



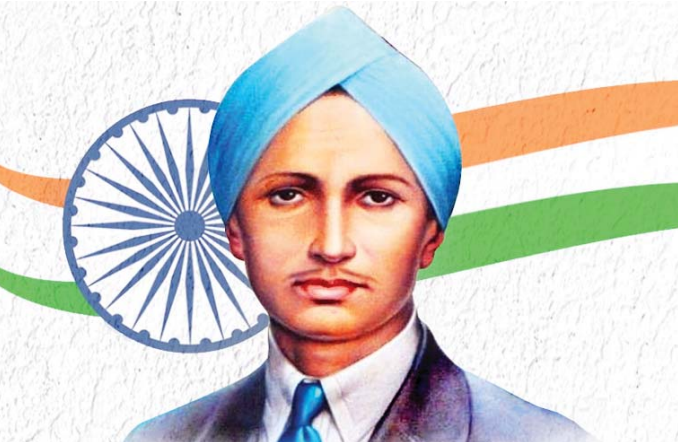
Celebrating Freedom

Independence Day in India marks the country's freedom from British colonial rule in 1947. It is a day of pride, patriotism, and reflection, observed with flag hoisting ceremonies, cultural programs, and tributes to national heroes. The Prime Minister addresses the nation from the Red Fort in Delhi, recalling the sacrifices of freedom fighters and highlighting national progress. Schools, institutions, and communities across the country participate in celebrations. This day not only commemorates India's hard-won independence but also inspires citizens to uphold the values of democracy, unity, and diversity that define the nation.

#SHRI KARTAR SINGH SARABHA

In The Land Of Legends-The Tenth Legend of August

"If I had more lives than one, it would have been a great honour to me to sacrifice each of them for my country."



As we celebrate our nation's birthday month, we honour the legacy of a fearless youth whose sacrifice continues to inspire, and whose memory burns brighter with each passing generation. Today, we highlight Shri Kartar Singh Sarabha, a gifted revolutionary who laid down his life at just 19 for the cause of India's freedom.



Early Life and Awakening

Born on 24 May 1896 in Sarabha village near Ludhiana, Kartar Singh Sarabha was raised by his grandfather after the early death of his parents. In 1912, at the age of 15, he traveled

to San Francisco seeking higher education. There, he encountered the harsh realities of racial discrimination against Indians, a stirring injustice that ignited his patriotism.

Rise in the Ghadar Movement

In 1913, Sarabha joined the Ghadar Party, founded in California to overthrow British rule through armed rebellion. He played a key role in editing and

publishing the Punjabi edition of Ghadar, the party's revolutionary newspaper, written in multiple languages to galvanize Indians worldwide.

The Plan and the Betrayal

When World War I broke out in 1914, the Ghadar Party saw an opportunity. Kartar Singh returned to India and attempted to incite a mutiny, organizing Indian

soldiers in multiple cantonments. However, a British infiltrator uncovered the plan, leading to arrests and the eventual collapse of the rebellion.

Martyrdom at Nineteen

Arrested and tried in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, Sarabha refused to recant or seek mercy. He famously declared:

"Why should I? If I had more lives than one, it would have been a great honour to me to sacrifice each of them for my country." Despite his

youth, he stood proud and defiant in court, a remarkable display of conviction. He was executed on 16 November 1915 at Lahore Central Jail, still only 19 years old. He faced death with courage, gaining weight even in prison as a sign of his resilience and fortitude.

Legacy and Reverence

Sarabha's influence extended far beyond his years. Bhagat Singh, one of India's most iconic revolutionaries, considered him his hero, carrying Sarabha's photograph in his pocket throughout his life.

Over the decades, Punjab and the nation have paid tribute through memorials and development initiatives. The state has taken steps to honour his memory, including funding for a sports club and

renovating his ancestral home in Sarabha village. Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha stands as one of the youngest and most profound martyrs in India's freedom struggle. At just 19, he embodied unwavering bravery, boundless idealism, and visionary leadership. His story is a solemn reminder that true heroism knows no age, and that sometimes, the greatest legacy is born out of the briefest of lives.



Kalat held a unique position due to the Treaty of 1876. This agreement granted Kalat internal autonomy, free from British interference, placing it in category B alongside Sikkim and Bhutan, unlike other Indian princely states. Therefore, Kalat was not obligated to join either India or Pakistan and was not a member of The Chamber of Princely States. Therefore, Khan Mir Ahmed Yar Khan, also known as Khan of Kalat, its last ruler, opted for independence.

Kshema Jatuhkarna

The history of Balochistan remains a poignant and overlooked chapter. While Pakistan and India celebrated their respective Independence Days on August 14 and 15, the Balochs could only sigh and wonder if they would ever taste the same freedom. But the militancy-hit region was once free, though only for 27 days. The short-lived freedom was a result of their leader's short-sightedness, the cunning of the British and the betrayal by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan and leader of the Muslim League. Let's turn the pages of history and find out how Kalat, a princely state in what is now Balochistan, gained and lost its freedom and was "forced" into accession by Pakistan.

A freedom that did not happen

At the dawn of India's Independence in 1947, the region now known as Balochistan was partitioned into four princely states: Kalat, Kharan, Las Bela, and Makaran. These states were presented with three options: merge with India, join Pakistan, or maintain their independence. Under the influence of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Kharan, Las Bela, and Makaran chose to become part of Pakistan.

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He made a monumental mistake, at this point, trusting Jinnah completely. In 1946, Khan of Kalat appointed him as his legal advisor

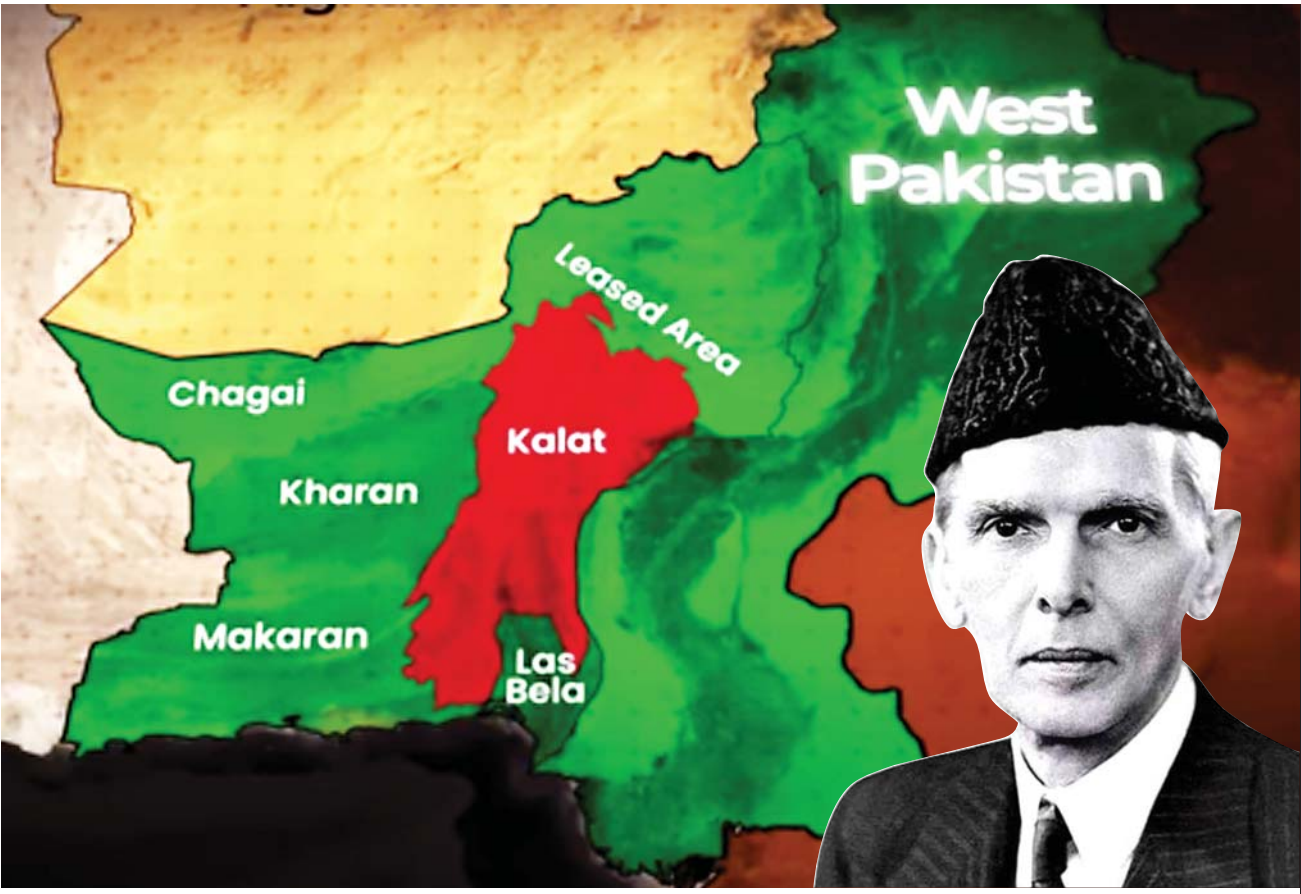
Jinnah betrayed Balochistan



KHAN OF KALAT (RIGHT) WITH JINNAH (LEFT).



Ahmad Yar Khan.



#LOST INDEPENDENCE



H.H. Mir Ahmad Yar Khan, the Khan of Kalat with Sir Norman Cater, A.G.G., Balochistan, and other officials.



The Founder with Khan of Kalat, Ahmad Yar Khan and British friends.

JINNAH'S BETRAYAL

The Khan of Kalat expected the territories acquired by Britain through treaties in the late 19th century to be returned after 1947. Despite meetings with Mountbatten, India's last viceroy, Khan of Kalat, Chief Minister of Kalat, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and Jawaharlal Nehru. In this meeting, Jinnah supported Khan of Kalat's decision for independence. As a result, it was agreed that Kalat would be independent from August 5, 1947, and Kharan and Las Bela were instructed to merge with Kalat to form a complete Balochistan, on Jinnah's insistence.

On August 11, 1947, a treaty was signed between Kalat and the Muslim League, recognising Kalat as an independent state, and promising that the Muslim League would respect Balochistan's independence. On August 15, 1947, the same day India gained independence, Kalat also declared its independence. The traditional flag was hoisted, and a Khutbah (Islamic sermon) was read in the name of the Khan of Kalat as an independent ruler.

In his book 'Baloch Nationalism: Its Origin and Development up to 1980,' Taj Mohammad Breeseg mentions the meeting between Jinnah and Khan, wherein the Pakistani PM advised the latter to expedite the merger with Islamabad.

Khan refused Jinnah's demand and said, "As Baluchistan is a land of numerous tribes and the people there must be consulted in the affairs before any decision. I take, according to the common tribal convention, no decision, which can be binding upon them unless they are taken into confidence by their Khan." Following Jinnah's proposal on Kalat's merger, the Khan of Kalat summoned the legislature's meeting, in which both houses of its

ALL INDIA RADIO'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND KHAN'S SURRENDER

Sardar Patel and then by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. By then, Khan had yielded. On March 26, the Pakistan Army moved into the Baloch coastal region of Pansi, Jiwan and Turbat. Khan had no option but to agree to Jinnah's terms. Khan also had to reject VP Menon's claim of seeking support from India and on the same day, he announced the merger of Kalat with Pakistan. Thus, after a brief period of independence, 27 days

in all, Kalat became a part of Pakistan. Khan defined the matter of signing the merger document as a 'dictate of history.' "I confess, I knew I was exceeding the scope of my mandate... but had I not taken the immediate step of signing Kalat's merger, the British Agent to the Governor-General could have played havoc by leading Pakistan into a fratricide war against the Baluches," Khan said, according to Taj Mohammad Breeseg's book.

INSURGENCY AND STRUGGLE FOR SOVEREIGNTY

The forceful integration of Kalat into Pakistan sowed the seeds of discontent and resistance among the Baloch people. Many Baloch nationalists viewed the annexation as a betrayal of their autonomy and an infringement upon their cultural identity. They rose in defiance under the leadership of Prince Abdul Karim, the brother of Khan of Kalat, in 1948. But this insurgency was suppressed by the Pakistani army and Prince Karim was arrested. This uprising was again seen in 1958, 1962, and the early 70s, but the Pakistan state managed to suppress the resistance.

In 2005, the Baloch movement again gained steam after Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, Pakistan's former defence minister and Balochistan's former governor, took up arms against the Pakistani state. The reason, he demanded 15 things from the government of Pakistan, which included more control over the natural resources of Balochistan, which eventually put him at odds with the powerful Pakistani Army.

The next year, Bugti was assassinated. Despite his scandalous politics, Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti is the most talked-about person in Baloch

society. With his twirling moustache, keenly trimmed beard, over six-foot-tall stature, candor, bravery, unbending backbone and uncompromising pride, he epitomized a model Baloch character. Ask anyone in Balochistan, they tell you he was the truest Baloch ever, even if they are ignorant of his 60-year-long politics.

He was the eldest son of Nawab Mehrab Khan Bugti and grandson of Sir Shahbaz Khan Bugti. His father named him Akbar, but, after the incorporation of his grandfather's name, he was called Nawab Akbar Shahbaz Khan Bugti.

His father died in 1939, and he became the chief of his tribe when he was only 12. Due to his young age, the British Political Agent assigned his half-uncle, who Bugti believed poisoned his father, as the regent and sent him as a ward to famous educationists Allama I.I. Qazi and his German wife Elsa Qazi. General Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's then-military ruler, was suspected to be behind Bugti's assassination. A few days after Bugti's death, Musharraf himself nearly got killed in a rocket attack, orchestrated in retaliation for the assassination of the Baloch leader.

BALUCHISTAN – THEN AND NOW

Once a proud sovereign state, Balochistan is now the most neglected and poverty-ridden province of Pakistan. Despite being the largest province and rich in minerals, Balochistan accounts for nearly 4 per cent of Pakistan's economy. Being incapable of itself utilising the potential of the region, Pakistan entrusted its 'Iron Brother' China to mine the resources in Balochistan. But the coming of the Chinese has further fuelled tensions in the region. There have been numerous attacks on Chinese people living and working in the port city of Gwadar by Baloch militants.

The port city of Gwadar is being linked to China's Xinjiang province as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC.

The Bangladesh Impact

In the 1970s, the Baloch were emboldened by the independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan and raised demands for greater autonomy. But Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto refused, sparking massive protests and forcing the then prime minister to resign. He missed the Akbar Khan Bugti provincial government in Balochistan in 1973. Pakistan launched a large-scale operation to suppress the protests, sparking an armed uprising that saw thousands of armed tribesmen fight against the Pakistani troops. This lasted four years until Bhutto was deposed by General Zia-ul-Haq.

Balochs fear that the wave of Chinese investment will bring about demographic changes in their region, turning them into a minority group in their own province.

But Pakistan knows the game of optics well. Recently, Anwarul Haq Kakar, a leader from Balochistan, was sworn in as Pakistan's caretaker prime minister. The idea was to project him as a representative of the Balochistan region. However, Kakar is not Bugti. He is a Pashtun, not even a Baloch. On top of that, he is considered close to Pakistan's powerful military leadership.

Even after 75 years of its merger with Pakistan, Balochistan continues to be neglected. Political instability and militancy only continue to add to the region's misery.

The Baloch were granted an amnesty and the Pakistani troops were pulled from Balochistan. The fifth conflict began in the mid-2000s provoked by the rape of a woman doctor in a Baloch town allegedly by military personnel. The conflict has worsened in the past few years with deadly attacks on security personnel and infrastructure projects. But there has been no sign of a Pakistan government agreeing to the Baloch demands.

The struggle continues.

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#SADHANA GARG

Content Heart Happy Stomach Silly Rabbit Cafe



There are many who escape to Silly Rabbit Cafe, cafe cum bar lounge with heads bent over laptops and freshly brewed coffee!

Silly Rabbit Cafe must be the most Instagrammable joint in town. And with good reason.

The six months new cafe, with a capacity of 60 packs, is a place that not only reflects the pleasing personality of its owners but also allows you to unwind and wallow in Victorian luxury. It goes beyond food and drinks. It offers an experiential outing in a curated ambience of slow pace and comfort.

The crowds inside, the cheerful laughter and the buzzing conversation around tables is proof enough of its popularity.

"It's just not food and drinks or the service but I love it to bits, the minute detailing that is gone into designing it and its aesthetically done up interiors which makes my world even though it may, for a short while, seem perfect," says a 30-something digital creator. She is not alone. There are many who escape to this resto, cafe cum



bar lounge with heads bent over laptops and freshly brewed coffee by the side.

What makes this place different from any other cafe is its luxurious interiors that transport you to a bygone era. The happy blend of chic decor and gastronomic adventure in the daylight is just what most of us need. In these hurried and harrowed times!

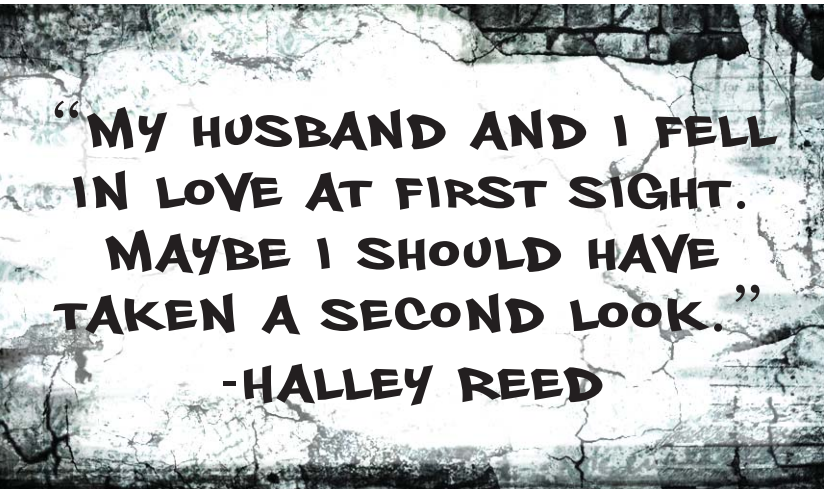
So, even if you are not a coffee person and the 12 different kinds of coffee do not move you, then, there are great soups and plated hors d'oeuvres to satisfy your hunger pangs. The Mushroom Cappuccino soup, creamy with a frothy milk topping, combines an earthy taste. For those who belong to the green gold club, there is enough to choose from unlike any other cafe.

Tadka Dahi Sandwich, Silken Tofu, Avocado and Beets Salad or the Classic Avocado Toast with Hummus, all good to go for a leisurely yet healthy lunch. More importantly, one doesn't get the feel as if the food has been pulled out from Noah's Ark. For the omnivores, Smoked Keema Pizza is a real treat. In fact, one guest not only repeats it but comes everyday to dig his teeth into the soft fresh keema paired with gooey cheese on a crispy thin crust. Delicious and fresh like most other dishes, they seemed to have got it all right. Add to this, the Mutton Khema Pao, Chicken nuggets, Grilled Mutton Burger, Avo Chicken Burger, served with Avocado or Chicken Tortellini. All practically meal-in-a-dish making for an elevated dining time. For the keto queens or the kings, there are enough smoothies and salads to give healthy vibes. Also, if food is the way to the heart, then you will fall in love bite by bite.

Now for the name, why Silly Rabbit? It's playful, fun loving, a cafe where during meals you live your best life, collecting moments, enjoying a carefully curated menu. A content heart and a happy stomach!

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS

