



# MILITARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL, CHANDIGARH

8TH EDITION, 2024

## :: :: :: POST EVENT REPORT :: :: ::

Presented to:  
Culture Branch, DoTCA

Prepared by:  
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# INTRODUCTION

The Military Literature Festival (MLF) in Chandigarh is a celebratory event that brings together the stories of bravery, history, and culture related to the armed forces of India. The festival is held **every year in the beautiful city of Chandigarh** and is open to everyone, primarily inviting students, veterans, scholars, and anyone interested in the country's rich military past and traditions.

Military Literature Festival first began in 2017 as a joint effort by the Punjab Government, the Indian Army's Western Command, and the Chandigarh Administration. It was created with the aim of honouring the courage and sacrifices made by soldiers, while also encouraging the public to understand the depth of military life and history. Over the years, it has grown into a highly respected platform that combines **literature, heritage, and patriotism.**

# CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE



The festival also plays an important role in preserving and promoting Punjab's cultural heritage. It highlights the deep connection between the armed forces and Punjab's cultural identity. Folk performances, traditional art forms, and regional literature are often part of the program, making the event both informative and colorful.

One of the main attractions of the festival is its wide range of sessions and discussions that include talks by war veterans, historians, defense experts, and authors who share their experiences and research. The festival also includes key features like **book launches, screenings, exhibitions, military band performances**, etc. Each chapter of the festival explores different themes such as the stories of wars, the tales of peacekeeping missions, leadership & strategy, the changing face of modern warfare and so on.

In today's world, where many people are distanced from the realities of military service, the **Military Literature Festival acts as a bridge to celebrate the bravery of soldiers** and keeps alive the memory of important events and contributions that shaped the nation. By blending literature, history, and culture, it creates a space where past and present come together, helping future generations stay connected with their roots. It also seeks to educate the public about the historical and cultural significance of the military in shaping the region's identity.

## 3 KEY OBJECTIVES OF MILITARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL



**CREATING GREATER AWARENESS ABOUT THE ARMED FORCES**



**PROMOTING MILITARY LITERATURE & CULTURAL HERITAGE**



**MOTIVATE YOUTH OF PUNJAB TO JOIN ARMED FORCES**

# MILITARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL, CHANDIGARH

AND ITS CONNECTION WITH THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE OF PUNJAB

The Military Literature Festival (MLF) holds a deep and special connection with the history, culture, and heritage of Punjab. ***Punjab, often called the land of warriors, has always played a crucial role in the defense of India.*** From ancient battles to modern wars, the soil of Punjab has given birth to countless brave soldiers who have laid down their lives for the nation. The festival pays tribute to this proud legacy and brings those stories to the forefront.

Punjab's history is rich with tales of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism. The festival celebrates this spirit by sharing accounts of legendary warriors, freedom fighters, and modern-day heroes from the region. Through discussions, books, and exhibitions, people get to learn about **historical events like the battles of Saragarhi, the role of Punjabis in World War I and II, the 1947 Partition, and the 1965 and 1971 wars.** These chapters are not just military milestones, but they are also emotional and cultural memories for the people of Punjab.

The culture of Punjab has always respected and admired the soldier. Folk songs, poetry, and stories passed down through generations often speak of bravery, honor, and the pain of separation during war. **MLF brings this cultural expression into the spotlight with performances, music, and traditional storytelling.** It blends military history with Punjab's vibrant cultural identity.

Moreover, the festival acts as a guardian of heritage. **The event focuses on local heroes and traditions and ensures that younger generations understand and appreciate their roots.** It also strengthens the bond between civilians and the armed forces, reminding everyone of the sacrifices made by those who protect the nation.

***The Military Literature Festival is more than just a literary event. It is a celebration of Punjab's glorious past, its warrior spirit, and its cultural pride.***



# HIGHLIGHTS OF MILITARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL, CHANDIGARH 2024

SNo	Particulars	Details
1	Date	30th Nov- 01 Dec, 2024
2	Edition	The festival celebrated its 8th edition in the year 2024.
3	Event Venue	Lake Sports Complex, Sukhna Lake, Sector-5, Chandigarh
4	<b>Pre-Event Activities: From 19-24 Nov, 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wreath Laying Ceremony:</b> Celebrating 25th Anniversary of Kargil war.</li> <li>• <b>Brave Hearts Motorcycle Ride:</b> 1.Held on 19th Nov 2024 2.Location: Starting from Open Ground Opp. Chandigarh Club Sector - 1 Chandigarh to Khetarpal Officer Mess &amp; Institute, Chandi mandir Cantt, Panchkula.</li> <li>• <b>Military Band display</b> by Punjab Police and UT Police.</li> <li>• <b>Band display</b> by students of Lawrence School Sanawar.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Main Event Activities: 30th Nov- 1st Dec)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CLARION CALL THEATRE:</b> Playing of motivational war movies in a auditorium for young boys &amp; girls to attract them to join armed forces.</li> <li>• <b>MILITARY EQUIPMENT DISPLAY:</b> Display of Tanks, guns, Heavy Machine guns, Light Machine guns, Military Radars and wireless equipments.</li> <li>• <b>SAMVAD (INTERACTION OF YOUTH OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES WITH SOLDIERS WHO ARE GALLANTRY AWARD WINNERS):</b> A event where gallantry award winners of armed forces (Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Sena Medal) narrate their heroic-tales of actual battle event.</li> <li>• <b>36 FOOD AND HANDICRAFT STALLS</b> by Punjab Tourism, Red Cross, Bag Making, Hotel Management Inst. Bathinda, Indian &amp; Chines food stalls, Verka, Markfed Sohna, Punjab Agri Export Corp., Punjab Lalit Kala Academy, SHG (Self Help Groups), Punjab Agro, Handicraft &amp; food craft institute.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>Main Event Activities: From 30th Nov- 1st Dec</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BOOK REVIEW &amp; STAND-ALONE TALKS:</b> Book review of following books:  1.<b>General's Jottings</b> by Lt Gen KJ Singh 2.<b>Requiem for a Soldier</b> by Abhishek Sanyal 3.<b>Valour &amp; Honor: Indian Army Through the Ages</b> by Editors, Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh and Maj Gen Ian Cardozo  4.<b>Flowers on a Kargil Cliff</b> by Vikram Jit Singh 5.<b>PLA's Modern Warfare</b> by Pravin Sawhney 6.<b>Military History of the Sikhs</b> from Battle of Bhangani to World War II by Authors Jashandeep Singh Kang and Col DS Cheema</li> <li>● Standalone talk on China by Sh. Praveen Sawhney was highly appreciated.</li> <li>● <b>HORSE &amp; DOG SHOW:</b> Headquarter of Western Command (Army) organized the show with the help of Army Unit of Horses and Military Dogs. The event was very popular and attracted thousands of people.</li> <li>● <b>RELEASE OF E-BOOK ON 8TH MILITARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL</b></li> <li>● <b>MILITARY STAMP DISPLAY AND PAINTING STALLS</b></li> <li>● <b>LANGAR</b></li> </ul>
6	<p>VVIP/VIP Celebrities who attended in person or through online mode during the event</p>	<p>1.Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab 2.Shri Tarunpreet Singh Sond, Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Punjab 3.General VP Malik, PVSM, AVSM (Ex Chief of Army Staff) 4.Air Marshal BS Dhanoa, PVSM, AVSM Ex Chief of Air Staff 5.Lt Gen TS Shergill, PVSM (retd) Chairman, MLF 6.Shri Manish Tewari, Hon'ble MP 7.Lt Gen Chetinder Singh, AVSM, PVSM, Vice Chairman, MLFA 8.Lt Gen Ajay Chandpuria, PVSM, AVSM, SM, GOC 2 Corps 9.Shri MS Jaggi, IAS, Secretary Tourism, Govt of Punjab 10.Ms Jyoti Malhotra, Editor in Chief, THE TRIBUNE GROUP 11.Dr Manmohan Singh, IPS 12.Mr RK Kaushik, IAS 13.Admiral Sunil Lamba (retd)</p>

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7	Any new and existing initiative of Government, including new collabs/MoUs etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Packets provided to NCC Boys &amp; Girls</li> <li>• Participation of ceremonial band of Punjab Police &amp; UT Police.</li> <li>• Participation of 3000 school children.</li> </ul>
8	Number of Total Headcount of Participants/visitors.	Total 222,950 approx.
9	Total no of Stalls	122 total throughout the event (including pre-event activities)
10	Category of Stalls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handicraft Stalls by Punjab Tourism Red</li> <li>• Cross Bag Making Hotel Management Inst.</li> <li>• Bathinda Indian &amp; Chines food stalls Verka</li> <li>• Markfed Sohna Punjab Agri Export Corp.</li> <li>• Punjab Lalit Kala Academy SHG (Self Help</li> <li>• Groups Punjab Agro Handicraft &amp; food craft</li> <li>• institute.</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

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SNo	Particulars	Details
11	List challenges faced related to pre-event planning, execution during the event and post event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>For Bike Rally:</b> Extensive fine tuning of Traffic Control of three cities i.e. Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula.</li> <li>• <b>Entry of heavy guns to lake:</b> This was carefully done from rear gate of lake.</li> <li>• Security of Military guns during night was a challenge. Armed forces personnel were deployed at night</li> </ul>
12	Suggestions for future improvement based on stakeholder feedback and event data analysis	All Elements of 2024 recommended for next edition of MLF, Chandigarh in 2025.
13	Rate Happiness Level of People Who Attended the Event (Scale 1-10)	9 out of 10



# GLIMPSES OF MILITARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL, CHANDIGARH 2024



Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Shri. Tarunpreet Singh Sond during 8th Military Literature Festival, 2025.

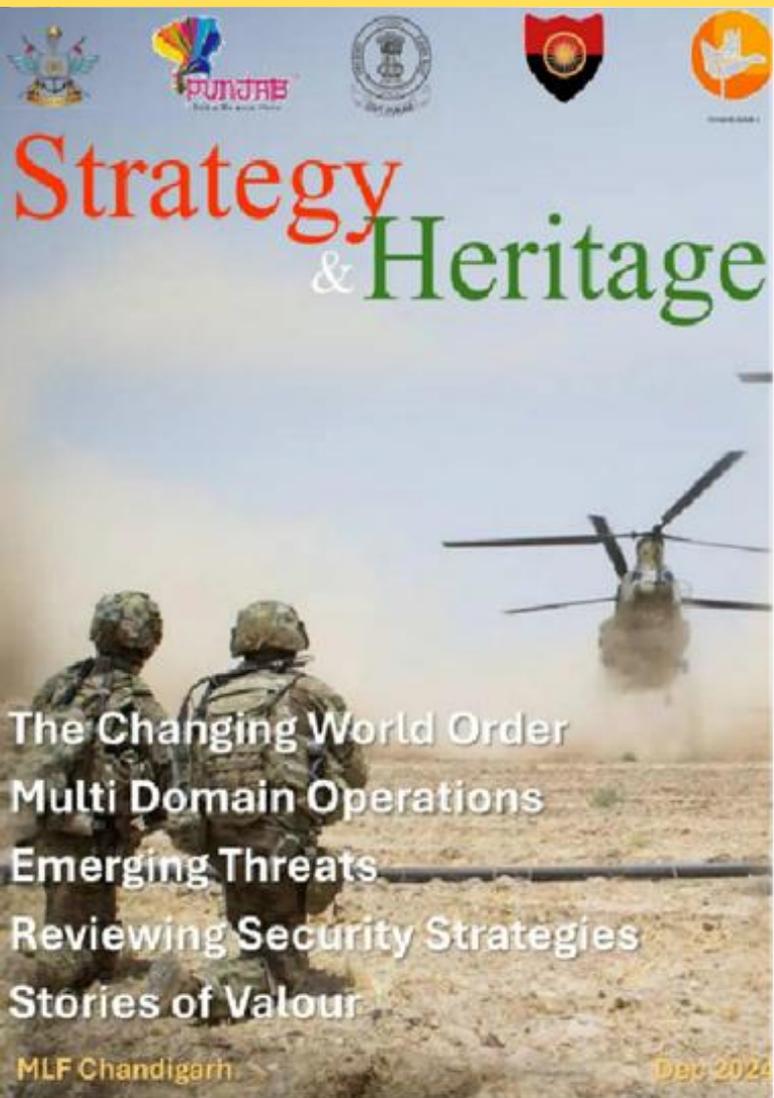


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	5	<b>The Global Pivot</b> <i>Shri Manish Tewari, Member of Parliament</i>
	10	<b>Multi Domain Operations</b> <i>Maj Gen Harvijay Singh, SM (Retd)</i>
	16	<b>Lesson for India from the Current Global Conflicts</b> <i>Lt Gen Kamal Davar PVSM, AVSM (Retd)</i>
	20	<b>The Light on the Other Side of the Disengagement Tunnel</b> <i>Maj Gen Neeraj Bafli, SM (Retd)</i>
	23	<b>Organized Chaos, The New World Order and the Cycle of Destruction and Reconstruction as an Impetus to Individual Economies</b> <i>Lt Col K Chanan (Retd)</i>
	29	<b>Current Flux in the World Order Forcing Nations to Review Security Strategies</b> <i>Brig Jasjit Singh</i>
	33	<b>Operationalizing Act East Policy Through the North East</b> <i>Lt Gen KI Singh PVSM, AVSM and Bar (Retd)</i>
	38	<b>Chinese People's Liberation Army – Western Theatre Command Role, Structure and Concept of Employment</b> <i>Maj Gen GG Dwivedi, SM, VSM and Bar (Retd)</i>
	42	<b>Man Behind the Machine Matters</b> <i>Brig Pradeep Sharma (Retd)</i>
	46	<b>New World Order in the Traditional &amp; Non-Traditional Security Threats</b> <i>Bivas Ray Choudhary</i>
	50	<b>Ten Brave Bombers of Festubert</b> <i>Maj Gen Harvijay Singh, SM (Retd)</i>
	54	<b>Maj DS Panhu: A Saga of Unmatched Devotion to Duty</b> <i>Maj Gen Jagadhir Singh, VSM (Retd)</i>
	56	<b>Is World War III On?</b> <i>Maj Gen Harvijay Singh, SM (Retd)</i>

**RFE**

# SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS



  
**PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

  
**CLARION CALL**  
Real Life War Movies

  
**MARTIAL DANCES**

  
**MILITARY STAMPS DISPLAY**  
Veer Pax. Exhibition by world famous philatelist

  
**MILITARY PAINTINGS EXHIBITION**

  
**SAMVADH**  
Face-to-face with Param Veer & Maha Veer Chakra Awardees

  
**WEAPONS DISPLAY**

  
**FOOD COURT**

REF



# ENCOURAGING YOUTH



