

**Course Name:**  
**Artisan Name:**  
**Campus:**

Wood, Colour, and Culture: Sankheda Craft  
Paresh Suthar  
Ahmedabad



शिल्प संगम



## About Craft

Sankheda wooden toy craft, originating from the town of Sankheda in Gujarat, is a 400-year-old tradition that has been sustained by the Kharadi Suthar community. Deeply rooted in cultural practices, the craft holds significance due to its association with rituals—cradles, toys, and furniture are often gifted during weddings and childbirth as symbols of prosperity. The process begins with seasoned teakwood, which is shaped on a lathe into smooth forms. Artisans then apply a unique lacquer technique using natural dyes and mineral powders, producing the craft's characteristic glossy finish. Hand-painted floral and geometric designs further enrich the surface. Traditionally centred on toys such as rattles, animal figures, and miniature sets, the craft has gradually expanded to include cradles, furniture, and decorative objects. Sankheda wooden toys embody both aesthetic refinement and cultural continuity, preserving an identity that links craftsmanship, community, and heritage in Gujarat's artisanal traditions.

## Course Objectives

- Through hands-on engagement, collaborative projects, and reflective dialogues, participants will explore the multifaceted nature of craft—its rituals, cultural significance, and contemporary relevance.
- Enjoy the privilege of co-creating with Craft practitioners and exploring the historical foundations of craft practice, rooted in the cultural landscape.
- To spark creative detours, an infusion of unbiased interdisciplinary participation, and breakthrough
- Outcomes that celebrate diversity in thought and contemporary themes in a traditional setting
- Through the platform, opening up possibilities for intercraft collaborations.



## About Artisan

Born into a family of traditional craftspersons, Paresh got his training liminally organically as part of everyday life. As is in a generational craft practice, young ones are given responsibility of simpler tasks, the tasks grow complex and responsibility higher as you grow up till you become a master craftsperson. Paresh has been working for more than a decade and is known for his diverse range of products and continued traditional colors and sensibilities.

## Course Methodology

- Demonstration by Master Craftsperson
- Learning the basics of the craft, explorations of traditional forms
- Developing contemporary themes for contemporary narratives and new possibilities
- Making prototypes
- Finishing and displaying new outcomes to encourage conversations around them.