

# Desi flavour drawing more crowds

By Express News Service - KOCHI

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Photos



An array of home-made products on display at the ongoing Swadeshi Festival at Gandhi Bhavan in Kacheripady | Express

The Swadeshi Festival organised by the Gandhi Centre for Rural Development at Gandhi Bhavan, Kacheripady, is drawing crowds with the home-made product stalls being much sought-after.

Five training programmes are being held in home-made product making. Seminars are being held on issues such as anti-plastic campaign, on Swadeshi and sustainable development, Swadeshi, an alternative to globalisation in the coming days.

A training in jewellery making has been completed, and training in soap making is going on.

Jacob Pulickan, Director of Gandhi Centre for Rural Development, not only undertakes training in soap making but also make people aware of its quality of TFM (Total Fatty Matter). There are different grades for soap. Most of the soaps in the market have the grade3. Consumer product making, paper bag making, umbrella making are the other training programmes to be held.

About 50 people are participating in the training programme.

The home-made products are a big hit as they are not available in the market. The products are made from natural fruits and materials, that are usually wasted - jack fruit tonic, nutmeg tonic, irumpan puli squash, ginger squash, mint squash and passion fruit squash are in demand, said sources.

All the products are made by people trained at the Swadeshi seminars. While the market sells hair tonics at Rs 250 the hair tonics at the festival cost Rs 50.

The festival aims to bring about 'an alternative to globalisation'. There is a 'Badal' for everything, said Vinuraj coordinator. The festival will conclude on October 31 and Mayor Tony Chammany will inaugurate the valedictory function.