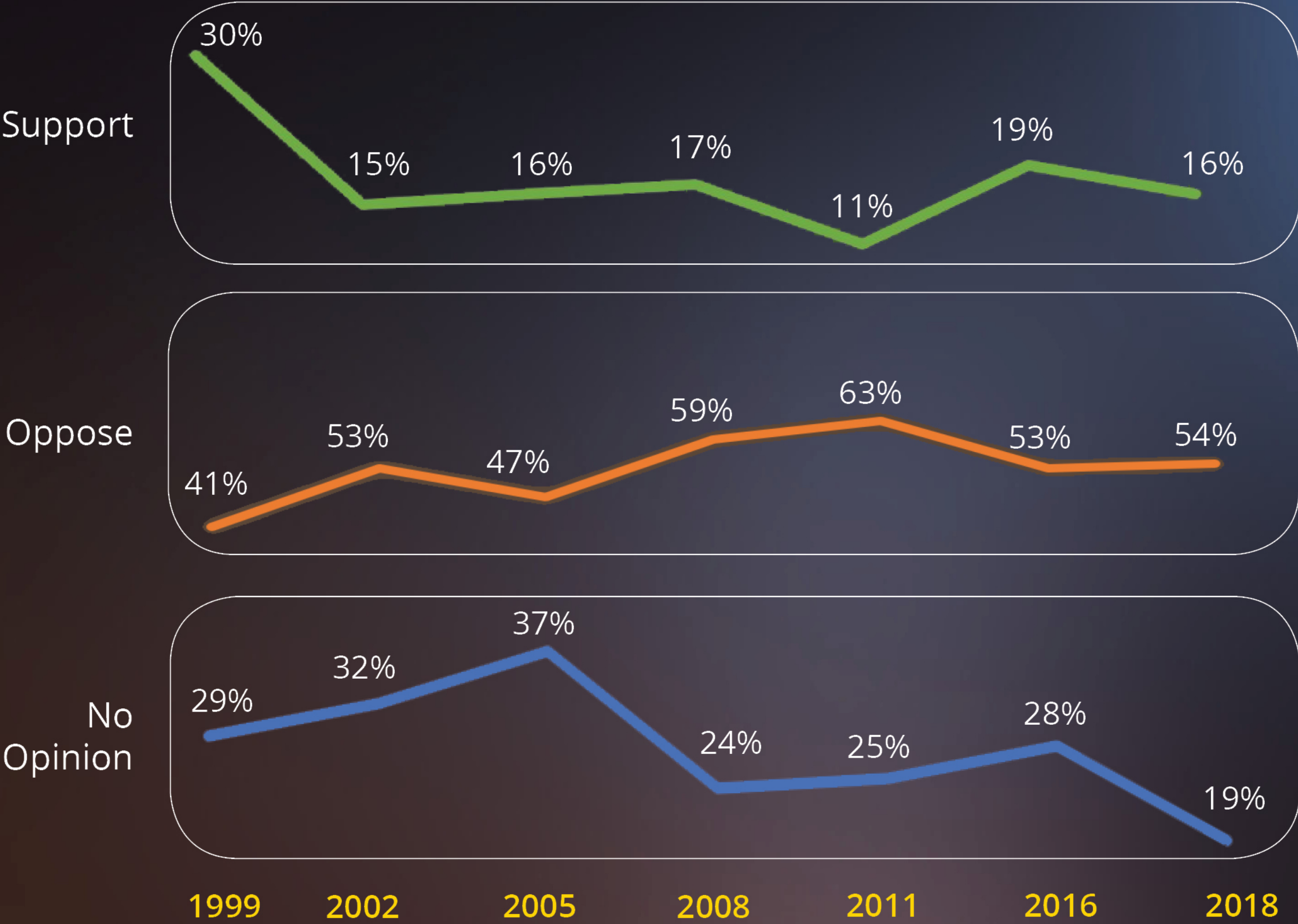


Since 1999, 13% rise in the proportion of Pakistanis who oppose the celebration of Basant; opposition has however declined from its peak value in 2011

What is your opinion on celebrating Basant?





## Public Opinion in Pakistan Since Year 1999

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

#### Basant

**Since 1999, 13% rise in the proportion of Pakistanis who oppose the celebration of Basant; opposition has however declined from its peak value in 2011 (Gallup & Gilani Pakistan Poll)**

Islamabad, February 18, 2020

In a Gallup & Gilani Pakistan National Survey conducted in the year 1999, respondents were asked “What is your opinion on celebrating Basant?” In response, majority 41% said they oppose it, while 30% said they are in favor of celebrating Basant and 29% had no opinion.

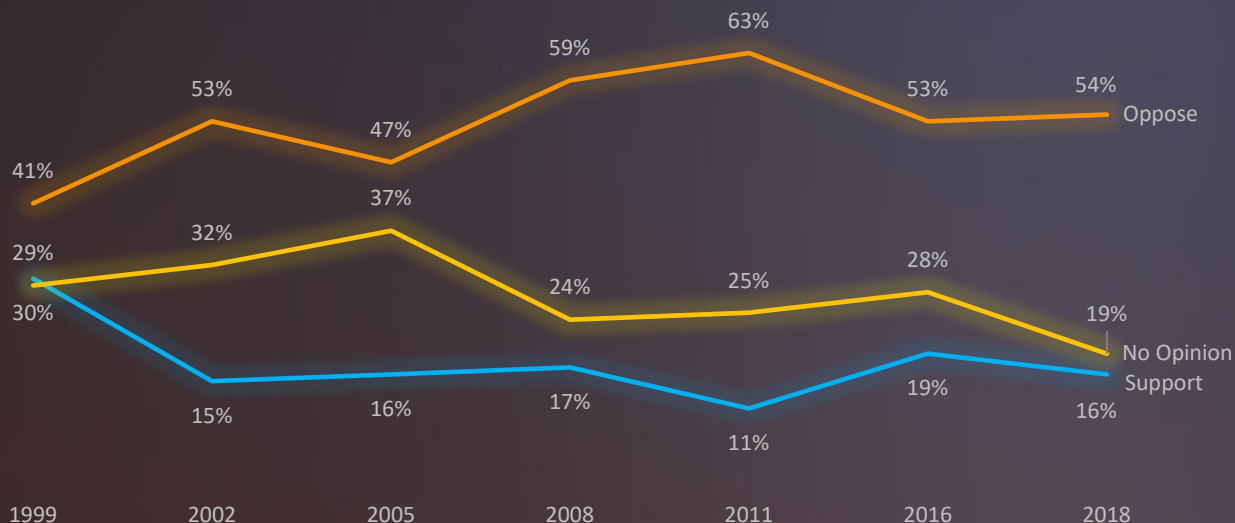
**Comparative Picture:** This question was asked again in 2018 to enable a comparison to be made across the years. In 2018, 54% said they oppose it, while 16% said they are in favor of celebrating Basant and 19% had no opinion.

**Trend Analysis:** Overall public interest in Basant celebration has significantly declined over the past 20 years, as only 16% in 2018 were in favor of celebrating Basant contrary to 30% in 1999. However, it should be noted that opposition to Basant peaked in the year 2011 when 63% (nearly 2 in 3 adults) opposed Basant. Since then the figure has come down to 54% in 2018.

**Implication of this finding:** The popularity of Basant has rapidly declined over the years due to potential threats it poses to the safety of citizens. Kite-flying which is a crucial aspect of Basant has led to multiple injuries and deaths among pedestrians and bike riders who were exposed to stray kite threads and twines made of sharp glass, leading to Basant’s ban by Supreme Court in 2005.

*This press release has been made as part of the Gallup Pakistan History Project which aims to release historical empirical polling data to wider audiences. The objective is to sustain and encourage empirical decision making in Pakistan.*

#### Question: “What is your opinion on celebrating Basant?”



Note: Don't Know/No Response not shown

Source: Gallup & Gilani Pakistan Poll

The Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association

([www.gallup-international.com](http://www.gallup-international.com); [www.gallup.com.pk](http://www.gallup.com.pk); [www.gilanifoundation.com](http://www.gilanifoundation.com))

#### Aim and Rationale for Gallup Pakistan History Project

Bilal I Gilani, who is Executive Director at Gallup Pakistan and is Director of Gallup Pakistan History Project explains the aim of the Project as follows: ‘Gallup Pakistan has been polling in Pakistan since 1979 (over 40 years). During this time millions of Pakistanis have been surveyed by over a thousand interviewers of Gallup. In 2014, Gallup Pakistan has decided to release historical Public Opinion data and this Press Release is part of Gallup Pakistan’s History Project. This endeavor is dedicated to all those who hope for a more empirical understanding of Pakistani Issues. For more information about Gallup History Project, please contact [caf@gallup.com.pk](mailto:caf@gallup.com.pk)

## Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan



The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup International



**Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

*(3 Pages including this)*

***Gilani Research Foundation is a not for profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policy makers and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.***

*Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently Dr. Gilani, who holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.*

*If you have any further questions regarding this poll, please feel free to contact us.*

*Best Regards,*

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***Disclaimer:*** Gallup Pakistan is not related to Gallup Inc. headquartered in Washington D.C. USA. We require that our surveys be credited fully as Gallup Pakistan (not Gallup or Gallup Poll). We disclaim any responsibility for surveys pertaining to Pakistani public opinion except those carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association. For details on Gallup International Association see website: [www.gallup-international.com](http://www.gallup-international.com)

***Disclaimer:*** Gallup Pakistan and Gilani Research foundation are a nonpartisan fact tank and think tank respectively. As a neutral source of data and analysis, both organizations do not take policy positions.



of Gallup Pakistan  
(1980-2020)