



Architecture Revolution in J&K

Katra, March 15: The Zonal NASA (National Association of Students of Architecture), or Zonasa, is an annual convention where all the architecture students of various institutes of a specific zone meet to discuss newer ideas in this field, exchange knowledge and compete amongst themselves. For the first time in the history of J&K state, a congregation of architecture students of such magnitude took place, a result of tireless efforts of the students of School of Architecture & Landscape Design (SALD), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. With one complete batch yet to take admission, these students have not only managed to get the bid, but also conduct the entire event with full zest and vigour at such a short notice, which is really appreciable. More than 750 students from 20 different colleges spread across North India attended the event. Delegates came from eight states namely; J&K, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It was the largest student gathering in the history of SMVDU.

"VOGUE, Architecture in Fashion", was the theme of the convention this year. On March 12, 2010, the convention was declared open by the Unit Secretary, Mr. Gaurav Kr. Kedia, Zonasa 2010.

His Excellency the Governor of J&K state and the Chancellor of SMVD University, Shri N. N. Vohra was the chief guest, and the First Lady of the State, Mrs. Usha Vohra the Guest of Honour for the inaugural ceremony.

Prof. R. N. K. Bamezai, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU was very encouraging and supportive for the initiative taken by SALD students. He also enlightened everyone about the importance of Architecture in the society.

Prof. S. V. Thakur, Director, SALD welcomed all the student delegates and accompanying faculty members. He introduced the audience with various

dimensions of architecture and also delivered a seminar on Narmada Irrigation Project and Rehabilitation during the convention.

Cultural performances by various artists and students of SALD added colours to the ceremony.

The fest also bore witness to a string of seminars & workshops conducted by eminent personalities like Prof. R. Shankaran (IIT Roorkee) gave seminar on Nature, architecture and Design followed by Prof. C. L. Razdan, who gave a talk on Vernacular Architecture. Mr. Ashwani Tyagi (Structural Expert from New Delhi) introduced students to Cable Bridge Designing and Ms. Anita Iyer (Pune) organised workshop on Barrier Free Design. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Delhi held a workshop on Rain Water Harvesting and Waste Water Management.

There were formal events like the inter college design competitions, photography, graffiti contest, and many more trophies for which all the 20 participating colleges put their heart and soul.

The fest also had loads of informal events in form of various on-spot events like face painting, quizzes, ex-tempore performances etc which aimed at increasing friendly competition among the students and provide healthy entertainment.

There was also a fashion show by all the participating colleges, depicting the theme, "VOGUE".

An inter-state cricket match was also organised in the memory of Late Mr. Chandan Bharati, student of first batch of SALD.

Valedictory function

Chief guest Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Anup Singh Jamwal graced the occasion and appreciated the students` efforts and further encouraged them.

Prizes and mementos given to all the winners and dignitaries during the ceremony. A local dance troop, "Aakash", performed various folk dances of J&K state. There were also performances by local dance troops, "Trance", a Delhi rock band, "Astitva" and solo performances by students of participating colleges.

The event was made possible by great efforts of Convener- Arjun Menon, the Unit Secretary – Gaurav Kedia and Faculty Co-ordinator – Ar. Abhiney Gupta, to make this event a success. President- Vidhu Saxena, Zorep Zone 1- Varun Singhania, Treasurer – Ratna Kiran, Treasurer Designee- Chetan, Executive co-ordinator-Digvijay Singh Rathore,

A great help was received from all the faculty and staff members of SALD and other departments of SMVDU. Great effort by Chief Security Officer Mr. O. P. Sharma, DSP (Retd.) and Deputy Security Officer Mr. J. B. Singh for maintaining security within the university campus.

A very high confidence was displayed in the efforts of students of SALD, SMVDU, whose sleepless nights gave way to a platform where intellectual discussions took place, and the future architects envisioned the new India.