



Throughout history, wildlife and ecosystems have been intricately woven into the cultural fabric of Pakistan. The relationship between animals and humans is deeply embedded in faith, mysticism, and tradition. The folklore surrounding various species serves as a reminder of how closely human lives and nature are intertwined.

Wildlife species are integral to both the cultural heritage and ecological health of Pakistan. Each month, you will discover a unique folklore story that illustrates how nature influences the customs, values and livelihoods of communities across the country. By exploring these connections, we hope to inspire a deeper appreciation for wildlife conservation and its vital role in supporting food security, agriculture, and sustainable living.

HOOPOE



THE DIVINE MESSENGER

Known as hudhud in Arabic, the hoopoe holds a sacred place in Islamic tradition and is celebrated as a messenger in the story of Prophet Solomon (Hazrat Suleiman) and the Queen of Sheba. As a solar symbol in Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cultures, representing the sun's power, vitality, and life-giving energy, it was also often associated with kingship, filial piety, and wisdom. Its body was believed to possess potent magical and medicinal properties.

Its role in folklore highlights a deep cultural respect for wildlife.

JANUARY

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 <i>International Reducing CO₂ Emissions Day</i>	29	30	31		



THE BELOVED COMPANION

The Mughal Emperor Jahangir, known for his love for hunting, shared a unique bond with an antelope named Mansraj. During a tragic hunting outing, Jahangir accidentally caused the death of his beloved companion. He constructed the 100-foot-tall Hiran Minar as a tribute to Mansraj, a monument that reflects the deep emotional connection between humans and the animals they cherish.

FEBRUARY

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

					1	2
						<i>World Wetlands Day</i>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		<i>Kashmir Day</i>				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					<i>World Pangolin Day</i>	<i>World Whale Day</i>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		
			<i>International Polar Bear Day</i>			



THE BLESSED FISH

The palla machli, or hilsa fish, holds spiritual significance in Sindh, not only as a beloved food but also as a revered symbol in local folklore. It is said that the palla begins its journey from Thatta as a black fish, but upon passing the Zindapir shrine in Sukkur, it transforms into a shimmering silver fish with a distinctive red spot, its flavour and fragrance enriched by the blessings of the saint. Fishermen from the Mohana tribe believe that the palla is a devoted follower of Khawaja Khizer, who protects and guides travelers.

MARCH

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

					1	2
3 <i>World Wildlife Day</i>	4	5	6	7	8 <i>International Women's Day</i>	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>International Panda Day</i>
17 <i>Global Recycling Day</i>	18	19	20	21 <i>International Day of Forests</i>	22 <i>Earth Hour and World Water Day</i>	23 <i>Pakistan Day</i>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



A SYMBOL OF PROTECTION

Peacock feathers hold a special place in Pakistani culture, cherished as symbols of protection that can ward off the evil eye and bring harmony into homes. Beyond their decorative appeal, these feathers are steeped in spiritual significance. In Sindh, where peacocks are often associated with Hindu culture, they are considered sacred and are linked to Lord Krishna, who is traditionally depicted with a peacock feather in his crown. This reverence has helped protect the species in certain areas, as harming or hunting peacocks is seen as an act of disrespect in cultural and religious traditions.

APRIL

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Dolphin Day</i>						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<i>Earth Day</i>			<i>World Penguin Day</i>		
28	29	30				

MARKHOR



THE SERPENT SLAYER

The markhor, a majestic goat with spiralling horns and the national animal of Pakistan, is surrounded by folklore that enhances its cultural significance. According to legend, the markhor possesses the ability to kill snakes and chew their venomous remains. As it grinds the poison, foam forms in its mouth and drips onto the ground, believed to neutralize the venom and purify nearby water sources. This gave the markhor a sacred reputation among local communities, symbolizing its role as a guardian of the ecosystem. The name markhor itself means "snake-killer" in Persian and Pashto, inspired by these mythical powers. In reality, the markhor is a herbivore, grazing on grass, leaves, and shrubs along mountain slopes and cliffs. It symbolises resilience, reflecting the strength needed to navigate harsh terrains and the spirit of the people who call the rugged landscapes home.

MAY

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

			1	2	3	4
				<i>World Tuna Day</i>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					<i>World Migratory Bird Day</i>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				<i>Endangered Species Day</i>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			<i>International Day for Biological Diversity</i>	<i>World Turtle Day</i>	<i>International Day of the Markhor</i>	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		<i>World Otter Day</i>				

WILD PIGEON



THE SYED BIRD

The wild or rock pigeon is considered a Syed bird in Pashtoon areas of Balochistan, and hunting it is strictly prohibited. Revered for its sacred status, this bird is seen as a symbol of respect and protection. The prohibition against harming it highlights the significance of protecting species that hold cultural and spiritual value.

JUNE

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

						1
2	3 <i>World Bicycle Day</i>	4 <i>Global Running Day</i>	5 <i>World Environment Day</i>	6	7	8 <i>World Oceans Day</i>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>World Sea Turtle Day</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22 <i>World Rainforest Day</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <i>World Social Media Day</i>						



THE RIVER'S PROTECTOR

For generations, the Indus blind dolphin, or Bhulan, has been surrounded by myths and legends. Some believe the Bhulan is a woman transferred into a river dolphin by a holy man's curse after she forgot to feed him. Others speak of its connection to the river, claiming that wherever it appears, a small island will form. Among indigenous fishing communities along the Indus River, the dolphin was long called a "balla," meaning a dangerous, snake-like creature in Sindhi. This misconception portrayed the dolphin as vicious, leading to it being hunted and attacked. These myths reflect the dolphin's cultural significance and the complex human-wildlife relationship, marked by both reverence and conflict. Today, conservation efforts seek to debunk these myths and reframe the Bhulan as a guardian of the river and a symbol of ecological and cultural heritage.

JULY

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

	1 <i>Plastic Free Month</i>	2	3 <i>International Plastic Bag Free Day</i>	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 <i>World Population Day</i>	12	13
14 <i>Shark Awareness Day</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 <i>World Mangroves Day</i>	27
28 <i>World Tiger Day</i>	29	30	31 <i>World Rangers Day</i>			

PANGOLIN



THE GUARDIAN OF LIVESTOCK

In Azad Kashmir, a fascinating myth surrounds the pangolin, believed to possess protective powers. It is said that if the scales of a pangolin are hung around the neck of a cow or buffalo, the animal will never lose its fertility, and its calf will be safeguarded from wild animal attacks. This belief underscores the deep cultural connection between wildlife and agriculture, where the preservation of certain species, such as pangolins, snakes, or even barn owls, is seen as essential to the well-being of livestock and local farming communities.

AUGUST

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>World Lion Day</i>
11 <i>World Elephant Day</i>	12	13	14 <i>Independence Day</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>World Water Week</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Whale Shark Day</i>	31



THE RIVER'S SOLDIER

The gharial has deep roots in ancient civilizations and folklore. Revered as a symbol of fertility, wisdom, and protection, the gharial features prominently in the mythology and cultural heritage of South Asia, particularly in the Indus Valley Civilization and in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. In ancient Indian texts, the gharial is often associated with rivers and water deities. It is depicted as the vahana (vehicle) of Goddess Ganga, the divine personification of the Ganges river, symbolizing the life-giving and purifying powers of water. In Pakistan, the gharial, once a symbol of the country's rich aquatic heritage, is now considered locally extinct. While recent sightings offer a glimmer of hope for its potential return, we have a long way to go in turning this dream into a reality! Its presence in these waters reminds us of the sacred connection between the river's health and the well-being of surrounding communities.

SEPTEMBER

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>International Vulture Awareness Day</i>	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>International Coastal Cleanup Day</i>	21 <i>Zero Emissions Day</i>
22 <i>World Rhino Day</i>	23	24	25	26	27 <i>World Tourism Day</i>	28 <i>World Rivers Day</i>
29 <i>International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste</i>	30					

SNOWLEOPARD



THE GHOST OF THE MOUNTAINS

The snow leopard, known as the 'Ghost of the Mountains', with its elusive nature and ability to camouflage into the rugged mountains, is often seen as a shape-shifting mountain spirit in local folklore. Its stealth and rare sightings have led many to believe the snow leopard as a guardian spirit of the highlands, protecting the sacred lands from harm. This legendary reverence highlights the snow leopard's importance in the delicate balance of mountain ecosystems and its role as a symbol of the untamed wilderness.

OCTOBER

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

		1	2	3	4 <i>World Animal Day</i>	5
6 <i>World Habitat Day</i>	7 <i>World Cotton Day</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>World Migratory Bird Day</i>	12
13 <i>International Day for Disaster Reduction</i>	14	15	16 <i>World Food Day</i>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 <i>World Snow Leopard Day</i>	24 <i>World River Dolphin Day</i>	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 <i>World Cities Day</i>		



THE SACRED GUARDIANS

Among coastal fishing communities in Pakistan, dolphins and whales are deeply revered as protectors of the seas. They are believed to bring good luck, guiding fishermen to safety and even helping drive fish toward their nets. However, accidentally catching a cetacean in a fishing net or finding a dead dolphin or whale near the shore is seen as a grave misfortune, symbolizing storms, bad luck, or disrupted marine balance. These beliefs underscore the cultural reverence of cetaceans as 'guardians of the sea' and highlight their vital role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems.

NOVEMBER

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

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		<i>GIS Day</i>		<i>World Fisheries Day</i>		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



THE KEEPERS OF PROSPERITY

In Kalasha mythology, honey bees symbolise prosperity and good luck, and every household in the Kalash community keeps bee hives. Revered for their cultural significance, bees are also vital pollinators and support agricultural productivity. The Kalash people's protection of honey bees highlights the interconnectedness of wildlife, agriculture, and culture.

DECEMBER

2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

1	2	3	4 <i>Wildlife Conservation Day</i>	5 <i>World Soil Day</i>	6	7
8	9	10 <i>World Human Rights Day</i>	11 <i>International Mountain Day</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas /Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday</i>	26	27	28
29	30	31				

CALENDAR 2026

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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NOVEMBER

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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DECEMBER

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			