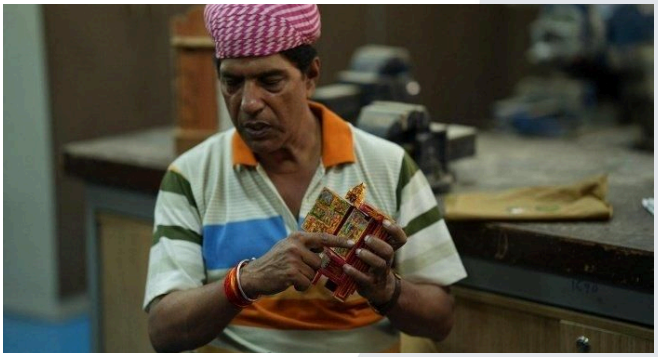
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**Indicator 11.2.6** SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

# Recording and Preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage

*THE question: Does the University as a body deliver projects to record and/or preserve intangible cultural heritage such as local folklore, traditions, language and knowledge, including the heritage of displaced communities?*

Yes. The University runs projects at all three levels the indicator asks about: local and regional (Haryanvi folk traditions and the craft and livelihoods of women artisans in Delhi-NCR), national (India's craft traditions through Shilptaru and Discover Design in India), and displaced communities (UID School of Design's work on the Ajrakh craft of the twice-displaced Khatri community and its design projects with and for refugees).



Craftsman demonstrating his technique at Shilptaru



Students learning traditional craft from artisans at Shilptaru



Community Chronicles: documenting women artisans with Katran Studio



Refugee Rapid Relief Pop-ups: student shelter prototype

## 1. Local and regional heritage

- **Haryana Day.** Each year students learn and perform Haryanvi folk songs, dance and drama, keeping regional forms in active use among a student body drawn from across India.
- **Community Chronicles (20 February–4 March 2025).** UID students worked with Katran Studio and women artisans' clusters in Delhi-NCR, interviewing, photographing and filming the artisans to document their upcycling craft, skills and life stories. The short films and photo essays were handed to Katran for its own use.
- **Waste to Wonder – Design for Community (20 February–3 March 2025).** 22 Fashion Design & Styling students, with students from five design disciplines, studied Bharat Darshan Park, New Delhi and designed culturally rooted card games, puzzles and souvenirs drawn from local stories and monuments, presented to Z Tech.

## 2. National heritage

- **Shilptaru (21–26 October 2024).** Artisans from across India demonstrated and taught their techniques on campus; students recorded processes, motifs and materials.
- **Discover Design in India.** Students visit artisan communities to learn and document Bandhani tie-dye, Rogan painting and Ajrakh block printing, skills passed down within families for generations.
- **Rangparampara – A Celebration of Traditional Art.** Students practise and display traditional Indian art forms.

## 3. Heritage of displaced communities

Most of this work is led by the **Unitedworld Institute of Design (UID), School of Design**. UID treats craft and design as a way of recording the knowledge of communities whose homes, land or livelihoods have been uprooted, so that their skills and ways of living are carried forward rather than lost.

- **Ajrakh: craft of a twice-displaced community (Discover Design in India).** Ajrakh block printing is the inherited craft of the Khatri artisans of Kutch, whose ancestors were invited from Sindh by the

ruler of Kutch in the late 16th century. When the 2001 earthquake almost destroyed their village of Dhamadka, the artisans rebuilt their craft centre at Ajrakhpur. UID students study and document the craft's motifs, natural dyes, resist-printing stages and vocabulary, keeping a record of knowledge that has survived two displacements.

- **Refugee Rapid Relief Pop-ups (September 2024).** A UID course on emergency shelter for refugees. Students studied the needs and challenges of displaced populations and designed practical, culturally sensitive pop-up shelters. Their proposals, with detailed plans and deployment strategies, record what displaced communities need to keep their way of life in an emergency.
- **Unsettled/Settled Humane Prototypes (19 September 2024).** A UID Interior and Furniture Design workshop, led by Amit Gupta, Niraja Adloori and Shefali Shelat, exploring humane design and prototypes for people in unsettled and settled conditions, including those who have lost or changed their homes.
- **Games of Peace.** A UID interdisciplinary elective on games, conflict and peace-building, in which students examine games and playful approaches that build empathy, understanding and cooperation in communities affected by conflict.

## Public links

- www.gdgoenkauniversity.com/happenings/news/shilptaru-1
- www.gdgoenkauniversity.com/happenings/news/games-of-peace