

Course Name: Sacred and Ceremonial Textiles: The Chamba Rumal of Himachal Pradesh

Artisan Name: Shrimati. Indu Parikshit Sharma

Campus: Gandhinagar



शिल्प संगम



About Craft

The **Chamba Rumal** of Himachal Pradesh is an embroidered handkerchief or cover, celebrated for its exquisite miniature-painting-like style of needlework. Originating in the **17th century** under royal patronage, the craft carries immense cultural significance as it was traditionally exchanged during marriages and religious ceremonies, symbolizing prosperity and devotion. Practiced primarily by women of Pahari communities, it later expanded to artisan communities under court influence. The process involves drawing outlines inspired by Pahari miniature paintings, transferred onto fine handspun cloth. Using untwisted silk floss in vibrant colors, artisans employ the double satin stitch, ensuring designs appear identical on both sides. Motifs include episodes from epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, along with floral and geometric forms. Products include ceremonial covers, wedding gifts, and decorative textiles, embodying Himachal's artistic heritage and devotional 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.
- Get the privilege of co-creating with Craft practitioners and discovering the historical foundations of the craft practice rooted in the cultural landscape.
- to spark creative detours, an infusion of unbiased interdisciplinary participation, and a breakthrough
- outcomes that celebrate diversity in thought and contemporary themes in a traditional setting
- Through the platform, opening a possibility for creating intercraft collaborations is possible.



About Artisan

Ms. Indu Parkishit Sharma is a Master artisan with 24 years of experience. She is from Chountra, Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

She is involved in the craft practice, running craft trainings among local young girls & women for Chamba Rumal, and craft education for design students across the country. She is quite frequently engaging with design students at NIFT Kangra.

She has received Kala Nidhi Award at SurajKund, International Craft Meet in 2020.

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

Expected Outcomes

- Learning explorations for the embroidery technique
- Explorations of form, motif and narrative
- Chamba Rumal (one or more) made by the participating student