

## Rock Garden's foreign lovers give deft touches

Manokriti Bedi & Faguni Verma

**Chandigarh:** Chandigarh's pride Rock Garden continues to attract and inspire many from across the globe. A band of volunteers from the Netherlands and the USA is in the city to learn the art of turning waste into impressive creations and lend a helping hand to Nek Chand's kingdom.

Here to build three pillars at phase III of Rock Garden, the volunteers are working under the untutored builder and creator of the garden and hope to pass on the skill to many back home.

Michaja Langelaan, 63, a journalist from the Netherlands, says, "Once I went to Belgium and visited a museum which had about 20 sculptures made by Nek Chand. I also saw a film on him and Rock Garden which made me search more about him and his work. The search ultimately brought me here."

On working at the garden, she says,

"It is a great experience. If I get more opportunities of coming here and working on this art wonder, I will welcome them." Another volunteer Marijke Jacobs, 63, a textile artist from Amsterdam in the Netherlands, says they will motivate other artists in their country which will bring more volunteers here.

"I learned about Nek Chand and his work through Langelaan, my friend of 45 years. I am thankful to her for bringing me here. After learning this work, we can encourage artists to use waste material and make something useful out of it. Doing something of this sort requires a creative and imaginative mind," she adds.

Nek Chand says, "Once a group of foreigners approached me and told me about opening Nek Chand foundation through which volunteers from all over the world could come here and learn the work by building more pillars and sculptures."

Balish Ahuja



**GLOBAL TOUCH TO CITY LANDMARK:** A group of foreigners are building three pillars at phase III of Rock Garden under the tutelage of its creator Nek Chand