



Surajkund
International
Crafts Mela

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SURAJKUND

INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS MELA



Incredible India
असंख्य मित्र
with the dove blown

HARYANA
TOURISM
Come, holiday with us!

Surajkund
Mela Authority

Cisay
India, the land of culture



A fair to remember

The Surajkund International Crafts Mela is more than an exhibition—it is an experience that lingers in memory. Whether you're indulging in authentic crafts, being mesmerized by folk performances, or savoring global flavors, every moment at Surajkund is an invitation to step into a world of colors, creativity, and culture. So, come and be part of this grand celebration—where the world meets at one place, and every corner tells a story waiting to be explored!



Languishing crafts finds a patron

Traditional or folk art is a reflection of the history and cultural roots of a society. But with time such art and craft has lost its glory and simplicity against the fast pace of the modern world. Across India, traditional folk art and culture face the threat of extinction. Lifestyle changes have deprived the folk art forms of their context, traditional promoters and audience. Surajkund International Crafts Mela aims to revive and revitalize such vanishing art forms as a means of sustainable livelihood by bringing such artisans to limelight. This very foundation and the purpose of Surajkund International Crafts Mela makes it stand apart from the other art and culture fairs. It offers an enlightening interface between the visitors and the practitioners of languishing crafts. As the patron of these fading art and crafts, the mela goes many steps ahead to bring visitors from all generations close to these craftpersons.



Not only handicrafts but performing arts too take centre stage here at mela. The cultural troupes present distinct dance and folk traditions depicting the culture of the states or the region to which they belong. The artists are enthused by the electrifying ambience at the chaupal (Performance area) and give the event a dash of musical flair. At the open air theater or the 'Natyashala' folk dances and musical evenings are held throughout the fortnight. Performers from both India as well as participating foreign nations enthrall the audience with ethnic and traditional flavours of their native land. It is a musical and visual treat for those who long to be soaked in tradition and folk art. The cultural evenings are the food of this grand event. Many popular and celebrated artists grace the chaupal and present their unique talent for the audience. From ghazals, classical vocals like thumri to rags, there is a potpourri of classical music from across the nation.







Theme states

Madhya Pradesh & Odisha – A Tale of Two Cultures

The heart of India beats through Madhya Pradesh, while the soul of Odisha resonates with timeless traditions. This year, both states come together to take visitors on a journey through their art, folklore, and cultural grandeur.

Madhya Pradesh: The Land of Timeless Traditions

Steeped in history, Madhya Pradesh is a land where Gond paintings narrate age-old folklore, Maheshwari sarees weave tales of elegance, and tribal metalwork reflects the raw beauty of nature. The state's artisans bring a stunning array of crafts—Dhokra brass figurines, Chanderi silk drapes, Bagh block prints, and intricate stone carvings. The performances are equally mesmerizing, with the energetic Matki dance, the hypnotic Tertali, and the soul-stirring Pandavani storytelling captivating audiences.

Odisha: The Canvas of Divine Art

Odisha, the land of the majestic Jagannath Temple, is famed for its Pattachitra paintings, Sambalpuri weaves, and filigree silverwork. At Surajkund, visitors will witness Odisha's shadow puppetry, Gotipua classical dance (the precursor to Odissi), and the warrior dance, Paika Nrutya. The traditional arts of stone carving, applique work, and palm-leaf etching transport visitors into a world of divine artistry.

The aroma of Dalma, Chhena Poda, Rasogola and Pakhala Bhata fills the air, offering a gastronomic delight unique to Odisha's culinary heritage.



Partner Nations:

A World of Creativity at Surajkund

The Surajkund International Crafts Mela has long been a confluence of cultures, where art, tradition, and craftsmanship from around the world come alive. Since 2009, when Egypt was introduced as the first focus nation, this vibrant festival has evolved into a truly global spectacle. The transformation was marked in 2012 with Thailand becoming the first partner nation, cementing Mela's international appeal.



Over the years, the Mela has welcomed artisans, performers, and culinary experts from across Southeast Asia, Africa, Central Asia, and even New Zealand, turning this grand event into a mosaic of world cultures. The partner nations bring their finest craftsmanship—intricate weaves, delicate ceramics, vibrant paintings, and ornate metalwork, showcasing the beauty of their heritage.

Each year, folk artists mesmerize the audience with their traditional songs and dances, narrating tales from lands far and wide. The Mela also boasts a spectacular culinary fiesta, where master chefs from partner nations present an exquisite spread of authentic delicacies, tantalizing the taste buds of food lovers.



BIMSTEC

The Spirit of Regional Unity

This year, BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) takes center stage as the Partner Nation, bringing together the artistic essence of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The participation of these nations is a celebration of shared history, cultural richness, and artistic brilliance.



From the intricate Dokka metal craft of Nepal to the handwoven Jamdani textiles of Bangladesh, from Sri Lanka's elegant batik prints to Thailand's delicate Benjarong ceramics, each country showcases its legacy through its artistic treasures. Myanmar's lacquerware, Bhutan's Thangka paintings, and India's myriad folk traditions add to the grandeur, creating a living museum of heritage. Visitors can also savor BIMSTEC's diverse culinary flavors, from Bhutanese Ema Datshi to Burmese Mohinga and Thai Satay, each dish an explosion of taste and tradition.



Music & Dance

A Celebration of Rhythm & Melody

Surajkund is not just about crafts—it is a melting pot of melodies. The open-air theater, Natyashala, pulsates with the rhythm of folk dances, soulful ballads, and electrifying musical performances. This year, Baiga and Rai dance from Madhya Pradesh will blend with Odisha's Odissi and Ghumura, creating a spellbinding fusion of movements and stories. The evenings at Chaupal are filled with the enchanting strains of Ghazals, Thumris, and Ragas, as celebrated artists take the stage to weave magic through music. The festival is a living testament to India's cultural heritage, where visitors can immerse themselves in an unforgettable symphony of sound and movement.







Apna ghar :The Soul of Haryana

Adding to the authentic experience, Apna Ghar, a traditional Haryanvi home, welcomes visitors into the rustic charm of Haryana. Mud walls adorned with folk motifs, charpais in open verandas, and artisans crafting earthenware, rugs, and metal artifacts transport visitors into a bygone era. It is a space where guests can interact with craftsmen, learn about their traditions, and witness the beauty of handcrafted heritage.



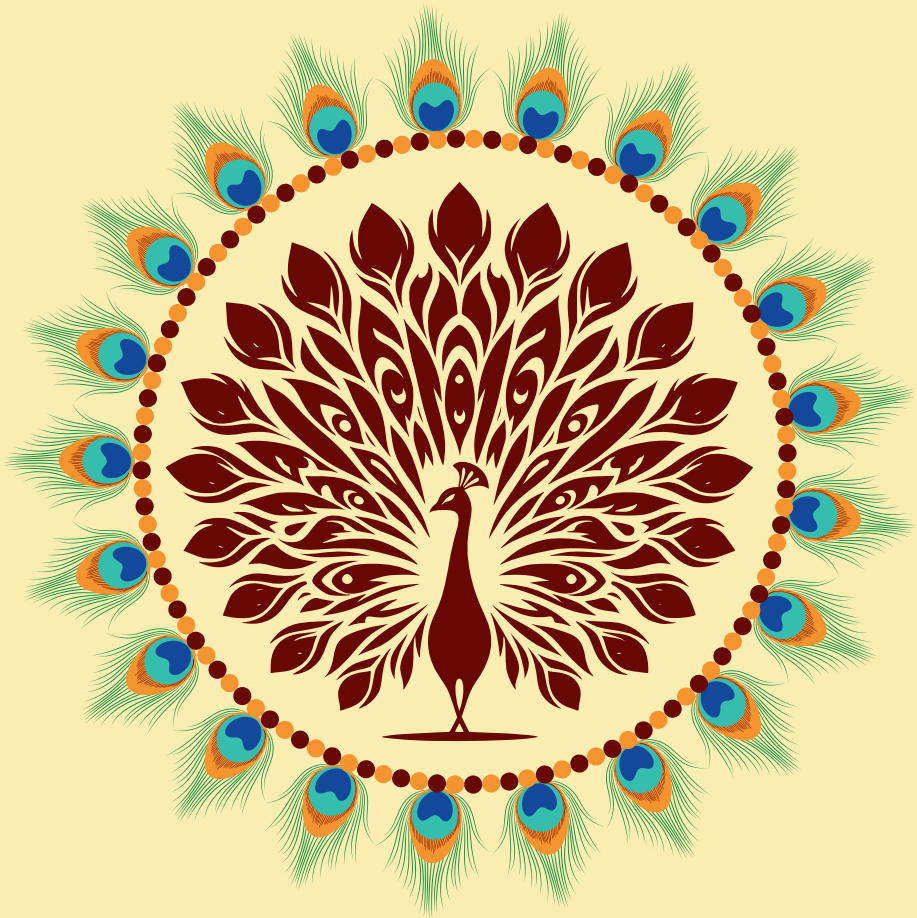
Evening carnivals





Road connectivity







Surajkund International Crafts Mela

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