

Hunar Haat draws craft connoisseurs

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LUCKNOW: The Nawabi tehzeeb of Lucknow gets mixed with the culture of different states and Union territories of the country in the 10-day Hunar Haat at Awadh Vihar.

About 600 artisans are displaying their handmade products at about 300 stalls which drew a huge crowd on Saturday. The fair will continue till November 21.

The massive entrance with the selfie point demarking the name of the fest in hashtags, dhols and Rajasthani puppet dancers collaboratively worked to give an appropriate ambience to the fest. The Vishwakarma park which was decorated with a massive idol of Lord Vishwakarma as a centre piece highlighted the main incidents from the story of independence.

For many of the city folks it felt like a picnic with their families where

children ran all over the Haat playfully. The youngsters were engaged in posing for selfies and photographs while the others were fascinated by the beauty of the handicrafts.

Ritika Chaturvedi, who visited the Haat with her kids along with a few of her friends and their kids, said, "We brought our kids to the Haat so that we can inform them about the traditional art works of our country. After the entire pandemic this is the first time we all managed to plan out a picnic for the kids."

People were also busy with their cameras posing with different items. One among them was Manisha Sahay, who said, "The Vishwakarma Vatika that showcases aazadi ka amrit mahotsava was the best part of the Haat for me. I could pose for pictures for my social media. I also bought Handcrafted dupatta, vase and paper flowers. I also witnessed the charm or charkha by posing with it."

Nisha Pandey, a shopaholic, said, "I have been looking forward to this fest for about a year. I really loved the products which I purchased last year. This year the work of brass seems really incredible." Ashish Lama, who recently shifted from west Bengal said, "My wife and I found really interesting stuff like the handcraft furniture. The massive wheels and the wood carved mirrors were the best." Arun Sarkar, a seller said, "I have brought hand embroidered and needle works sarees from Tripura."

Kolla Subhash, who had a stall on incense sticks and ittars, attracted people from all walks of life. "We have a wide variety of incense sticks which have no chemicals. Instead, they are made with natural things. Some special variants include Rudraksha. We also offer customised ittars at a very economical price."