Organisers point out that this has been organised to give locals a feel of the rich culture during this holy period.

Madhubani paintings in Kovai to spread positivity.

Even as dusk set behind the Siruvani hills of the Western Ghats on Thursday, Renam Kumar Mishra from Bihar is busy painting intricate little faces of men and women who adorn a large canvas where he is creating a Madhubani painting of ‘Krishna Leela’. The tiny stall with a thatched roof where he works, is full of colourful artwork, popularly known as Madhubani paintings, an art form popular in the Mithila region of Bihar. This will be part of a handcrafts expo called ‘Hands of Grace’ held at the Isha Foundation here between October 9-13.

“Traditionally, these paintings were created by women using natural vegetable colours and painted on the walls of huts as it is believed to have a positive effect on the residents. My family has practised this art for generations and I am making commercial art work to spread Madhubani paintings across India,” says Renam Kumar.

The Madhubani painting stall is among the 50 stalls set up at the Hands of Grace Expo 2013 where art and craft from across India including wood craftsmen from Kashmir to weavers of ethnic handloom clothing in Kerala have been showcased as part of the Navaratri celebrations here. Besides displaying their art work, the artisans present here are more than willing to share the history and cultural background of their art and craft. Organisers of the event point out that this confluence of artisans from across the country under one roof is unique in the Kovai region and has been organised to give locals a feel of the rich culture of the country during this holy period.

Volunteers at the Isha Foundation say that they intend to conduct this expo every year during the Navaratri celebrations and bring diverse art forms to Kovai.

DC Correspondent
COMBATORE, OCT, 10

Mohan Kumar Verma from Mathura in UP displaying a Sanjhri paper cutting of Radha Krishna at the hands of grace crafts expo held in city on Wednesday.