

***Rangdhara:* Natural Dye Workshop Celebrates Craft, Culture & Sustainability at Silpa-Sadana, Sriniketan**



The Textile Section of the Department of Silpa-Sadana, Visva-Bharati, brought colour and creativity together through a three-day national workshop, *Rangdhara 2025*, “Traditional Indian Knowledge System on Natural Dyes” for the Contemporary World, held from November 21 - 23, 2025, at Sriniketan. The event gathered students, artists, researchers, and craft enthusiasts who share a passion for sustainable and culturally rooted textile practices based on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS).

The workshop commenced in the gracious presence of the Director, SEI & RR and distinguished guests.

A heartfelt moment of the ceremony was the felicitation of Smt. Amrita Mukerji, founder and Director of Sutra Textile Studies, to be acknowledged for her continuous efforts in preserving traditional textiles and natural dyeing practices. Shri Asish Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Silpa-Sadana and proud recipient of the National Award 2025, was also honoured. The presence of Sri Avik Sinha Mahapatra, CEO, CG Lifestyles LLP, Kolkata, as the Guest of honour added inspiration and enthusiasm to the event.



Conducted by Prof. Sankar Roy Maulik and his team, participants explored the world of natural colours. The program highlighted aqueous extraction methods and dyeing the textile materials with different kinds

of innocuous metal salts and bio-mordants.



Additionally, the workshop provided hands-on practice in contemporary Kalamkari, eco-printing, screen printing, batik, and tie-dye techniques with colourants extracted from natural resources, allowing participants to discover the joy of transforming plain fabrics into expressive pieces of art.



A major attraction was the indigo vat dyeing session, led by Silpinwita Das, a research scholar of the textile section and her team, where everyone

tied their own fabric and dipped it into a living, organic indigo vat. Watching the fabric emerge from the vat and the green colour magically turning blue in the open air became a



moment of collective excitement and wonder.

Throughout the workshop, participants not only learned techniques but also gained an understanding of the science behind colour, the importance of sustainable





choices, and the profound connection between craft heritage and ecological responsibility. This beautiful blend of tradition and modern understanding reflects Visva-Bharati's vision of learning that is creative, ethical, and in harmony with nature.

The workshop concluded with the distribution of certificates, followed by a soulful performance of



*Ashrama-Sangeet*, leaving participants inspired and proud of their colourful creations. Many expressed a renewed sense of purpose in bringing sustainable practices into their future work and studies.

The success of *Rangdhara* reinforces Silpa-Sadana's commitment to green initiatives, craft preservation, and community learning, continuing the timeless ideals nurtured at Sriniketan

by Rabindranath and his son, Rathindranath Tagore.

