

Public Relations Department, Chandigarh Administration

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PRESS RELEASE

Chandigarh Administration celebrates

Chandigarh Heritage Festival in befitting manner

Chandigarh, October 7 --- The Department of Tourism, Chandigarh Administration, celebrated Chandigarh Heritage Festival in a befitting manner today by organizing Heritage Walk, Talk on Chandigarh's Heritage, Seminar at Chandigarh College of Architecture, Classical Evening at Sukhna Lake and illuminating architectural buildings of the Capitol Complex, Open Hand monument, Le Corbusier's erstwhile Office at Sector 19 and UT Secretariat Building etc, **to commemorate the inauguration of Chandigarh by the first President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad on October 7, 1953.**

The **Heritage Walk**, which commenced from the Open Hand monument at 8 am and culminated at the Chandigarh War Memorial, was flagged off by the Administrator, UT, Chandigarh, **Gen (Retd.)S.F. Rodrigues**. As many as 300 citizens, including senior officers of the Administration, senior citizens, officers of the State Bank of India led by its Chief General Manager, Sh Hemant Contractor and General Manager, Sh S.S.Sharma, members of INTACH led by its Convenor, Sh V.K.Kapoor, army officers of Western Command, Chandimandir and school children, participated in the Walk which culminated at the Chandigarh War Memorial. The Army Band of 2 Sikh Regiment led by Naib Subedar, Jastej Singh and brass band of the Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 8B, Chandigarh led by Preeti mesmerized and spellbound the walkers by their various tunes. The State Bank of India served refreshments and distributed T-shirts and caps.

The officers of the UT Administration participated among others in the Walk included the Home Secretary, Sh Krishna Mohan, the Finance Secretary, Sh S.K.Sandhu, the Deputy Commissioner, Sh R.K.Rao, the Municipal Commissioner, Sh P.S.Aujla, the Managing Director, CITCO, Sh Jasbir Singh Bir, the Director, Tourism, Sh Vivek Atray, the DPI (Schools), Sh Ashwani Kumar, and the Controller, Printing and Stationary, Sh O.P.Popli.

A **discussion on Chandigarh Heritage** was later held at Govt. Museum & Art Gallery, Sector 10, which was inaugurated by Dr. B.N Goswami, an eminent Art Historian. The Director, Tourism, **Sh Vivek Atray**, while welcoming the eminent architects and scholars, said that “Chandigarh is an evolving city and is an envy of many a cities. The Open Hand is associated with the architecture of the city and the Heritage of the city is an important component of an endeavour of the Administration to promote Chandigarh as a tourist destination.” Sh Atray called upon the residents of the city to take Chandigarh forward by maintaining its dignity for all times as “the growth and the future of the city needs to be maintained.” He further disclosed that from henceforth the Chandigarh Heritage Festival would be celebrated every year.

Dr B.N.Goswami, who inaugurated a 6-day Exhibition of drawings, paintings and photographs at the Museum and gave away prizes to the best entries in various categories, stressed on the need to remember human dimension as the concept of heritage rests with the universal ownership. He stressed that “the city will grow and live in the memory of man, if we are able to tackle the pressure.” “Earth is a spacecraft where we are the crew and no passengers as we are the ones to take the earth forward.” Dr Goswami added.

Sh S.D.Sharma, an eminent practicing architect who worked with Le Corbusier, emphasized on the need to maintain the built and natural beauty of the City Beautiful as “it has emerged as a vibrant and a source for entrepreneurs.” He was of the view that the entire city (built as well as un-built structures) should be covered under the heritage status.

Prof Rajnish Wattas, Principal of the Chandigarh College of Architecture also dwelt on the evolution of the architecture of Chandigarh and was for nurturing the past and cherishing the future.

Ms Kiran Joshi of the Chandigarh College of Architecture, who proposed a vote of thanks, disclosed that talks are on with the Archeological Survey of India to take up the matter of conferring Heritage status to the entire area of Chandigarh by the UNESCO as the city was made to commemorate the attainment of Independence after a long struggle for Independence.

Later in the day, a Seminar at Chandigarh College of Architecture was also organized, which was chaired by a renowned architect, **Sh Raj Rewal**.

In this sequence, a **classical based musical programme by Subhash Ghosh** was held at Sukhna Lake, which enthralled the visitors.

The **architectural buildings** of the Capitol Complex, Open Hand and other important buildings, namely, Le Corbusier's erstwhile Office at Sector 19, UT Secretariat Building, Sector 9 etc were **illuminated in a graceful manner**.