

Delegates discuss Indo-Canadian cooperation

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 17

A two-day seminar on "Cooperative development, peace and security: Indo-Canadian cooperation" was organised as part of activities of the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) to promote connectivity between India and other friendly countries, on the CRRID premises here today. The seminar was organised in collaboration with the University of Fraser Valley, Canada.

It was inaugurated by Vikas Pratap, NRI Commissioner, Punjab Government, who spoke on the need of cooperation between India and Canada in the field of development skills and food technology.

Earlier, Rashpal Malhotra, Executive Vice-Chairman, CRRID, welcomed the delegates, while Dr DJ Sandhu and Ambassador Paramjit Sahai (retd) gave background of the seminar, highlighting the importance of promoting connectivity between India and Canada.

The first two sessions were devoted to international organised crime. Speakers gave different views and perceptions based on their own experiences and research. One view was that there was no need to overplay the myth-



Delegates attend a seminar on "Cooperative development, peace and security: Indo-Canadian cooperation" at CRRID, Sector 19, Chandigarh, on Thursday.

A Tribune photograph

ical link between organised international crime and terrorism. On the other hand, the experience was that there was a linkage between organised crime and terrorism.

The experts spoke on the timely handling of the problem, as neglect and inadequate understanding had given strength to miscreants. Another perspective dwelled on whether a democratic polity suited to handle organised and terrorism? All

speakers highlighted the need for international cooperation in fighting the menace of organised crime and terrorism. It was, however, agreed that any lasting success would have to be through winning the hearts and minds of the people.

In the afternoon session, discussion focused on food security, food diversification, sustainable rural development (both in Canada and India). The emphasis was on

ensuring human security through adequate facilities in the field of health and education in Punjab. Similarly, for food diversification, remunerative prices for diversifying crops had to be assured along with appropriate technology ensuring high yield. Speakers were of the view that cooperation between the two countries in the areas of agriculture, health, education, small and medium industries would be a way forward.