

Gachrang – Public Arts & Cultural Heritage

Gachrang is an interdisciplinary cross connections between art design Architecture and the works are inspired by the quote of Marshal McLuhan, who introduced the concept of globalization, “the medium is message.” The art practice was making art projects which were funded by different organizations ever since 1974. Their inclination in creativity drove them to travel through exploring and exploiting the connecting offshoots of art forms and communication skills within drawing, painting, sculpting, jewelry design, handmade paper making, fashion design, theatre, classical dance Mughal Court, make ups and body paintings, acting on television, organizing events, developing spatial narratives and Architecture etc. Gachrang believes in working for aesthetical functionality for the people and a social philosophy to introduce communal constructivism. They are working to achieve a goal to bring about awareness of Pakistan’s identity through the Medium of Art. Their major projects are:

Army Public School Directorate, Rawalpindi

Army Public School, Peshawar

Mural on Pakistan Movement SSM, Islamabad

Pakistan Monument Shakarparian, Islamabad

Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services, Islamabad

Sindh Assembly

Mural on The World Bank, Islamabad, etc.

Heaven on Earth! Gilgit Baltistan

Gilgit Baltistan is, perhaps, the most spectacular region of Pakistan in terms of its geography and scenic beauty. Here world's three mightiest mountain ranges: the Karakoram, the Handukuch and the Himalayas – meet. The whole of Gilgit Baltistan is like a paradise for mountaineers, trekkers and anglers. The region has a rich cultural heritage and variety of rare fauna and flora. Historically, the area has remained a flash point of political and military rivalries amongst the Russian, British and Chinese empires. Immediately after the end of British rule in the sub-continent in 1947, the people of this region decided to join Pakistan through a popular local revolt against the government of Maharaja of Kashmir.

Five out of the fourteen mountain peaks with height of over 8000 meters including the K-2 (world's second highest peak) and some of the largest glaciers outside polar regions are located in Gilgit Baltistan. Acknowledging the vast potential of tourism and its effects on downstream industries, the Government of Pakistan as well as the Gilgit Baltistan Administration are focusing on tourism for creation of employment opportunities, achieving higher economic growth and to introduce to the outside world, "the hidden treasures" of Gilgit Baltistan.

Beautiful landscape, unique cultural heritage and rich biological diversity given the Gilgit Baltistan a competitive advantage in attracting tourists from all over the world.

The number of tourists visiting Gilgit Baltistan has steadily increased over the years, notwithstanding the dip-in figures immediately following 9/11. However, the challenge ahead is not merely to increase the number of tourists visiting Gilgit Baltistan but also to consider how tourism can be better

promoted without affecting the natural and cultural heritage of the area, while also improving the quality of life of people to the desired levels.

Best of Pakistan

Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, once said, "Remember that your government is like your garden. Your garden flourishes by the way you look after it and the efforts that you put in towards its improvement. Similarly, your government can only flourish by your patriotic, honest and constructive efforts to improve it," (Address at Islamia College, Peshawar, April 12, 1948).

This message by the Quaid is very enlightening and holds good for the present day as well

Reasons:

- Pakistan is the only country in the world that is a gateway to the Middle East, Central Asia, China, and rest of South Asia.
- Pakistan is the only Muslim country that is a Nuclear Power.
- Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world where you'll see all kind of landscapes and weather. From the majestic mountains of NWFP, Northern Areas, and Azad Kashmir to the lush plains of Punjab to the deserts and beaches of Sindh and Balochistan.
- Pakistan has the World's Largest Salt Mine:

Khewra salt mine has proven reserves of 300 million tons. This reserve could not be consumed in 600 years even at the rate of 5 lakh tons production per annually.

- Pakistan has the World's 2nd Largest Coal Reserve:

Thar Coal Reserve are around 850 trillion cubic feet which are equal 400 billion barrels of oil equal to the oil. coal reserves equal 618 billion barrels of oil.

- Pakistan has the World's 3rd Largest Gas Reserves:

Pakistan with gas reserves of 28trcf (current reserves 32.8trcf) So far about 52.7 TCF of gas reserves have been discovered of which ... In view of large indigenous reserves.

- Pakistan is the World's 4th Largest Cotton Producer:

Pakistan as the fourth largest cotton producer, third largest cotton consumer, second largest importer and with fourth largest cotton area. Real performance is counted in terms of yield per hectare and Pakistan has yield around Kgs 650 per hectare lagging behind dozens of countries.

- Pakistan has the World's 5th largest Army:

It was amazing to know that my great country Pakistan has the 5th biggest army of the world, but this doesn't mean that the biggest is also the strongest as well, because the strongest would be the one which would have the latest technology weapons.

- Pakistan is the World's 5th largest milk producer.

- Pakistan is the World's 11th largest wheat producer.

- Pakistan is the World's 12th largest rice producer.

- Pakistan is the country of legends and some of the world's best singers. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, The King of Sufi Music. Noor Jehan, The Queen of Melody Nazia and Zoheb Hassan, The pioneers of pop music in the subcontinent. Shoiab Akhter world fastest bowler, Dr Abdul Qdeer our nuclear scientist, dr Abdus Salam a pioneer in field of physics, Jahangir Khan an unbeatable

squash player, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto a greatest leader of its time and many more

- Pakistan is the country with the best national anthem.
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The Khewra Salt Mine

The Khewra Salt Mine (or Mayo Salt Mine) is located in [Khewra](#), north of [Pind Dadan Khan](#), an administrative subdivision of [Jhelum District](#), [Punjab Region](#), [Pakistan](#), which rises from the [Indo-Gangetic Plain](#). It is Pakistan's largest and oldest salt mine and the world's second largest. It is a major tourist attraction, drawing up to 250,000 visitors a year. Its history dates back to its discovery by Alexander's troops in 320 BC, but it started trading in the Mughal era. The main tunnel at ground level was developed by Dr. H. Warth, a mining engineer, in 1872 during British rule. After [independence](#), the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation took over the mine, which still remains the largest source of salt in the country, producing more than 350,000 tons per annum of about 99% pure [halite](#). Estimates of the reserves of salt in the mine vary from 82 million tons to 600 million tons.