

Press Release

Chandigarh, September 3:- Underlining the role of Information Technology in social transformation and improving the service delivery systems, the Punjab Governor and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh, General (Retd.) Dr. S.F. Rodrigues, PVSM VSM, called for a major collaborative effort and an integrated approach for giving a further boost to the IT Sector in the region through a concerted drive to attract investments of leading global companies and upgrading the professional skills of our people. "It is a major tool for achieving our goal of inclusive growth and giving a new push to the national economy".

Inaugurating e-Revolution 2009 Conference jointly organized by Chandigarh Administration, Government of Punjab and STPI with the support of various organizations like NASSCOM, TIE on the theme "Transforming Region: Harnessing Technology for Inclusive Growth" , here today, General Rodrigues said that the tri-city region has a huge IT potential and Chandigarh has emerged as a focal point for this vital sector of economic growth on account of upcoming Rajiv Gandhi Information Technology Park, efficient social infrastructure, good quality living, responsive administrative set up and application of e-Governance programmes in different sectors of development. He said that this project will provide about 67000 IT professional jobs with three times more opportunities of subsidiary employment. With a view to upgrade and the knowledge and competence of our people, we are setting up an Entrepreneur Development Center which would be functional in next three weeks and the IT Sector will further get a major fillip providing an opportunity to the young professionals to nurture their entrepreneurial skills.

Highlighting the success of e-Sampark and e-Jan Sampark Centers, General Rodrigues said that these Centers provide 28 Public Utility Services and have collected about Rs. 2500 crore Government revenue in nearly 75 lakh transactions since their inception in September 2004. He said that an integrated mechanism is at work for speeding up the other major projects like Mass Rapid Transport System, Modern Terminal Market, International Airport, Water Conservation and Environmental Programmes, to give a further boost to the tempo of development and catering the needs of 60 million population of

the whole region. He said that Chandigarh is already getting almost 24 hour power supply and around 16 hour water supply and we are further supplementing these basic services through various measures. He said that we have started the process for making Chandigarh as a Solar City which will make available 23 MW more power for the Union Territory. He said that the Educational curriculum has been remodeled with a focused attention on vocationalisation of courses to produce students with professional capabilities to meet the requirements of growing industry. He said that the Education City Project, which has a provision of 16 Centers of Excellence, with special emphasis on empowerment and no scope of any commercial approach, is on the fast track with more and more companies joining the endeavour. This project will help in ensuring e-Revolution benefits to the common man besides resulting progress in IT Sector. He made it clear that the Administration has always adopted a transparent approach in implementation of various growth oriented projects strictly adhering to the laid down procedures and processes as per rule of law.

General Rodrigues said that the novel programme of 'Partnership' and 'Ownership' has proved a very successful experiment and more than 250 organizations have registered their participation in different fields of endeavour. He said that this is part of our strategy to empower our people and making them Partners of this socio economic change. He said that the world is looking towards India for meeting its workforce requirements and we will have to develop innovative programmes to empower our 300 million people in the Country living below poverty line by giving them opportunities of education, healthcare, employment and life of respect and dignity. This goal can only be achieved with the collaborative endeavour of the Government, corporate sectors and specially the IT companies to sharpen their skills.

Mr. Pramod Bhasin, Chairman NASSCOM & CEO, GENPACT, while speaking on the occasion appreciated the initiatives of Chandigarh Administration for creating a sound social infrastructure, healthcare system, educational facilities, good quality of life, better law and order conditions and ideal secure environment for IT & Industrial growth. He observed that Chandigarh has better functional & operational opportunities for IT professionals than other destinations. He assured that NASSCOM will fully support the IT endeavour in the region and contribute in making this region a hub of Information Technology which has a great potential, to enable it to compete

successfully in the global arena. He highlighted the achievements of NASSCOM in IT Sector in National and International arena.

Mr. S.C. Agrawal, Punjab Chief Secretary and Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Finance Secretary, UT also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the achievements made in the IT Sector by the Punjab Government and UT Administration respectively. The senior officers of Punjab and Union Territory, Chandigarh and giants of different IT companies and Industrial establishments participated in the function. Dr. Omkar Rai, Sr. Director HO STPI proposed vote of thanks.