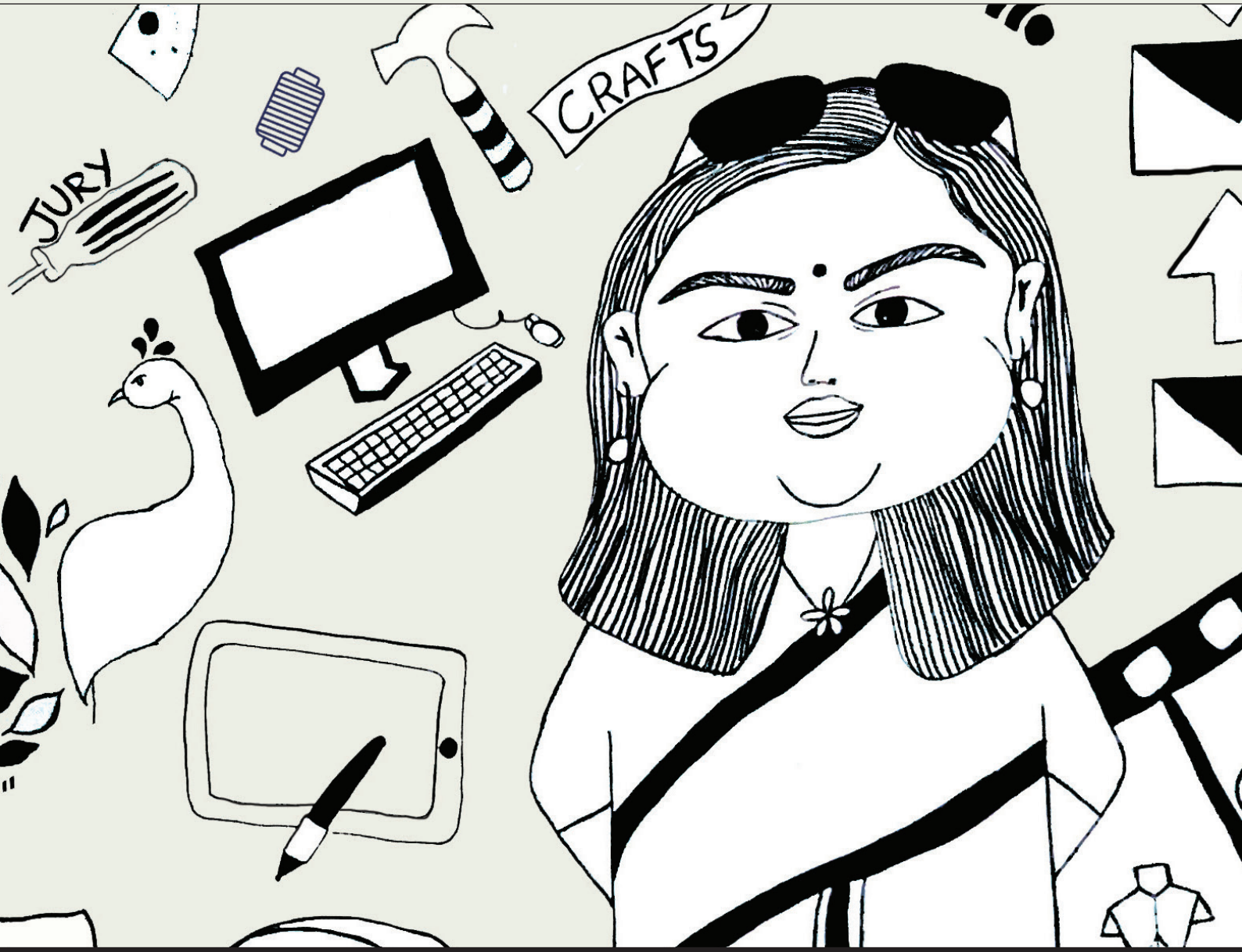




भारतीय शिल्प संस्थान
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CRAFTS & DESIGN, JAIPUR

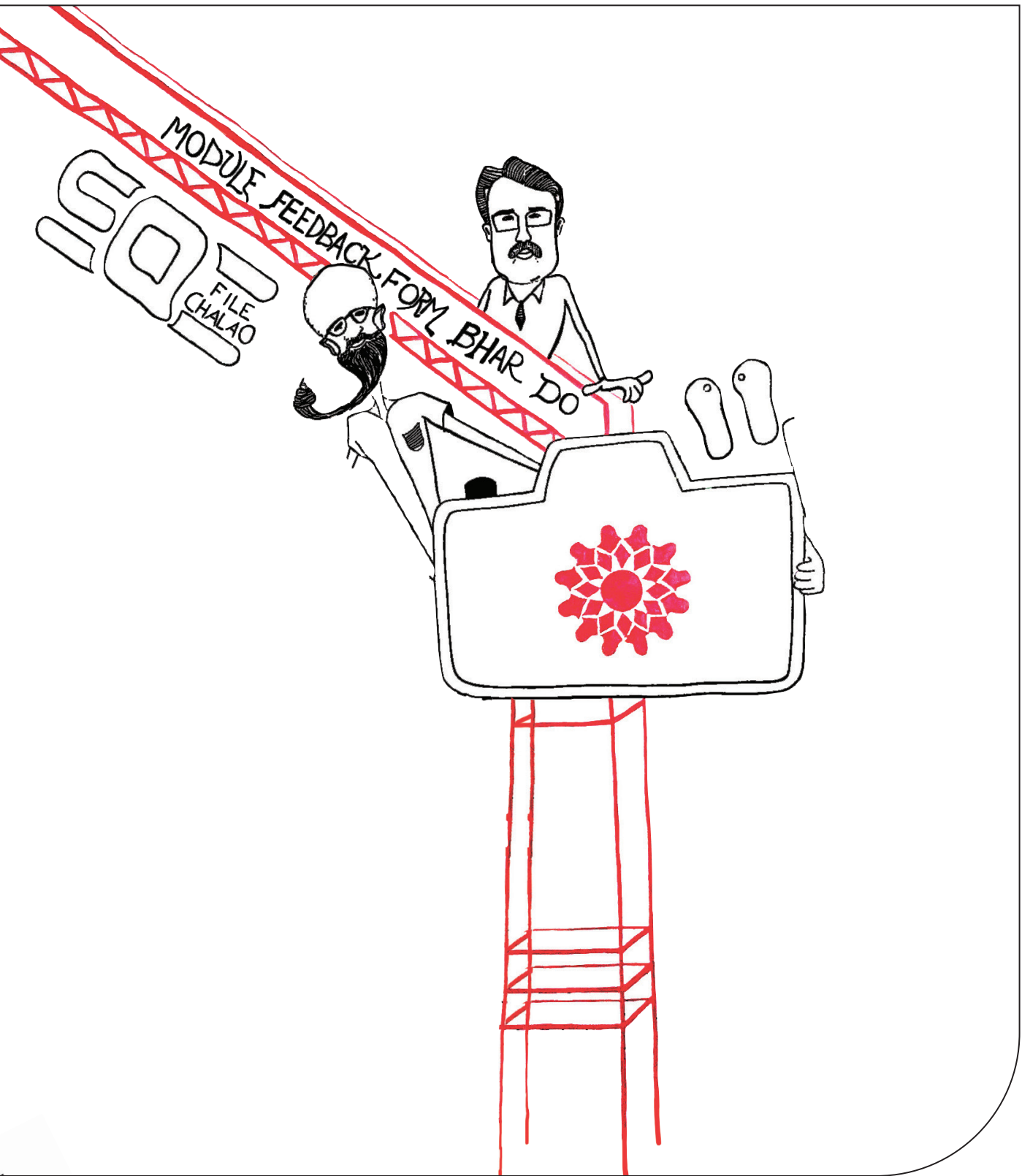


NEWSLETTER

July-September 2025

Celebrating Excellence · Learning · Culture · Community





Director's Message

At the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, learning is rooted in tradition while continuously engaging with the present and the future. Over the past months, the institute has witnessed a vibrant confluence of academic inquiry, cultural engagement, and collective celebration—each reflecting our commitment to nurturing design education grounded in India's rich craft heritage.

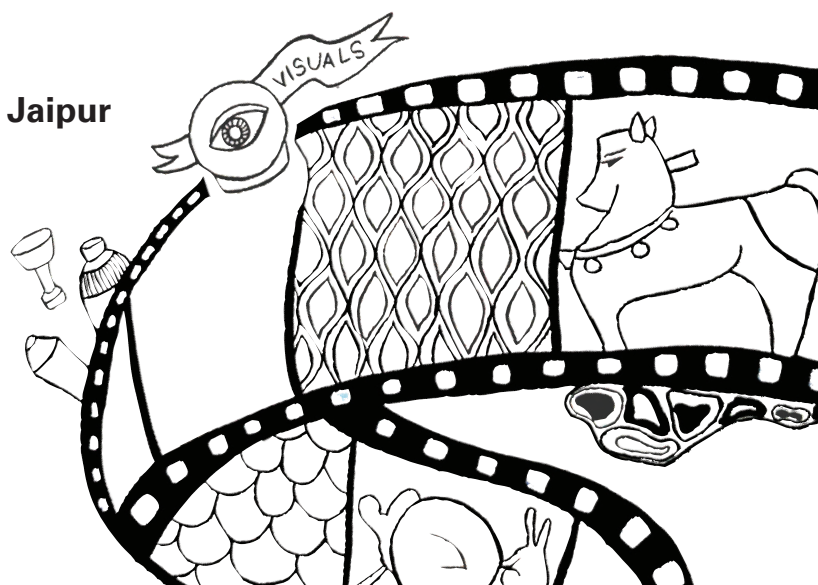
This edition of the newsletter captures significant milestones in our journey—from the arrival of new students and immersive academic engagements to meaningful interactions with artisans, industry professionals, and cultural practitioners. These moments reaffirm IICD's belief in learning that extends beyond classrooms into communities, cultures, and lived practices.

I am particularly proud of the recognition accorded to IICD and its extended community on national and international platforms. Such acknowledgments strengthen our resolve to preserve, innovate, and sustain craft traditions while responding thoughtfully to contemporary challenges.

As we celebrate both institutional and individual milestones, I extend my appreciation to our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and collaborators whose collective efforts continue to shape IICD as a space of learning, creativity, and purpose.

I invite you to explore this newsletter as a reflection of our shared journey and the values that guide us forward.

Prof. (Dr.) Toolika Gupta
Director
Indian Institute of Crafts & Design, Jaipur





Editor
Bessie Cecil



Graphics & Layout
Susmita Dutta



Facilitator
Dharmender Bana



Facilitator
Shuvankar Biswas

Editorial Team

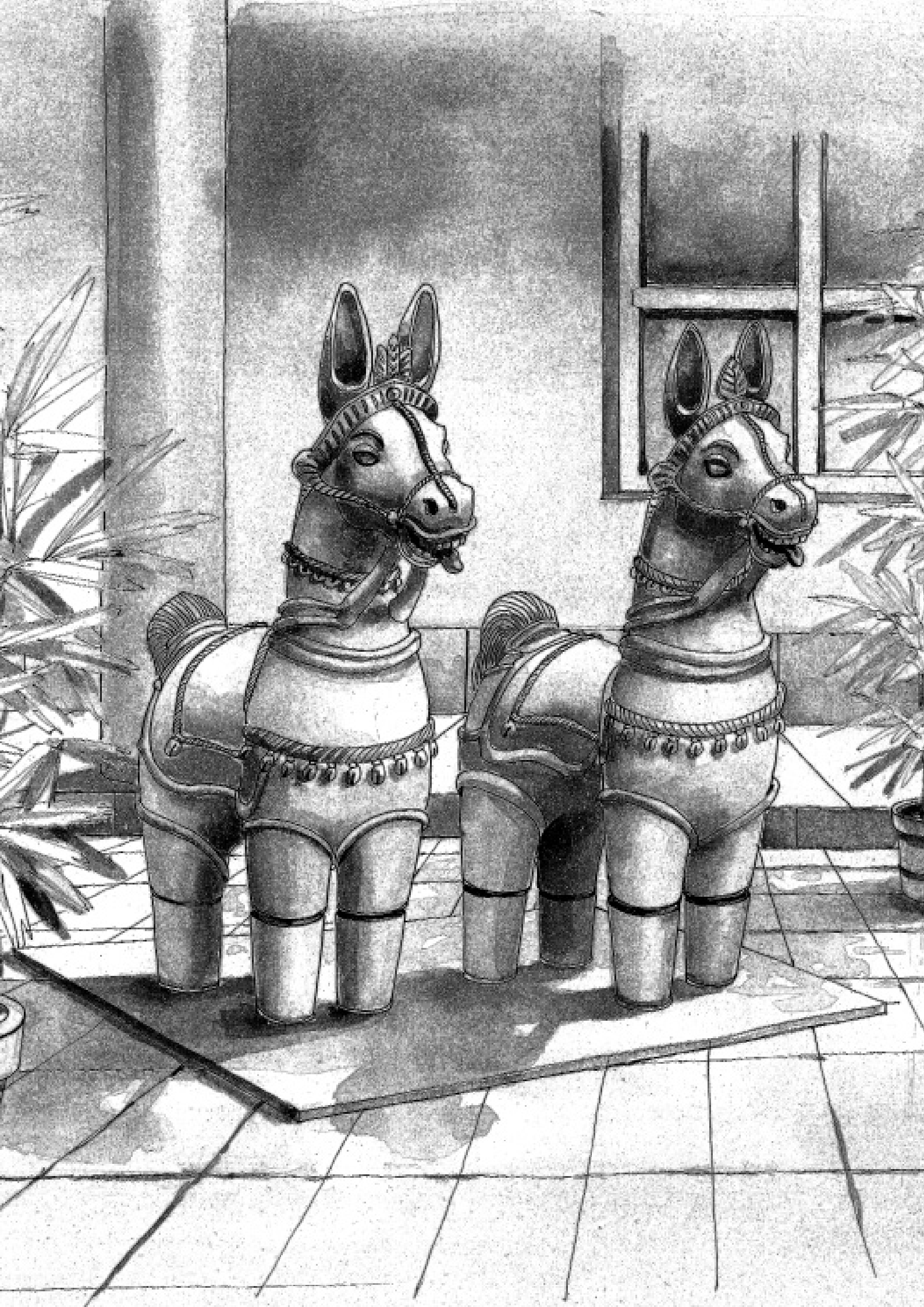
Once the responsibility of working on the third quarter edition of 2025 newsletter was assigned to us, the editorial team found ourselves standing together before the caricature on the wall of the IICD foyer. This caricature is a powerful narrative of a particular phase in IICD's journey and was created as part of the Crafts Communication Design module. The way students have captured the characters—along with their roles and responsibilities—is truly mind-blowing; it speaks, it communicates, and it invites reflection.

Inspired by this visual narrative, we decided to draw elements from the caricature for this edition of the newsletter. It became a lens through which we revisited the events, activities, and moments that unfolded during this period. This issue brings together those experiences, documenting the vibrancy of campus life and the collective spirit of learning and making at IICD.

We hope, you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed curating it.



ZOOM IN



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Honours & Accolades

Prof. (Dr.) Toolika Gupta Conferred with France's *Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite*

16th July 2025 | New Delhi



In a landmark moment celebrating Indo-French cultural collaboration, **Prof. (Dr.) Toolika Gupta**, Director of IICD, Jaipur, was conferred the *Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite* by H.E. **Mr. Thierry Mathou**, Ambassador of France to India, at the French Embassy, New Delhi.

The honour recognises her exceptional contributions to textile research, design education, craft preservation, and strengthening Indo-French academic and cultural ties. The ceremony was attended by eminent dignitaries, members of the IICD Governing Council, and academicians.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Gupta reflected on leadership rooted in kindness and social responsibility, reaffirming her belief in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world as one family.





Bastille Day Celebration: This day was celebrated on **14th July 2025** at the Alliance Française, New Delhi, marking the National Day of France in a spirit of friendship and cultural exchange. The Director, IICD, attended the event in her capacity as President, Alliance Française de Jaipur, reinforcing the institute's ongoing engagement with international cultural platforms.

The celebration was hosted by His Excellency **Mr. Thierry Mathou** and **Mrs. Cécile Mathou**, and was graced by the presence of the Honourable Minister of Culture and Tourism, **Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, who attended as the Chief Guest.

The evening stood as a reminder of the enduring cultural ties between



Academic Beginning 2025

28th July 2025

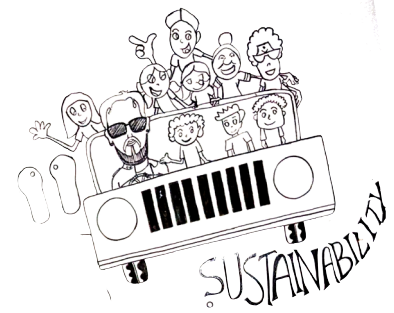
Education at the IICD is rooted in an experiential approach that integrates traditional knowledge systems with contemporary design thinking. The academic framework emphasises learning through making, critical inquiry, and engagement with craft communities. Students are encouraged to understand materials, processes, and cultural contexts through studio practice, field exposure, and interdisciplinary dialogue.

The orientation week for new students began with registration, ceremonial lamp lighting, and addresses introducing academic life at IICD. Interactive ice-breaking sessions focused on the five senses and collaborative drama exercises exploring social awareness. Alumni interactions, hands-on workshops in mud and block printing, and heritage

walks through Jaipur offered students an immersive introduction to learning at IICD.



Field Study



Documenting the Crafts of Warangal: Crafts Council of Telangana × IICD

23rd June - 5th July 2025

A field study to document the crafts of Warangal—chosen as the pilot region for documenting the diverse craft traditions of Telangana – A initiative by the Crafts Council of Telangana in collaboration with IICD concluded in the first week of July, after which students began collating and analysing the wealth of information gathered.

At Warangal, come rain or shine, students were out in the field, engaging closely with craftspeople and their practices. The team’s

arrival in Warangal created a stir, with local media covering the initiative, underscoring its significance.

This experience is one that both students and faculty will carry with them for a lifetime. Along the way, the team inspired a college-going student, **Shivapriya Kuchana**, who became our official translator and an invaluable bridge between the team and the community. The artisans are the custodians of knowledge who continue to hold on to their traditions even as everything around them is constantly changing. Back at IICD the students collated all the collected data, which is the foundation for the book on Crafts of Telangana-Warangal.



Farewell & Welcome

Farewell Secretary Sir

31st July, 2025

IICD bids farewell to **Mr. Giriraj Singh Kushwaha**, who has served the institute with distinction for many years. Beyond his professional contributions, he is a voracious reader, a globetrotter, and a museum lover. An environmentalist and historian, he is known for his sharp wit, delightful anecdotes, disciplined ways, formal elegance, and his constant companion—a fountain pen.

As he moves on to a new chapter, IICD thanks him for his invaluable

presence and the richness he brought to our academic and cultural life.

Welcome! Secretary Sir

We warmly welcome **Mr. Narendra Gupta** as our new Secretary. A retired officer from the Revenue Department of Rajasthan, he brings with him extensive administrative experience and a strong understanding of governance and institutional processes.

We look forward to his guidance and valuable contribution towards strengthening IICD's administrative and academic ecosystem.



Festivals & Campus Life

Independence Day

15th August 2025

The campus came alive with patriotic and cultural celebrations featuring flag hoisting, student performances, speeches, and traditional games. The festivities reflected the institute's spirit of unity, responsibility, and youthful creativity.



Janmashtami

15th August

Following the Independence Day flag hoisting, the celebration of Janmashtami—also known as Krishna Janmashtami or Gokulashtami, marking the birth of Lord Krishna—was observed with enthusiasm and joy. The festivities included fun activities such as the lively Matki Phod, which saw cheerful participation from students.



The day then transitioned into spirited games including gulel, dodgeball, and cricket, fostering camaraderie and sportsmanship among students. This combined celebration of national pride and cultural tradition reflected the institute's ethos of blending heritage with youthful creativity, making it a memorable occasion for the entire IICD family.

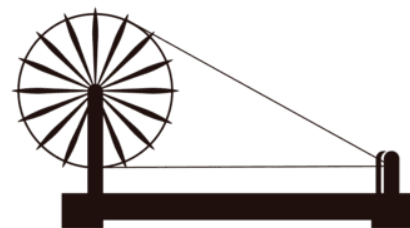
Ganesh Chaturthi at IICD

7th September

Students and faculty jointly created an eco-friendly Ganesha idol using natural materials. The celebration blended devotion, sustainability, and creativity, concluding with a responsible *visarjan* within campus.



Institutional Engagement



NABARD Brainstorming Workshop on Handloom & Handicrafts

26th August 2025

National Handloom Day is observed annually on August 7th in India to honor the handloom-weaving community, celebrate the sector's contribution to socio-economic development, and promote indigenous products. Inaugurated in 2015, this day commemorates the 1905 Swadeshi Movement, which encouraged Indian-made goods.

To mark the 10th Handloom Day, on 26th August 2025, the Rajasthan Regional Office of NABARD, Jaipur, organized a Brainstorming Workshop on "Challenges and Future Prospects of the Handloom and Handicrafts Sector" to mark National Handloom Day. The workshop brought together experts, policymakers, and institutional representatives to deliberate on key issues shaping the future of India's craft ecosystem.

The discussions focused on critical themes such as credit flow and financial inclusion for artisans,



availability of raw materials, marketing challenges, and bridging design and technology gaps. Participants also explored collaborative strategies for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the handloom and handicrafts sector in Rajasthan.

Prof. (Dr.) Toolika Gupta, Director, Indian Institute of Crafts & Design (IICD), actively participated in the workshop and contributed valuable insights on the transformative role of education in empowering artisan communities. She emphasized IICD's ongoing efforts to integrate craft education, design innovation, and entrepreneurship, enabling artisans to build self-reliance, resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.

Dr. Gupta also highlighted the pressing challenges faced by artisans, including limited access to markets, design awareness, and institutional support. She called for greater collaboration among educational institutions, government bodies, and financial agencies to strengthen the ecosystem and ensure holistic, inclusive development. The session served as an important platform to reaffirm the collective commitment toward preserving India's craft heritage while fostering a future that values artisans as key contributors to the nation's creative economy.



Crafts Business Accelerator Program 2025 Concludes

5th July 2025

The Crafts Business Accelerator Programme 2025 is a focused initiative aimed at enhancing the business and entrepreneurial capabilities of early-stage craft entrepreneurs. The program provides structured guidance and mentoring from faculty members, industry experts, and sector leaders to build a strong, supportive ecosystem for the crafts sector at national and international levels.

The four-month accelerator Programme brought together 12 participants for an intensive learning and mentoring journey. Through immersive sessions and continuous handholding support, the program focused on strengthening business capabilities in areas such as design-led thinking, sustainability, entrepreneurship, finance, branding, marketing, and innovation, while remaining rooted in craft traditions.

The enthusiasm and confidence demonstrated by the cohort highlighted the program's growing impact. The Programme was conducted by the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD) in collaboration with IIM Udaipur, BITS Pilani, EDII Ahmedabad, iStart (Government of Rajasthan), NICEorg, and NEHHDC Guwahati, with support from the Kalhath Foundation, Lucknow.

The Programme concluded successfully on the 5th of July 2025, with a valedictory session marking the completion of its fourth edition. The event was followed by an interaction with entrepreneurs and industry experts, offering participants an opportunity to showcase their work and reflect on their learning journey. Over the past four years, the Crafts Business Accelerator Programme has steadily expanded in scope and relevance. IICD remains the only institution in India consistently running an accelerator program dedicated exclusively to craft-based enterprises, reinforcing its commitment to strengthening the craft sector through structured, long-

term business support.

The Kalhath Institute, established under the auspices of the Kalhath Foundation in 2016, is dedicated to preserving and promoting the age-old embroideries of India, particularly those originating from Uttar Pradesh. Through their work, they aim to capture the rich cultural essence embedded within these traditional embroideries, paying close attention to their material, technique, and design. Through various initiatives, including training programs, workshops, exhibitions, and collaborative projects, the Kalhath Institute endeavors to celebrate and showcase the beauty and intricacy of Indian textile craft.



Entrepreneurship Development

9th July 2025



Continuing its outreach to artisan communities, IICD Jaipur conducted an Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) session for Puppet/Kathputli artisans of the Bhat community. The session was led by **Mr. Dharmendra Bana**, Assistant Professor, IICD, and organized by the Handicraft Service Centre, Jaipur (Office of the Development Commissioner – Handicrafts) under the Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana. The session addressed key aspects of enterprise development, including entrepreneurship fundamentals, marketing and exports, customer communication, design quality and pricing, and digital marketing and innovation in puppetry, equipping artisans with practical tools to navigate contemporary markets while sustaining their traditional practices.



Culture & Continuity

Shabad Shaala at IICD

20th August 2025

Shabadshala is a unique initiative of the Kabir Project that brings the timeless verses of India's Sufi and Bhakti saint-poets alive for school and college students through music. Drawing from the works of **Kabir, Meerabai, Gorakhnath, Ravidas, Bulleh Shah, and Ghulam Fareed**, the program encourages learners to experience their profound messages of love, equality, and oneness through song. While many students may know Kabir's dohas from textbooks, Shabadshala emphasizes that it is through singing that the true spirit of these verses is most powerfully felt.

This year, IICD is delighted to join this vibrant initiative. From August to January, weekly Shabadshala sessions and satsangs are held on campus, bringing folk musicians and saintly wisdom into our learning spaces. The semester will culminate in a lively Ajab-Gazab Bazaar in February, celebrating this confluence of craft, song, and community.

So far, IICD has hosted two visiting mandalis. In August, Om Prakash

Nayak ji and his group from Bikaner shared the rich nirgun traditions of Rajasthan. Born into the Nayak community, Om Prakash Ji inherited the legacy of singing saint-poet verses passed down through generations.

In September, Arun Goyal Ji and his mandali from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, inspired the audience with their soulful renditions of Kabir's poetry. A celebrated singer, poet, and social worker, Arun Ji continues to spread the Sant Bani tradition across India and abroad.



भावनगरी

कवि – गुलाबी दास

थम तो चालो साहिब जी (मालिक साह) रा देस
बताईं दा थाने भावनगरी
भाव नगरी हो हेली, प्रेम नगरी

काची कली हो कचनार, कारीगर काया अजब बनी
अजब बनी हो यामे ऐब घणी

हल्दी पतंगिया रो रंग, उड़ जाणा हेली काल की घड़ी
काल की घड़ी हो हेली काल की घड़ी

मत करजे काया रो अहंकार, काया हो थारी चाम से बनी
चाम से बनी हो यामे, ऐब घणी

गावे गुलाबी हो दास, भजन से म्हारी काया सुधरी (ऐब बिसरी)
ऐब बिसरी हो हेली ऐब बिसरी



Short-Term Course

Painting Course for Aspiring Learners

August-December 2025

IICD launched a Certificate Programme in Painting designed to nurture creativity, visual sensitivity, and artistic expression. This practice-based course provides learners with foundational skills, technical knowledge, and exposure to diverse painting styles, concepts, and mediums. It is ideal for aspiring artists, designers, and creative professionals seeking

structured learning in the visual arts. The programme is offered at two levels—Basic and Advanced—to accommodate learners with varying degrees of prior experience.

In addition, the programme offers flexible learning options. Interested students/applicants may choose to enroll in the complete programme or customise their learning pathway by selecting individual subject components based on their interests and skill requirements. This modular structure allows learners to build their own course of study in a way that best suits their creative goals.



Students are creating portraits of Mr. Pronoy Kapoor.

Foundation Day of IICD



Celebration Day

1st September 2025

IICD marked a historic milestone as it celebrated its 30th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm and pride. The day commenced with Hawan (also called Homa or Yajna is a Hindu sacred fire ritual in which offerings are made into a consecrated fire while chanting Vedic mantras), attended by the entire IICD community—faculty, staff, students, and well-wishers—seeking blessings for the growth of the institute and crafts community in India. The ritual honoured tradition while reaffirming IICD’s enduring values of respect, humility, and community.

The celebrations continued with a vibrant cultural programme, where students showcased their creativity through a range of performances. From classical presentations to contemporary dance forms, the programme reflected IICD’s philosophy of innovation rooted in tradition, central to its approach to design education.

In keeping with a cherished institute tradition, students served lunch to faculty and guests, reinforcing values of service,

gratitude, and togetherness. This meaningful gesture highlighted IICD’s distinctive culture, where learning is intertwined with respect and intergenerational bonding. The day concluded with fun-filled games and activities, fostering camaraderie and joyful interaction among faculty, staff, and students.

As IICD completes three decades of dedicated engagement with India’s rich craft heritage, the 30th Foundation Day was a celebration of past achievements and a reaffirmation of the institute’s vision to nurture future generations of designers and craftspeople.



Teachers' Day

5th September 2025

IICD celebrated Teachers' Day with warmth and appreciation, honouring the dedication and commitment of its faculty. Students expressed their gratitude through thoughtful messages, making the occasion both meaningful and memorable.

The celebration reflected the bond between teachers and students at IICD, where mentorship extends beyond the classroom and learning is nurtured through mutual respect and dialogue. The day served as a reminder of the vital role educators' play in shaping professional journeys, values and perspectives.

Marking the occasion, the Director extended a thoughtful gesture to faculty and staff with the presentation of thermos flasks, adding a warm and personal touch to the celebration.



Field Learning

KUNJ, New Delhi

23rd August 2025

The students of IICD visited KUNJ, New Delhi. A collaborative space dedicated to craft, culture, and community engagement, bringing together practitioners, designers, and institutions that are working at the intersection of tradition and contemporary practice.

The visit was organised as a part of IICD's endeavor to expose students to alternative models of cultural practice, exhibition-making, and knowledge exchange. It offered valuable insights into how crafts are presented, contextualised, and sustained through dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement, enriching students' understanding beyond the classroom.

Pipar City, Rajasthan

10th –12th September 2025

A field study trip was organized for B.Des Semester 5 (Fashion Design) students to Pipar City, Rajasthan, from 10th to 12th September 2025. Three days learning event provided hands-on exposure to traditional



KUNJ, New Delhi

craft practices and deepen material understanding, with a focus on natural dyeing, block printing, and the traditional costumes of local communities.

As part of the Ethnic Wear module, the trip encouraged students to explore the rich connections between craft and culture—examining how clothing reflects identity, community, and environment. The immersive experience enabled learners to engage directly with artisans, observe regional textile traditions, and reflect on their contemporary design relevance.

Students participated in a hands-on workshop at *Chhipa* artisan **Yaseen Mohammad ji's** unit, where they printed and dyed stoles using the *Dabu* technique with traditional motifs. They also visited Bhopalgarh, and witnessed the making of the Jatta Sada—a distinctive woven skirt worn by Jat and Meghwal women. This garment exemplifies zero-waste,

sustainable design, as its narrow woven panels (17 inches wide) are skillfully joined using *khillan* stitching, gathered at the waist, and secured with a drawstring, ensuring no fabric is cut or wasted.

The trip concluded with a visit to Pushkar, where students met **Mr. Anand Tak**, popularly known as “the Camel Man of India.” A noted textile collector, he shared rare examples of embroidery and weaving, including pieces from present-day Pakistan.



Photo Documentation of Blue Pottery

12th September 2025

As part of the Media and Communication course, M.Voc. (Semester 3) and M.Des. (Semester 1) students undertook a field study to photo-document the Blue Pottery tradition at Kot Jewar, Jaipur. The visit provided students with an opportunity to engage directly with artisan **Pawan Kumar**, enabling one-to-one interactions that offered deep insights into the history, practice, and contemporary context of the craft. The exercise enabled



students to closely observe and visually record the processes, tools, raw materials, and makers involved in Blue Pottery. Comprehensive documentation through photographs and videos resulted in visual narratives that captured the craft from production to finished products. Key areas of learning included the artisan's background, the historical evolution of Blue Pottery, tools and techniques, product ranges, pricing, and market dynamics.

Through this hands-on engagement, students strengthened skills in visual storytelling, documentation ethics, and communication, while gaining a deeper understanding of the cultural and material contexts that shape craft practices.

Jaigarh Fort & City Palace, Jaipur

24th & 25th September 2025

To strengthen experiential learning in museology and archiving, a day-long field trip was organised for postgraduate students as part of the course Fundamentals of Archiving, Museology, and Conservation. Students from M.Voc. (Semester 5) and M.Des. (Semester 3) visited Jaigarh Fort and the City Palace, Jaipur, gaining firsthand exposure to architectural heritage, museum display practices, and conservation methodologies. The visit included interactive sessions with conservation experts and curators, along with close observation of multimedia and permanent exhibits. Discussions focused on key aspects

of museum practice such as collection management, exhibition planning, narrative development,



City Palace. This exchange enabled students to develop a nuanced understanding of organisation,



interpretation strategies, and the institutional challenges involved in conservation and display. The day concluded with an insightful group discussion led by **Dr. Giles Tillotson**, Honorary Consultant, City Palace Museum, and **Dr. Mrinalini Venkateswaran**, Deputy Director and Head of Collections, Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust, along with the curatorial team at the

selection, curation, preservation, and the nomenclature of objects.

By engaging directly with collections, spatial narratives, and conservation approaches, students were able to effectively bridge theoretical learning with real-world heritage contexts, enriching their understanding of archival, and museological practices.



Varta Session



Storytelling in Design

18th September 2025

A Varta session was conducted by **Mr. Anil Bose** on the theme “Storytelling in Design”, highlighting how narratives play a vital role in shaping meaningful design experiences. He emphasized that storytelling goes beyond aesthetics, form, and function — it builds emotional connections that make designs memorable and impactful.

Through elements such as character, context, conflict, and resolution, stories help designers craft

deeper engagement in products, campaigns, and digital experiences. Mr. Bose illustrated how tools like storyboards, mood boards, and narrative thinking can translate complex ideas into compelling visual and emotional journeys.

The session encouraged students to view design as a medium of storytelling — where every creation communicates purpose, emotion, and context. By integrating storytelling into their process, young designers can create work that not only informs and inspires but also endures in the minds of people.



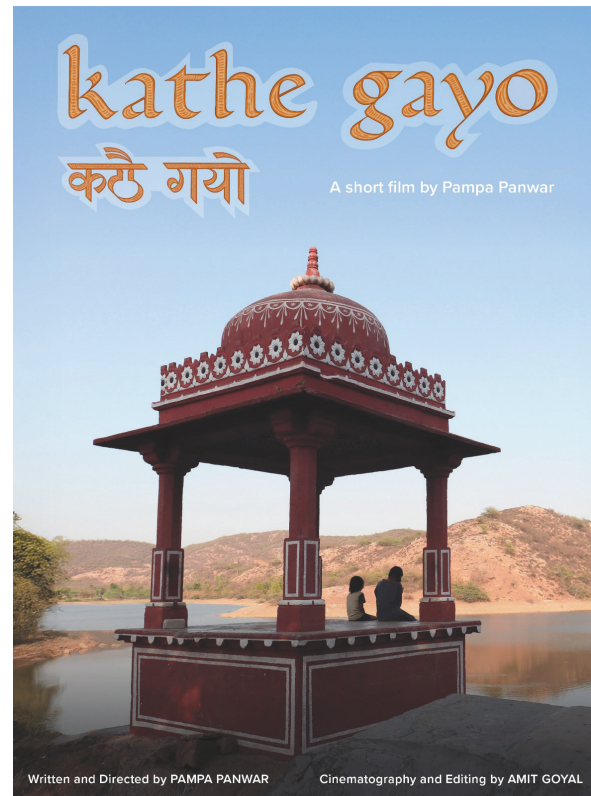
Film Screening

Kathe Gayo

1st September 2025

On the occasion of the IICD Foundation Day, audiences were treated to the screening of *Kathe Gayo*, a short film written and directed by **Prof. Pampa Panwar**, with cinematography and editing by **Amit Goyal**. Set against the rustic charm of *Theekarda*, a serene potters' village near Bundi, Rajasthan, the film captures the quiet beauty of everyday life while unfolding a story that resonates deeply with both young and old. At its heart, *Kathe Gayo* follows siblings Meera and Kabir as they set out to find their missing companion, *Chotu*. Their search leads them through winding village lanes, open fields, and hidden corners, transforming a moment of worry into an unexpected adventure. Through their eyes, we glimpse the innocence of childhood—where fear is tempered by hope, and every step carries the comfort of togetherness.

Prof. Panwar, a professor at IICD, brings her sensitivity and keen observation of human emotions to the narrative. With minimal dialogue, the film relies on evocative visuals and silences that speak volumes, reminding viewers of the tender bonds that hold families and



communities together. Amit Goyal's lens captures not just landscapes but the essence of childhood wonder, lending the film a poetic rhythm.

Kathe Gayo is more than a search for the missing—it is a gentle reminder of love, resilience, and the unspoken strength children find in each other.

Its screening at IICD was not only a cinematic delight but also a celebration of storytelling rooted in simplicity, and the truth.

AI Generated Caricature



Industry Connect



The Design Bridge: Mentor Connect Programme

19th September 2025

The Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD), in collaboration with the Association of Designers of India (ADI) – Jaipur Chapter, organized an interactive session - The Design Bridge: Mentor Connect Programme, at the IICD campus. This event offered students an invaluable opportunity to engage with leading design professionals.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Toolika Gupta, Director, IICD, followed by an introduction to ADI by **Ms. Meenakshi Singh**, President, ADI Jaipur Chapter. The 14 invited mentors—experts from diverse design specializations—were then introduced and felicitated for their participation. The programme began with a collective discussion on key topics such as portfolio

development, industry requirements, and emerging design opportunities. Students were later divided into smaller, department-wise groups for personalized one-on-one mentoring sessions, where mentors provided constructive feedback and shared professional insights.

The interactive sessions helped students gain a deeper understanding of market dynamics, portfolio presentation, resume building, and industry expectations, bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world practice.

The event concluded with a vibrant networking session over high tea, allowing mentors and students to continue their conversations in an informal setting. The Design Bridge: Mentor Connect proved to be an enriching experience, fostering collaboration, and inspiring young designers to prepare confidently for their professional journeys.



Upcoming Events

Sangoshthi 2025: Celebrating Craft, Culture, and Creativity

Sangoshthi 2025 is IICD's flagship conference, held biennially to celebrate India's crafts. Craft culture is at the very core of India, sustaining communities in ways unmatched by any other nation. India's struggle for freedom was rooted in the simple yet profound act of spinning yarn—a practice that supported and sustained millions across the country, both directly and indirectly. However, the advent of spinning technology in the West disrupted this harmony, severing the connection that had once bound communities together. It was one visionary who recognized the power of this craft, mobilized millions, and created a self-sustaining ecosystem of interdependence—ultimately playing a vital role in India's independence.

India's rich and diverse craft culture, encompassing materials such as metal, wood, terracotta, textiles, and more, has long supported communities and contributed significantly to regional economies, all while preserving invaluable knowledge systems across generations. However, alongside the well-known crafts, it is crucial to focus on lesser-known traditions and knowledge systems that are linked to local ecology and cultural practices.

संगोष्ठी

Graphic Credit: Ridhi Agarwal
(M.Des Students of IICD)



These precious crafts are at risk of being lost, and efforts must be made to address and protect them before they disappear forever. As India celebrates the Mahakumbh, a grand confluence symbolizing cultural and spiritual unity, it serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving traditions that bind us. In this spirit, IICD prepares for SANGOSTHI 2025, a platform that aligns with India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030), ensuring that crafts continue to play a vital role in fostering a sustainable and inclusive future.

During the conference, the Craft Design Award is bestowed upon distinguished members of the craft and design community. A panel of jurors convened in the month of September to review nominations and select the awardees for the years 2024 and 2025. IICD instituted the annual

'**Craft Design Awards**' in the year 2020 to commemorate the 25 years of its existence and in memory of people who were the leaders to initiate craft & design development and education in India. This is to pay tribute to the stalwarts of the country who have done exemplary work in the craft sector and name the awards after them.

During this period, the Crafts Award was also designed by the faculty of IICD, thoughtfully bringing together three traditional craft techniques—*tātera*, hand etching, and tarkashi.

The brass sheet, crafted using the *tātera* technique of hand hammering and etching by **Ramesh Thathera**, is mounted on a wooden base adorned with intricate tarkashi brass wire inlay patterns executed by **Ram Dayal Sharma**, reflecting a harmonious blend of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary design.



Acknowledgments & Credits

Acknowledgments:

We extend our thanks to **Dr. Toolika Gupta** for allowing us to work on this newsletter. The team composition, collaboration, and work dynamics were enriching, valuable, and a great learning experience beyond our regular routines.

We are grateful to Mr. Neeraj Gupta, whose keen eye for detail brings forth nuances that are often overlooked, yet are essential to both the narrative and the reader's experience.

We also thank our colleagues and extended team members—**Mr. E. Rajesh Kumar, Mr. Pronoy Kapoor, Mr. Basu Vansit, Mr. Dharmendra Singh, and Ms. Aartey Harpalani**—for their support in providing the specific details we required.

Credits:

Cover Images: Caricature wall at IICD, 2022.

The credit for the caricature featured in this edition, as noted on the foyer wall of IICD, goes to Visiting Faculty, **Md. Rafik** (Banasthali University, Jaipur), who mentored and guided the students of B.Des.

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भारतीय शिल्प संस्थान

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CRAFTS & DESIGN, JAIPUR

J-8, Jhalana Institutional Area,
Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302004
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