

**SPEECH OF**

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**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**

It is my proud privilege to be here today in the midst of distinguished personalities heading the Ministries of Information and Cinematography in the Centre and the various States of the Country. This, indeed, is an important forum to deliberate over various key issues pertaining to different media in order to bring about further improvement by introducing innovative and reformative measures designed to exploit the recent breakthroughs in the field of Information Technology especially Internet.

I hardly feel it necessary to dilate on important role of media in a developing democratic country like ours where every citizen enjoys inherent right of access to information and has freedom of expression. The different media of Television, Cable

Television, Internet , Radio and Print are means of disseminating information to different part of globe and function as the 'nervous system of society'. With the advent of Internet, the Conference must focus on security related issues in the fast changing scenario of information technology.

Sir, I am representing Punjab which has distinctive features and unique landmarks to its credit that grant it special recognition on the map of the country. This border state, which is the sword arm of the nation, has always been in the vanguard of all national movements and its brave people rose to the occasion and stood to the test of time facing brunt of various aggressive challenges. I need not reiterate the fact that Punjab has earned the

reputation of being the "Bread Basket of the Country" on account of its major share of food grains contribution towards the national pool.

## **MEASURES TO COMBAT PIRACY OF FILMS :**

The State Government has taken effective steps to combat piracy of films. The action against pirates is being taken under Copy Right Act 1957.

Punjab Government has constituted the State Level Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Enforcement Cell under the Chairmanship of Advocate General Punjab assisted by Secretary Home and Director General of Police Punjab to co-ordinate a concerted drive against various forms of Piracy including Audio and Video Piracy.

Punjab Police has already issued directions to the entire field Units especially to take legal action(including searches and seizures) against unscrupulous elements engaged in large scale illegal copying and selling of such material. A State Level Anti-Piracy Cell under IGP/EOW, Crime, Punjab has also been established at Punjab Police Headquarters, Chandigarh for ensuring proper co-ordination and the multi-prolonged action against Audio /Video Piracy.

During the year 2009 (1.1.2009 to 31.8.2009) under the anti piracy campaign 176 cases have been registered, 245 persons arrested and recovery of pirated material worth Rs.29, 53,725/- has been made.

The Punjab government finds a great

difficulty in launching anti piracy campaign as the offence is bail able with offenders re-entering the business immediately after securing bail. The Punjab government suggests that piracy be made a non- bail able with power to police to destroy the seized material after its seizure.

## **DRAFT BROADCAST REGULATORY AUTHORITY BILL :**

The Punjab government feels that is a double edged in a democracy. While it is the back role sensation by the Union government on the other hand it is an attack on fundamental right of speech as enshrined in our constitution. The Punjab government feels that without evoking censor like situation in the emergency era, the act needs delegate and balanced handling.

## **DIGITALIZATION OF THE CABLE SECTOR:**

The Punjab government proposes that the country requires a separate regulatory authority for the cable sector to check monopolistic control of any business house on the cable sector.

Under the Cable Act punishment be made stringent so that no body should dare to defame anyone, without any substantial evidence.

## **ENTERTAINMENT TAX RATES:**

The empowered Committee of state Finance Ministers, New Delhi had released the first discussion paper on 10-11-2009. As per the discussion paper, entertainment tax is going to be subsumed in the Goods &

Services Tax (GST). However the rate of tax to be subsumed under GST has not been fixed.

Hon'ble Finance Minister, Punjab Sh. Manpreet Singh Badal had attended the meeting of Empowered Committee on 10-11-2009 and the state of Punjab is in agreement and has no objection with regard to subsuming of entertainment tax in the GST. The details of the discussion paper are available on this department website [www.pertax.com](http://www.pertax.com).

Sir, these are some of the few important issues which I have highlighted. I am sure the Union Government will give special treatment to Punjab sword arm of the nation.

Jai Hind !