

ARMY OPENS ITS FIRST SHELTER HOME FOR VETERANS

Chandigarh: Indian Army authorities on Saturday formally opened Senior Veterans Home, Ashray - first such shelter home for military veterans in the country - at Panchkula. The shelter will house veterans who do not have anyone to care for them in their twilight years.

Subedar Major D D Chadda (retd), 87, become the senior most occupant of the home that was inaugurated by Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar in presence of Army chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag.

The complex, known as Basantar Enclave in Sector 2 of Panchkula, has 60 dwelling units. It is well-equipped with facilities like bar and mess, gym/yoga-room, lift, round-the-clock security, and DTH TV connection. All veterans from the Army who are drawing pension are eligible to stay here. Widows of soldiers and widower of lady officer are also entitled to stay at the home.

Army Commander Lt Gen K J Singh complimented the entire team which worked diligently to ensure that a high living standard with healthy and harmonious environment was provided to the veterans. He said that so far only 28 dwelling units had been occupied and hoped that the venture would receive good response. The veteran's home would be beneficial for those military veterans who are left alone because their kids live abroad or not in the vicinity or abandon them. An old age home for soldiers would give them the same respect and honour which one receives during Army service. The facilities at Ashrya would not be available for free but the ex-servicemen who wished to live in these homes could use their pensions to pay for the services.

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