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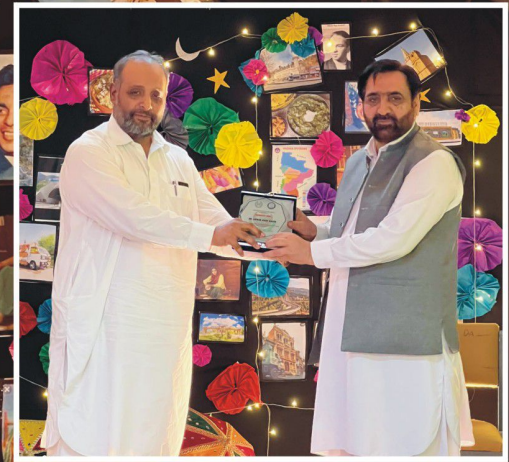
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Hindko Day: Celebrations at Nowshera Medical College

Just like the yester year, this year also the "Hindko Day" celebrations were held at the Qazi Hussain Ahmad Medical Complex under the auspices of Nowshera Medical College. A colorful event was organized that was presided over by the Dean of the Medical College Dr. Anwar Khan Wazir. The chief guest was Mr. Ahmed Nadeem Awan (Joint Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board) and the guest of honor was Sikandar Hayat Sikandar (Joint Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board) who attended the event especially from Peshawar. They were warmly

welcomed, and bouquets of flowers were presented to them. Students from Peshawar, Nowshera, and Hazara participated in large numbers, presenting beautiful skits related to Hindko weddings, Mehndi customs, and other traditions, thoroughly entertaining the audience. The event also featured a musical program where singers performed enchanting Hindko songs that captivated the attendees. In his speech, chief guest Mr. Ahmed Nadeem Awan shed light on

the history of Hindko and praised the efforts of the Nowshera Medical College administration for organizing "Hindko Day". He emphasized the importance of celebrating this event annually to raise awareness about the Hindko language among the youth. At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Anwar Khan Wazir presented special shields to Ahmed Nadeem Awan and Sikandar Hayat Sikandar, while Professor Dr. Kashif of the Medical College presented a shield to the Dean.

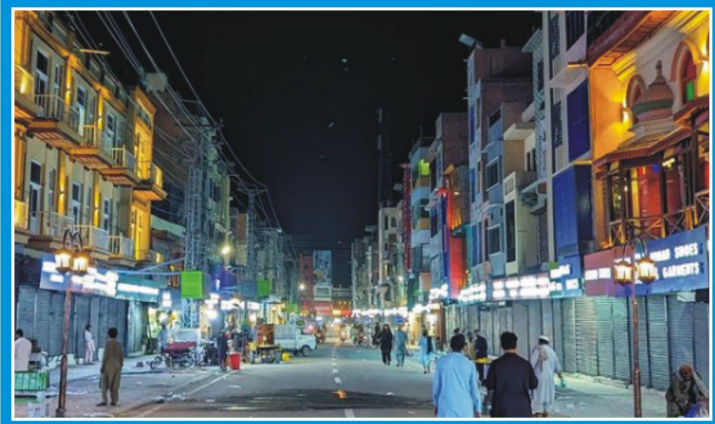


Hindko Culture of Peshawar



Every nation has its own culture, traditions, and customs, which are not only the part of its identity but also, reflect its history and civilization. A civilized nation is one that helps other nations become more cultured. When we look at the Hindko culture of Peshawar, we see that the Hindko-speaking people are not just civilized; they are also a nation that has taught others about culture. For example, the way Hindko people eat, drink, celebrate festivals, and conduct weddings showcases their rich traditions. Many people

events and festivals are just a glimpse into the richness of this tradition. For instance, we have various festivals like the "Flags Carnival", "Bari Imam Di Daali", "Naushohaadi Carnival", "Parda Bagh Carnival", "Chowk Yadgar Carnival", "Shahi Bagh Carnival", "Chamakni Carnival", "Akhoon Panjo Carnival", "Aqa Baba Carnival", "As'haab Baba Carnival", "Tehsil Carnival", "Thandi Khooi Carnival" and "Ramdas Carnival". Similarly, Peshawar has a rich tradition of ancient games that are now considered the cultural games played in earlier times, such as "Kirmaan



from other areas have migrated to Peshawar and embraced this vibrant culture. The Hindko culture is vast and appealing, influencing various aspects of life, including religion, ethics, arts, and social behavior. This culture envelops everything from daily activities to seasonal changes, and it reflects the identity and history of the entire community, not just individual habits. I would like to quote a few topics that highlight the vibrant Hindko culture of Peshawar. These cultural

Kiriya," "Akarh Bakarh", "Guddi Gudday Da Viyah", "Chor Te Kotwal", "Aarka Paarka", "Ghuchi", "Sanda Basta", "Kabaddi", "Weestling", "Gilli Danda", "Top Danda", "Chuppan Chupaai", "Nau Nimarhain", "Chinjo", "Chucha Chuch Gunderiyan", "Gitti Chupparhan", "Rasi Tarprhan" and "Gend Geita".





community, play a significant role in fostering unity. Many people visit shrines on Wednesdays and Thursdays, seeking blessings and guidance. Sharing sweets and preparing Deg for Khatam are also important customs, emphasizing generosity and compassion. These traditions highlight the spiritual and communal values of the Hindko-speaking people, reflecting their deep devotion and strong sense of community. In terms of food and drink, Peshawar offers a rich variety, including dishes like Chapli Kabaab, Siri Paye, Chana

Peshawar is also uniquely known as a city of craftsmen, which is a significant aspect of our culture, as nearly every profession existed in this city. The list of crafts is extensive, but I will summarize a few key trades: masons, cobblers, tin smiths, calligraphers, cap makers, potters, weavers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, drum makers, flower makers, knife makers, soap makers, quilt makers, ice makers, carpet weavers, tailors,



Mewa, Three-Filled Dish, Meethi Haleem, Green Tea, Sheer Chai, Totia Motya, Kaachi, Lucky Faqir's Juice, Carrot's Water, Khoey Wali Kulfi and drinks like Pahng and Thandi. Each of these items has its own unique flavor and taste.



woodworkers, and many more. This diverse range of professions highlights the rich cultural tapestry of Peshawar, showcasing the skills and traditions that have been passed down through generations. In addition to its cultural richness, Peshawar's religious practices are vibrant and deeply ingrained in the community. The Milad processions celebrate the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, while the observance of Muharram is marked by mourning and remembrance. Offerings of Niaz, which are charitable meals shared among the





The gardens of Jan and the Sakhi's spring, along with local specialties like Kaorha Bauski, Tillay Dar Chapli and Qaraqul hats, Cheeni Khanay, traditional wooden windows (Bastay), Drawing rooms etc highlight the local crafts. Traditional activities like weddings, gatherings and community events used to take place in open fields. From all this I don't want to prove that these aspects are unique only to Peshawar or solely tied to Hindko culture; rather, they represent a distinctive spirit of Hindko culture in Peshawar. Certainly, some customs are specific to the Hindkowan, and they have their own unique significance and practices that reflect the community's rich heritage. In short, there is no doubt that the Hindko culture of Peshawar has been a

vibrant, enduring and strong culture from its inception to the present day. It is strong because, throughout history, many different nations, rulers, and kings have come and gone in Peshawar, yet the Hindko culture has remained intact. Today, while scientific advancements have transformed social life, our living traditions and values continue to thrive. Although some practices may have changed, their essence still reflects our rich heritage. We take pride in our language, culture, and identity as Pakistanis. Being termed Pakistani signifies our geographical nationality and identity, and as Hindko speakers in Peshawar, we represent a unique subculture within Pakistan. We take pride in both our social and linguistic identities.

