



34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela

Why in News

The President of India inaugurated the **34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela** in Surajkund, Haryana on February 1, 2020.

- The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.

Key Points

- The Surajkund Mela is unique as it showcases the richness and diversity of the handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric of India, & is the **largest crafts fair in the world**.
- The Mela was **initiated in 1987** to promote the pool of skilled artisans, who used indigenous technology, but were suffering due to the cheaper machine-made imitations.
 - The fair was upgraded to an international level in **2013**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** is the '**Theme State**' and **Uzbekistan** is the '**Partner Nation**' for the Year 2020.
 - **A record number of 20 countries participated** in the Mela in **2015** when **Lebanon** was the **partner nation** and **Chhattisgarh** was the **theme state**.
 - Every year, each theme state constructs a replica of one of the most popular monuments of its state to be displayed as a Commemorative Structure in the Mela Grounds.
- **England** will participate for the **first time** in the Surajkund mela.

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