

**PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS  
AZM-E-NOU  
ON  
18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010  
AT  
BAHAWALPUR**

General Tariq Majid,  
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee

General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani,  
Chief of Army Staff

Services Chiefs  
Federal Ministers  
Members of Parliament

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalam-o-Alaikum

It is my profound privilege to be here on this epoch making professional activity of Pakistan Army which marks the culmination of a year long training process conceived and executed by Pakistan Army.

I wish to congratulate all the participants on this commendable achievement which reflects par excellence standards of our Armed Forces.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Located at the cross road of competing interest, Pakistan is faced with multiple challenges and opportunities.

As a responsible member of the comity of nations, Pakistan desires peace and security both within and beyond.

The national security paradigm of Pakistan evolved within the context of our own geography; history and culture determines the contours of national and military response.

Under the current global and regional environment, maintenance of peace and security is a key strategic objective of Pakistan Armed Forces.

Highest state of preparedness encompassing the full scale of capabilities remains the guarantor of such peace and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan's military strategy therefore is based on credible minimum deterrence. Our democratic system, economic potential, vibrant population, national unity, consensus and Pakistan Armed Forces all provide strategic stability against all possible threats to our great country. The world today finds Pakistan standing as a bulwark against forces of extremism and militancy with a very heavy cost to its economy and prosperity. It is in this struggle where Nation pledges to support Armed Forces in spirit, with its youth and its entire resource.

Pakistan and its Armed Forces are fully committed in a fierce struggle on its western border and are continuing to retain their capability to deal with all possible threats in the region. I am sure this feat can be rivaled by no military in the world.

Today's spectacular display of military prowess, marking the culmination of Year of Training of Pakistan Army would not only warm the hearts of all Pakistanis, but would also reflect our capacity to defend our Motherland and to maintain peace and security in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me also apprise you that during my recent interaction with the leaders of other nations, I received applause and admiration for the commitment of our people and the achievements of our Armed Forces for the success in Swat and Waziristan. The sacrifices that the Armed Forces of Pakistan, the Law Enforcing Agencies and the patriotic people of Pakistan have made to safeguard the sovereignty and independence of Motherland have not gone unnoticed. I urged the World leaders to come forward and share the responsibility in helping us fight the menace of terrorism for global peace.

The leaders of international community have assured me of their support in military and other spheres to succeed in this war on terror where Pakistan is indeed a front line state. Pakistan has refused to budge to the inimical forces and unreasonable voices of bigotry. I wish to deeply appreciate and thank our valiant soldiers for their sacrifices in the defense of Pakistan. The Nation is proud of them all.

Having witnessed our military capabilities and dedication, it is very reassuring for me that our integrity and security is in safe hands.

I once again thank General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Chief of Army Staff for inviting me to this spectacular demonstration of military skills.

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