

**REPUBLIC DAY 2018**  
**Address by the Adviser to the Administrator, U.T. Chandigarh**

Fellow Citizen, Ladies & Gentlemen

I extend my warm greetings to the citizens of the City Beautiful on the 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day. It is a privilege to address you all on this momentous day and I wish that this year brings abundance of growth and honor for the city.

Our country has witnessed the sacrifice of our brave sons and daughters. I bow my head in their honour. I also offer my respects to the Members of the Armed Forces, Para Military Forces and Internal Security Forces for their sacrifice and Martyrdom.

26<sup>th</sup> January holds an everlasting place in the history of our nation and commands respect from every Indian. It is the day when the Constitution of India was dedicated to the Nation. It is a day when we recall with gratitude, the work of our founding fathers, whose far-sighted vision and strenuous efforts gave us a Constitution where our self-respect, life with dignity and individual rights and freedoms are guaranteed.

Today, when we recall with pride, the far-sighted vision and strenuous efforts of our founding fathers who gave us a Constitution that declares India a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic, assuring its citizens of justice, equality, and liberty, and endeavors to promote fraternity among them. From within the spacious provisions of our Constitution, India has grown into a dynamic, vibrant and successful democracy.

In a democracy, it is essential to be aware of our duties along with our rights. We need a city that inspires confidence among people in its ability to surmount the challenges before us. Today, on this glorious occasion, let us all take a solemn oath of being responsible citizens and work collectively for the welfare of the people of our city and country.

Chandigarh is a city that has remained true to its philosophy: ‘Open to receive, Open to give’, as symbolized by the Open Hand Monument. The City Administration is alive to the concerns of the citizens and sensitive to their needs. Chandigarh has made rapid strides towards making the city an e-ready Union Territory through a host of e-Governance programmes like e-Sampark, m-Sampark, mobile RLA, m Directory, Cashless Chandigarh, e-Stamping, e-Education, e-Saksham, e-Payment, Gram Sampark, etc.

**I feel delighted to share with you the latest accomplishments of Chandigarh, which are a result of the concerted efforts of the elected representatives, the administration and the citizens of Chandigarh.**

Education has been an inseparable part of the society, and our focus has been on the quality of education by expanding horizons for the future generations. With numerous initiatives taken by the Chandigarh Administration, we can say with confidence that education is no longer restricted to the elite, and people of every strata have been given equal opportunity in this field. For expansion of school education, focus has been on increasing the number of educational institutions. To improve the facility of higher education in Chandigarh, construction of a Commerce College in Sector 50 already stands completed. Construction of 04 new Govt. High Schools are in progress at Raipur Kalan, Makhan Majra, Maloya-I and II, for further improvement of the educational infrastructure facilities in Chandigarh.

The Education Department has successfully started the fortification of rice and wheat flour under the Mid Day Meal Scheme. CCTV cameras have been installed in almost all Govt. Schools of U.T., Chandigarh, and sanitation and vending machines have been installed in girls' toilets of 50 Govt. schools of U.T., Chandigarh.

Model of 'Extended School' has now been implemented in two Govt. schools (GMHS-49 & GMHS-43) on a pilot basis w.e.f. April 2017, where students can complete their homework, have their meal twice a day, play in the school itself and return home without bag. State Mentoring Programme for exchanging best practices of UTs has been initiated with Department of School Education, Govt. of Punjab for improvement in quality of education under the aegis of MHRD.

As per guidelines of NCERT, Chandigarh SCERT has conducted the National Achievement Survey (NAS) in the month of November 2017 for the students of class III, V & VIII studying in Chandigarh Government Schools, to measure the learning achievement of students in the subjects of Science, Social Studies, Mathematics and Languages. The Department has extended the Smart Classroom Project to 200 additional classrooms along with tablets for the year 2018-19. Approximately 1700 meritorious students were selected to represent Chandigarh in the National School Games under different sports disciplines, and in the 63rd National School Games 2017-18, the students won 14 Gold, 16 Silver and 25 Bronze Medals. A household survey was conducted in December 2017 for identification of never enrolled and drop out children. During the survey 3088 children were found to be out of school who would now be provided special training for their age appropriate admission in Govt. Schools.

Chandigarh became the first U.T to implement the Aadhaar based Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme in respect of all Centrally Sponsored Scholarship Schemes. During the year 2016-17, as many as 21,538 beneficiaries were disbursed scholarships to the tune of Rs.5.49 crores.

In pursuance to the “Digital India” mission of the Government of India, Department of Higher Education has taken an exemplary step by launching a Joint Online Admission Prospectus and Common Joint Online Admission Portal for government as well as government aided privately managed colleges of Chandigarh.

An Android and iOS admission App has also been launched under RUSA scheme in which about 20 crore was collected via online receipts as admission fee in Govt. Colleges. During the current session, a day care center for teaching and non teaching members of the college and a research lab was established at Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector 42 Chandigarh under the RUSA Scheme.

The Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Sector-10, Chandigarh was awarded the ‘Best Polytechnic in Northern Region’ for implementing the Govt. of India Scheme-“Community Development through Polytechnics” (CDTP). In addition, CCET (Diploma Wing), Sector-26, Chandigarh has been awarded the trophy of ‘Overall best Polytechnic’ in Northern Region by NITTTR for implementing the Govt. of India Scheme “Person with Disability Scheme”

We are soon planning to start post graduation courses in Chandigarh College of Architecture which was a long felt need in the region. To upgrade the infrastructure in the college, a new Academic block is also being proposed. We are hopeful that both these initiatives will be a positive move towards enhancing the status of one of the best premiere institutes of the region.

I would like to mention here that Chandigarh Administration has also sanctioned a grant of Rs.100 crores to one of its finest and oldest institute, PEC University of Technology to further improve its infrastructure and provide better facilities in the campus before the university completes its 100 years in 2021. The focus would be laid on enhancing capital assets like up gradation of labs of various departments so that the students can explore their creative potential.

I feel happy in sharing that the Skill Development Mission in Chandigarh has been implemented by reconstituting the ‘UT Chandigarh Skill Development Mission’. A web portal of Chandigarh-Skill Development Mission has been launched for providing a single platform for admissions to various short term skill courses/job roles which are provided free of cost. This portal helps the

youth to derive benefits out of various schemes under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Under The Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP-e-portal) Scheme, employment opportunities are generated in rural as well as in urban areas of Chandigarh.

Our cherished aim is to make Chandigarh an ideal city for people of all age groups. Chandigarh Housing Board aspires to fulfill the dream of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, of providing housing to all. CHB has started the process of conversion of dwelling units from Lease Hold to Free Hold and has allowed need based changes in its dwelling units to facilitate the allottees. CHB also launched the scheme for eligible oustees of Chandigarh, and 165 houses have been allotted to eligible oustees. The Board for the first time has offered various properties through e-auction to the citizens of India and has successfully auctioned 16 properties (14 residential and 2 commercial).

May I recall that the Chandigarh Administration had signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Govt. of India through Ministry of Housing & Poverty Alleviation under 'Housing for All' mission in 2015 in which Chandigarh Housing Board was designated as State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA). During March- April 2017 CHB invited applications from prospective beneficiaries and a total of 1, 27,998 applications were received of which 25,443 were found to be eligible.

Under **Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)** 444 eligible applications are to be adjusted in the existing housing stock of available units. Under **Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)** vertical 24,999 eligible applications have been transferred to 10 banks that are ready to give loans to the eligible applicants as per PMAY Guidelines.

I am happy to inform you that CHB had floated a scheme for 200 two bed room flats in Sector 51- A, Chandigarh and the work of the same has commenced at site. The board has also planned 492 houses of various categories under the General Housing Scheme at Sector-53, Chandigarh. The Tatkal Scheme initiative is also being successfully implemented. As on date, 1923 applicants have availed the Tatkal service and the Board has earned a sum of Rs.6, 72, 70,000.

I feel happy in sharing that through team work and support of citizens, our City Beautiful has been declared as 'India's cleanest Union Territory' in Swachh Survekshan Award 2017 from the Ministry of Urban Development, New Delhi, and has been recertified an ODF city again by a QCI (Quality Council of India). With these continuous untiring efforts, we are expecting a better performance by the City Beautiful in Swachh Survekshan, 2018. Gaining recognition at the national front, the Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector 11 was bestowed with the Swachhta all India

ranking and honored at the special function organized by MHRD in September 2017.

The citizens of Chandigarh along with different influential bodies like Resident Welfare Associations, NGOs, Government employees & students actively participated in the "Swachhta Hi Seva" programme initiated to sensitize people about keeping the city clean. Apart from regular manual and mechanized sweeping, 33865 complaints were received through the Swachhta App. of which 96.7% have been resolved. Also, 34,904 citizen of Chandigarh have downloaded the app this year. I feel happy in sharing that Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh has been awarded with Skoch Award Silver for Solid Waste Management and Women Functionaries of Area Level Federations as Swachhta Grahi 2017.

To provide 24X7 water supply to the citizens of Chandigarh, some of the infrastructure arrangements like commissioning of MS Rising main, construction of 15 MGD capacity water treatment plant, construction of pump house etc. are likely to be completed by April, 2018 for getting additional raw water of 40 MGD from Kajauli. The Engineering Department of Chandigarh also has been making efforts to provide uninterrupted water supply to 13 villages and tube wells have been built to maintain the average availability of water in these villages. They have also achieved 100% benchmark for piped sewerage system in the rural parts of the city.

Due to manifold increase in traffic, the construction of slip roads, ATC Signals, continuity of cycle tracks and pedestrian pathways etc has been initiated at 33 junctions of which 02 have already been executed. Special care has been taken to identify and propose engineering modifications for the crucial 6 black spots in the city.

Under the smart city mission, initiatives in many sectors have been taken. You may recall that a SPV (Special Purposed Vehicle) structure named CSCL (Chandigarh Smart City Limited) was formed in 2016. A total of 70 projects worth 6247.48 Cr had been envisaged, of which 23 projects worth 327 Cr have already been tendered, and six projects like renovation of Pierre Jeanneret House and Le Corbusier Center, replacement of 43000 street lights with LED street lights, installation of 15 MW of Solar Panels, 22 km of the Cycle Track, Multi-Level Car Parking in sector 17, Improved Signage Boards and Variable Messaging Screens stand completed.

Other Projects like Conservation of Heritage Capitol Complex, Recycled Water Pipeline, 5 MW of Solar Power, Construction of Subway, etc. will be initiated soon and the projects like Smart Metering for Power, Underground Cabling, Intelligent Transport Management System (ITMS) are in the pipeline.

Recently, MC introduced the smart parking facility wherein ticketing is done through electronic machine with real time data coming to central server, which can be checked on the computer or a mobile phone. A mobile application for iOS and Android platforms has been launched where general public can get requisite information about the parking facilities.

In addition to this, more than 200 km length of roads in terms of 12 inch width was completed during the year and a Mobile Quality Control Lab has been procured for testing the quality of road works. The conservation of UNESCO World heritage site grade-1 covering Civil Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha, Martyr Gallery, Open Hand and Punjab & Haryana High court is under progress and is likely to be completed by June, 2018. Under MPLADs Scheme “Mera Gaon Meri Bagiya” parks have been inaugurated in two villages namely Daria and Mauli Jagran. Keeping in mind that requirements of health and well being of our citizens as priority, 15 open air gyms have been set up in different parks of the city.

To achieve our aim of development of sports in the City, the construction of Sports Complex in Sector 34 and Manimajra have also been completed and will be dedicated to the public soon. Construction of 3 new Mini Sports Complexes in Sector 9, 39 and 27 also stand completed and the construction of Tennis Stadium in Sector 10 phase 2 has also commenced. The augmentation of existing 300 Meter Shooting Range has been undertaken.

As per the Chandigarh Master Plan-2031, cycle enthusiasts will rejoice as cycle tracks are being facilitated for seamless connectivity of NMV/Cycle (of approx.170 km) along all major axis in the city. In the near future, we hope to see visible results of the efforts made by the Administration in improving the cycling infrastructure of the city. At Panjab University, the concept of Public Bicycle Sharing (PBS) system has been planned which will show locations of docking stations, size of the docks, capacity and design. A pilot study to improve the movements of emergency vehicles, specifically ambulances, providing green corridors before reaching the junctions has been initiated with coordination of National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research and Department of Science and Technology, Chandigarh. I feel happy to share that the Chandigarh Urban and Rural Building Byelaws 2017 have been notified to facilitate the process of online building plan approval, and accordingly, under ‘Ease of Doing Business’ Online Building Plan Approval System is being launched.

Adding another feather to its cap, Chandigarh has been awarded ‘Green and Clean City’, title by Hon’ble Union Minister Sh. Nitin Gadkari at the valedictory of ‘Smart and Sustainable Summit’ at Nagpur. With a view to sensitize the people towards tree preservation and conservation and to promote Eco-tourism, Chandigarh Administration has recently notified 31

trees existing in Chandigarh that are more than 100 years old as 'Heritage Trees'. We have also prepared "Greening Chandigarh Action Plan 2017-18" and released it for implementation. 62,900 saplings were planted and around 52,130 saplings distributed by the Forest & Wildlife Department free of cost to the citizens of Chandigarh, NGOs, schools, colleges etc. in the year 2017. To electronically access environment related information, an Environment Information System Centre has been established in the Department of Environment under ENVIS scheme of the Government of India that provides information on status of environment of Chandigarh.

Urbanization and economic development are leading to a rapid rise in energy demand in urban areas of the country. I can proudly share that Chandigarh has already been declared a Solar City. With an aim to achieve the target of 50 MW by 2022, as part of Model Solar City Programme under the aegis of National Solar Mission, Chandigarh has installed 16.15 MWp Grid Tied Rooftop Solar plants at 376 sites which have generated 5.44 MU of solar energy on the rooftops of the govt. buildings. This generated solar energy is equivalent to reduction of 3753 metric ton of Carbon dioxide which in turn is equivalent to planting of 4.06 lakh trees. I am positive that by introducing such remarkable reforms, we will achieve the set goal within the stipulated time frame.

Under the Digital India program of Government of India, initiatives have been taken to begin digital functioning within all the Departments. Chandigarh is the first UT to launch an online RTI system through the GOI online portal enabling filing of the RTI applications under Right to Information Act, 2005. The Labour Department has also launched an online portal for Registration Of Shops and Commercial Establishment under the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958.

Taking a step forward, the Government Press has established an e-portal for ease of purchase of stationery for all Departments. The department has further adopted e-gazette to ensure timely publication of notifications, thereby saving paper, labour as well as time. The department has also adopted a Transparent Procurement System Viz. GEM (Government e-Market) for all its procurement. Complete stationery articles, machinery and equipments, vehicles, computer peripherals, office furniture and fixtures, and day to day procurement of goods are processed through GeM. RLA has started the process of Online Appointment System for registration of vehicles and issuance of driving licenses in Chandigarh.

The Chandigarh Transport Undertaking launched the CTU Mobile App "CTU Bus Tracker" that tracks the expected time of arrival and departure of the CTU buses based on real time information. The Hot Spot Wi-Fi facility has also been activated at ISBT-17 & ISBT-43. The Department also

launched the 'TIC TIC' App that displays location and expected time of arrival of local buses at bus stops. In the year 2017, CTU purchased 40 ordinary and 120 HVAC buses and a proposal for procurement of 06 Super Luxury and 20 Electric buses is under process.

Chandigarh's premiere health care institutions experience a huge footfall of patients from neighboring states like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir which makes it mandatory for us to have the best of the facilities in our health care institutions. Chandigarh Administration has been working consistently to provide quality and affordable medical facilities to all the citizens.

It is a matter of great pride that this year the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has reduced from 21 to 14 as per SRS (Sample Registration System). Chandigarh was recently awarded for an 'Exemplary Execution of Linking of Aadhar with Birth Certificates' in the 3rd Annual Health Care Summit at Jaipur. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare selected two initiatives of Chandigarh Health Department as Best Practices in Summit 2017 held at Indore (M.P.) The Initiatives were Implementation of Aadhar enabled Civil Registration System for newborns and infants & Project UDDHAR(A Slum Intervention) 108 Emergency Referral Service Implementation with support of 6 BLS Ambulance and 9 referral vehicles. Chandigarh has also been awarded for best performance in TB Prevention & Control at the National Summit, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare System in India Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh during 29 to 31 August 2016.

The scheme for construction of Emergency Block at Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Sector- 32, has been approved and will be taken up in the next financial year. Construction of a Sports Injury Centre in sector 32 Hospital and Block-A in Govt. Rehabilitation Institute for Intellectual Disabilities (GRIID ASHADEEP), sector- 31 will start shortly. We will also start the construction of two new hospitals, in Maloya and Dhanas. The construction of Administrative Block in GMSH-16, 100 Bedded Hospital, Sector 48 and Mental Health Institute in sector 32 has been completed.

Upgradation of Poly Clinic to 50 bedded Urban CHC is now functional 24X7. Two Health Facilities i.e. Civil Hospital Manimajra and Civil Hospital Sector -22, Chandigarh have been grouped under the 5 Star Ratings of CHCs in HMIS, U.T., Chandigarh. The Sub Center (SC) Sarangpur has been upgraded to level of Civil Dispensary during the F.Y.2017-18. Establishment of 7 Alternative Medical Units has been done in the periphery of Chandigarh for strengthening the sub-centers by providing services of a doctor, a pharmacist and a helper.

Going digital, the E-Hospital Module was made functional at 2 city hospitals i.e GMSH-16 & Urban Community Health Centre, Sector-45, Chandigarh



with Modules of Billing, OPD Registration and Indoor Admission. The Blood Banks of our city are also now linked with E Rakt Kosh. The health Department initiated a Special campaign for Measles and Rubella wherein the vaccination to children from 9 months to 15 month old was provided. The Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT, Chandigarh launched the Modern Mobile Food Testing Laboratory in Chandigarh on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and very soon the 102 Health Help Line and Grievances Redressal System will be functional.

In Chandigarh, the prevalence of HIV has shown a steady decline from 0.27 to 0.08%. For the convenience of the inmates, under the Prison Intervention Project, a Counseling and Testing Centre has been established at the Model Jail Burail so that the inmates get tested and know their status. Care & support is provided to people living with HIV/AIDS by linking them to the social welfare schemes like Free Road Transportation, Free Treatment, Antodaya Anna Yojana, Widow Pension, Children Scholarship and free Legal help.

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries launched a drive for mass vaccination of animals under India's Foot and Mouth Disease Control Program 2017-18 in which 20,255 animals were vaccinated through a door to door campaign. This year Chandigarh witnessed no outbreak of any contagious disease of animals. A 24X7 service for the welfare of sick ownerless animals has also been started at SPCA Chandigarh.

I feel happy to inform that the Model Jail Chandigarh has introduced unique concepts and taken exemplary initiatives for the betterment of inmates. A kiosk namely SAARTHI, in association with Burail, jail has been opened at Aasha Kiran, which is being run by the differently abled persons. The products made by the Burail jail inmates are being sold at the kiosk. For the sale of jail products a showroom at Sector-22 will be opened shortly.

The Saarthi canteen has been launched to provide focused attention on the activities aimed for welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities. To help the Anganwaris, Model Jail Chandigarh has extended their support and started a food project wherein food is being supplied to 100 Anganwari centres in Chandigarh and catering to approx. 5000 enrolled Anganwari children. The food-supply has also begun in 50 creches of Chandigarh. For the welfare of inmates a Prisoners Welfare Society namely "Prisoner Training, Rehabilitation and Welfare Society" has been formed for new welfare initiative to mainstream the inmates.

Pension payment to Old Age, Widows & Destitute Women, Disabled Persons and Financial Assistance to the Children of Widows amounting to Rs.2074.90 Lacs has been made through the Public Financial Management

System and into Aadhar seeded bank accounts of beneficiaries during the current financial year 2017-18 upto 30.11.2017. The Children of Snehalaya won 4 silver medals in the programme Housla-2017 organized by Ministry of Women & Child Development at Delhi in the month of November. Para Games for the differently abled were also initiated on the eve of International World Disability Day. Chandigarh Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes & Minorities, Financial & Development Corporation has been made nodal agency for setting up of temporary night shelters at 10 different locations for homeless people. The corporation has provided training to 540 beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST/OBC & Minorities.

Prevention of crime, maintenance of law and order instills a sense of safety and security among people particularly women, children and marginalized sections of society. I would like to applaud the Chandigarh Police for its efforts in maintaining the law and order in the city during the hearing of Gurmit Singh case by the CBI Special Court at Panchkula. Safety of women is of utmost importance, I would like to appreciate the efforts of Chandigarh Police for taking prompt action in solving various heinous crime cases in the city. I urge the Police officials to take stringent actions in preventing and eradicating women related crimes, and to provide a safe environment for the women of the city. A Single Window has also been initiated by Police for Community Interface that enables the public to get various police services like registration of complaints, RTI, PCC, verifications etc. at one place.

In the process of modernization and digitization, 10 police stations of Chandigarh have been declared paperless. Chandigarh Police has created 146 whatsapp groups where more than 11000 citizens have been attached. These groups have helped in improving the police beat system in order to prevent crime. For the safety of senior citizens, a senior citizen app has been created which helps the police officials in identifying the location of the senior citizens in distress. 65 self defense training camps/ skill training programmes were organized by the Chandigarh Police which were attended by 7600 girls/women.

You may recall that as a community policing initiative, Chandigarh Police had launched a project 'Nigehbaan' for installing CCTV cameras for surveillance of suspected activities and nabbing the offenders. More than 13345 CCTV cameras have now been installed in the city and 6000 more spots have been identified for installation. To regulate the behaviour of traffic police officials, 104 Body Worn Cameras have been issued to challaning officers.

Chandigarh Carnival was included in the National Calendar of events by The Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. Recently, the "Ek Bharat Shrestha

Bharat” programme was launched by the Government of India, NITI Aayog with a vision to boost the existing cultural connect between different parts of the country. For implementation of the programme, a Memorandum of Understanding between Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli was signed and various activities for the exchange of culture, art & tourism were conducted to enhance interaction between the two Union Territories. A Media Tour was also organized by the Department of Public Relations to Dadra and Nagar Haveli in the month of October.

May I take this opportunity to compliment the officers of Chandigarh Administration for the commendable progress made in the past year and urge them to continue working hard in the coming years as well. In line with the past achievements, now there are some new focus areas which need attention and improvement. I feel that as we increase the level of ambition for our people, we will have to increase the scale of our efforts.

I am confident that the sensitive and citizen friendly Administration will advance Chandigarh into a new era of e-governance and responsive administration, committed to the holistic development of the city based on modern technology.

I urge all the citizens to join hands with us to empower the poor and the marginalized sections of our population so that they too can become a part of the growth story of our nation.

On this auspicious day, let us all rededicate ourselves and work together for the betterment of our nation, as unity is our sole strength.

Let us all remember the martyrs and brave hearts who laid down their lives so that we could see a better today. With these thoughts let us all celebrate the extraordinary status of being the world’s largest democracy.

Happy Republic Day

**Jai Hind**