

Course Name: Chamoli Ringal Weaving: Artisanal Knowledge, Utility, and Regional Identity

Artisan Name: Shri Abli Lal, Shrimati Sunita Devi, W/O Shri. Abli Lal

Campus: Gandhinagar



About Craft

Ringal weaving in Uttarakhand is practiced by local craft communities in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions of the Himalayan area for over 200 years, who are skilled in making floor mats, wall partitions, grain storage baskets, and other household items, and other household items from the dwarf bamboo, ringal. The craft is a significant livelihood source for these communities, with artisans collecting and processing the ringal bamboo to create products for daily use. The process involves harvesting **ringal cane**, which is split, dried, and softened for weaving. Artisans use handlooms or simple frame techniques to create mats, baskets, screens, and storage containers. The craft requires skilled manipulation of fibers to ensure durability and aesthetic patterns, often incorporating geometric or functional designs. Ringal weaving exemplifies Chamoli's sustainable craft traditions, combining practicality, artistry, and community knowledge passed down through generations.

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

Shri Abli Lal is from Tangni Malli, Chamouli, Uttarakhand. He has been practicing the craft of Ringal weaving since 1999, and has now more than 25 years of experience in the same. Apart from his craft practice, he has been involved in providing training to local youth for Ringal weaving. He takes part in various workshops & exhibitions across the country. His work has received recognition, and has been awarded “Uttarakhand Rajay Shilp Puraskar” in 2016.

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 material
- Refined explorations of form/ structures.
- Ringal basket/ product (one or more) made by the participating student

Number of Participants - 12 to 18