

**Speech of Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani  
Prime Minister of Pakistan  
On the occasion of 9<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day of Chand Bagh School  
(February 26, 2011)  
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**Sardar Latif Khosa,  
Governor of Punjab**

**Maj (R) Shaukat Jilani Khan,  
President Chand Bagh Foundation,**

**Members Court of Founders,**

**Chairman Board of Governors,**

**Col (R) Syed Nusrat Ali Shah Kazmi, Principal**

**Respected teachers,**

**Honorable parents**

**Dear students,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Assalam-o-Alakium**

It gives an immense pleasure to be part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day of Chand Bagh School. I am pleased to witness the excellent education system established by the Chand Bagh Foundation which has been devoted to the grooming of quality individuals. I would like to congratulate all those who have won their awards, certificates and medals for displaying outstanding performance in different fields.

I have no doubt about the fact that the future of this great nation lies with the students and youth. Pakistan is lucky that a large portion of its population comprises of the youth who are aged between 15 and 25 years. The Chinese example has shown us that demography can be a huge national strength if people are empowered politically, economically, socially and educationally.

The capabilities of these young people can be streamlined into productive use for national development provided we prepare them for the challenging tasks lying ahead of them. We only need to focus on human resource development as a key ingredient of national development strategy.

Addressing the Punjabi Muslim Students Federation at Lahore on October 31, 1947, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said and I quote:

**“Pakistan is proud of her youth, particularly the students who have always been in the forefront in the hour of trial and need. You are the nation's leaders of tomorrow and you must fully equip yourself by discipline, education and training for the arduous task lying ahead of you. You should realise the magnitude of your responsibility and be ready to bear it.”**

I have made it a point to interact with the students' and youths' community as a part of the government's initiative to encourage them to play their fullest role in the national affairs. My participation in today's function is case in point.

Ladies and Gentlemen

There is a need of honest, dignified, wise, and unbiased people to come forward and take up leadership roles in various walks of national life. In this regard, a huge responsibility rests on the

shoulders of the educational institutions to fully equip their students for the upcoming challenges. This is possible if our universities, schools and colleges focus both on academics and character building. A national character is the sum total of individual character. Education, therefore, should be geared towards inculcation of a positive attitude, a constructive spirit to serve people, and patience to cope up with the challenges of life.

In a message to the All Pakistan Educational Conference in Karachi on November 27, 1948, the Quaid-e-Azam said and I quote:

“What we have to do is to mobilise our people and build up the character of our future generation. In short, this means the highest sense of honour, integrity, selfless service to the nation and sense of responsibility, and we have to see that our people are fully qualified and equipped to play their part in the various branches of economic life in a manner which will do honour to Pakistan.”

Ladies and Gentlemen

You would agree with me that nationalism binds diverse sub-national identities into a collective whole by creating in them a feeling of oneness and unity. The nations endowed with the weapon of nationalism can surmount challenges of great magnitude. Our educational institutions, therefore, have to play their full role in imbuing our youth and students with the unifying spirit of Pakistani nationalism. The forces of terrorism and extremism have cropped up in the void created by our collective negligence to take care of this important aspect.

I would, therefore, urge all the educational institutions both in public and private sectors to familiarize the students with our national ideology, the ideology of the Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Muhammad Iqbal and make them custodian of that ideology. In the ultimate analysis, Pakistani nationalism has the depth, dynamism and potential to defeat all the divisive lingual, ethnic, sectarian and radical forces.

Ladies and Gentlemen

You would be glad to know that In order to redress the mistakes of decades, the federal government has worked out a comprehensive National Educational Policy 2009 with the concurrence of all federating units and other stakeholders. You are aware that after the passage of the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment, education has become a purely provincial subject. However, the federal government would continue to give policy guidelines in this regard.

This Educational Policy has been mapped out in accordance with the demands of modern times and numerous developments taking place around us. The Policy is suited to our people and consistent with our unique history and culture. It has set the goals of raising the annual budgetary allocations for the sector to seven per cent of the GDP and increasing literacy to 85 per cent by 2015. The main thrust of the policy is to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. Syllabus of public sector schools would be improved in consultation with private sector schools to reduce disparity between the two sectors. The policy envisages a regime of strict uniform examination system across the country. The policy lays special focus on gender equality and bridging urban-rural divide.

Distinguished audience

I am greatly contented to realize that the institutes like Chand Bagh School are already on the mission of adopting the spirit of the policy. Grooming the personality of individuals across socio-economic divide of the society can be the prime motive of any visionary institute.

It is impressive to note that this institute lays emphasis on the overall grooming and character building of students. I am delighted to know that academics is not the only focus in Chand Bagh School. Being an active member of society and the part of fast changing world, I realize that the process of self-recognition and confidence achieved through exposure in various fields are gained in the early educational career which helps to groom the overall personality of the student.

I salute the vision of the School's founder late General Ghulam Jilani Khan, which created opportunities for the deserving students of the less privileged sections to acquire quality education in the school like Chand Bagh.

I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the teachers of the school who work here day and night, in the true sense of the term. Teachers undoubtedly have a great role to play in preparing the youth for future responsibilities through hard work and commitment.

The services of Maj (R) Shaukat Jilani Khan, President Chand Bagh Foundation and Members of Board of Governors also need recognition for the hard work which have been put in to materialize the vision and dream of the Court of Founders.

In the end, I would like to announce Rs. 40 million as first installment for endowment fund.

Pakistan Paindabad