

**Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi**<sup>[a]</sup> (born 5 October 1952) is a Pakistani politician, philanthropist, and former cricketer who served as the 19th prime minister of Pakistan from August 2018 until April 2022. He is the founder and former chairman of the political party [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf](#) (PTI) from 1996 to 2023.

Born in [Lahore](#), Khan graduated from [Keble College, Oxford](#). He began his international cricket career in a [1971 Test series](#) against [England](#). Khan learned [reverse swing bowling](#) from [Sarfraz Nawaz](#) and passed on this technique to [Wasim Akram](#) and [Waqar Younis](#), who developed and popularised it in subsequent years. He was named one of the [Wisden Cricketers of the Year](#) in 1983. Khan is also credited with advancing the idea of neutral [umpiring](#) in cricket during his captaincy. Khan led Pakistan to its first-ever Test series victories in [India](#) and [England during 1987](#). He was awarded the [International Cricketer of the Year](#) award in 1989. Playing until 1992, he captained the [Pakistan national cricket team](#) for most of the 1980s and early 1990s. He initially decided to retire after the [1987 Cricket World Cup](#). However, at the request of [President Zia-ul-Haq](#), he returned to lead the team in 1988 and ultimately guided Pakistan to its first [Cricket World Cup victory in 1992](#). In addition to achieving the All-Rounder's Triple, Khan holds the world record for the most wickets, along with the [second-best bowling figures in an innings](#) as a captain in Test cricket. Moreover, he has won the most [Player of the Series awards](#) in Test cricket for Pakistan and ranks fourth overall in Test history. Khan has often been compared to [Franz Beckenbauer](#) in terms of his popularity and influence in Pakistan. In 2009, he was inducted into the [ICC Cricket Hall of Fame](#).

Founding [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf](#) (PTI) in 1996, Khan won a seat in the [National Assembly](#) from his hometown of [Mianwali](#) in the [2002 general election](#). PTI became the second-largest party by popular vote in the [2013 election](#), and [five years later](#), running on a [populist](#) platform, PTI formed a coalition government with independents, with Khan as prime minister. Khan's government inherited a [balance of payments](#) crisis and sought bailouts from the [IMF](#). He presided over GDP growth after initial contraction, implemented [austerity](#) policies, and increased tax collection. His government committed to a [renewable energy](#) transition, launched the [Ehsaas Programme](#), and the [Plant for Pakistan](#) initiative, and expanded the [protected areas of Pakistan](#) and [Sehat Sahulat Program](#). The reforms and actions undertaken during his time in office were largely responsible for Pakistan's removal from the [FATF greylist](#), though the official exit occurred shortly after his tenure. He presided over the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), which caused economic turmoil and rising inflation in the country. In April 2022, during the [constitutional crisis](#) following the [Lettergate](#) affair, Khan became the first Pakistani prime minister to be removed from office through a [no-confidence motion](#).

In October that year, Khan was disqualified by the [Election Commission of Pakistan](#) for one term from assuming office in the [National Assembly of Pakistan](#) due to the [Toshakhana case](#). In November, he survived an [assassination attempt](#) at a political rally in Wazirabad. In May 2023, Khan was attending a hearing on [corruption charges](#) when paramilitary forces stormed into the [Islamabad High Court](#) and [arrested him](#). [Protests broke out throughout Pakistan](#), some turning into [violent riots](#). Subsequently, his arrest was declared illegal by the [Supreme Court](#). In August 2023, he was sentenced to three years in prison after being convicted of misusing his premiership to buy and sell gifts in state possession.

He was subsequently sentenced to ten years in prison in early 2024 for leaking state secrets and violating the [Official Secrets Act](#) in the Lettergate affair, and an additional seven years for [breaching Islamic marriage laws](#) with his wife; both of these sentences were overturned in mid-2024. Khan has since been charged on matters related to the 2023 riots, clashes between his supporters and police in September 2024, and in the [Al-Qadir Trust case](#) in January 2025, receiving a 14-year sentence. As of December 2024, court records showed that 186 cases were filed against Khan all over Pakistan.