



Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurates 39th Surajkund International Atmanirbhar Crafts Mela in Faridabad

Artisans are custodians of India's civilisational heritage: Vice-President at Surajkund Mela

Surajkund Mela reflects India's cultural soul and Atmanirbhar spirit: Vice-President

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The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today inaugurated the 39th Surajkund International Atmanirbhar Crafts Mela at Faridabad, Haryana. The internationally acclaimed fair brings together artisans, craftspeople and cultural practitioners from India and abroad, celebrating the country's rich artistic heritage and the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the 39th edition of the Surajkund International Aatmanirbhar Crafts Mela-2026 at Surajkund, Faridabad, Haryana, today.

The crafts fair is being held from 31 January to 15 February 2026 and showcases the finest traditions of... pic.twitter.com/V7IUajks4K

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) January 31, 2026

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-President said that the Surajkund Mela has, over the past four decades, emerged as a living symbol of India's cultural soul, artistic excellence and civilisational continuity. With participation from more than 30 countries, the Mela truly reflects India's timeless philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family.

Addressing the gathering at the 39th Surajkund International Aatmanirbhar Crafts Mela in Faridabad, Haryana, Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan said that artisans are the custodians of India's civilisational heritage, and that the Surajkund Mela reflects the nation's... pic.twitter.com/ZHvNkrhBLF

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) January 31, 2026

The Vice-President noted that the focus on Atmanirbhar Bharat adds deeper meaning to the event, as artisans are the custodians of centuries-old knowledge and traditions. Empowering them, he said, is

essential for building an inclusive, sustainable and self-reliant economy. He highlighted that initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana are strengthening the handicrafts ecosystem through skill development, market access and economic support.

Referring to the theme States—Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya—the Vice-President said that the two States beautifully showcase India's unity in diversity. While Uttar Pradesh reflects a legacy of refined craftsmanship across textiles, metalwork and embroidery, Meghalaya's indigenous crafts exemplify sustainability, harmony with nature and community-based traditions, together embodying the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

The Vice-President also warmly welcomed Egypt, the partner country for this year's Mela, and said that Egypt's ancient civilisation, artistic traditions and cultural depth resonate strongly with India's own historical journey. He earlier visited the Egypt Pavilion and appreciated the country's rich traditions and artistic excellence, underscoring the role of cultural diplomacy in strengthening people-to-people ties.

Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan visited the pavilions at the Surajkund International Atmanirbhar Crafts Mela. pic.twitter.com/ycLB0xQvGz

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) January 31, 2026

During the event, the Vice-President appreciated the vibrant cultural performances presented on the theme of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, which highlighted India's pluralistic ethos and cultural harmony. He also launched the Mela Saathi Mobile App, aimed at enhancing visitor experience and providing easy access to information related to the fair.

Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan witnessed the vibrant Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat cultural performances at the Surajkund International Atmanirbhar Crafts Mela and lauded the artistes for their captivating presentation, reflecting India's rich cultural diversity. pic.twitter.com/6ojFqVQIQ3

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) January 31, 2026

The Vice-President commended the Surajkund Mela Authority, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Textiles, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Government of Haryana for their sustained efforts in organising the Mela. He urged visitors to support artisans directly and carry forward India's living heritage.

Those present on the occasion included Haryana Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini; Union Minister of State for Cooperation Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar; Haryana Ministers Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, Shri Vipul Goel, Shri Rajesh Nagar and Shri Gaurav Gautam; Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt Kamel Zayed Galal; Members of Haryana Legislative Assembly, and other dignitaries

PR/ASM

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