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### 'Swadeshi festival' begins

Staff Reporter

Minister for Devaswoms and Transport V.S. Sivakumar said here on Saturday that the relevance of Swadeshi products, championed by Mahatma Gandhi, was increasing by the day.

He was inaugurating a nine-day 'Swadeshi festival' jointly organised by the Gandhi Centre for Rural Development and Kerala Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi at Gandhi Bhavan.

Mr. Sivakumar said Swadeshi was Gandhiji's gift to our country to help India attain economic independence. The State government would initiate measures to strengthen small-scale industries and entrepreneurs involved in the production of Swadeshi and ethnic products, he said.

Kerala Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi working chairman N. Radhakrishnan presided over the function. Gandhi Centre for Rural Development director Jacob Pulikkan, Smaraka Nidhi secretary V. Ramadas and joint secretary M. Sivasankaran Nair were also present at the function.

Apart from an exhibition of indigenous products, the Swadeshi fete will also include seminars and training classes on the production of Swadeshi products and handicrafts.

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