

Rajasthan, the Western Indian state known for its rich colours, *rajas* and *mahararajas*, forts and palaces, deserts and ballads is also known for the Phad tradition of painting. These bright scroll and folk paintings are bold visual narratives of the brave exploits of valiant heroes. The works used to be carried from place to place accompanied by traditional singers who narrated the stories depicted on the scrolls. One of the more well-known tales that was adapted was the *Krishna Lila*. Various mythological stories and legends are also kept alive through this art form. Most of these artists belonged to the Chippa and Joshi communities from Bhilwara, Shahpur and Chittorgarh in Rajasthan.

This particular piece was painted on a large swathe of cloth where the episodes of a story are divided into panels. The colours are warm and vibrant, some panels depicting a grand saga of warriors in the heat of battle, arrows flying and fair maidens waiting in anticipation. Other panels portray court scenes, with royal personages depicted in their *durbars*.

The artwork was displayed in the elevator at **TERI in Core 6C** for almost two decades. The India Habitat Centre encouraged the artist to create the work as a part of the IHC's aim to expose and sensitise people to art and to take art out of the gallery and bring it to the people.