

Swadeshi Festival in full swing -INDIAN EXPRESS

KOCHI: Gandhi Bhavan is organising a 10-day programme as a part of its Swadeshi Festival. The festival will be officially inaugurated by MLAs Hibi Eden, V D Satheeshan and Dominic Presentation on Saturday. A wide range of activities will be organised as part of the festival. The handicrafts exhibition is one of the major attractions. The purpose of this exhibition is to promote talented people and their work by providing them with a platform, said Viniraj, coordinator of Gandhi Centre for Rural Development (GCRD). The three-day workshop on food processing, jewellery-making, soap-making, and umbrella-making has already started. "Most of them aim to make useful things out of leftovers and other waste materials and I am happy to be part of it," said Rekha, who came to attend the class. Seminars for in-depth understanding of Gandhian philosophy also will be held at the workshop. "The motto of Swadeshi Festival is not to fight globalisation but to outlive it. Most of the present generation have lost interest in protecting our cultural values," said Jacob Pulikan, director of GCRD. Gandhi Bhavan was founded in 1998 under the Gandhian Studies unit of Kerala University and has reached the present status mainly through its students. It aims at spreading Gandhian thoughts of self-reliance and freedom through simple methods and practices. The festival will end on June 12.