

Book Launching Ceremony at Punjab University Lahore

April 9, 2025

**Two Books, Hindutva, the Truth Behind and The Tale of Maharaja
Ranjeet Singh's Education System in Punjab**

Speech for Rebuilding Cultural Unity and Advancing Together

Dr. Gurinder Singh Grewal

Honorable Professors, Respected Students, and Esteemed Guests,

Sat Sri Akal!

It is a great honor to stand before such a distinguished gathering today. I come to you as a humble member of the Sikh community and your brother, eager to share a vision—one that we, as scholars and individuals of diverse cultures, can contribute to building a stronger and more united future.

Punjab, the land we all share, has long been a cradle of rich culture, history, and learning. From the days of our ancestors to the present moment, this region has been home to people of diverse faiths, languages, and traditions. We have always thrived on diversity. Today, as we gather here at Punjab University, we are reminded that our past is one of unity in diversity. However, more importantly, we must look ahead to see how we can continue to build a brighter future together.

The task before us is straightforward: To rebuild the cultural unity that once flourished here and advance towards a future where we stand together, stronger than ever. Our differences are not barriers; they are strengths. Whether Sikh, Muslim, or any other identity, each of us brings a unique perspective, a unique voice, and a unique set of values to the table. Let us celebrate these differences, for they are what make us who we are.

Unity is not about erasing those differences; it is about understanding, respecting, and learning from each other. It is about coming together for the common good of our beloved Punjab and the prosperity of our nations. As students and professors, you are the future leaders of this region. It is your responsibility to foster an environment where

cultural dialogue thrives. Your universities and institutions are not only centers of learning but also centers of cultural exchange, understanding, and collaboration.

As Sikhs, we have always believed in the power of community and the importance of helping others. The teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, our first Guru, emphasize that humanity's goal is to live in harmony with one another, to serve with compassion, and to respect all forms of life. This is not merely a religious or philosophical call; it is a call for human unity, regardless of faith, background, or status.

To the students in the room today: You are the custodians of this future. The knowledge you gain, the friendships you build, and the understanding you cultivate will pave the way for a world that is more united than divided. In your hands lie the tools to bridge gaps, to heal wounds, and to nurture relationships across communities. Reach out to one another with open hearts, listen with empathy, and collaborate to find solutions to the challenges we face.

To the professors and educators: You are the pillars of wisdom and the guides of this journey. Your role is not only to teach academic subjects but also to instill the values of tolerance, respect, and unity. Through your example, you demonstrate to students the importance of fostering a culture of inclusion. Through your curriculum, you can ensure that every student understands the importance of understanding one another's histories, struggles, and joys.

In the past, when we faced challenges, we came together, not divided. It is time for us to revive that spirit. Let us not let our differences divide us, but instead, let them unite us in our shared love for this land and its people. We are all threads in the same fabric, woven together by a shared history and a collective future.

The road ahead will not be without challenges, but I do not doubt that together, we will overcome them. Let us rebuild cultural unity with the foundation of mutual respect, understanding, and shared purpose. Let us advance together as one community, embracing the power of diversity and the strength that comes from standing united.

Thank you.

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Rebuilding Cultural Unity in Punjab

The provided speech advocates for the restoration of cultural unity in Punjab, highlighting the region's rich historical diversity and the strength it derives from it. **The speaker, a member of the Sikh community, addresses students and professors at Punjab University,** urging them to foster an environment of mutual respect and

understanding. **Highlighting the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji on harmony and service**, the speech positions students and educators as key figures in cultivating a more unified future. **It encourages embracing differences and working together for the common good**, emphasizing that unity does not erase individual identities but rather strengthens the community through shared purpose and dialogue. **The speaker expresses confidence that by reviving a spirit of collaboration**, past challenges can be overcome, leading to a brighter, more cohesive future for Punjab.

A future of cultural unity in Punjab that **rebuilds upon its historically diverse foundations** and advances towards greater togetherness. Punjab has long been a region with people of various faiths, languages, and traditions, where diversity has been a source of strength. The future vision does not seek to erase these differences but rather to **understand, respect, and learn from them**.

Acknowledging and Celebrating Diversity: The speaker explicitly states that differences are not barriers but strengths, calling for the celebration of the unique perspectives and values brought by individuals of different identities, whether Sikh, Muslim, or any other.

Rebuilding Cultural Unity: The speech identifies the task at hand as rebuilding the cultural unity that once flourished in Punjab. This suggests a recognition of a past where unity was more prominent.

Unity Through Understanding and Respect: The vision emphasizes that unity is not about eliminating differences but about fostering understanding and mutual respect among diverse communities.

The Role of Dialogue and Collaboration: Universities and institutions are recognized as vital centers for cultural exchange, understanding, and collaboration, where cultural dialogue should flourish.

Empowering the Youth: Students are considered the future leaders and custodians of this future. They have a responsibility to build friendships, cultivate understanding, and bridge gaps between communities through open hearts and empathy.

Guiding Role of Educators: Professors and educators are tasked with instilling the values of tolerance, respect, and unity and ensuring that students learn about one another's histories, struggles, and joys.

Drawing Strength from Past Unity: The speech recalls times in the past when challenges were overcome through unity, urging a revival of that spirit to face future challenges together.

Foundation of Mutual Respect and Shared Purpose: The envisioned future of cultural unity will be built on a foundation of mutual respect, understanding, and a shared purpose.

Advancing Together as One Community: Our goal is to advance together as a unified community, embracing the power of diversity and the inherent strength that comes from unity. The speaker employs the metaphor of threads in the same fabric to illustrate how different communities are interconnected through a shared history and a common future.

In essence, the speech envisions a future where Punjab's diverse history serves as an asset, fostering a more profound sense of unity through mutual understanding, respect, and collaborative effort among all its people.