Report on National Tribal Bhitti Chithra and Mandana Art Workshop conducted at CCRT (Centre for Cultural Resources and Training), Udaipur, Rajasthan

The National Tribal Bhitti Chithra and Mandna Art Workshop, organized jointly by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tribal Area Development Department, Rajasthan and Manikya Lal Verma Tribal Research and Training Institute, Udaipur was conducted from 13/03/2026 to 17/03/2026 at Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), Udaipur, Rajasthan. The main objective of the five-day National level workshop was to promote the indigenous traditional art of Tribal Communities and introduce the general public with the traditional methods of Bhitti Chithra and Mandana Preparation. The workshop started with an inauguration ceremony on 13/03/2026 at Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, Udaipur, Rajasthan. The artisans from different parts of India, especially from Maharashtra, Goa, Orissa, Tripura, Kerala and Rajasthan have participated and shared their unique cultures in the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Babulal Kharadi, the Honorable Minister for Tribal Area Development of Rajasthan. In his inaugural speech he emphasized that, in this rapidly evolving era, there must be some efforts to preserve and promote the traditional art forms for the next generation. Such workshops are a great mean for that. Moreover, such kind programs have a cultural exchange role also. Chairman of CCRT (Centre for Cultural Resources and Training), Shri Vinod Narayan Indurkar had also spoken in the inauguration session. He argued that it is high time to promote our diverse cultural heritage because most of our unique cultures have already got endangered. Hence, in this modern world, cultural preservation has a paramount importance.



Inauguration Ceremony

The artisans were given all the materials for the workshop including acrylic paints, Canvas, brushes, drawing book, pencil, rubber and apron etc. and they were instructed to draw their own traditional pictures related with their own cultures. The artists from Kerala stand out uniquely in the entire workshop with their skill and ideas. One of the artists from Kerala, Suresh M from Kasargod, had pictured "Eruthu kali" of Mavilan community of Kerala in a Mural art theme.





Eruthu Kali of Mavilan Community of Kasargod in Mural Painting by Suresh M from Kasargod District





Panchuruli Theyyam drawn by Suresh M from Kasargod District

Apart from him others including Suresh Koduvattil from Wayanad, also did very well in the workshop with his ideas and minute detailing. He had drawn the "Kurichiya Mittam'. His detailing and perfection in drawing were really got appreciated by the co-artists and also by the officials. The artists and were really wondered by seeing the traditional house of Kurichiya community.



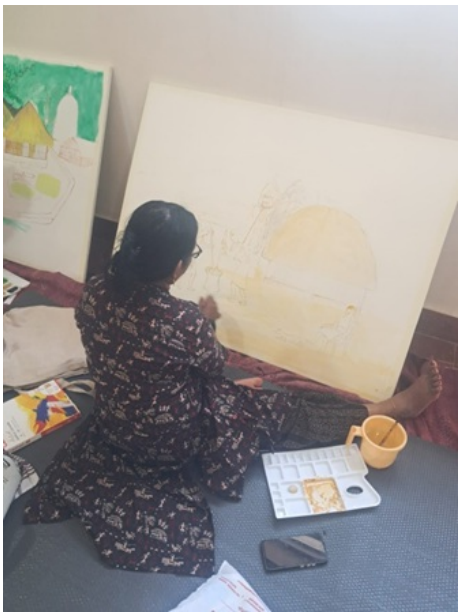


Kurichiya Mittam drawn by Suresh Koduvattil from Wayanad



Another work done by Suresh Koduvattil

Bindu M another artist from Kerala, Wayanad also did in the same way as she had also drawn a picture related to the traditional life of Kurichiya community





Work done by Bindu M from Wayanad

Pratheesh P from Palakkad, Attappady had drawn a picture associated with the death ceremonies of Muduga community of Palakkad. All the artisans from Kerala could place their own space in the entire workshop.



work done by Pratheesh from Palakkad

One of the main positive sides of the workshop was, despite of the language barriers, the artists from different parts of India had shared their ideas and they interacted each other very well. In a way a cultural exchange had also happened in the workshop.

The program by its name itself meant that it was a workshop. Moreover, the primary objective of the workshop was to promote the indigenous traditional art of Tribal Communities and introduce the general public with the traditional methods of Bhitti Chithra and Mandana Preparation. Hence, the artists from different parts of India came with an expectation that there would be some basic drawing training of Bhitti Chithra and Mandna preparation and they can learn a new painting method, but such efforts were not there. The artists were directly instructed to draw the pictures and that made a little bit confusion to everyone. On the fourth day of the workshop, 10 artists

from the workshop were selected for a live performance at the “Jan Jatiya Gourav Divas” celebration of Rajasthan conducted at Dungarpur where they met the Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma and also met the Divisional Commissioner of Udaipur, Pragya Kewalramani IAS.

Suresh M, artist from Kerala was also selected for the Program. He had drawn Panchuruli Theyyam there. His work was well received and appreciated by the officials and the general public also. Moreover, the Chief Minister had also specifically enquired about the drawing. That was truly an inspiration and recognition for our artists. In a way the artists from Kerala really marked their position in the entire workshop. The pictures drawn by the artists were given to TRI Rajasthan.





The five day workshop ended with a closing ceremony on 17/03/2026. The Divisional Commissioner of Udaipur, Pragya Kevalramani IAS had inaugurated the ceremony. Her interest in such an area was really visible in her speech and attitude. That inspired the artists very well. She had also personally interacted with all the artists

of the workshop and enquired about their work. That was one of the biggest recognitions that the artists got from the entire workshop. The artists and the liaison officers were also got awarded with a certificate from Pragya Kevalramani IAS (The Divisional Commissioner, Udaipur). Altogether the workshop has provided with a great opportunity to introduce the elements of our culture there and also provided an extensive opportunity of cultural exchange and preservation.



Closing Ceremony





Participants from Kerala with Divisional Commissioner of Udaipur, Pragya Kewalramani IAS

Some Other works from the Workshop



Warli painting from Maharashtra



Soura Painting from Orissa