

Divyangjan Will Be a Decisive Force in Making India the World's Third-Largest Economy” — Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

Posted On: 22 FEB 2026 6:26PM by PIB Delhi

“Divya Kala Mela is not merely an event, but a powerful platform of inspiration and enthusiasm that underscores the decisive role of Divyangjan in making India the world’s third-largest economy.” These were the words of the Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt. General Shri Gurmit Singh, at the grand inauguration of the 30th Divya Kala Mela at Rangers Ground, Dehradun. He remarked that the creativity displayed at the Mela is not just art, but a living expression of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.



The Governor highlighted artificial intelligence and technological innovations as bridges to new opportunities for persons with disabilities, emphasizing that technology does not discriminate. He called for products created at the Mela to reach global markets, giving divine talent international recognition. According to him, with determination and capability, Divyangjan can achieve excellence in any field.

The Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri. B. L. Verma, stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and various welfare schemes have created a strong foundation for integrating Divyangjan into the mainstream. He informed that ₹375 crore has been allocated in the current budget through Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India for the purchase and fitting of assistive devices, directly benefiting a large number of individuals.



The MP of Tehri Ms. Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah described Divya Kala Mela as more than just an event, calling it a catalyst for social transformation. She appreciated the efforts of the Government of India and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in giving national recognition to such initiatives and bringing them to Uttarakhand. Referring to India's achievements in the Paralympics, she said talent knows no boundaries.

The MLA Shri Khajan Das termed the Mela a commendable initiative that provides dignity and opportunity to Divyangjan, stating that such platforms send a positive message across society and elevate confidence to new heights.



In his welcome address, Shri Pradeep A., Director, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), said that the Mela is a comprehensive effort to connect Divyang entrepreneurs with markets, finance, and employment opportunities. He added that assistive device registrations, institutional awareness stalls, and job fairs are being organized to strengthen empowerment initiatives.

The 30th edition of Divya Kala Mela in Dehradun marks an important milestone in the nationwide series of such events. So far, 29 Melas held across the country have seen participation from around 2,362 individuals, generating business worth over ₹23 crore. The government has sanctioned loans exceeding ₹20 crore to encourage Divyang entrepreneurs, reaffirming its commitment to economic empowerment. Additionally, employment fairs have witnessed participation from approximately 3,131 candidates, with 1,007 shortlisted and more than 313 receiving job offers.



The nine-day Mela in Dehradun features around 90 stalls, with participation from over 100 Divyang artisans, artists, and entrepreneurs representing 16 States and Union Territories. Visitors can explore handicrafts, handloom products, embroidery, home décor, garments, organic food items, jewellery, toys, and gift articles. A special job fair will be held on 26 February 2026, while the grand cultural programme “Divya Kala Shakti” will take place on 1 March 2026, showcasing the extraordinary talent of Divyang artists.

Organised from 21 February to 1 March, daily from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM, the Mela offers free entry to all. With vibrant cultural performances, sports activities, and assistive device registration facilities, Divya Kala Mela stands as an inclusive and inspiring platform—where art becomes a pathway to dignity, empowerment, and self-reliance.

KV/HK

(Release ID: 2231515) Visitor Counter : 217
Read this release in: हिन्दी , Urdu , Tamil