

India opens its art to the world

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New Delhi: Surrounded by her traditional Madhubani masterpieces at the venue of the G20 summit on Friday, Shanti Devi had a brainwave. She started a painting of Chandrayaan-3 with an Isro scientist and “*chanda mama*” in the frame.

“*Jab Modi-ji ayenge kal ya parson, unko kuch alag, kuch special dene ka maan tha. Abhi ye idea aaya* (wanted to give a special gift to the PM and have just thought of this),” Devi, who has come from Bihar’s Lehariaganj, told **TOI**.

While Devi hopes to complete the work before dignitaries visit the Crafts Bazaar at Pragati Maidan, Maji Khan Mutva — sitting next to her — has two special gifts ready, one for PM Modi and another for US President Joe Biden. A mud glass artist from Kutch in Gujarat, Mutva has prepared nameplates of the two leaders



CRAFTS BAZAAR: (From left) Shanti Devi, Maji Khan Mutva and Avaz Mohammed

in traditional art form.

“*Talaab ki kutchchi mitti se 350 saal se ye clay art work banta aaya hai.* (clay from lakebeds has been used for the last 350 years to make this artwork). I am very happy out arts and crafts have got such a platform from where the world can know about them,” Mutva said.

For 1947-born Avaz Mohammed, a lac bangle maker from Jaipur, being here is “bigger than the biggest award” he has received so far.

Similar stories abound at the various stalls at the Bazaar

where world leaders will get to witness India’s soft power of warm hospitality, exceptional cuisines and art forms. While most states are represented here, the focus is on northeast India. Basanta Singh is here from Manipur to showcase his tribal scarves and ‘leirum lengyn’ (type of scarf).

The leaders and delegates will also get to witness tribal life and culture at the Bazaar. From live demonstration of Pithora art of the Rathwa, Bhilala, Naik and Bhil tribes by Padma Shri awardee Paresh

Rathwa to exquisite pashmina shawls woven by tribal communities living in the high altitudes of Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh and the aromatic coffee from Araku valley brought all the way from down south, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation’s stall is all set to present to the delegates the story of India’s tribal traditions. The ‘Tribes India’ stall by TRIFED under the ministry of tribal affairs is showcasing a range of tribal art, artefacts, paintings, pottery and textiles.