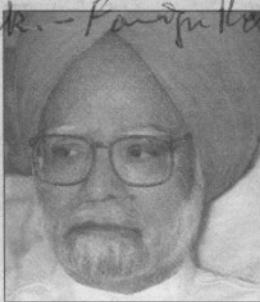


Shujaat names school after Indian PM

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat on Thursday declared the birthplace of his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh of Gah in Chakwal district a 'model village' as a goodwill gesture to strengthen bilateral ties, officials said. Singh was born in the village of Gah in 1932. Shujaat directed the Punjab government to rename the primary school at Gah as Manmohan Singh Government Boys Primary School, an official statement said. Shujaat took the

decision as "a gesture of goodwill to strengthen the ongoing Indo-Pak peace process," it said. Singh, a Sikh, studied for some years in the junior school in Gah before the family migrated to India in 1947. It is learnt that Mr Singh had made a request to the



late Dr Mahbubul Haq a decade ago that the school in Pakistan to which he went as a child might be named after him as a special favour. But PM Ch Shujaat Hussain has unilaterally taken the decision to do the needful in the larger interest of Indo-Pak relations, say government sources. Since Mr Singh became prime minister a hoard of local and foreign journalists have trekked to village Gah to trace signs of the new Indian prime minister. Apparently, Mr Singh's name is inscribed in the school's register and several old men of the village

still remember him as a fellow child in the village. To date Pakistan has supplied two Indian PMs - Inder Kumar Gujral and Manmohan Singh. General Zia ul Haq and General Musharraf also spent their early childhood in India. **STAFF REPORT**