



*Eswatini team with India's officials upon arrival at the 38th Surajkund Crafts Mela Festival .*

## Eswatini raising flag in India

**BY SIPHOSETHU DLAMINI**  
*Mbabane*

**ESWATINI'S cultural troupe is raising the country's flag at the 38th Surajkund Crafts Mela Festival in India.**

The festival started on February 7 and will end on February 23, 2025.

The troupe consisting of nine members is led by Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture (ENCAC) Culture

Manager Thembekile Dlamini. They are adapting well and have already started showcasing Eswatini's culture. Dlamini the 38th Surajkund Crafts Mela Festival.

### **Showcasing**

"This is a cultural exchange programme, with several countries from around the world showcasing their various cultural dances and handicrafts.

Our team includes one artist, Nothando Dlamini, along with a nine-member cultural troupe.

"On our first day, we performed for

students from different schools at the school's arts festival stage and are looking forward to performing in more events," she said.

The Surajkund Mela is renowned for its grand scale, featuring over 1 000 stalls, displaying a variety of handicrafts, textiles, and cultural artefacts. The fairgrounds are organised into sections representing different Indian states, allowing visitors to explore diverse art forms from across the country.

Each year, a theme state is selected to highlight the cultural and artistic heritage of a specific region and this year's theme is Rajasthan