

'India proud of 2,000-yr-old craft heritage'

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Everyone has the right to access and enjoy their cultural heritage....After all, cultural heritage is not just what is cast in stone, it is also the traditions, customs and festivals that are handed down the generations," he said. Highlighting the potential of culture to unite, the PM said the work of the G20 Culture Ministers Group holds immense significance for entire humanity. He also underscored the significance of Varanasi, his parliamentary constituency, as a treasure chest of knowledge, duty and truth, but as cultural and spiritual capital of India, and expressed confidence that efforts made by the culture working group will foster sustainable practices and lifestyles, furthering India's goal of development and heritage — 'Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi'.

"India takes pride in its 2,000-year-old craft heritage, with nearly 3,000 unique arts and crafts", Modi said, highlighting the 'One District, One Product' initiative showcasing the uniqueness of Indian crafts while fostering self-reliance.

He said efforts of G20 nations toward promoting cultural and creative industries hold profound significance as they will facilitate inclusive economic development and support creativity and innovation, announcing that India will roll out the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, with an initial outlay of \$ 1.8 billion, to create an ecosystem of support for traditional artisans and to enable them to flourish in their crafts and contribute to the preservation of India's rich cultural heritage. "We are very proud of our diverse culture. We also attach great value to our intangible cultural heritage," he said, adding that India has been working hard to preserve its heritage sites.