



Sangoshthi 2025: International Conference on Recent Trends & Sustainability in Crafts & Design

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Woven Legacy: An Exhibition by Neotia Arts Trust in Collaboration with Nila House

Woven Legacy, an exhibition by Neotia Arts Trust in collaboration with Nila House

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Sangoshthi 2025: A Convergence of Craft, Recognition and Design Discourse for Sustainable Future



Artisan Wards after the conversation in an Open House Discussion during Sangoshthi

IICD's biennial conference Sangoshthi 2025 was successfully organized from 2nd to 4th November 2025, bringing together academicians, industries, artisans, students and stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue on the evolving landscape of crafts and design.

The first day of the event commenced with the Inauguration of the Craft Demonstration cum Bazar: IICD Exhibition and Display, showcasing a vibrant collection of crafts and design works. Days 2 and 3 were devoted to the International Conference, which concluded with an Artisan Panchayat. This interactive session created a platform for young participants from artisan communities to engage in open discussions about contemporary challenges, opportunities and the innovations required to sustain and strengthen craft practices across generations. The conference witnessed enthusiastic international participation with eminent delegates from leading institutions such as Parsons School of Design, Michigan State University, and the London College of Fashion, among others. Their presence brought valuable global perspectives on sustainability, innovation and cultural continuity within the field of craft and design.

The academic sessions featured 26 oral research presentations and 20 poster presentations, representing a wide spectrum of scholarly inquiry and practice-based research. The presentations were organized around key thematic areas including Craft & Sustainability, Technology & Innovation, Culture & Heritage and Craft & Livelihood. These themes encouraged critical discussions on the intersections of traditional knowledge systems with contemporary design education, technological advancements and sustainable practices.

The deliberations highlighted the dynamic role of crafts not only as cultural expressions but also as powerful drivers of social impact, ecological responsibility and economic resilience.

A series of art installations at the IICD campus celebrated collaboration, sustainability and the spirit of craft through diverse materials and narratives. Tree of Synthesis, a date palm installation with metallic leaves, symbolised collective creativity and interdisciplinary exchange. Rooted in terracotta pots representing various departments, it reflected a shared



ecosystem of ideas, with elements like a parrot and khajur ras adding symbolic depth. Padma Pattern, a 13ft installation inspired by a lotus pond, used repurposed diyas, aluminium, jute and terracotta to express sustainability and growth.

Tree of Synthesis



Padma Pattern

The blooming lotus, echoing the institute’s logo, represented evolution fully bloomed forms signifying alumni and budding ones symbolising students.

Prayer of Hands, inspired by Tibetan prayer flags, embodied “Work is Worship,” with colourful elements representing natural forces and continuous learning. Metallic Roots explored the harmony between nature and industry through metal lotuses set within greenery, symbolising resilience and transformation.



Metallic Roots

Shaping Craft Futures: Insights from Conference Discussions

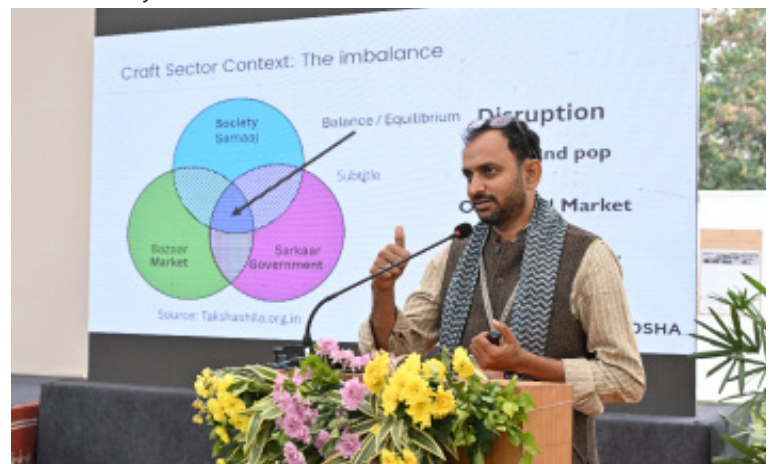
The conference explored the role of crafts in sustainable development, social equity and cultural continuity. Sessions highlighted craft-based livelihoods, women’s empowerment and challenges in market access.

Discussions on social inclusivity examined crafts as tools for community well-being and therapy. Cultural conservation focused on safeguarding endangered traditions, while innovation sessions showcased adapting crafts for contemporary relevance.



Francesco Mazzarella presenting on the topic Design for Social Innovation

The conference also emphasised integrating crafts into education and explored the use of technology, including digital tools and AI, to enhance visibility while preserving authenticity.



Vijaya Krishnappa presenting on the topic Indian Textiles within Global Narratives

Honouring Excellence in Craft: IICD Craft Awards



Craft Awardees

This was followed by the Award Ceremony, where the IICD Craft Awards were presented to distinguished artisans, designers and organizations in recognition of their exceptional craftsmanship, dedication and invaluable contributions to sustaining and promoting traditional craft practices. These awards celebrate individuals and institutions whose work has significantly strengthened the craft sector through innovation, entrepreneurship, education and social impact.

For the year 2024, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Award for Social Impact in the Craft Sector was conferred upon Aame Artisan Producer Company and Ms. Suryaprabha A. Ghorpade for their notable efforts in empowering craft communities.

The Kripal Singh Shekhawat Award for Innovation in Craft Design was presented to Mr. Ayush Kasliwal, while the Suresh Neotia Award for New Generation Craftsperson was awarded to Ms. Garima Saini. The M. P. Ranjan Award for Contribution in Craft Design Education was conferred upon Somaiya Kala Vidya for its significant role in craft education. The Pupul Jayakar Award for Craft Entrepreneurship was presented to Ms. Savini Sonavaria for her entrepreneurial contribution to the

craft sector. For the year 2025, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Award for Social Impact in the Craft Sector was awarded to Ms. Jagada Rajappa. The Pupul Jayakar Award for Craft Entrepreneurship was conferred upon MeMeraki Retail and Tech Private Ltd., while the Suresh Neotia Award for New Generation Craftsperson was presented to Mr. Sindhe Siva.

The M. P. Ranjan Award for Contribution in Craft Design Education was awarded to Mr. N. K. Chaudhary from Jaipur Rugs Company for his contribution to craft design education. The Kripal Singh Shekhawat Award for Innovation in Craft Design was conferred upon Mr. Karthik Vaidyanathan of Varnam Craft Collective.



A musical programme by the Kelam and Dariya Group marked a memorable highlight of IICD's Sangoshthi 2025 on 2nd November 2025, the opening day of the conference. Organised with the support of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Government of India, the initiative reflects continued efforts to promote and celebrate India's diverse cultural traditions alongside its craft heritage. Titled "Sur Nirgun Ke: An Evening of Music Beyond Boundaries," the performance set a reflective and immersive tone for the event.

The evening featured a soulful repertoire inspired by the timeless verses of Meera and Kabir, bringing alive the essence of nirgun bhakti through evocative melodies and powerful vocals. Hailing from the Meghwal community in Barmer, Rajasthan, the artists are known for their raw and powerful renditions of Vani and Satsang Parampara music, often presenting the spiritual poetry of saints like Meera and Kabir. The programme not only enriched the cultural experience of the conference but also underscored the importance of institutional support in preserving and promoting India's intangible cultural heritage.

Craft Bazaar Showcases Artisanship and Living Traditions

IICD Exhibition and Display, showcasing a vibrant collection of crafts and design works. The exhibition highlighted the rich diversity of traditional crafts along with innovative interpretations by students and artisans.

The ceremony was graced by Mrs. Madhu Neotia, Chairperson, IICD, as the Chief Guest. The event was further honoured by the presence of Dr. Dev Swarup, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Vishvakarma Skills University, Jaipur, and Mr. Maximiliano Modesti, 2M Ateliers & Design Pvt. Ltd. & Kalhath Foundation, as the Guests of Honour. As part of the day's programme, a documentary film titled "Chola Dora and Sui", focusing on the Gaddi community, was screened.

The film was created by Ph.D. scholar Lokesh Ghai and Jaymin and provided valuable insights into the cultural practices and craft traditions of the community.



Hon'able Vice Chancellor Dr. Dev Swarup and Chairperson IICD Ms. Madhu Neotia, interacting with a master artisan.

Celebrating Academic Excellence and Student Achievement



Distribution of Meritorious Students Awards

On the same occasion, the IICD Meritorious Student Awards were presented to graduating students in recognition of their outstanding academic performance and achievements during their course of study. The awards celebrated the dedication, creativity and hard work demonstrated by students across various programs at the institute.

The Academic Excellence Award and Gold Medal 2025 were conferred upon meritorious students from multiple graduating batches, including UG Batch 2019–23 (CFPD + B.Voc. in Crafts and Design), UG Batch 2020–24 (B.Des. in Crafts and Design), UG Batch 2021–25 (B.Des. in Crafts and Design), PG Batch 2019–24 (5-Year Integrated M.Voc. in Craft and Design), PG Batch 2020–23 (3-Year M.Voc. in Craft and Design) and PG Batch 2021–24 (3-Year M.Voc. in Craft and Design).

The awards acknowledged the students' commitment to academic excellence and their contributions to the field of crafts and design, marking an important milestone in their academic journey at the institute.

Glimpses of Sangoshthi





Sustainability, Craft and Innovation in Focus at Kula Conclave

KULA Conclave 2025 emerged as a significant platform for rethinking the future of India's craft ecosystem, bringing together artisans, designers, investors, policymakers and academic institutions. Anchored in the theme "Trendspotting for 2030: Going Local for Global," the conclave addressed the urgent need to strengthen India's largely informal, artisan-led economy through innovation, inclusive capital and collaborative frameworks.



Discussion on challenges in the craft sector at Kula Conclave 2025

At its core, KULA Conclave focused on enabling craft-based entrepreneurs who possess deep artisanal knowledge but often lack access to structured support systems, market linkages and financial resources. The discussions highlighted that while India's craft sector is rich in skill and cultural capital, it continues to face challenges related to scalability, visibility and sustainable growth.

As a knowledge partner, the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD), Jaipur, played a key role in strengthening connections between artisans and the wider industry ecosystem. Dr. (Prof.) Toolika Gupta, Director, IICD, led a series of workshops, panel discussions and mentorship led engagements that fostered meaningful dialogue on innovation in craft practices. These interactions underscored that innovation in the craft sector goes beyond product development, encompassing process transformation, market engagement and broader systemic change.

One of the key highlights was the two-part workshop on "Incubating Craft Innovators," which brought together artisans from across the country to collectively define

and map innovation within their practices. Rooted in the ideas of jaroorat (necessity), junoon (passion) and jugaad (resourcefulness), artisans shared how innovation often



Dr. (Prof.) Toolika Gupta leading the panel discussion

emerges from constraints rather than abundance. The sessions also identified major barriers, including lack of research and development funding, limited market access and absence of sustained design mentorship.

The conclave addressed sustainability through upcycling and circular economies, highlighting the balance between ethical production, affordability and market demand, alongside the role of storytelling, while emphasizing catalytic capital



Insightful discussion on innovation in the craft sector

as essential for supporting the iterative nature of craft production; it also underscored non-hierarchical collaboration between artisans, designers and institutions, the use of generative AI to enhance market intelligence and storytelling, reinforcing a more inclusive and resilient craft ecosystem in India.

Woven Legacy: An Exhibition of Heirloom Textiles



A visitor taking in the exhibition displays.

Woven Legacy, an exhibition by Neotia Arts Trust in collaboration with Nila House and supported by IICD, was inaugurated on 31st October at Nila House, Jaipur. The exhibition will continue till 31st January 2026. The exhibition documented an ongoing exploration of textile heritage, memory and craftsmanship through a curated presentation of heirloom textiles from the Neotia family.

Evolving from the publication *From an Era Bygone* and its subsequent presentation at the India Art Fair, the exhibition marked a significant extension of this research-based initiative. The capsule collection on display highlighted historical woven traditions and material narratives, offering insight into the cultural, emotional and aesthetic value of heirloom textiles.

The inaugural preview brought together artists, designers, scholars and craft practitioners, fostering dialogue on India's rich textile legacy and its relevance within contemporary design discourse.

Designing Collaboration Opportunities, MoU between IICD and Rajeevika

On 13th October 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD) and the Rajasthan Grameen Rajeevika Vikas Parishad (RGAVP), Government of Rajasthan. The collaboration aims to promote craft-based entrepreneurship, enhance livelihood opportunities for Self-Help Group (SHG) members and strengthen design, packaging and communication support for SHG products.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Narendra Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Secretary, IICD and Ms. Neha Giri, IAS, State Mission Director, RGAVP.



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Voices of the Oral Tradition: A Shabdshala Session at IICD



A picture capturing Mr. Darshan Singh Gerwal and Mrs. Shabnam Virmani with Dr. Toolika Gupta, Mr. Neeraj Gupta, Mr. Narendra Gupta, Ms. Swati Jain and Ms. Srushti S Pathak

Shabdshala, a distinctive initiative under the aegis of the Kabir Project, is dedicated to conserving and promoting the rich traditions of Sufi and Bhakti poetry among school children across India. Rooted in vernacular literary heritage, the programme uses music as a powerful medium to connect young learners with the timeless wisdom of saint-poets such as Kabir, Meerabai, Gorakhnath and Ravidas, along with Sufi voices like Bulleh Shah and Ghulam Fareed.

At its core, Shabdshala seeks to go beyond textbook learning by creating immersive and meaningful engagements with poetry. As Shabnam Virmani, founder of the Kabir Project, beautifully articulates, the teachings of mystic traditions encourage introspection, empathy and harmony urging us to question divisions based on religion, caste, gender, or nationality and to embrace values such as humility, contentment and coexistence with nature. These insights, she emphasizes, are especially valuable for young minds today. Recognising the transformative power of music as a pedagogical tool, Shabdshala brings folk singers from regions such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Kutch directly into classrooms—both physically and through digital platforms. Through these interactive sessions, students not

only experience poetry in its most authentic, lived form but also develop a deeper appreciation for India's diverse folk traditions, languages and oral cultures. By blending music, poetry and cultural dialogue, Shabdshala creates a vibrant learning space that nurtures sensitivity, curiosity and a deeper connection to India's shared cultural heritage.

October 2025 – Shabdshala Session IICD hosted Bhalu Ram ji and his team from Rajasthan on 29th and 30th October under the Shabdshala programme led by Shabnam Virmani. Held at the Conference Hall, the sessions introduced students to the poetic wisdom of saint-poets such as Kabir, Meerabai, Gorakhnath, Ravidas and Sufi poets like Bulleh Shah through engaging folk renditions. The performances created a reflective atmosphere, allowing students to experience these compositions as living traditions rather than just literary texts. The sessions highlighted how music serves as a powerful medium for transmitting oral traditions and cultural knowledge. The artists also shared insights into how these traditions are passed down through generations within communities, emphasizing the importance of memory, practice and lived experience. Students gained valuable exposure to India's diverse folk cultures, languages, and

community based learning practices. The programme formed part of the ongoing Shabdshala initiative, fostering dialogue and appreciation for living traditions within the institute.

In November, IICD hosted Padma Shri awardee Kalu Ram Bamaniya and his team from Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, on 26th and 27th November. Known as the “Kabir of Malwa,” he performed Nirguni bhajans in the Malvi dialect, bringing alive the verses of Kabir, Meerabai and Gorakhnath. His performances conveyed messages of devotion, equality and humanity, while reflecting the spiritual depth and simplicity of the tradition.

Beyond the performances, Bamaniya ji interacted with students, explaining the philosophical essence of the compositions and the oral traditions through which they are preserved. His insights helped students connect with the deeper meanings embedded in the songs and understand the role of community in sustaining such knowledge systems. On 28th November, Shabnam Virmani and her team conducted an interactive session at IICD. She introduced students to the Kabir Project, sharing its interdisciplinary approach to exploring Kabir’s philosophy through films, music, festivals, workshops and digital archives. She also spoke about her journey and the relevance of Kabir’s teachings in contemporary contexts. The session included engaging students for the upcoming Shabdshala bazaar initiative.

A special musical presentation by Mir Basu Khan was held at IICD on 10th and 11th December as part of the Shabdshala series. A Mirasi folk singer from Rajasthan, he is deeply rooted in the living oral traditions of the Bikaner region. Through his soulful singing, he brought alive the verses of saint-sufi poets such as Kabir, Meerabai, Bulleh Shah and Khwaja Ghulam Farid, creating a deeply engaging and immersive experience.

The sessions were held in both evening and morning slots, enabling wider student participation and creating an inclusive learning environment. His performance style, marked by simplicity and emotional depth, allowed students to connect closely with the essence of the poetry. The use of traditional musical forms and storytelling further enhanced the impact of the presentation. In addition to the performance, he interacted with students on the intergenerational transmission of musical traditions, the guru-disciple relationship and the importance of oral knowledge systems. He emphasized how these traditions are sustained through teaching and continuous practice within communities. He also shared personal experiences from his journey, highlighting the role of dedication and discipline in preserving such art forms.

His warmth, humility and spiritual depth left a strong impression



Mr. Bhalu Ram visiting the IICD campus and conducting a session

on the audience. For students, the session became more than a musical experience it offered meaningful insight into living traditions, community-based knowledge systems and the enduring relevance of saint literature. The programme concluded this phase of Shabdshala on a reflective and enriching note, reinforcing the importance of preserving intangible cultural heritage.

Ulaas Fashion Show Showcases Young Talent and Expression

A fashion show was organized by St. Teresa School on 20th December for students from Classes 5 to 12. The event showcased creativity and confidence among the participants.



Dr. Abhishek Chaudhary (Assistant Prof. Fashion Design) and Ms. Garima Tiwari (Assistant Prof. Soft Material Design) graced the occasion as judges. Garima Tiwari also introduced IICD, highlighting its vision and contributions in the field of craft based design education. Awards were presented to students across various categories in recognition of their outstanding performances.

UNHCR 75: Celebrating Resilience Through Craft & Culture

The Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD), Jaipur, in collaboration with UNHCR India, organized a 10-day workshop, Embroidery Without Borders, held in New Delhi from 6th to 15th November 2025. The program brought together women artisans from Kutch, Gujarat and Afghan refugee artisans in Delhi to exchange embroidery skills, foster cultural dialogue and explore sustainable livelihood opportunities. Facilitated by IICD faculty Mr. Pronoy Kapoor (Assistant Professor) and Ms. Anushka Mukherjee (Research Assistant), the workshop focused on blending traditional techniques like Soof, Rabari, Ahir and Afghan styles such as Pukhtadozi and Khamakdozi into innovative, marketable products. It also encouraged cultural understanding and collaboration, inspired by the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.



Embroidery by Afghan refugee artisans.

The initiative aims to the development of a hybrid business model where Kutch artisans could pass on market orders to Afghan artisans, supporting their income generation. The workshop concluded with a showcase of collaborative creations, highlighting its success in promoting cultural exchange, design innovation and women's empowerment.

The institute was honoured to be associated with the commemoration of UNHCR @75, marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Statute of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by the United Nations General Assembly. The event was held on 16 December 2025 at UN House, bringing together stakeholders to celebrate decades of protection, solutions, and hope for displaced communities.

The programme featured cultural performances, handicraft displays, and food stalls presented by refugee communities in India, highlighting their resilience, skills, and cultural richness. Dr. Toolika Gupta, Director of Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, attended the event, reaffirming the institute's commitment to socially engaged design education.

Notably, several of the showcased refugee artisans have received training support from IICD, reflecting the institute's ongoing efforts to build livelihoods through craft, skill development, and design intervention. The event provided a meaningful platform to recognise collective initiatives that foster dignity, self-reliance, and cultural continuity among displaced communities.



Dr. Toolika Gupta interacting with Afghan refugee artisans.

The India Story 2025: A Homecoming of Craft, Culture & Creativity

Homecoming, held from December 19th to 21st, 2025, at Raajkutir – IHCL, Swabhami, Kolkata, was curated by the Neotia Arts Trust to celebrate Indian creativity across fashion, art, crafts, music and food.



Centered on the theme of "homecoming," the festival reconnected audiences with traditional and contemporary expressions through highlights like a farmers' market, design edits and a kids' zone.

IICD showcased works by alumni including Rajan Vankar, Mohamed Huzef, Rupali, and Amankshii Rawatt, reflecting its contribution to India's evolving creative and cultural landscape.

Crafting Brilliance: IICD Students at JJS 2025

The Jaipur Jewellery Show (JJS) 2025 was held from 19th to 22nd December 2025 at the Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre (JECC) in Sitapura, Jaipur. Recognized as India's largest combined B2B and B2C jewellery exhibition, this year's edition revolved around the theme "Coloured Gemstones," celebrating the richness and diversity of gemstone craftsmanship.

Representing the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD), four students, Sazal, Rishika, Misthi & Yuvraj Soni participated in the exhibition. They showcased their work at the IICD stall within the Jaipur Jewellery Design Festival (JJDF) pavilion, presenting innovative designs that reflected both contemporary aesthetics and traditional craftsmanship.

Their participation provided a valuable platform for industry exposure, enabling them to engage with designers, artisans, and business leaders while gaining firsthand insight into emerging trends and market dynamics in the jewellery sector.



IICD faculty and student at JJS 2025

Showcasing Craft and Design Excellence at DISHA 2025

Indian Institute of Crafts and Design participated in DISHA 2025, organised by the Directorate of General Education, Government of Kerala, from 20th to 24th November 2025 at Nehru Stadium. Prof. Dr. Bessie Cecil and Srushti Pathak, who represented the institute and promoted its craft-based design programmes. The team set up and managed the IICD stall, interacted extensively with students, parents, educators and government officials and provided guidance on courses, admissions, scholarships and career pathways in craft and design. The stall attracted strong interest, with many visitors appreciating IICD's unique integration of crafts, sustainability and design innovation.



Prof. Dr. Bessie Cecil promoting craft-based design programmes.



Senior officials K. Vasuki and Azeem C. A., visited the stall

Handmade student work and academic documentation further helped communicate the institute's pedagogy and outcomes.

Senior officials, including K. Vasuki and Azeem C. A., visited the stall and acknowledged IICD's contribution to design education. The institute was also invited to share feedback during the valedictory session, enhancing its visibility at the event. Participation in DISHA 2025 proved valuable for expanding IICD's outreach in southern India, generating prospective student leads, strengthening institutional visibility, and opening possibilities for future collaborations and recruitment initiatives.

Vartra: Ayurveda and Holistic Nutrition



Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Nagar, Prof. Pampa Pawar and Assoc. Prof. (Dr.) Kamala Nagar engaging in a Varta Session

On 9th October, IICD hosted an engaging Varta session on Ayurveda and holistic nutrition at 4:30 PM, led by Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Nagar and Assoc. Prof. (Dr.) Kamala Nagar. The session provided valuable insights into traditional Ayurvedic dietary practices and their relevance in contemporary lifestyles.

The speakers emphasized the importance of incorporating millets into daily diets, explained the concept of Viruddh Ahaar (incompatible food combinations) and highlighted the potential drawbacks of adopting Western dietary habits without understanding Indian genetics and food ecology. Rooted in India's rich Ayurvedic tradition, the session encouraged participants to reconnect with indigenous food wisdom and adopt mindful eating practices.

Introducing Young Minds to Mosaic Mural Art

On 21st November 2025, a Mosaic Mural Art Workshop was conducted at BVB Vidyashram School, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, by Mr. Shuvankar Biswas, faculty member at the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD).

The workshop introduced students to the fundamentals of mosaic mural art, a technique that involves creating images and patterns using small pieces of tiles and other materials. During the session, Mr. Biswas explained the concept, process and artistic possibilities of mosaic work. Students were encouraged to explore their creativity while learning how to arrange different pieces to form a collective visual composition. Through this hands-on activity, students actively participated in designing and assembling mosaic elements,

gaining practical exposure to the craft. The workshop provided an engaging platform for young learners to experience a traditional art form while developing their artistic skills and appreciation for craft-based practices.



Mr. Shuvankar Biswas introducing students to the fundamentals of mosaic mural art

Global Exchange: IICD Hosts Women Entrepreneurship Training under ITEC

On 14th October 2025, a session titled "Skill Development and Women Entrepreneurship: Role of IICD" was conducted at the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD), Jaipur, as part of an international training programme by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi. It included expert interactions and insights into skill development, women entrepreneurship and governance practices.

Organized under the ITEC Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the programme hosted 34 foreign government officials from 13 countries including city council officers and mayors.

Design and Entrepreneurship Converge at Tribal Business Conclave 2025

The Tribal Business Conclave 2025 was held at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Dwarka, New Delhi, as part of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, marking the 150th Birth Anniversary of Birsa Munda. It concluded on 12th November 2025 in the presence of Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Jual Oram and Durgadas Uikey.

Organised by DPIIT in collaboration with the Ministries of Tribal Affairs and Culture, the conclave brought together



Prof (Dr) Toolika Gupta as a panelist at Tribal Business Conclave

policymakers, entrepreneurs, artisans and industry leaders to discuss tribal entrepreneurship, market linkages, and sustainable livelihoods. Dr. Toolika Gupta, Director of IICD, participated as an invited speaker, highlighting the role of design intervention, skill development and innovation in strengthening tribal crafts and creating sustainable opportunities, while emphasizing the importance of bridging traditional knowledge with contemporary markets.

Global Craft Practices: Sloyd at IICD

On 14th October 2025, Dr. Tom Cubbin from Sweden visited IICD. He is a historian and educator at the HDK-Valand Academy of Art and Design, where he is engaged in teaching



Dr. Tom Cubbin presented with Craft Souvenir to IICD Secretary

and research on the cultural and environmental significance of craft and design at Campus Steneby, Dals Långed, in the Dalsland region.

During his visit, Dr. Cubbin interacted with faculty members and students and delivered a presentation on “Sloyd”, the Swedish concept of handicraft. The session offered valuable insights into traditional craft practices, their pedagogical foundations and their relevance within contemporary craft and design education.

Engaging in National Discourse on Design Education

The institute participated in the workshop on Design Education for Academicians, conducted by Prof. Ashoke Chatterjee and organised by the Vastushilpa Foundation from 2th to 5th December 2025 at Sangath, the studio envisioned by Balkrishna Doshi.



Focused discussion on curriculum innovation

The workshop focused on strengthening design pedagogy through discussions on curriculum innovation and the evolving role of educators.

As the 2025 Guru Ratna Award recipient, Ashoke Chatterjee led the sessions, while Dr. Toolika Gupta, Director IICD, contributed to the exchange of ideas, reflecting the institute’s commitment to national design discourse.

Prof. Chatterjee noted that IICD stands as a strong model for future design education, highlighting its craft-focused approach, clarity of purpose and meaningful impact on the wider design ecosystem.

Printing in Practice: Student Visit



CCD students' visit Dainik Bhaskar Printing Plant.

A visit was organized for both UG and PG CCD students to the Dainik Bhaskar Printing Plant at Shivdaspura as part of the Digital Tools module. During the visit, students observed the complete workflow of a large-scale printing plant, gaining firsthand exposure to modern printing technologies and industrial processes.

The visit helped students understand the practical application of digital tools in pre-press, printing and post-press operations, including automation, quality control and production management. This industry interaction enhanced students' technical knowledge and bridged the gap between classroom learning and real-world printing practices.

IIM Udaipur Hosts Startup Showcase and Pitch Day

The Indian Institute of Management Udaipur hosted the Startup Showcase & Pitch Day in collaboration with Zoho, bringing together over 20 innovative startups from across India on 8th November 2025. The event provided a vibrant platform for startups from sectors such as technology, sustainability, healthcare, logistics and creative commerce to present their ideas before investors, entrepreneurs and industry mentors. Mr. Dharmendra Bana, Assistant Professor and In-charge, Incubation Program, represented IICD at the event, as IICD



IIM Startup showcase and Pitch Day interactive session

participated as an ecosystem partner. The program concluded with an interactive networking session, enabling meaningful discussions around mentorship, funding and future collaborations and reaffirming IIM Udaipur's commitment to nurturing India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Celebrating Togetherness: Diwali Festivities

As part of IICD's tradition on 17th October, a Diwali Milan was organized at the IICD Conference Hall. The celebration was followed by the distribution of Diwali gifts and refreshment for staff and faculty members.



Diwali Milan organized at the IICD Conference Hall for staff and faculty members

The gathering created a warm and festive atmosphere, providing an opportunity for everyone to come together, exchange greetings and celebrate the spirit of Diwali. The initiative was widely appreciated and added to the joy of the festive celebrations within the institute.

Student Displays Showcase Design Fundamentals and Craft Skills



Foundation Batch students presented a display based on the Elements of Design

Foundation Batch students presented a display based on the Elements of Design, showcasing their understanding of line, shape, form, colour, texture, space and value. The display served as a platform for presenting concepts and processes, while receiving feedback from peers and faculty. It encouraged critical thinking, visual articulation and collaborative learning.



Second-year HMD students showcased their wood-turning work

On 10th October 2025, second-year HMD students showcased their wooden joinery and wood-turning work. Using teak wood, they practiced traditional hand tools and lathe techniques, executing full-scale joinery in the wood lab under faculty guidance. The display reflected their hands-on learning and technical skill development.

IIHM Students Engage in Design and Craft Learning Experience

On 19th November 2025, third-year hospitality students from the International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM) visited IICD to gain insights into design, craftsmanship, and aesthetics. This knowledge is particularly relevant for them as they strive to create culturally rich guest experiences, ambiance and lifestyle offerings in the hospitality industry. The half-day session was conducted by Asst. Prof. Susmita Dutta and Asst. Prof. Basu Vansit. It began with a welcome presentation about the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD) and showcased the craft and design aesthetics reflected in the students' final industrial projects. Afterward, the IIHM students toured the campus and admired the beautiful products from IICD. They expressed interest in the entrance process, potential career paths stemming from this education and several of them were curious about collaborating on crafted design products to enhance hospitality in the hotel industry.

Field Visit to Kunda Village Highlights Pottery and Leather Traditions

On 24th November 2025, Foundation Year students visited Kunda Village to explore the pottery and Udaipuria leather clusters. The visit aimed to provide direct exposure to traditional craft practices and artisan working environments. At the pottery cluster, students observed clay shaping on the potter's wheel and learned about stages such as preparation, forming, drying and firing. At the leather cluster, they explored processes including cutting, stitching, embossing and finishing.



Foundation Year students' visit to Kunda Village

Interactions with artisans offered valuable insights into traditional knowledge systems, craftsmanship and the cultural and economic significance of these craft practices.



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

The past quarter at IICD has unfolded as a vibrant chapter of exploration, expression, and shared purpose. Over these months, the campus has pulsed with creative energy—where ideas have been challenged, traditions reimaged and new perspectives embraced. This period has seen the introduction of fresh academic initiatives, inspiring research milestones and collaborations that continue to widen the scope of craft and design. Our students have stepped beyond classrooms, engaging with global practitioners and cultural voices, enriching their learning through diverse exchanges.

From lively festivals to reflective dialogues, the campus environment has fostered both celebration and critical thought—reinforcing IICD's dedication to thoughtful, inclusive and sustainable design practices. Platforms like Varta have nurtured dialogue, while our outreach and skill-building efforts have deepened connections with rural communities, carrying forward our commitment to design that is both rooted and progressive.

As you move through this issue, we invite you to experience the ideas, journeys and collaborations that continue to shape the evolving narrative of IICD.

Warm regards,

Editorial Team

Dr. Rena Mehta, Mr. Rajesh Kumar and Ms. Garima Tiwari.

Graphics & Layout:

Ms. Devagya Sharma

Ms. Mallika Pant

Ms. Adamyia Vijay