



शिल्प संगम

**Course Name:** Kavaad: Portable Shrines and Storytelling Traditions of Rajasthan

**Artisan Name:** Shri. Dwarika Prasad Suthar

**Campus:** Gandhinagar



## About Craft

The **Kavaad** is a wooden, portable shrine and storytelling device from Rajasthan, believed to be over **400 years old**. It carries immense **cultural and religious significance**, serving as both a ritual object and a medium of oral storytelling that narrates epics, genealogies, and local legends. The craft is traditionally practiced by the **Suthar (carpenter) community**, while itinerant storytellers known as Kavaad Bhat use these shrines to perform narratives for village audiences. The process begins with lightweight wood, carefully joined without nails, and painted in vibrant natural or synthetic pigments. The Kavaad unfolds in multiple panels, each filled with painted depictions of deities, mythological episodes, or family histories. Products primarily include storytelling shrines used in devotional and social contexts. The Kavaad embodies Rajasthan's synthesis of **craft, performance, and cultural memory**, preserving oral traditions through visual art.

## 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 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

Dwarika Prasad Suthar received national award in 2019. He has been engaged in the craft since his childhood. Kavaad is a traditional craft of Rajasthan and depicts folk stories in a wooden structure. Apart from traditional styles and narratives, Dwarika Prasad brings stories like Recycling, Tsunami, etc to life through his paintings in the wooden structures typical to Kavaad.

## 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 craft technique and materials
- Refined explorations of form, motif and narratives
- Kavaad (one or more) made by the participating student

Number of Participants - 10 to 18