

# **Indigenous products on display at Swadeshi fete**

**-Special Correspondent**

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An 11-day Swadeshi festival, featuring an array of indigenous products, and training programmes for promoting the production and use of Swadeshi products, began here on Monday.

The festival being organised by the Gandhi Centre for Rural Development (GCRD) in association with the Payyannur Yuva Vikas Kendra was inaugurated by Agriculture Minister K.P. Mohanan at the Mahatma Mandiram here.

The festival includes exhibition of home-made products, training programmes, and seminars on various aspects of Swadeshi philosophy.

Apart from food products, including squash, syrup, jam and so on, soap products, liquid soap, hair oil, shampoo, incense sticks, candles, and herbal and Ayurvedic items are available.

According to the organisers, the festival is organised with the aim of popularising the Swadeshi concept, which would help people escape economic dependence on external market forces and assist rural community to attain economic self-reliance. The exhibition of the products is also meant to give first-hand information to the people of the Swadeshi philosophy, they said.

The major attraction of the festival is training programmes in the manufacture of consumer products. Training will be imparted in jewellery making (December 12-14);

soap making (December 15-17); fabric and glass painting (December 18-20); and consumer products making (December 21 and 22).



**Swadeshi Festival**