire and maintain these resources?





See? Feel? Do?

**Value Propositions:** What's compelling about the proposition? Why do customers buy, use?

**Channels:** How are these propositions promoted, sold and delivered? Why? Is it working?

**Customer Relationships:** How do you interact with the customer through their "journey"?

**Revenue Streams:** How does the business earn revenue from the value propositions?

**Key Activities:** What unique strategic things does the business do to deliver its proposition?

**Key Resources:** What unique strategic assets must the business have to compete?

**Key Partnerships:** What can not the company do so it can focus on its Key Activities?

**Cost Structure:** What are the business' major cost drivers? How are they linked to revenue?

The author of the tutorial has listed three benefits of using the "Business Model Canvas" - BMC viz. (1) Focus (2) Flexibility (3) Transparency. There is no doubt about these benefits because you need your full attention to the work at hand and also you need to change your position vis-a-vis competitive forces and who can deny transparency, your team needs it all the more.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

### Preventive Measures & advanced therapies

Antibiotic therapy, surgical debridement and hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBO) has significantly reduced the infection and wound morbidity rate. Studies showed HBO therapy for humans and animal inhibits exotoxin production, controls infection growth. Moreover, need to research is needed to monitor microbiologic causes, to enhance the diagnostic techniques as it would contribute to detect at earliest stage of disease. Stay tuned regarding severity besides removing dead tissues/organs.

Patients may need to have blood transfusion in some cases where whole body's blood get infected with bacteria. Precautions like to keep clean all injuries, wounds with dry bandages until they heal. To take care of fungal infections, avoid spending time in natural water bodies in case of open wounds. There are no vaccines available for necrotizing fasciitis. If someone observes certain symptoms after injury or surgery, e.g., blisters, ulcers and black spots on the skin, pus, or changed color of the skin, should see a doctor.

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MAN IS INDEPENDABLE, HE IS BORN TO DEPART AND CAN THEREFORE OFFER NO SECURITY.

ABDUL SATTAR EDHI





**Nazeer Hussain**  
Cancer Biologist

4 MINUTES READ

To look superior and acceptable in society, people from all over the world use various types of cosmetic products to enhance or alter their facial appearance and body texture. In recent times, an exponential surge in cosmetics use has been observed in Pakistan; hence spending lots of money on purchasing personal care grooming products for their fine-looking appearance. However, it is very unfortunate that there are many reported facts about the high load of lead, mercury, copper and other hazardous, cancerous elements in the local Pakistani cosmetic brands.

In Pakistan, these products are easily available in local stores instead of only at pharmacies or at regular medical stores. Majority of manufacturing units are unauthorized and working illegally at large scale. According to reports by the joint effort of Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Islamabad, Pakistan 2018, upon assessing the quality of 59 local and international brand products; only three manufacturers were using standard

quantity of mercury and remaining 56 loaded excessive amounts of mercury (0.74ppm to 44.292ppm) in their products as compared to permissible (1ppm) limit. Pakistan has been named among the countries with high level of mercury use (3rd most hazardous chemicals) in various cosmetic products: in which skin whitening creams come on the top of famous brands with highest sale out. There are 30 to 40 different henna (black Mehndi) brands in Pakistani markets

on which the details of the contained ingredients are totally absent and loaded with toxic chemicals, textile dyes, carcinogenic (cancer causing) substances and other heavy metal including Paraphenylylene diamine (PPD), lead, chromium and nickel which damage body organs. Similarly, Pakistani Kajal (Surma) brands

have 0.03% to 81.37% lead and it is highly toxic for eyes and penetrates into blood vessels and accumulates in the liver thereby causing detrimental diseases including cancer. Local nail polish brands in Pakistan contain high quantities of toluene that can be adsorbed in the skin through nail bed resulting in dizziness, headache and fatigue. It has been found that many local cosmetics markets in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are selling cosmetics including those lipsticks which have



ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

high concentration of Iron, Zinc, Lead and Copper. Similarly, many other cosmetics items like topical steroids and bleaching creams, skin-whitening soaps, facial hair cosmetics and black stone (Kala Pathar) are full of toxic chemicals and there is no check and balance on their use by the concerned authorities.

Due to open availability of illegally manufactured cosmetic items at local stores, a large portion of Pakistani population including both men and women from urban and rural areas have been severely affected with facial skin damage and other clinical health issues. People have no knowledge about the ingredient's association with skin rupture and carcinogenesis risk with multiple organs failure. They are getting toxic chemicals as a dose of beauty continuously and unknowingly. There is a dire need for a joint action by all relevant & responsible stakeholders to monitor and

keep a strict check and balance on the manufacturers of local and imported cosmetic products in the country. Lethality of these toxic cosmetic products usage is a general public problem: there must be awareness programs that would coax people to buy only recommended and legal brand cosmetics items. There must be rules for advertising: the only approved cosmetic products should be allowed to be promoted in the media. There should adequate legislation and implementation by the consumer courts to make sure the ingredients labelling on each product. People should avoid purchasing foreign brands unless the ingredient table is not printed in English. To improve the appearance of aged skin, use recommended products of good brand by dermatologists.

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ڈاکٹر محمد عظیم فاروقی



## How To Make Your 'Off Days' Exciting & Productive



**Sidra Abbas**  
Linguist, Writer, Social Worker,  
Sports Enthusiast

2 MINUTES READ

**G**etting breaks is vital to maintain your work. This is essential to keep things managed. But again, we get bored on our 'off days' very rapidly. How to make these tedious days better and productive, is a very crucial thing to know.

There are few tips which can be adopted to spend your 'off days' charmingly.

### Call your loved ones

Calling your loved ones can eradicate all your demotivation in no time. Discuss with them your all-coming projects. Exchange a healthy conversation about your lives. The feeling of having someone in the busiest life can give you a positive edge to the success of your life. So, the off day will become a pleasant and memorable day for you.

### Celebrate yourself

To give yourself some time and attention is of supreme significance. Pat yourself



**Let's celebrate!  
Let's live by  
ourselves!**



*sidra\_abbas\_here*

even on little wins. You will be satisfied and your boring exhaustive day will be turned into a more motivated day ahead. Do what you like. You can cook, sing, listen to music, sleep or whatever to spend your bad day in a more enthusiastic way.

### Take a breath

Take a long breath if you are feeling dull and get relaxed. This thing will take all your negative energies. Go for a meditation or a long walk in park full of greenery.

### Get up and go to a party

One of the best things you could do is to get up and go for a party or dinner with your friends. Meetups always give pleasure to everyone. Do "harmless" gossip and take pictures. Enjoy the time spent with your friends. Finally, this will turn your dull and monotonous day into a chill, unforgettable and healthy day.

You can also make a checklist of any other activity or thing you want to do, for instance, you can perform your hobby, you can read books, watch movies and even connecting to people online is very therapeutic. Let's not bad days consume you, let's make them productive and positive.

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# Women's Property Rights



**Arooj Fatima**  
Blogger, Writer,  
Social Scientist

### 3 MINUTES READ

In Pakistan's traditional societies, where even the religion Islam promotes and advocates woman's rights, under the burden of societal norms, values and traditions, their rights are sabotaged. With their rights compromised, the women have strived to raise voice for their due rights across the country. Women that were deprived of their due share and right in the property, through their will and voice, compelled the government authorities to accept the notion of changing dynamics and made them understand their peculiar role and importance in the society. The improving statistics prove that how women have tentatively been trying to change the traditional thinking and have strengthened them by proving how important and competitive they can be in any environment. The problem do not lies in women's ability to do


better when proclaiming her rights but the issue lies in the implementation of law. The legislation formulated for them are either hidden from them or they are unaware of them. A father would better tell his son proudly about his share in inheritance but wouldn't mention about it to his daughter under the same roof in Pakistani traditional societies.

But even today, in the 21st century, the problem remains unsolved. The issue lies in the implementation of every law made. Once the enforcement is not executed, the existing laws become meaningless. Taking this issue into consideration, the Ministry of Law and Justice of Pakistan took a major step by enforcing 'Women's Property Rights Act 2020'. It empowers women to have their inherent share in the property. It has not just ensured equality but also resolved many issues related to property rights and inheritance and has nipped the evil in the bud. The law also protects women from other societal exploitations as well and

reduces the crime rates related to property issues. Under the Article 23 of the Constitution of Pakistan, it is citizens' right to acquire, hold and dispose of property in any part of Pakistan, since the applicability is to all the citizens of Pakistan, there is no segregation of gender. It has made the law acts equally applicable to men as well as women. It has took a while for Women to grow mature and to be aware of their rights they would unaware of, but Islam is a religion of equality and it defined woman's right to the property 1400 years ago. According to a study conducted by World Bank, once women are given property rights, it changes the structure of society and the generations to come. When women have the access to the assets that belong to them, their potential and ability to excel accelerates. Their increased role in the economy makes the society to flourish and will change the economic and social dynamics remarkably.

To secure the women's property rights in Pakistan, the property acts are imposed in cities and territories like Islamabad and in the KPK province, where women can register their complaints and submit them to the ombudsman against their undermined rights of property or ownership. Women kept under dark of their due share in property or keeping them deprived of their due share in inheritance is considered a crime according to Women's Protection Act 2011 and can result in 5 to 10 years of imprisonment or heavy fine of 10 lac Rupees or both. The complaint filed

through lawyers including the respondents the other helping bodies are deputy commissioners, NADRA, PEMRA, PTA and different other government authorities, can play a vital role in providing women with their property rights. But the patriarchal factor in the society remains where it is today, most complaints claimed that some women tend not to approach the court in the fear of their male family members, poor financial backgrounds and conditions, as well as to avoid the lengthy legal procedures. In these situations, it becomes difficult for women to raise their voices. Nevertheless, women advocates today, are well aware of their rights and therefore no such circumstances can hinder their way in spreading their word to those who are unaware of their rights. Different approaches in society can be adopted such as awareness campaigns in schools and colleges to nourish the young minds towards this ignored issue. Through social platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, webinars to spread the positive discourse on women' rights protection can be initiated. But most importantly, the will and confidence of women to fight for herself and her rights is the required agenda.

 *socraticgirl*



NO MORE CAN A TREE SURVIVE ON THE ERODING BANK OF A RIVER THAN WATER STAY IN A VESSEL OF CLAY.

**SHEIKH FARID**



# FEAR



**Imran Khan**  
Playwright, Poet, Fiction Writer,  
Teacher of English Literature

## 3 MINUTES READ

He got himself trapped in the blind alley. Nothing was there to get an aid. With a desperate thought he ran again. This time the speed was unbelievable. He himself was surprised whether it was he or the fear of being caught that was making him get an extra pace.

The fear, he could recall the very word his mother often used to say when he was a child of seven. She was always in fear of being victimized. Once she told him that it was the fate of every woman here. They were always in a perpetual fear of being hurt, tortured, harassed, raped, and killed. If any woman lived and died without facing this kind of humiliation she was considered the luckiest one.

Luck; it was the most desirable thing for him right now. He could

have a narrow escape if luck would favor him. Apparently there was nothing to hope. He was trapped and the idea of a safe heaven was a dream now. Safe heaven, safe heaven - his thoughts ran with the pace of his body and dug up the past.

His father migrated with the same idea of a Safe heaven. But right from the time of migration, he was in a kind of fear of being killed, caught, jailed, martyred, and interrogated. He was here because it was the sole refuge for him and his family. But to his agony, the threatening circumstances were not letting him to act normally.

The sole refuge for him right now was to run and run with the pace. To be slowed meant to die. He could face death bravely like a true warrior but he was afraid of the aftershocks. He used the colors of his imagination to paint on the canvas of his mind the face of the true warrior not other than Mr. Sibgat ul Hassan Noorani, an example of a dauntless warrior. He used to say "live like a warrior or you must die".

And then one day he died like a warrior. A few weeks earlier he was giving his Wa'az (lecture on religion) on the m i m b e r (pulpit) when a suicide bomber came and with a blast the Hassan Noorani was no more. He fulfilled his words and died like a

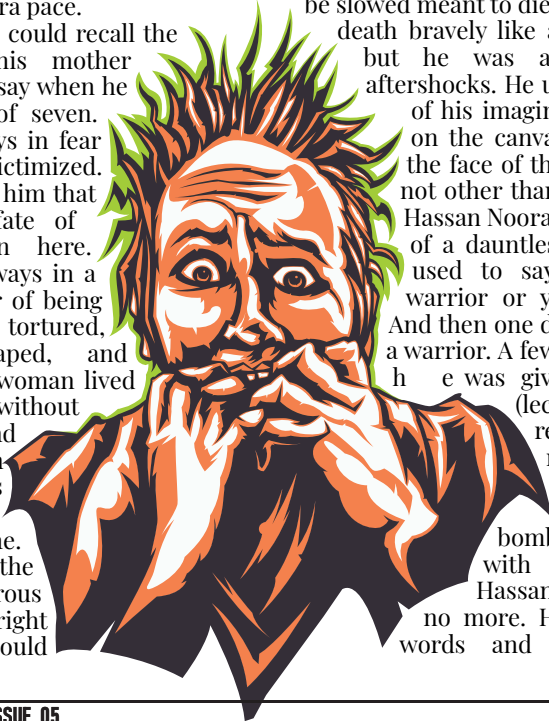


ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

warrior. All his body was charred. The sole part that survived was his head. Anybody could see the still daring eyes in that deadhead, so he died fearlessly. But all were not Noorani. After his death many regular visitors of the Masjid were never found to be there because they were afraid of death.

The fear of death. Yes the very fear he had seen in the eyes of the proud politician of his constituency. Ch. Charag-ud-Din Chattha was a strong man. He always boasted of seeing in the eyes of death, and then one day his elder son Ch. Kamal-ud-Din Chattha was shot down by a motorcyclist on his farmhouse. And the same fearless man could be seen with a squad of guards around him. Even some people had mysterious stories about his nights. From the day his son was murdered, he could never have had a peaceful sleep at night. The cries, the shrieks of fear were the common addition to his nights.

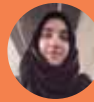
The nights of shrieks and fear, this image brought another character to his mind, the Christian priest of the local church, Mr. Deep Emauell Bhatti. He was often threatened by a group at night time. The neighbors repeatedly told the stories of a group which often came to his house at night. And then one night the neighbors listened the terrific shrieks of fear. They approached him and to their fear he was smeared in blood. Someone has shot him dead.

A shot and he felt as if some hot iron had touched his temple. He placed his hand on the temple and it got wet and the smell of blood hit his nose. A wave

of cold fear swept through his body. He was in range now. He added a bit more to his pace. He got the pulse of the time that now it was only pace; that could save him individually and his nation collectively.

📍 *poetic\_spurs*

## Emptiness



**Umme-e-Habiba Kiyani**  
Writer, Poetess

*Reckon of dear one comeback with tears  
Hath shed tears alone in moonlight  
Resilient I'm as heart does not beat  
Nobody know to whom I owe these tears*

*God knows our innocence  
Soul spread apart  
Failure of bond is decision of God  
Hope doesn't die of separation concurrence*

*Loveable thoughts reside my soul  
Lovelace thoughts spread us apart  
And my heart drowns with thought of  
losing you  
Ardent love, defect love, the rancor of  
love.*

*And I haven't remained like myself in  
melancholy of love  
Rather change identity our become  
recluse  
Thought to clench this dark night and  
hold this regret of love*

📍 [habibakiani94@gmail.com](mailto:habibakiani94@gmail.com)

# Inertia



**Muhammad Anees**  
Asst. Professor of English

7 MINUTES READ

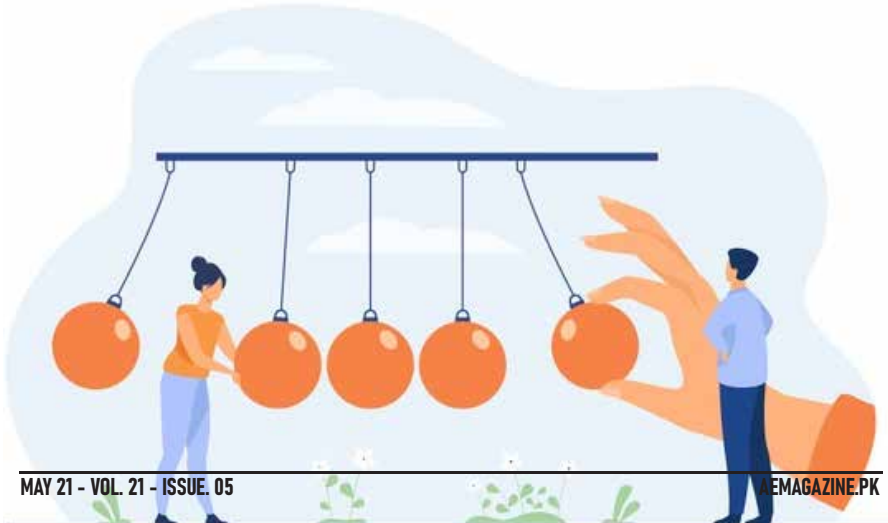
**Y**ou know what? the world has come to a halt. It has stopped. Since when, I don't know but one thing I am sure, it is stationary, still and getting infested and rotten as the time is passing' 'hahah how can you even say that? I don't believe that you are that pessimistic. Look everything is fine. Just see outside this window. Everything is perfectly fine. The city is gleaming with wonderful lights. People love to get out on roads, to hotels, in parks and spend quality time. Just look at that little cute girl. How happy she is. I am simply amazed; I don't believe a person like you can ever think like that'

'Inertia, do you know what inertia is? 'Yes of course'

'Of course your papa wanted you to be a doctor and you just fell in love with art and literature. You do know what Inertia is'

'Why you always make fun of it. Yes, he wanted me to be a doctor. What's wrong with that. Every parent in this country wants his children to be doctors. But I did convince him otherwise and here I am sitting with you in this café. Hahah rather sitting with a person who has such a weird view of this beautiful universe'

'Aah, here you are getting me wrong. I didn't say 'the universe' is getting rotten. The universe is perfectly alright. It's raw. All on its own. Pure. Going on as it always was. Just like the free fall of the water falling from the highest point of a mountain. The universe is perfectly alright but the world, where men have worked a lot to pull the hand brake to bring this world to a halt and the world goes





cheeeeeennnnnnnnnnnn.....  
thuddddd... or may be turned it  
upside down. Yes that's great I might  
get a good view if I also turn myself  
upside down.. you know two  
negatives make it positive. Let me try'  
'don't don't don't do this.. What the  
hell are you doing? People are watch-  
ing'

'you know, people do watch but they  
don't see. Just forget that. Let me  
come to my point. Inertia is a state  
when a static object tends to remain  
static or a moving object keeps  
moving. Isn't it so.? Tell me Ms X  
science students... who divorced it so  
ruthlessly.. Isn't it so?'

'Of course it is so Mr. Art lover whom  
it never loved back. Whose proposal is  
always rejected. Art will never marry  
you...hahaha'

'You know what, my sciensy girl, the  
real love story doesn't happen when  
your love says 'yes' but it really  
happens when your love says no or  
does not say at all.'

'You and your theories, I bet you will  
end up bachelor all your life; you  
never had science and neither art is  
going to accept you.'.....' now  
tell me how on earth you believe that  
world has come to a halt and not  
moving at all and if it is inertia then  
how could on earth It could be  
stopped separating itself from the  
rest of this universe which according  
to your romantic imagination is  
moving freely'

'Yessss. You are right. How on earth  
I could stop as inertia says, it keeps  
moving if it is in motion. Yessss... as I  
have already told you. we have put it  
to a halt.. Just like Nietchsee says, 'we

have KILLED HIM' we have brought it  
to a stop. I don't know exactly when.  
May be at the turn of twenty first  
century which began with a BAAANN-  
NNGGGG or may be a century ago or  
many centuries or may be when the  
first man for the first time just left the  
mysterious caves and jungles and  
made a stone Axe and put a whole in  
the earth to make it fertile to grow  
crops as if it were barren before man's  
magical tools cultivated it. I don't  
know when exactly it happened. But I  
am quite sure, It has stopped and men  
are crawling on it. Just counting their  
remaining meager amount of days.  
They are desperate now but I am dead  
sure the specie called man is the most  
endangered species on this earth but  
we are never gonna put it on record or  
try anything for his survival.

'Hahaha you are funny. You know  
what. You need to see a psychiatrist.  
You are just creating stories when  
actually you are pathetically, ironical-  
ly, idiotically and ridiculously failed to  
write anything for our annual theatre  
fest. The three time fest winner writer  
has come up with infested world  
endangered species theory when he is  
failed in creating something import-  
ant for himself.'..... 'you are too  
funny'

'I am hell right you know. Just see.  
We have done everything. We have  
had our great love stories. We have  
stopped growing life. The Sassi  
Punnu, Heer Ranjha, Sohni Mahewal  
and even Romeo Juliet. Do you remem-  
ber how old these stories are? There  
has not been any great love story  
since. Our literature, our history, our  
politics, our internet, our newspapers

everything is infested with hate, division, destruction, devolution. Where is evolution, where is movement, where is love. Nothing. Nowhere to be seen. Every romantic movie is just the shadow of those stories. The ancient men were far better better than us. Their myths were so beautiful but what we have done with all those myths. We have destroyed our world and blamed them for that

'So, Mr. writer, then do write that love story. I would love to be the first listener to your grand love tale. Bring your new Romeo Juliet. Be the new Shakespeare or Waris Shah. Who stops you? come on help the world to move again. Be the force. I would be the luckiest person to be with you. I would wave hands to the stars when our world start moving again and say to them. Hey...stars look we are back in the business. We are moving again. We are going to catch you no matter how many light years we are behind you, like the turtle who had a slow start. Hahaha. You are just impossible' 'No I can't. In the state of inertia. I can't. You know why Waris Shah could write Heer Ranjha. Because they were there in the society. love was there and it is not here anymore.'

'Oh come on... stop it and tell me what is it that we are going to perform. We were meant to discuss the script. I am your director and if you don't have anything for me to read. I will expel you from the project. Remember.

'Yes I know. All the directors have those powers and they always want the script to be written as they want'

'uffff.. Your philosophies.. Now I really want to know what happened to your script.'

'Yes..it is ready'

'Then produce it immediately and read it to me before I finish my third cup of coffee'

'it's locked in here.. as Shakespeare says in 'Shakespeare in Love.. I gotta go. I have to run to home. You will have your script in a couple of days. Rather I will see you right here the day after tomorrow'

'With a script?'

'Yes with a script. And I know you are not going anywhere. You will be right here as the world is static. You can't move. Hahaha'

'haha yes of course. But at least tell me what is the title?'

'Inertia'

@geminish81@gmail.com

## HOPE



**Ambreen Khurshid**  
Student, Writer, Poetess

*She cried and cried  
Because something inside her died  
Sitting in the darkness  
Shedding tears with shortness of breath,  
and thumping heart  
Her soul was all dried  
She got up, cleansed the face with blurry  
eyes  
Took out the Mus'haf  
And asked Allah to show a ray of light  
She flipped the pages and opened her eyes  
Looking for a rescue to fly  
Finally she got the answer to all her  
WHYS?*

@poetry\_hive

# Golden Rays



**Nikita Kumawat**  
Writer

2 MINUTES READ

**O**h! Is it true you never ever saw golden rays?

We must, at least once in a lifetime said Ray.

**Umbra:** I cannot, but I sense it every time within my heart.

Anyway, we should get back to our dormitories else we would be punished for breaking rules. We are not free to live or even raise our eyes to see anyone around. We are just structures to follow the protocols.

**Ray:** What protocols? We are categorised on the basis of digits and codes. We should learn to value ourselves even to say I love you; one must find the "I".

**Umbra:** True. Let's catchup tomorrow at the valley side after work.

Colourful flowers on the greenside valley with a running river crossing the bridge. It looks mesmerising magical with full moon light. Sound of the cold breeze making dry leaves fly. Otherwise, it is dark all around without golden rays. Dear God...where I can find that golden ball to free light of our life.

**Umbra:** Hey! You reached early?

**Ray:** Nothing much... just to spend a little bit me-time.

Can I ask you something, Umbra?

**Umbra:** Yes of course.

**Ray:** You are a structure of darkness. How you sense everything?

**Umbra:** Dark...means black, it's a vacuum, emptiness, hollow inside. When you are into a dark zone you become focused at a point where we can sense things.

Hey Ray...see there, at your right. Did you notice? There is something I never sensed before.

**Ray:** Let's move to that strange small hut from where a stone is sparking. Are you able to run?

**Umbra:** Yes! Let's run before we get caught by protocol ministers.

**Ray:** Hold my hand & run faster

**Umbra:** Hold on! some sound is hitting my ear drums. It is night-rider ministers on inspection. Let's hide into these tall grasses.

When everything would be clear, we would cross the lane for that hut full of orange light.

After some time;

**Ray:** Everyone gone...let's get into that hut. Damn! its golden balls.

Hey Umbra! Look at this golden light, feel them.

Suddenly a sound of gunshot made an echo and I found myself dead on the wooden floor.

✉ [nikitakumawat016@gmail.com](mailto:nikitakumawat016@gmail.com)



# DEAR MUMA!

A DISTANT DAUGHTER'S LETTER  
TO HER MOTHER

3 MINUTES READ



**Bisma Saeed**  
Medical Student, Writer

**D**ear Muma,  
How are you? I hope you're doing good and not missing me a lot. I was thinking to write you before as well, but found this task a little difficult and weird. Never have I ever thought of getting this much distant from you that I would feel the need to write you letters. But things are different now! With time i thought I'll manage on my own. I will adjust here once I'll make friends and life will become easy. But you know what Muma? I still have homesickness sometimes. I crave for your long, warm hugs. Your smell, the taste of your cooked food. Your goodnight wishes and everything that has anything to do with you. Because to me my home has always been you. On coming here I just didn't leave home, I left you. Did miss a lot of events since being away from home. Be it birthdays or holidays. But none of them made me cry my eyes out. The one and only exception was your birthday. Twice or thrice or more than that, don't even remember how much and for how long now. I missed you more than ever on 14th of March. And now its Mother's day. These mixed emotions make me feels like I've been sent off to my in laws after getting married. Years earlier. Just like a newlywed, i feel strange here. Everything is new for me. Though it's been 4 months already but i still have to call you for every single thing. I have no idea where I placed which

thing of mine while packing. Because you were the one who did everything for me. Talking of packing Muma, i still can't find my raincoat! Don't scold me for that okay? Because i didn't left it behind. I clearly remember you telling me to remove it from the hanger and giving it to you. But God knows where it is now! Here my memory sucks..

I still remember how funny i thought it was when you told me to ask Baba for his raincoat because i only heard of all snow here. But again, as always you were right Muma! about the uncertainty of weather, people and their behaviour. I'm experiencing them all now from up close.

From how to make tea to how to iron I'll slowly yet eventually master every perfect bride quality. The example i gave, I know will make you laugh for sure. You must be thinking that I'm teasing you again with this and it's true.

Whenever I ask you guys for stuff from home, from Pakistan there's this longing within me growing; my eyes glued on the door, ears alarmed for the phone call. I've asked twice for the stuff already and these two bags as you said Muma have reached here faster than you and are already here with me. You sometime joke about you coming here, being packed in the bag but then say that the only weight allowed is of 50 kgs. Though it sounds chucklesome but it rather makes me

cry. Every time you sit to make the list of my stuff and Ayesha says that now I'll have to go for the shopping with Baba then we'll send you your dowry, it excites me every time in a new way. I don't talk much with Bushra and Wajahat now and i have this fear of losing our magnetic bond but I just can't help it sometimes. To manage everything together. Baba and I have started talking more.

I had to come when sessions here were announced online but i decided to rather stay here and like always you didn't a complaint a single thing because you knew i didn't want to return back to the place where my grandmother died. When i heard she was ill I wanted to meet her so badly but it was the mid of semester and then I heard of her demise. I don't know what you have been gone through without me. I missed you so much that day Muma when i heard the news. I've been holding back my tears of sorrow only to hug you when we meet and let myself break down slowly. Because I know only your embrace can heal me.

That time must have been difficult for Bushra and Wajahat as well. As they were kids who have never seen a death so close. I wish i was there with you that time. It would've been hard Muma managing everything but you managed it, adequately!

Ever since school everyone dreams of going to University. And abroad is like cherry on the top. But no one knows how hard is the hostel life! From being scared travelling ahead from airport all alone with just my consultant and his friend at 1:00 am

here to settling in the room then changing room, fighting with roommates to finally making friends then being ditched by them, life has taught me a lot. And i think, it has still more to make me go through in order for me to learn the lessons. But you know what Muma I think I'll be okay and will do fine as long as i have your love, trust and support with me. Know that! I love you to the moon and back and you mean the world to me. Happy Mother's Day my first love, my Wonder Women! Miss you, take care and stay safe!

Your forever proud and grateful daughter;  
Doctor to be Bismah Saeed

📧 [bsb2301@gmail.com](mailto:bsb2301@gmail.com)





# The Boat of Jesus Has Been Found!



**Wajid Bhatti**  
Archeologist, Teacher at  
FC College

3 MINUTES READ

**T**he drought of 1985 and 1986 was severe in Israel. The water level on the lake shrank, exposing huge expanses of the lake bed. Two Kibbutzniks (people who live on a communal Israeli settlement called a Kibbutz), while walking leisurely along the shore's edge, accidentally discovered the hull of a 2,000-year-old boat.

This was the first time the lake had yielded such an extraordinary treasure, soon dubbed the “Galilee Boat” and the “Jesus Boat.” While detailed studies are yet to be published, general observations have been helpful in understanding the boat’s ancient construction and seafaring capabilities on the Sea of Galilee during the time of Christ.

Extracting the exterior intact from its age-old seabed of mud was a new challenge for archaeologists. The wood timbers, thoroughly waterlogged, had the consistency of wet cardboard. Any quick evaporation of its water would cause the boat to dehydrate and disintegrate. A cloth canopy was erected to block the sunlight, and water had to be constantly sprayed over the hull as

IMAGE: TOUG PETERSON



volunteers carefully removed the mud. Haste was necessary due to the unexpected rainfall raising the tide and threatening to deluge the site.

A novel method was employed to move the boat. The structure was strengthened inside and out with a fiberglass/polyester resin frame molded to its shape.

The craft was then wrapped in a thin plastic sheeting and sprayed with polyurethane foam, creating a protective cocoon. Water was then pumped into the excavation pit, and a channel was dug, which permitted the boat to float into the lake. The artifact was then taken to Yigal Allan Museum at Kibbutz Ginnosar, located on the northwestern shore of the lake. There it was hoisted by crane into an empty conservation tank, and the foam was painstakingly removed. The concrete pool was then filled with a synthetic wax called polyethylene glycol, a substance that, over a period of a few years, will penetrate deep into the wood to prevent its deterioration. Eventually the hull will be taken out of this murky solution and exhibited.

The boat measures 26 1/2 feet long, 7 1/2 feet wide, and 4 1/2 feet high. According to nautical experts, it shows evidence of having a large stern platform ideal for fishing, primarily catching shoals of fish with a long net called a Sagene. It could also have served to transport goods and passengers. To determine its age, consideration was given to the construction technique, the objects found in and around the boat, and carbon-14 analysis. The estimated date is between 120 BC and AD 40.

This would cover the period of Jesus' lakeside ministry.

This is probably the kind of craft that James and John were aboard, tending to their nets, when Jesus called them to follow him (Mk. 1:19-20). The measurements are suitable to accommodate large groups, such as Jesus and his disciples (Jn. 6:15-21). It could well have been a similar vessel in which Jesus slept in the stern during a great windstorm (Mk. 4:38). He could well have stood on the stern platform when he displayed his deity by commanding the tempestuous wind and sea to be muzzled (Mk. 4:39-41).

 *Wajid Bhatti*



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# SATISFACTORY READERS

I have found AEM very informative and helpful. I am loving all the sections.

**Munaza Arif**

The previous issue was stuffed with some diverse content and I enjoyed every bit of it. Thankyou for making it really special.

**Almas Zaidi**

Being a science student, AEM really amazes by introducing new concepts and adding to my knowledge through Science section. Well done!

**Huzaiifa Saeed**

The harmony of colors is what draws my attention towards Azeem English Magazine. It's really beautiful.

**Sahir Azeem**

The best part of AEM is that it gathers talent from all over the nation and encapsulates them in one issue. Can't appreciate enough for the efforts.

**Varsha Abdullah**



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My kids wait for AEM for the puns. It sharpens their cognition. Thankyou AEM for giving us something productive for the children.

**Ilyas Habib**

AEM's mental health section is very insightful. Tbh, never thought about it seriously, but now when I read such stimulating stuff, I feel charged. Thankyou AEM, this would change many lives.

**Sumaira Ehsan**

Azeem Educational Conference has been bringing forth some brilliant projects, and AEM is my favorite platform. Kudos to the whole team.

**Safeena Malik**

Literature stories and poems are so immersive and touching. Love this section.

**Zameer Butt**

Loved the Culture section. It was so informative and holds a special place for me. I had goosebumps while reading.

**Shahab Wadood**

AEM includes some fresh writers and amazing content. I love it.

**Umaira Naeem**

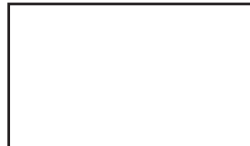


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