

Course Name:
Artisan Name:
Campus:

Artistry in Glass: The Bead-making Tradition of Purdilnagar, Uttar Pradesh
Ishteyaq
Ahmedabad



About Craft

The furnace glass bead-making craft in Purdilnagar, Uttar Pradesh, is over 200 years old and remains a key source of livelihood for local Muslim artisan communities. The craft carries cultural and economic importance, producing beads for jewellery, textiles, and ceremonial use, while also catering to export markets. The process involves melting recycled glass in a clay furnace, which is wound around iron rods to shape beads. Once cooled, the beads are polished and sometimes decorated with colored glass trails or surface motifs. Products include prayer beads, necklaces, bangles, garment embellishments, and decorative trims. This tradition reflects Purdilnagar's identity as a centre of glass artistry, preserving both heritage and artisanal skill even amid challenges from industrial production.

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

Ishteyaq ji, a master artisan from Purdilnagar, Uttar Pradesh, has been a traditional bead maker who learnt the craft from his forefathers. He practices two forms of bead making, one is on a small furnace called the 'Bhatti' and others in the family also practice bead making through flamework using a flame torch. He is an expert in creating intricate and complex beads in furnaces and is known for his creative bend of mind and penchant for trying out new forms and shapes in beads. The course will be an exciting journey into discovering the methods and history of bead making, creating unique beads and applying them in interesting and innovative ways.

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.

Expected Outcomes- Explorations in accessories, jewellery, new beads designs, and documentation

Maximum Number of Participants - 12 to 18