

**CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**

**SPEECH OF**

**His Excellency Shivraj V. Patil,**

Governor of Punjab and Administrator U.T.Chandigarh

at the

*55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Development Council*

NEW DELHI

on

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Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, distinguished members of the National Development Council and friends.

At the outset, I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for having convened this important meeting and also placing the recently completed Mid Term Appraisal of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan before this august Council.

Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had said "Let this (Chandigarh) be a new town, symbolic of the freedom of India, unfettered by the traditions of the past, and an expression of Nation's faith in the future". Since then UT Chandigarh has grown into a major urban center in the northern India, having an area of 114 sq. kms. and also 26 sq. kms. of forest area. Today, UT of Chandigarh virtually handles population of approximately 13 lacs. Chandigarh is unique because it is the Capital of two States – Punjab and Haryana. Since its inception it has become a symbol of urban planning. Barbara Crosette, a reporter in The Times wrote in 1982 as follows : "to see Chandigarh is to see India in a new way. In a country living on the glories of the past while suffering the deprivations of the present, Chandigarh offers a rare glimpse of future hope".

Chandigarh has indeed become a symbol of planned urbanization to the extent that only 13 villages are left in rural areas and even their character is more sub-urban than rural. This changing scenario has also changed the nature of economic activities in Chandigarh. In the last 4 years, the GSDP growth rate at current prices has been between 15% to 19% with one of the highest per capita incomes in the country. Approximately 79% of the GSDP is contributed by the

services sector, approximately 20% is contributed by manufacturing and the remaining 1% by agriculture.

Apart from successfully transforming itself into one of the best cities in India, it is also among the few cities which have focused on the efficient coupling of developmental gains for inclusive growth. Chandigarh was awarded the National Award under JNNURM for being the best city for earmarking land for the poor in the year 2008-2009. It has also been awarded for a comprehensive e-Governance system by the Govt. of India on different occasions. In the year 2009, Times Magazine has featured Chandigarh as one of the best Asian Cities.

Keeping in view the emphasis laid in the Mid Term Appraisal, the Chandigarh Administration is already in the process of upgrading its infrastructure in the important areas of health, education, roads, transport, water supply and sewerage, as well as power. Chandigarh's plan focuses on the targets and priorities contained in the National Common Minimum Programme. We are focusing especially on 3 areas i.e. Human Development, infrastructure and environmental protection. Out of total approved outlay of Rs. 2132 crores for the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2007-2012) these three sectors account for over 87% of the total allocation. While taking up the plan projects, our financial performance in the 11<sup>th</sup> plan has been close to 100%. At the same time, on the non-plan side, year after year, the budget of UT of Chandigarh is always surplus.

The Mid Term Appraisal of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of Chandigarh has been carried out by the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh. It has focused on major areas of concern which we intend to review

and attend to. As indicated in the report, while we are ahead in many fields, there is a need towards efforts to achieve balanced development between northern and southern sectors of the city, between rural and urban areas and between slum and non-slum localities. The review has also recommended for upward revision of poverty line in the specific situation. I will request Govt. of India to look into this matter sympathetically. We will make all efforts to end north and south divide in Chandigarh and special emphasis will be paid in the rural areas. We want Chandigarh to become a slum free city and an ambitious project of construction of almost 25000 houses for same number of slum dweller families under the JNNURM is already under implementation so that they also live a dignified life.

As regards the Education sector, Chandigarh has been able to create good infrastructure. We have 106 Govt. Schools and 75 Private Schools. In addition, 369 Anganwari centres are also working. We have been able to maintain a good teacher student ratio which is better than the national norms. But we do face problems of shortage of teachers, especially at the primary level. We have been requesting Govt. of India for sanctioning of more posts and I am sure, with your intervention, this will happen. The Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan has very effectively strengthened the education system in the UT of Chandigarh and we have been able to utilize these funds for better infrastructure. However, we would request that the scheme of Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan needs to be extended further. Chandigarh has been providing free education to all children of Govt. Schools upto 8<sup>th</sup> standard and complete free education to girl students upto 12<sup>th</sup>

standard. In addition, mid day meal programme is already running for all students upto 8<sup>th</sup> standard. We have already initiated process to create more schools in UT Chandigarh and upgrading the existing infrastructure to properly respond to the requirements of the Right to Education Act. For those children who have still remained out-side the formal education system, we have started Alternative Innovation Education Centres which have now got more than 9000 children. These students are given free books, free uniforms and mid day meal so that they can join the main stream of education early.

The health infrastructure in Chandigarh is predominantly urban in character and has an extensive network of primary, secondary and tertiary health care institutions including the prestigious Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research and the Govt. Medical College and Hospital. Our health system facilities cater not only to the people of Chandigarh but also to those of the entire northern region. As quality of health infrastructure and health facilities are comparatively much better, the population pressure of region has indeed burdened our health infrastructure. We are trying to augment the existing one. We look forward for more support from the Govt of India in adding more facilities and improving the existing infrastructure. One of the major areas of concern under the health section has been non-sanctioning of posts of Doctors and paramedical staffs. You will appreciate that without these it will not be possible for us to provide adequate health facilities to the people. We have taken some noteworthy initiatives in this field which include strengthening of the school health scheme, improving health related services to the Angawaries, setting up of a

drug detoxification and treatment centre, implementation of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana etc. We have already started an Institute for mentally challenged children where the education, treatment, diagnosis and rehabilitation facilities have been built at one place. However, the child sex ratio continues to be a cause of worry. The increased use of intoxicants by the younger generation is again a cause for concern in Chandigarh. We need to augment our existing infrastructure and create many more drug de-addiction centers in the future. I am sure in the new plan, the Govt. of India and the Planning Commission will be liberal to support us on these issues. As has been pointed out in the Mid Term Appraisal, we will carry out nutrition surveys to assess the status of our children and will also include Anganwari centres in this regard.

Chandigarh is primarily an Urban Centre and with Panchkula in Haryana and Mohali in Punjab as neighbouring cities. The size of the urban region becomes big, catering to almost 17 lacs people. The fact that Chandigarh houses some of major educational and health institutions and also the fact that neighbouring areas do not have similar facilities, the pressure on Chandigarh is tremendous. Our efforts have been to upgrade and improve our urban infrastructures in terms of water supply, transport, power, housing etc. However, the rapid growth of urban population in an around Chandigarh and also migration has been putting pressure on our existing infrastructure.

In terms of water supply, we have recently worked out a plan to augment the availability of water by laying two new lines to bring potable water to Chandigarh from the Bhakra Canal. This will cost us more than Rs. 193 crores.

For conserving the water, we are already in the process of setting up of a tertiary treatment plant of 10 MGD so that water could be used for irrigation purposes. This will cost us around Rs. 36 crores. For efficient management of water supply, the Municipal Corporation has also set up a supervisory control and data execution system costing more than Rs. 20 crores. I am thankful to you that all these projects have been supported under JNNURM. We will shortly be sending you the proposal for augmentation of our sewerage system, costing approximately Rs. 114 crores and I am sure it will get the support of the Govt. of India.

With the growth of population, urban transportation has become a major issue. There is no doubt that our roads are getting full due to high density of vehicles, which is a direct result of high per capita income. As such, Chandigarh Administration has thought to move in the direction of a good and efficient public transport system. Approximately 134 AC and non-AC buses including 100 purchased under JNNURM are being added to the existing fleet. In addition, we have got a Comprehensive Mobility Plan prepared for the entire region for having a metro rail system as the main public transport system for the future. We will be shortly handing over the project report to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. This is going to be an ambitious project and the viability of the project seems to be quite good. In fact this is the time, Chandigarh should go for metro or else it will be too late in future. I would request you to kindly extend whole hearted support to our project so that in the next 3-5 years the same is executed and the entire region benefited.

Housing has been a major area of concern for all of us. We have a dedicated organization called the Chandigarh Housing Board for this purpose which has catered to more than 47000 dwelling units for the residents of Chandigarh. Out of this, almost 66% of the houses have been constructed for EWS and LIG categories. In future, Chandigarh Housing Board proposes to construct an additional 13000 dwelling units to improve availability of housing in Chandigarh. In 2006, we carried out a biometric survey and found that around 25000 families (approximately more than one lac persons) are living in the slums and have also encroached around 160 acres of Govt. land. They need to be given a life of dignity. You will be happy to know that 25000 houses are being constructed for slum dwellers to be rehabilitated under JNNURM. We were also awarded national award by the Ministry of Housing for the best city in earmarking of land for the poor under JNNURM.

Chandigarh has a larger network of national and state highways. In recent times we have tried our best to improve connectivity with the neighboring areas of Punjab and Haryana. We have taken lot of steps to make our roads safer and better for commuters. Approximately Rs. 45 crores is to be spent in the current financial year for improving the national and state highways and bridges in Chandigarh. In this regard I would seek your support for liberal release of funds from the Central Road Fund and our proposal for declaring inter-state connecting roads as national highways should also be sympathetically considered.

Better e-Governance system has been one of our major priorities and we are especially keen to ensure that poor and weaker sections of society benefit

from our e-Governance Programme. To bring the services of the Govt. and other services as well to the door steps of the people, we have already set up 11 e-Sampark Centres in the city area and 13 Gram Sampark Centres in the villages of Chandigarh. They are providing 23 Govt. to citizens and 5 business to citizen services. We are planning to increase the e-Sampark Centres in the city area by adding 10 more in the near future and one more Gram Sampark Centre. Similarly e-Governance services are being introduced in the Health Department, Education Department, Urban Planning Department and the Municipal Corporation. We have also launched Smart Card facilities for the PDS system in Chandigarh.

Information Technology being a major area in the service sector, an area which has brought India on the world map, is a major area of emphasis by Chandigarh Administration. We have already introduced IT related training and education facilities in our Schools and Colleges. With the help of the Govt. of India we have set up an Entrepreneur Development Centre in the IT park which will house the new generation fresh entrepreneurs. The Rajiv Gandhi Chandigarh Technology Park has already got some of the major IT companies like Infosys, Tech-Mohindra etc. You would be glad to know that IT exports from Chandigarh which were only Rs.91 crores in 2005-2006 have gone to Rs. 823 crores in 2009-2010. The IT Park is already providing direct employment to more than 12000 people and almost 3 times that number are being indirectly employed.

While we move on the path of development, preservation and augmentation of our environment has been a major concern. You would be happy to know that Chandigarh is one of the most green cities in India with more than 35% under green cover. During this plan, Chandigarh launched an ambitious project named the 'One Million Trees Programme' which was a grand success. In addition we propose to plant more than 50000 saplings and seedlings every year. Our recent plan to motivate three wheeler operators to shift to LPG has met with good success and also contributed to reduce environmental pollution. CNG gases are not yet available, I would request you to kindly expedite the availability of CNG at Chandigarh as we would also like to put our buses on CNG. One of the prime attractions of Chandigarh is Sukhna Lake which had got silted over a period of time. By this rainy season it has been possible to desilt a major area of the Lake. Efforts are on to restore the Lake to its old glory. Chandigarh has already prepared a solar city plan and a proposal has already been submitted to the Govt. of India. In addition we also propose to explore possibilities of generating solar power. I am sure the Govt. of India will give its early approval to our proposal so that the same can be implemented. They will go a long way to mitigate the shortage of power and also reduce environment pollution.

The present Appraisal of 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan will go a long way to improve our deliverance. There are a few issues which I would like to high light which are more administrative in nature but if resolved early it will go a long way in helping us to perform better. They are :-

1. We have acute shortage of technical manpower especially in the fields of health, education, power and other public oriented services. A large number of cases are pending for a long time in the different Ministries for creation of posts. I would request that various pending Recruitment Rules are also finalized by Govt. of India so that sanctioned post are also filled up well in time.
2. Chandigarh does not have its own generation of power and completely depends on the availability of power from different sources through long term and short term agreements. The Govt of India has been very kind to restore the unallocated quota of 9% of power to Chandigarh. I would request that the unallocated quota should continue at the same level and should not be withdrawn, as was done in the recent past to ensure the availability of power. There is a long pending issue of our share in the BBMB and the Administration has already taken up the matter with the Ministry of Power. I am sure that will be expedited at the earliest.

I assure that despite facing many challenges, the Chandigarh Administration will constantly work towards improving the quality of life of the residents and preserving the unique character of the city of Chandigarh. Our endeavour will be to make Chandigarh a better place to live. I once again thank you for giving me an opportunity to address this august gathering.