

## **SPEECH**

First and foremost let me welcome you all- Madam Kirron Kher, the Member of Parliament, captains of the print and electronic media and officers of Chandigarh Administration to this informal interaction today.

Last year, about the same day I assumed the dual charge of the Governor of Punjab and Administrator, U.T., Chandigarh. I started my journey with a huge responsibility of taking this “City Beautiful” to new heights.

I feel delighted to share that in my tenure, Punjab witnessed a major event by electing the 15<sup>th</sup> Vidhan Sabha. It is a matter of great joy and satisfaction that with the active and peaceful involvement of the people of Punjab, the State Assembly elections were held resulting in a free and fair poll. The involvement of the youth especially the first time voters was significant with 3.43 lakh new voters in the age group 18-19 years were registered and most of them voted enthusiastically in the electoral process.

I must confess that I was happy to be designated as the Administrator of the UT. Chandigarh, which has been recognized nationally and internationally for its inheritance and progressive approach. Just before I took charge, Chandigarh’s Capitol Complex was crowned with the UNESCO world heritage status on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016. It is the same city that got an honour to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Day of Yoga where Hon’ble Prime Minister of India himself participated with more than 35,000 citizens of Chandigarh.

I would like to recall the time when I commenced my duties as an Administrator in this “City Beautiful”. I remember directing all the departments of Chandigarh Administration to project their plan of action keeping a target of 100 days, six months and the vision for the long term.

I stressed on making the city better by giving it a human touch, focusing on liveability, and not just on infrastructure and development. I insisted on adopting the best practices keeping in mind the needs of the senior citizens, differently-abled people and provide them with better medical facilities. It was also emphasized that city should assess the total carbon footprint and make an action plan of reduction of carbon footprint in accordance with the steps taken by various developed cities in the world conforming to the principles of “climate change”.

Now that one year of my tenure is over, I feel I must evaluate and take stock of what all has been done so far and what all areas need our attention. I feel glad in sharing that the gone year saw Chandigarh achieving several prominent landmarks, which would enrich the lives of many for many years to come. Hon’ble Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi ji’s pioneering development initiatives have ushered in a new era in the development of India. We have a dynamic, dedicated and determined leader, who reflects the aspirations and hopes of over a billion people. The visionary leadership at national level has formulated a number of programmes for upliftment of the society, improvement in infrastructure, improvement in health parameters etc. I feel happy to share that all of these schemes are being implemented in Chandigarh with full gusto. The major achievements of the city are in line with the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision as Chandigarh is chosen to be a smart city under the Government of India scheme.

- 1. Kerosene Free City and 100% Food Subsidy on DBT:** Chandigarh became the the first UT/State to be declared as Kerosene Free and the first State/UT where the food subsidy is 100% DBT based on Aadhar.
- 2. 100 % LPG gas subsidy:** Under the PAHAL scheme, Chandigarh became the 1st UT to cover 100 % Aadhaar based LPG gas subsidy to beneficiaries in the city.

3. **Open Defecation Free City:** Chandigarh has already been declared Open Defecation Free (Both in Urban & Rural) in June, 2016 and has been recently re-certified after 3rd Party Inspection on 7th June, 2017.
4. Chandigarh UT has Integrated Central Treasury with Public Financial Management System (PFMS) in October, 2016, with all the DBT schemes; centrally sponsored as well as state schemes have been successfully mapped on PFMS. In the year 2016-17 total 1.87 lacs beneficiaries had been given the benefits of about Rs. 80 Cr. and in current F.Y. 0.87 Lacs beneficiaries have been given the benefits about Rs. 21 Cr. 100% through Aadhaar Payment Bridge.
5. **Aadhar Enrollment:** Chandigarh has achieved 103% Aadhar enrollment in the current year and ranks 1st among UTs and 2nd among all States in India with respect to implementation of Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration in all the hospitals of Chandigarh.
6. **GST:** All existing traders have been migrated to GSTN on the GST launch date, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 which is highest among all UT's/States. Under this, two GST Rathes were launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 which are visiting two different local markets every day. Approximately 5000 new applications have also been received for registrations.
7. **ANNAPURNA AKSHAYPATRA YOJANA:** To provide affordable, hygienic and nutritious diet to the laborers, Industrial workers and the needy, the project of "ANNAPURNA AKSHAYPATRA YOJANA" has been initiated under which 3000 food packets are being distributed on a daily basis in the city.
8. **Kalam Express** -A home based Educational-cum- Rehabilitation Project- Kalam Express was also introduced in the City to provide health and education service to the Children with multiple disabilities at their door step.

9. **Digi DhanMela:** The Digi DhanMela was organized in Parade Ground, Sector-17, Chandigarh on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 where 10,054 bank accounts were opened and 4432 Nos. of debit cards/Rupay Cards were issued.
10. **BHIM-Aadhaar app** has also been launched for the traders to pave way for making digital payments by using the Aadhaar platform to facilitate payments using this app.
11. **Solar City:** Chandigarh has been leading the list of solar cities by installing Rooftop Solar Plants of overall capacity of 11.32 MW. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) Govt. of India, New Delhi has conferred Chandigarh with National Excellence Award 2016 for roof top solar power projects in the solar cities categories, and National excellence award 2016 for best State Nodal Agency in UTs and Special Category States.
12. **Health Services:** In the sphere of Health care facilities of Chandigarh, recently facilities of integrated counseling and testing Centre were opened in the Transport Area, Sector-26 Chandigarh and Burail Jail, to provide free confidential testing for HIV and Syphilis. A 16 seater bus was also introduced for the inmates of Sadhna Vocational Training Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Manimajra under the MPLAD Scheme. The Department has also launched Mobile Food Testing Laboratory, to test the raw food samples. Chandigarh has become the first city in North India to launch a human Milk Bank.
13. **Quality Education:** To empower the youth of our country, focus has been laid on providing quality education. The infrastructure of various schools has been improved and new schools with better amenities have been constructed. Model of 'Extended School' has been experimented in Govt. schools of sector 43 and sector 49 and cluster based kitchens have been introduced.

**14.Sports:** To envisage and create state of the art sports facilities in U.T. Chandigarh, which is at par with global standards to meet the international parameters, we have constructed a Multipurpose Hall at Sec.7, Chandigarh and Sports Complex at Village Sarangpur. We also plan to bring international standard swimming pool in Sector 39, international level facilities in the field of Billiards and Snooker in Sector 21, 10 Lane Synthetic Athletic Track, modern stadium in Sector 46, 8 Lane Synthetic Athletic Track at Sports Complex at Sector 7. Seven Sports Complexes are planned to be constructed (four State of Art Sports Complexes and three mini Sports Complexes.) All these will be attached to the various sector Government schools and will enhance sports facilities for our students.

**15.Mid Day Meal and Other Schemes:** An SMS based real time monitoring system has been introduced to monitor the coverage of Mid Day Meal Scheme. Students have also benefited through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in respect of school uniforms and books, as cash subsidy is given through an online transfer of funds directly to the direct bank accounts, for 88425 school children from classes I to VIII, of all Govt. Schools.

**16.Law & Order:** We are happy to announce that we have the first women SSP in the city. She will definitely give faith and confidence for the empowerment of women of Chandigarh. For the safety of women, a 24x7 helpline number 1091 is functioning round the clock. Special pick up and drop facility is also provided for them between 11:00 PM to 5:00 AM, in which one PCR vehicle with lady Police Staff is deputed during the night. Women & Child Support Unit of Chandigarh Police has also launched 'SWAYAM' (self Defense training Programme) at Panjab University.

- 17.**MOU between CRIKC AND CII:** The Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC) and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) signed an MOU on industry- academia partnership.
- 18.**Smart City Innovation Center:** PEC University of Technology has declared the commencement of the Smart City Innovation Center on the campus to offer smart solutions for better infrastructure and a cleaner environment.
- 19.**Infrastructure:** To fulfill the aspirations and needs of the citizens, as a part of the Smart City mission, the construction of Urban Park and Subway between Rose Garden and Sector-17, Chandigarh has been initiated, and to encourage cycling as a mode of transportation & fitness, 10km cycle track has been constructed and the work of 80 km cycle tracks is under progress.
- 20.**Online Single Window System:** For Ease of Doing Business, an “Online Single Window System” has been launched that enables the investors to get online permissions in a time bound manner.
- 21.**Transportation:** For providing better transportation services, 77 buses have been added, Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMS) are installed and Automatic Vehicle Locating System has been introduced for the convenience of passengers
- 22.**Housing for All:** To provide affordable housing for all, Chandigarh Administration has signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Govt. of India for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna in Chandigarh.
- 23.**Skill Development:** Under the Skill Development mission of Government of India, skill development training is being provided to the Scheduled Caste, Backward Classes, Minorities and dependents of Safai karamcharis totally free of Cost. We are in the process of signing a MOU with Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., and are hopeful that we will be able to

achieve this target soon so that the youth of Chandigarh are empowered with new opportunities.

While achievements suggest that much has been done till date through coordination and cooperation of all, vigilance is still needed to ensure that the growth momentum is maintained and sustained. With hard work and positive approach, we plan to take Chandigarh to the next level, but there are many concerns and challenges that we need to face and overcome.

We are concerned about the conservation and management of Sukhna Lake. I am happy that the rain Gods have been kind to us in raising the water level at Sukhna, and we are pursuing to find a suitable solution and make arrangements for ensuring that this lake never dries up.

In our effort to develop Chandigarh as the smartest city, we are keen to tie up with institutions having expertise in urbanization i.e. ISB Mohali, (IIHS) Indian Institute of Human Settlements Bengaluru and so on. We have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CII and we are actively in touch with other such institutions and associations like FICCI, PHD Chamber of Commerce etc.

We are concerned about improving quantity and quality of water supply to Chandigarh and have initiated Kajauli project for providing 24X7 water supply to the citizens of Chandigarh. For a proper garbage disposal system in the city, we have called many stakeholders/ agencies to submit their proposals and presentations. We hope that soon we will be able to find a suitable partner to handle this issue. We are also proposing a ring road around the periphery of the city to reduce rising traffic congestion in peak hours which is a major concern for all of us. This initiative would be helpful in diverting the unwanted traffic entering Chandigarh.

PGIMER and other medical and health institutions in Chandigarh are providing health care not just to the residents of Chandigarh but also the neighbouring States. Keeping this in mind, we have initiated a project of expanding health care facilities. Besides building smaller hospitals in peripheral areas, we are also expanding the facilities at PGI and GMCH. I feel happy to share that the Union Government has approved three projects- Advanced Mother and Child Centre, Advanced Neurosciences Centre, PGI satellite centre; worth Rs 1,475 crore for the region's premier medical and research institution. Besides this, a state of the art super specialty hospital, trauma centre, mother and child hospital, sports injury centre are also proposed to be set up in GMCH.

We are all concerned about law and order situation in the city. Chandigarh Police is making its best effort to ensure that the image of Chandigarh is not tarnished and citizens of Chandigarh feel secure at all times at all places. Suggestions from all quarters are welcome in this endeavour.

Institutions of higher learning in Chandigarh also need a special focus. We know that there are various issues that need to be addressed to empower our educational institutions like Panjab University. We are concerned with issues faced by this premiere institution, therefore we are exploring ways to overcome them. We are also proposing to convert PEC University of Technology into an IIT. A proposal in this regard has already been sent to the Union Government. Besides expanding primary and secondary education by opening new schools, I also want to focus on the quality of education being imparted at every level.

Chandigarh Administration has taken a very bold step in announcing conversion of lease hold to free hold for residential properties. This matter was stuck for many years and the residents were unhappy about it. We also propose

to start online building plan approval in Chandigarh in next few months. A scheme has also been initiated for upgradation of infrastructure available in the villages of Chandigarh. We are keen that infrastructure facilities in villages are brought at par with the urban areas.

No city can be perfect. It is with the support and collaboration of the citizens, officials that make it good and smart. I owe all the achievements attained so far to the people who have contributed for the upliftment of the city. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, the Mayor and the councillors, members of the Advisory Council, Adviser and his team of officers, DGP and his Police department, citizens of Chandigarh, activists, self help groups, NGO's, media for their active participation in making Chandigarh a model city of New India.

Every day is a new challenge. But, the aspiration to win is the only thing that is constant. With this policy to "Be the best today, to become even better tomorrow" we march ahead to retain the glory of the city beautiful.

In the end, I with your support and good wishes, am committed to a people friendly, progressive, corruption free, transparent and an accountable governance in this "City Beautiful."

Thank you!!!