

# ACADEMIC REPORT

## Event Title:

### Inauguration of the Centre for Advanced Skill Development, Silpa-Sadana

Palli Samgathana Vibhaga (PSV), Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan

## Through

### 1<sup>st</sup> Skill Development Programme titled

### “One-Week Short-Term Course on Sustainable Practices of Hand Made Paper Making Based on Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)”

## Duration of the SDP

March 09 - 15, 2026

## 1. Introduction and Rationale

The Department of Silpa-Sadana organized a comprehensive one-week short-term course aimed at bridging the gap between traditional Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and modern sustainable development. This initiative was designed to revitalize the legacy of Sriniketan, established by Rabindranath Tagore in 1922, which emphasized rural reconstruction and self-reliance through the integration of art and livelihood. The course focused specifically on handmade paper making as a low-carbon, eco-friendly recycling method that empowers local artisans while meeting contemporary environmental responsibilities.

## 2. Inaugural Ceremony of the Centre for Advanced Skill Development

The STC commenced with the historic inauguration of the **Centre for Advanced Skill Development** on **March 9, 2026**, at **3:30 PM**.

- **Venue and Background:** The ceremony took place at the Hand Made Paper Section of Silpa-Sadana, on premises donated by **Late Supti Roy**.
- **Chief Guest and Presiding Officer:** The center was formally inaugurated by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati, **Dr. Probir Kumar Ghosh**.
- **Dignitaries in Attendance:** The event was graced by **Prof. Amit Hazra** (Director, SEI & RR) and Prof. Ashis Mitra, H.O.D., Silpa-Sadana.
- **Ceremonial Traditions:** Adhering to the Ashramic tradition, the dignitaries were welcomed with *Chandan Tilak*, *Uttariya*, and the presentation of saplings as a symbol of sustainability.



**Honourable Vice-Chancellor Dr. Probir Kumar Ghosh performing the inaugural ceremony of the Centre for Advanced Skill Development, Silpa-Sadana**

**Philosophical Foundation:**

The anchoring address highlighted Tagore's vision of a correlation between "Head, Heart, and Hand," noting that true *Atmashakti* (self-power) is achieved by merging rural creativity with modern science.



**Group photographs of the Participants with Honourable Vice-Chancellor, and the Director, SEI & RR**

### 3. Organizing Committee and Support System of the STC

The success of the program was a result of the collaborative effort of the following academic and administrative members:

- **Patron:** Prof. Shantanu Rakshit (Principal, PSV)
- **President:** Prof. Prabir Kumar Choudhuri (Ex-H.O.D., Silpa-Sadana).
- **Convenors:** Dr. Tanima Bhattacharya and Prof. Ashis Mitra.
- **Key Members:** Prof. Arabinda Mondal, Sri Sumitabha Pal
- **Coordination:** Supported by Mr. Sanjib Mukherjee, Kartik Bag

### 3. Course Curriculum and Technical Methodology

The short-term course provided a rigorous hands-on training schedule designed to take participants through the entire lifecycle of sustainable paper production from Waste paper, textile Waste and naturally available materials.

#### 3.1 Technical Modules:

- **Raw Material Management:** Participants learned waste paper segregation and pre-processing techniques to ensure high-quality pulp.
- **Pulp Preparation:** The curriculum covered the scientific aspects of digestion and beating to transform waste into usable fiber.
- **Traditional Sheet Formation:** Instruction was provided on "Paper Lifting," a manual technique for forming uniform sheets.
- **Creative Value Addition:** Beyond flat sheets, the course included modules on toy making using pulp and natural forms, as well as surface design through block printing.
- **Industrial Finishing:** The final stages involved drying, surface treatment, cutting, and calendaring to prepare the products for market use.



Detailed view of the pulp digestion and traditional paper-lifting process during the workshop

## Technical Sessions and Course Content:

The seven-day program followed a structured progression from raw material processing to finished product assembly.

Date	Phase	Key Activities
March 9	Inauguration & Theory	Intro to IKS and Inauguration of the Centre of Advanced Skill Development
March 10	Pulp Processing	Waste paper segregation, digestion, and beating.
March 11	Formation	Traditional paper lifting and sun drying techniques. Exploring the possibilities of Toy making from pulp.
March 12	Creative Design	Making of Paper Jewelry, Toy Making,
March 13	Finishing	Surface treatment, cutting, and calendaring. Toy making using pulp and natural forms; surface decor.
March 14	Completion	Exhibition and Valedictory Session.

## Detailed Procedural and Workshop Report

### List of Participants

	NAME	GENDER	PARTICIPANT CATEGORY
1	KRIPA BHATTACHARYA	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT
2	ABHISHEK PAUL	MALE	CRAFTSPERSON / ARTISAN
3	DEBOLINA SIL	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT
4	PRAJNATA MONDAL	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT
5	ARKA THANDAR	MALE	UG/PG STUDENT
6	SUDIPTA DAS	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT

7	NIRMALENDU SAHA	MALE	CRAFTSPERSON / ARTISAN
8	ISHA HALDER	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT
9	ANKIT DUTTA	MALE	UG/PG STUDENT
10	CHITRA SHARMA	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT
11	KAUSHANI DAS	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT
12	SUSWAGATA CHATERJEE	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT
13	YASMIN KHATUN	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT
14	MUNSHI WAHED REJA	MALE	UG/PG STUDENT
15	RAJA BANERJEE	MALE	UG/PG STUDENT
16	SHREYA SUR NEOGI	FEMALE	CRAFTSPERSON / ARTISAN
17	VAISHALI SINGH	FEMALE	PHD SCHOLAR
18	SHASHANK SHEKHAR	MALE	PHD SCHOLAR
19	BIDISHA MANDAL	FEMALE	UG/PG STUDENT
20	MOM CHATTERJEE	FEMALE	CRAFTSPERSON / ARTISAN
21	ROOPSHA CHATTERJEE	FEMALE	CRAFTSPERSON / ARTISAN
22	NILIMA GOEL	FEMALE	CRAFTSPERSON / ARTISAN
23	BISWANATH BOSE	MALE	CRAFTSPERSON / ARTISAN
24	KOUSHIK MUKHERJEE	MALE	UG/PG STUDENT

## Day 1: Inauguration and Conceptual Foundations

**Date: March 9, 2026**

The morning session was dedicated to the theoretical introduction of **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** and their relevance to modern ecology. The afternoon marked the official inauguration of the **Centre for Advanced Skill Development** at 3:30 PM by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Probir Kumar Ghosh, on the premises donated by **Late Supti Roy**.

- **Opening Philosophy:** The session established the "Head-Heart-Hand" correlation, emphasizing that manual skill is a manifestation of the soul's creativity.
- **Institutional Legacy:** Participants were briefed on the history of Silpa-Sadana, founded in 1922 as part of Rabindranath Tagore's Sriniketan experiment for rural reconstruction.

## Day 2: Raw Material Processing and Pulp Chemistry

**Date: March 10, 2026**

Workshop practices shifted to the mechanical and chemical preparation of fibers using eco-friendly recycling methods.

- **Waste Paper Segregation:** Participants performed systematic sorting of waste paper based on fiber length and texture to ensure consistency.
- **Pre-processing:** The sorted material underwent shredding and cleaning to remove non-fibrous contaminants.

- **Pulp Making (Digestion & Beating):** The core technical process involved "Digestion" (softening fibers) and "Beating" (mechanical fibrillation in a Hollander beater) to create a homogenous pulp suspension.



### Day 3: Sheet Formation and Drying

Date: March 11, 2026

This day focused on the "Paper Lifting" technique, a hallmark of traditional handmade paper making.

- **Paper Lifting:** Using a vat and a deckle/mould, participants practiced the rhythmic "stroke" required to lift a uniform layer of pulp from the water.
- **Couching:** The wet sheets were transferred from the mould onto felt or cloth layers.
- **Sun Drying:** Following the traditional IKS approach, the sheets were placed for natural sun drying, which preserves the structural integrity of the fibers without high energy consumption.



### Day 4: Creative Adaptation – Toy Making and Surface Design

Date: March 12, 2026

The curriculum expanded into 3D applications, demonstrating the versatility of pulp.

- **3D Pulp Modeling:** Participants used wet pulp and natural objects/forms to create traditional toys.
- **Surface Design:** Techniques such as **Block Printing** and decorative surface treatments were introduced to enhance the aesthetic value of the handmade paper.
- **Cultural Context:** This practice aligns with Tagore's vision of integrating art with livelihood to revitalize cottage industries.



## Day 5: Toy Making and Finishing of the paper

Date: March 13, 2026

Refining the raw sheets into professional-grade products was the focus of Day 5.

- **Cutting & Trimming:** Dried sheets were cut to specific dimensions for uniformity.
- **Calendaring:** The paper was passed through heavy rollers (calendaring) to achieve a smooth surface finish suitable for writing or printing.
- **Surface Treatment:** Specialized coatings were applied to control the "sizing" or ink-absorption qualities of the paper.



## Day 6: Product Assembly and Valedictory Session

Date: March 14, 2026

- **Final Assembly:** Participants finalized their products, transforming sheets into functional items like folders, diaries, or decorative artifacts.
- **Valedictory Session:** The afternoon session included the formal closing of the workshop and **Certificate Distribution**.
- **Vote of Thanks:** Dr. Tanima Bhattacharya and the organizing committee expressed gratitude to the university leadership for supporting the integration of IKS with modern SDGs.



## 5. Outcomes

The program concluded on **March 14, 2026**, with a Valedictory Session and certificate distribution to the participants, followed by an exhibition on **March 15**.

- **Participant Diversity:** The course hosted researchers, students (UG/PG/PhD), and crafts persons from various regions.
- **Sustainable Impact:** By focusing on low-carbon recycling, the department reinforced its commitment to sustainable livelihoods and the revitalization of cottage industries.

- **Final Exhibition:** The works displayed by the participants served as a testament to the successful integration of traditional knowledge with modern skill development.

