Abstract Dr. Toolika Gupta
Session: Kahani, parampara, aur bhavishya: Oral traditions, their role and impact

Association with Heritage – Indian Institute of Crafts and Design

Our culture and our buildings are as much part of our heritage as our clothing is. There are tangible and intangible aspects of our heritage. Our clothing forms an integral part of our heritage. We wear what we may, but as societies move towards the contemporary dress forms, we keep intact our heritage by the way of our clothing for our rituals and ceremonies. The most modern and contemporary woman, on the day of her wedding will usually resort to the heritage – embroidered garments, traditional jewelry, and a complete look that we feel has been handed over to us, by the society to which we belong. Similarly, by and large our men will resort to the Sherwani, it is our heritage. I have researched a lot on the sherwani and how and when it came into existence, but today, I would prefer to talk about the various ways in which the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design is playing a crucial role in the preservation and conservation of our heritage by active means. Education is a sector which can play a vital role in the preservation of our heritage.

At the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, we believe in preserving our tangible and intangible heritage, by means of keeping alive our handcrafting skills, and the ethos behind the crafts and sustained livelihoods of craftsmen. A few success stories that I would like to share here are –
1) The training of stone artisans of Dausa. This story is unique in the way we conducted the training.
2) The government sponsored candidates from Chhatisgarh who are studying at IICD.
3) The craft accelerator program currently on at IICD along with Startup oasis.

These stories resonate with the same sound of patriotism. The sense of integrity towards our crafts and preservation of our craftsmen, will ensure that our heritage continues, and we are able to hand it down to our future generations.

Dr. Toolika Gupta
Director IICD