SHILPSUTRA
INTERNATIONAL OPEN ELECTIVE 26
4-15 JANUARY, 2027

राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AHMEDABAD

Chhau Mask

West Bengal

Seats Available 13

OE26A11
Ahmedabad Campus



Locally known as Mukhosh Gram (Village of Masks), Charida is situated at the foothills of the scenic Ajodhya Hills in the Baghmundi block. Nearly every household along the main street doubles as an active artisan workshop. The craft dates back over 150 years to the reign of King Madan Mohan Singh Deo of Baghmundi. The first mask maker, Buddeshwar, traditionally created the iconic Kirat and Kiratni masks (representing forms of Shiva and Parvati). The masks are not carved out of wood; instead, they are meticulously handcrafted layer by layer. Artisans use a clay mold, apply layers of soft paper pulp mixed with natural gum, reinforce it with cloth and ash powder, and then paint them with vibrant acrylic colors. They are heavily embellished with feathers, beads, tinsel, & elaborate headgear.



Anita Chorida

The colorful and dramatic masks crafted here are an integral component of Purulia Chhau, a vigorous, acrobatic martial dance form. Chorida is a famous heritage village in the Purulia district of West Bengal, globally celebrated as the hub for traditional Chhau mask-making.