

ENGLISH PORTION OF PM'S SPEECH

23RD MARCH, 2011

The 23rd of March is a day when the Muslims of the sub-continent decided to launch a peaceful democratic struggle to achieve a separate homeland where they could live as free and equal citizens in accordance with the principles of social justice propounded by Islam. The Resolution adopted on this day seventy one years ago was based on the Muslims' right to self-determination, their unique culture and civilization. It marked the dawn of final phase of their struggle to get rid of political bondage and a determination to chart a new course of action. Our founding fathers wanted Pakistan to be a democratic, welfare and moderate Islamic state that could not only ensure the wellbeing of its own people without any discrimination of caste, creed, race and colour but also contribute to the peace and development of the world.

The present democratic government is trying its best to make Pakistan a truly democratic, moderate, and welfare Islamic state in according with the vision of the founding fathers. Since taking over, the government has taken a number of key steps such as the restoration of original character of constitution through the 18th and 19th Amendments, 7th National Finance Commission Award, political ownership to war on terror, Aagaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan Initiative, the strengthening of Parliament and other state institutions, pro-women and pro-minorities' reforms and Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment & Self-Governance Order 2009. These initiatives of democratic Pakistan have made our federation strong.

I assure the international community that Pakistan would eliminate terrorism and extremism from its midst as these notions are contrary to our collective ethos, identity and religious teachings. The idea of Pakistan is too vibrant and dynamic to bow before the forces of terrorism and extremism. It is democracy which achieved Pakistan and it is democracy which would make Pakistan achieve our founding fathers' dream.
