



37th Surajkund International Crafts Fair

Why in News?

At the 37th Surajkund International Crafts Fair, the 182-meter-tall replica of the [Statue of Unity](#), situated on Sadhu Bet Island in Gujarat, remained the center of attraction for the tourists.

Key Points

- The Statue of Unity, crafted by sculptor **Ram V Sutar** and unveiled to the public in 2018, serves as a prominent tourist destination.
 - Through this grand sculpture, the pivotal role of [Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel](#) in political integration is vividly portrayed.
- Tourists were also drawn to the stalls of **Dhordo**, acclaimed as the **premier tourist village of Gujarat**.
 - During the fair, visitors eagerly captured moments with the renowned Garba dance showcased at the village's stall, highlighting Gujarat's vibrant culture.
- [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#)'s **recognition of Garba** as a vital **cultural symbol** underscores its importance in **Gujarat's heritage**. This esteemed honor further emphasizes Garba's role in fostering social inclusion and unity, particularly during the **nine-day Navratri festival**.

Gujarat's Dhordo - Best Tourism Village

- Dhordo has been conferred the prestigious title of **Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)**. Dhordo received this title at the Best Tourism Village - 2023 award ceremony organized by the UNWTO **at Samarkand in Uzbekistan**.
- The village has become a popular tourist destination due to its rich cultural heritage, handicrafts, and the famous **Rann Utsav**.
- The UNWTO awards the title of "**Best Tourism Village**" to villages that meet certain criteria.
 - The criteria include promoting **sustainable tourism, preserving local culture and heritage, providing a safe and welcoming environment for tourists, and offering unique experiences to visitors**.
 - Additionally, the village must have a **well-developed tourism infrastructure** and must be able to demonstrate its commitment to responsible tourism practices.

The Statue of Unity

- It is the **tallest statue in the world**. At 182 meters, it is 23 meters taller than **China's Spring Temple Buddha statue** and almost double the height of the **Statue of Liberty** (93 meters tall) in the US.
- In January 2020, it was added to the **'Eight Wonders' of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.

