

Speech of his excellency Lt. Gen. J.F.R. Jacob, PVSM (Retd.)  
Governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory of Chandigarh,  
50th National Development Council Meeting on 21st December 2002 at New Delhi

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission,, Distinguished Members of the National Development Council.

2. At the outset I congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission for the bold new vision & strategy given by them in the draft 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan in order to increase the nation's rate of economic growth and redirect the development effort so as to enable India's population to achieve its true potential.

3. Chandigarh is a small Union Territory with an area of 114 square Kms and a population of 9 lakh as per the 2001 census. Nearly 90% of this population resides within the Municipal Corporation limits. Chandigarh is unique because it is the capital of two state governments, Punjab & Haryana. Chandigarh is a planned city with a high standard of civic amenities. It has become a regional economic hub for all the states in north-west India. Chandigarh's infrastructure was originally planned for a population of 5 lakh, but the city^ has expanded rapidly over the last three decades and faces problems common to other growing cities in India, including the proliferation of slums and squatter settlements. Despite these problems, Chandigarh ranks first in India in the human development index. The infant mortality rate is amongst the lowest in India, the literacy rate is above 80%, the poverty ratio is among the lowest in India, and social sector expenditure by government is the highest in India. We would like to build on these strengths and ensure that the poorest also get a fair chance to participate in Chandigarh's vibrant economy.

4. Chandigarh's 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan has been drafted in line with the Government of India's approach which seeks to accelerate the economic growth significantly, eradicate poverty and enhance domestic capability for mobilizing resources for development. The Chandigarh Administration has adopted a multipronged strategy for achieving equity and growth. As a result Chandigarh's Plan focuses on three areas; (i) human development, (ii) Infrastructure & (iii) environmental protection. Out of the total approved outlay of Rs.1000 crore for the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan these three sectors account for over 94% of the allocation. Rs.570 crore is earmarked for infrastructure and environmental protection and Rs.376 crore is devoted to human development sectors.

5. Chandigarh's Five Year Plan recognizes that the four pillars of economic growth are (1) Good governance, (2) Infrastructure, (3) Skill enhancement, and (4) Technology.

The objective of the plan is to build a knowledge society; to promote Chandigarh as an investment destination, and to significantly deepen the skill base of the work force and the population of Chandigarh. Chandigarh is a leading centre for higher education and health services in the region. Therefore, we shall focus on these areas and provide the required infrastructure and policy framework to promote employment in the services sector including information technology, bio-sciences, health services, tourism and housing. Our objective is to provide an environment in which enterprises can function competitively, with low transaction costs and with the help of world-class infrastructure. At the same time we

propose to harness technology for e-governance and establish transparent and speedy systems of governance that are accessible to all citizens. With these measures we are confident that we shall achieve the target rate of growth of 10.6% per annum for U.T., Chandigarh. The Plan outlay of Rs.1,000 crore shall be used judiciously, efficiently and strategically to promote employment, economic activity, human resource development and improved quality of life by using the minimum possible government resources and improving the quality of services provided by government. Chandigarh Administration has adopted the new paradigm of public management that emphasizes transparency, citizen participation, private sector participation and high quality of service provision. The sectoral initiatives in Chandigarh's 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan are as follows:

## **6. URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **(a) Roads & Transportation**

The rapidly growing city of Chandigarh requires an efficient and clean mass transit system. We have examined alternatives for mass transit and have undertaken a feasibility study for an Electric Trolley Bus System in cooperation with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Based on the recommendations of the feasibility study it is proposed to introduce an Electric Trolley Bus System in Chandigarh during the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. This will be the first of its kind in India; more than 100 cities are using electric trolley buses world-wide, including 25 cities in China. An Empowered Committee set up by Govt. of India in the Ministry of Urban Development is to examine and decide issues pertaining to technical, financial and commercial aspects of the project. This project will cost much less than rail-based mass transit system, we would, therefore, seek Govt. of India support there. Chandigarh has an excellent network of roads, but much needs to be done to improve road safety. We will execute a detailed plan to enhance road safety so as to minimize road accidents and reduce traffic congestion.

### **(b) Electricity distribution**

Chandigarh has one of the best electricity distribution systems in India. We thank the Government of India, Ministry of Power, for choosing Chandigarh as one of the five model distribution centres in India. This will help us to further improve the power infrastructure for which we have earmarked an outlay of over Rs.100 crore in the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The objective is to provide world class quality of power to all consumers in Chandigarh. We have begun undertaking reforms of the commercial and operational aspects of electricity distribution with the objectives of improving customer satisfaction & financial viability, annual targets have been set for distribution loss reduction. We have requested Government of India to approve a feasibility study to be carried out under the Indo French Protocol by a French Public Sector Utility called Electricite De France, which will assist us in designing a high quality power distribution system. This proposal has been forwarded by the Government of India to the Government of France.

### **(c) Investment promotion**

The Chandigarh Administration shall implement a comprehensive investment

facilitation policy during the Tenth Five Year Plan with the objective of attracting private sector investment in high growth potential sectors of the economy. The policy shall facilitate investment in key high-growth potential areas such as information technology, biotechnology, higher education and health services with a view to enhancing employment, economic growth and exposure to technology, in keeping with Chandigarh's existing economic profile. As a part of this Investment policy three business parks will be developed in Chandigarh. First, for promoting information technology enabled services we have set up the Chandigarh Technology Park at Kishangarh which is presently under development. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a leading software services company to set up a large campus-type Software Development Centre here, and an Entrepreneur Development Centre is being constructed here by the Chandigarh Housing Board. Second, the Chandigarh Science Park will be set up at Sarangpur to promote higher education, research & development, biotechnology, health services etc. Third, Chandigarh Logistics Park will be set up at Raipur Kalan to promote high-tech manufacturing, logistics and supply chain management facilities.

#### **(d) Local Bodies**

Union Territory, Chandigarh has 17 Gram Panchayats, one Panchayat Samiti and a Zila Parishad, with a rural population of about 92,000, as per the 2001 census. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Second Delhi Finance Commission as regards Chandigarh, which have been forwarded to Government of India for acceptance, sufficient provision has been made for the Panchayati Raj Institutions to discharge their developmental functions and responsibilities.

The Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh is responsible for all the major services in the urban area including, roads, water supply, sewerage fire services and street lighting. In addition to devolution of non-plan funds through grant-in-aid, sufficient funds have been earmarked in the Tenth Five Year Plan for all the important schemes of the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh including roads, water supply phase IV new sewerage treatment plant, water recycling and fire fighting equipment.

#### **(e) Housing**

In order to achieve the goal of "Shelter for All" by the year 2012, the Administration has been planning for the poor and has provided extensive low cost housing with basic infrastructure during the last two decades. The target is to provide 16,000 dwelling units. The Chandigarh Housing Board has completed constructing 1058 four storeyed tenements for the weaker sections, and construction of 600 more dwelling units is being started this year. The subsidy and public infrastructure components for scheduled castes under VAMBAY are provided by Chandigarh Housing Board in these schemes.

### **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT**

Several important measures are proposed to improve the urban environment during the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. Expansion of the existing sewerage treatment plant and setting up of two new sewerage treatment plants; one by the Municipal Corporation and one by the Chandigarh Administration, are envisaged. The water supply to the city shall be enhanced

by undertaking the piped water supply project from the Bhakhra main line to Chandigarh, Phase IV Waste water management and recycling of treated water shall be an important aspect of the sewerage treatment plant projects. The objective is to provide comprehensive recycling of water so as to minimize the consumption of fresh water and thereby conserve water.

## **8. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

### **(a) Health**

Chandigarh is known for its health infrastructure. The Chandigarh Administration runs two referral hospitals; Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector-32 and General Hospital, Sector-16, Chandigarh. In addition there are two community health centers, one polyclinic and a number of dispensaries in all parts of the Union Territory, Chandigarh. The infant mortality rate in Chandigarh is 33/1000 which compares favorably with the best States. The prevalence of tuberculosis in the city can be inferred from the fact that over the last five years nearly 2000 cases of tuberculosis have been treated every year. The revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme has been fully operationalised, under which domiciliary treatment is provided to T.B. cases. The immunization of infants by the health delivery system has achieved a coverage of about 80%. A large migratory and temporary population combined with low levels of literacy among the poorer sections makes the task of 100% coverage especially difficult, but the administration is making all out efforts to increase immunization coverage. During 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan the new blocks C & D of Government Medical College and Hospital shall be fully functional. It will then be a complete, premier and prestigious medical college with a 500 bedded multi-specialty Hospital containing all the important disciplines. The General Hospital, Sector-16 will be upgraded to cater to the increasing load of patients, and the nursing college shall be expanded. Private sector hospitals, nursing homes and medical education institutions including dental colleges, pharmacy and nursing schools shall be encouraged under the Investment policy. A Regional Institute for Mentally Handicapped Children shall be set up to implement the Disability Act, 1995 and the National Trust Act, 1999.

### **(b) Education**

Education is one of our priorities in the Tenth Five Year Plan. In order to provide adequate facilities both quantitatively and qualitatively we intend to ensure that an adequate number of schools with all facilities are provided, especially for the poor. Government Schools in Chandigarh provide a high quality of education. Computer education was introduced in last year in nearly 60 high schools and all the colleges. Chandigarh has some of the finest sports infrastructure and facilities in India. We are completing renovation of a Hockey Stadium with a new astro-turf. A competition-sized swimming pool will be built during the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

### **(c) Social Welfare**

Chandigarh Administration has always been proactive in looking after the needs of the weaker sections. A large number of NGOs are active in Chandigarh and are

supported by the Chandigarh Administration especially in the fields of primary education, voluntarily health care, AIDS awareness, vocational training, women's activities and child care. Antyodya Cards have been issued to the families living below the poverty line. The mid-day meals programme has been implemented this year in all Govt. schools of Chandigarh as per the orders of the Supreme Court. The Administration is also implementing the schemes for self-employment of scheduled caste persons through the Chandigarh Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes Finance Corporation.

## **9. PLAN RESOURCES**

Chandigarh is a Union Territory without legislature and its plan forms part of the Union Budget. In the recent years the budget of the Chandigarh Administration has shown a healthy surplus on the non-plan side, which grew from Rs.84 crore in 2000-01 to Rs.103 crore in 2001-02, and is expected to be more than Rs.90 crore this year. It is estimated that Chandigarh's non-plan surplus during the five year plan period shall be more than Rs.400 crore.

As a Union Territory Chandigarh does not receive any share of central taxes, nor does Chandigarh receive any central plan assistance. To make a comparison with plan resources of States, Chandigarh's imputed share of union tax revenues and central plan assistance due would have to be accounted for. Then Chandigarh's total plan resources would exceed the plan outlay of Rs.1000 crore. In addition it must be remembered that all these plan resources are generated within the government budget, and there is no reliance on borrowing or debt. Therefore it could be said that the planned urban development undertaken in Union Territory, Chandigarh has been a fiscal success story and has led to a very disciplined fiscal scenario in which the plan is being funded without recourse to any debt whatsoever.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

Our endeavour is to continue to make Chandigarh the, premier city of the region in terms of its infrastructure, urban amenities, education and health facilities, welfare measures and the quality of its human resources.

We endorse the Draft Approach Paper on the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan which seeks to achieve a growth rate of 8% of GDP along with specific focus on key measures of human development, equity and sustainability, and to improve the basic standard of living of every one especially to the poor. We are confident that U.T., Chandigarh will achieve the target rate of economic growth of 10.6% by utilizing its 10<sup>th</sup> plan outlay in an efficient manner. Finally, I assure you the full cooperation and participation of the Chandigarh.