

Tenth Global Youth Peace Festival kicks off in city

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DP CORRESPONDENT
Chandigarh

With hundreds of youth from the city and from across the world joining in the prayers for world peace, the 10th edition of the Global Youth Peace festival (GYPF) got off to a bright start here on Tuesday. Leading the youth was Prof Kaptan Singh Solanki, Punjab and Haryana Governor and Administrator, Chandigarh Administration, who exhorted the youth from more than 30 countries assembled at the international Cricket stadium at Sector 16 to follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinobha Bhave.

National Youth project founder and veteran Gandhian, Subba Rao lead them in chanting prayers from all religions. This was followed by a meditation session by Phra Niti and Phra Povit of the World Peace Initiative, Thailand.

Formally inaugurating the annual event organized by Yuvasatta in collaboration with a host of national and international organisations, especially NSS, Svayam, RGNIV, Tourism Department of Arunachal Pradesh and Department of Environment, CREST, Chandigarh Administration.

Prof Kaptan Singh said that the importance of peace and inter-religious harmony was all the more relevant today than ever as people from diverse religions and cultures interact with each other almost on a daily basis. The slogan of Jai Jagat given by Acharya Vinobha Bhave is apt for the times, he said.

Prof Solanki also said that India was poised in a unique position to give the message of peace to the whole world as it had always stood for world peace and harmony at all times.

Addressing the participants, Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court also exhorted the youth present to take home the message of world peace. He hoped

that the festival would provide them an opportunity for mutual learning and discovering each other's culture.

The attraction of the morning was Bernie Mayer, the American Gandhi and GYPF's youth ambassador, who has attended the festival six times in the past. "Each time, it is getting bigger and better", was his initial reaction to the inaugural function even as the young people present

rushed up to him to have a photograph with him.

Later in the day, the global youth icon awards were presented at a grand function at the Chandigarh Judicial Academy which was attended by Dr Markandey Rai, Advisor, UN Habitat; Indra Udayana, who runs the Ashram Gandhi Puri in Bali, Indonesia and Sminu Jindal of Swayam.



Some of the honoured guests pose for a photograph during the opening ceremony of 10th Global Youth Peace Fest, in Sector 16, Chandigarh on Tuesday.

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