MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNOR OF PUNJAB AND ADMINISTRATOR, UT CHANDIGARH,

**SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE**

ON THE OCCASION OF

INDEPENDENCE DAY – 2018

      On the historic completion of 71 years of our country’s Independence with its emergence as the largest democracy and a leading economy of the world, I extend my heartiest felicitations to the people of India particularly of Punjab and Chandigarh.

      Today, we pay our respectful reverence to all those self sacrificing, devoted leaders and patriots who struggled for freedom throughout their lives, we also pay tributes to the brave members of our armed forces who laid down their lives while protecting the integrity and boundaries of our country.

      It is a matter of great pride to recall the laudable contribution of Punjab and its people, who spearheaded and displayed courage and commitment to the cause of freedom. Peace and amity within our state and region are pre-requisites for development. Brave and hard working people of Punjab and Chandigarh are known for their gentle humanity and generosity. Theyare always ready to build peace, harmony and unity as preached and taught by our great Guru’s.

      We have a dynamic, dedicated and determined leader, Shri Narendra Modi, as the Prime Minister of India, who reflects the aspirations and hopes of over a billion people. Hon’ble Prime Minister has given a clarion call to all of us, Indians, to march towards a ‘New India’, an India that is inclusive, vibrant in growth opportunities and a strong leader in the comity of nations. His pioneering development initiatives have ushered in a new era in the development of India. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan and Jan Mudra Yojana marked a paradigm shift in ensuring financial inclusion to each and every citizen of the Nation. ‘Make in India’, ‘Start up India’, ‘Digital India’ are innovative programmes towards employment oriented growth story of India.

      Today, we have some challenges before us and we have to pay special attention to check social evils like, the menace of drug addiction, female foeticide and environment degradation. The Government of Punjab has resolved to banish drugs from the State. To effectively implement this campaign against drugs, the State has evolved a multi-pronged strategy leaving no stone unturned to nip the evil in the bud.

      Chandigarh is keeping strides with the vision of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, in all its development initiatives. The Pride of Chandigarh, its ‘Capitol Complex’ has been crowned with the UNESCO World Heritage Status. Through the Smart City Mission: Chandigarh which is already one of the most developed cities in the country is taking transformatory steps to attain high quality of life, comparable to the best in the world.

      I must compliment all the people of Chandigarh along with senior citizens, NGOs, Civil & Police officers and all categories of employees of Chandigarh for their invaluable contribution in this endeavour.

      We have to make a firm resolve to enrich our national life, in our personal capacities, by discharging our duties with sincerity, commitment, devotion and dedication, keeping the interest of our country supreme. This is the only way to create the Vibrant, strong and prosperous India.

      Let us, on this occasion, renew our pledge to collectively work hard to protect and preserve the unity and sovereignty of our great country and to contribute our mite, for the accomplishment of our goals in different fields of endeavour.

      I once again wish you all, a very Happy Independence Day.

**JAI HIND**