



**Bund Schweizer Architekten
Fédération des Architectes Suisses
Federazione Architetti Svizzeri**

Press release

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The Federation of Swiss Architects speaks in favor of the preservation of *Hall of Nations*

It is with concern that the Federation of Swiss Architects (FSA) has learned about the impending demolition of the *Hall of Nations*, the *Halls of Industries* and the *Nehru Pavilion*. These three structures situated at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi are part of India's cultural heritage: Their importance reaches far beyond the limits of India and therefore they have to be preserved for present and future generations.

The *Hall of Nations*, the *Halls of Industries* and the *Nehru Pavilion* are unique witnesses of Indian architecture of all periods: They capture the **euphoric mood of the young nation** in the decades following independence; they reflect **optimism and a hopeful outlook into the future**.

The *Hall of Nations* was the **world's first concrete space-frame** and continues to be the largest of its kind until today; the precise planning by the structural engineer **Mahendra Raj** and the architect **Raj Rewal** as well as the manual execution of the structure by innumerable construction workers are **unparalleled achievements in the field of engineering**. All the structures named above even today are captivating in their striking spatial strength and their conceptual simplicity.

Preservation of built heritage is one of the central concerns of the Swiss Federation of Architects, which reflects in its numerous commitments on a national and international level. The organisation represents more than 900 members who delivered remarkable achievements in the fields of architecture, urbanism and spatial planning.

In perspective of their **extraordinary relevance** the FSA explicitly and urgently recommends the preservation of the *Hall of Nations*, the *Halls of Industries* and the *Nehru Pavilion*.

For the Federation of Swiss Architects

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