SHILPSUTRA
INTERNATIONAL OPEN ELECTIVE 26
4-15 JANUARY, 2027

राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AHMEDABAD

Batto Bai Dolls

Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Seats Available 13

OE26A10
Ahmedabad Campus



The name of this traditional handicraft, Batto Bai's Doll, is dedicated to Kamini's grandmother. Her real name was Yashoda Bai Parihar, and she belonged to a respected Rajput family in Gwalior. She learned the intricate art of doll-making from her own grandmother, during a time when playing with dolls was not only a cherished childhood activity but also an essential part of cultural upbringing.

This tradition is considered ancient and continues to hold deep significance during festivals such as Akha Teej, Akshaya Tritiya, Gangaur, and Raksha Bandhan. On these occasions, dolls are not merely toys, but powerful symbols of cultural faith, family values, and folk traditions.

One special tradition takes place during Raksha Bandhan, when married daughters receive a pair of beautifully decorated dolls from their parental home, sent along with other festive gifts to their in-laws. This exchange represents love, blessings, and emotional bonds between families.



Ms. Kamini Solanki & Yuvraj Singh Solanki

She is the daughter of Naval Kisori Parihar, who was honored with the State Award of Madhya Pradesh in 1989, and the granddaughter of Shri Yashoda Bai Parihar, fondly known as Batto Bai, who received the National Award in 1967 for her exceptional contribution to this craft.

Kamini Solanki is a fourth-generation practitioner of this traditional art form.