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Mohali, January 30

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**Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and Federation of Senior Citizens Association president AS Khera launch a souvenir of the federation in Mohali on Saturday. Tribune photo: Parvesh Chauhan**



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To ensure social security and safeguard the rights of elderly persons, the Punjab government will soon set up a state senior citizen council. Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal stated this at the launch of the Federation of Senior Citizens Association (FEDSEN), Punjab, during a function here today.

Badal said the council would also guide the state government to prepare a comprehensive policy for the welfare of senior citizens.

He also agreed to the proposal of the federation to depute a senior police officer of Inspector General (IG) as a nodal officer at the state level to look into the issues of senior citizens, especially related to their safety and personal security.

Similarly, DIGs would be deputed in their respective ranges and SP-level officers in districts as nodal officers to ensure personal security of older people.

The Chief Minister said Punjab was amongst few states to adopt the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 to ensure social security to senior citizens.

Also promising to create a dedicated fund of Rs 500 crore to enable the old age beneficiaries to get pension in time, he said the state government was in the process of tying up with nationalised banks for the disbursement of old age pension on their doorstep.

An assurance was given to senior citizens that they would be given due representation in district committees constituted for the implementation of various development projects and welfare schemes.

A senior citizen home would be set up in Sector 68 by GMADA.

Executive president of FEDSEN DS Grewal outlined the achievements of the federation and said over 500 members from 17 associations of 15 districts had joined the federation and soon the remaining districts would also come under its fold.

Federation members had been invited by the state government to chalk out a strategy for streamlining welfare schemes for senior citizens.

Badal unveiled the logo of FEDSEN and released its maiden souvenir dedicated to founder chairman of the Punjab State Senior Citizens' Association and former Chief Secretary PS Vaishnav. He also announced a grant of Rs 10 lakh for the federation.

Senior officials of the state government attended the function.