



The Centre for Adivasi Studies and Museum is one of the six research centers of Vidyasagar University devoted to the study and preservation of rich tribal and folk culture of the country. It houses a tribal museum that displays the representative tribal art and culture and takes care of the artefacts, works for documentation and preservation of cultural and natural heritage. Our country does not have many tribal museums. The 'Centre for Adivasi Studies and Museum' (CASM), Vidyasagar University started as an 'Adivasi Museum' in 2014, however, the first meeting was held in 2012. Department of Santali played an important role at its inception. CASM was developed as an academic Centre in subsequent years with the introduction of M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes since 2019.

The Centre houses Adivasi Museum that displays the vignettes of tribal life with a focus on Eastern India. The instruments and implements of economic activities, household utensils, musical instruments, dress and ornaments, pata paintings are on the display in the five galleries of the museum.

The Centre regularly organises special lectures, seminar, workshop, museum visits and outreach activities. It has collaboration with Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. The volume 1 of the CASM Newsletter reports activities of the Centre from 1 April, 2023 to 30 March, 2024.

#### Newsletter Contents

- » Tribute to Dharti Aba Birsa Munda
- » Exhibition at KCC Gallery, Kolkata
- » Observation of International Museum Day
- » Bengal Patachitra Project
- » International Workshop and Seminar

#### Message

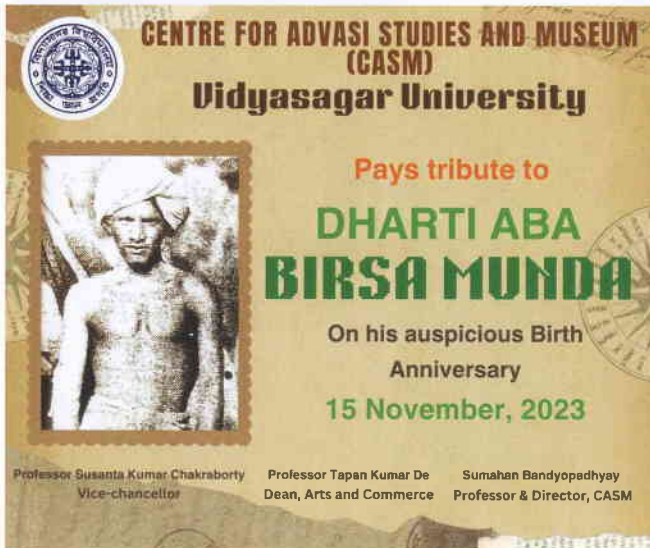


Professor Susanta Kr. Chakraborty  
Vice-Chancellor  
Vidyasagar University

It gives me immense pleasure to see the 'Newsletter' of the Centre for Adivasi Studies and Museum of our university in print. This Newsletter has presented before us the activities which the Centre has done in the last one year. I was associated with almost all the activities they took up and conducted successfully. The aim of their efforts was to document, preserve and promote the tribal and folk culture of the region and how this cultural treasure could be used for the welfare of the communities and to bring improvement in the way of life of the people. The Centre is successfully conducting researches, running Ph.D. programme in Adivasi Studies, maintaining a museum, having collaborations with institutions located in Russia, Germany, and Italy I am happy with the way the Centre is discharging its duties.

I wish all the best.

Vidyasagar University



CASM pays its tribute to the great martyr of tribal struggle on 15 November, 2023.

### Exhibition at KCC Gallery, Kolkata

Centre for Adivasi Studies and Museum (CASM) took part in the Museum Exhibition on 'Preserving Nature's Splendour: A Celebration of Natural Heritage' held at Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) from 1 to 10 December, 2023. It was a part of the AMI Festival 2023 organised by KCC with support from Emami CSR.



Artefacts on display at KCC gallery, Kolkata.

The exhibition attended by a number of museums from different parts of the state. The focus of the exhibition was to display the objects of nature that have become cultural artefacts. About 20 representative objects from the CASM museum were displayed in the exhibition. Scholars from CASM volunteered as guide lecturers to explain the objects to the audience.

Professor Sumahan Bandyopadhyay, Director, CASM delivered a lecture in the talk-session on 'Eco-Museum: A Collaborative Approach to Recognition and Protection of Natural Heritage' on 7 Dec., 2023.

Vidyasagar University

### Special Lecture

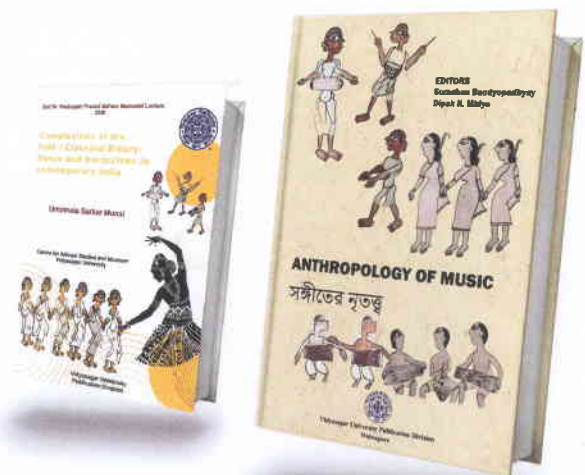
The Special lecture titled 'Life Beyond Paradox: Peace, Conflict and everyday experience of Indigenous People' was delivered by Professor Ranjan Saha Partha, Department of Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Bangladesh.

The lecture was held on 19 December, 2023 in the Seminar Hall of Department of Anthropology. The programme was inaugurated by Professor Susanta Kumar Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. Professor Kaushik Bose, Head, Department of Anthropology presided over the lecture.



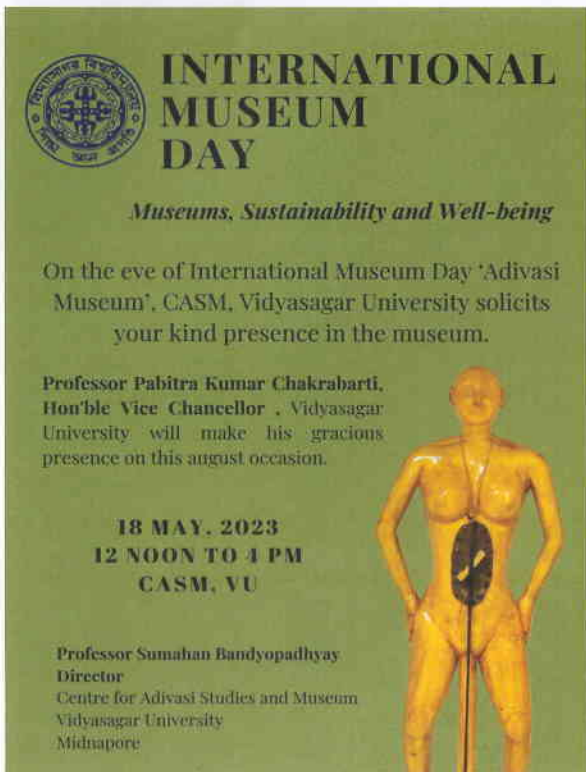
Prof. Susanta Kr. Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor delivering inaugural speech in special lecture on 19 Dec., 2023.

### International Kolkata Book Fair 2024



CASM registers its presence in the cover of the books displayed in IKBF in VUPD Stall from 18 January to 31 January, 2024.

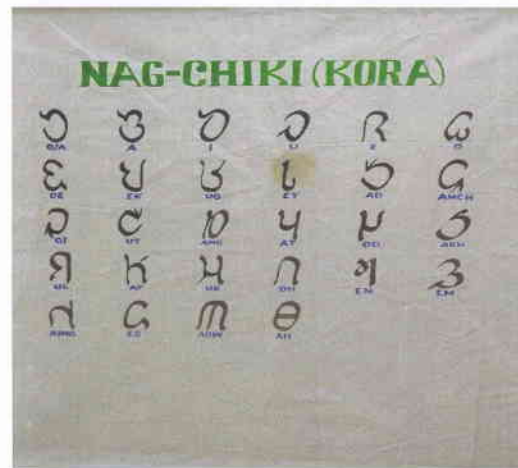
Observation of International Museum Day



The Vice-Chancellor also received two new acquisitions for the museum from Professor Sumahan Bandyopadhyay. These included one Patkar painting and another basketry object made by the Mahali tribe of Jharkhand.

New Panel on Tribal Scripts on Display in CASM

The observation of International Museum Day on 18 May, 2023 in the CASM was marked by some memorable events. Professor Pabitra Kumar Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the programme. On the occasion, three panels of the scripts of the languages of the Santal, the Bhumij and



Nag-Chiki script of the Kora tribe.



Anal-Chiki or Ol Anal is the script of the Bhumij.

Professor Pabitra Kumar Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Vidyasagar University inaugurating the Anal-Chiki (Bhumij script) panel.



Ol Chiki is the script of the Santal language.

the Kora tribes were unfurled by Professor Chakraborty for public display in the museum. Nityalal Singh Sardar, Secretary of the Bhumij social organization was present in the programme. No synthetic material was used in the preparation of the script panel.

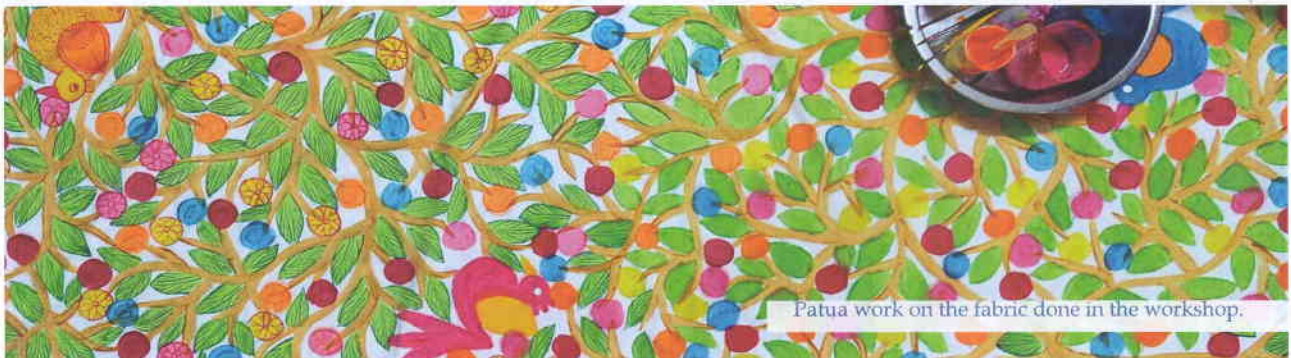


Certificate distribution programme of the Bengal Patachitra project on 20 January, 2024. Standing Mr. Ajay Rana, DGM and Regional Head, India Exim Bank; Dr. J. K. Nandi, Registrar, VU; Professor Susanta Kumar Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice-chancellor, VU; and Professor Sumahan Bandyopadhyay, Director, CASM, VU ( from left to right).

### Bengal Patachitra Project

CASM organized a 20-day Training-cum- Workshop at Naya village, Pingla, Paschim Medinipur district with the financial grant from Exim India Bank, Mumbai. The project titled 'Bengal Patachitra: Product and

Design Sensitization Workshop' started on 30 October, 2023. The primary objectives of the project were -1) to enhance the existing skills of the artisans with innovative and contemporary designs, and 2) to introduce new products in different materials like leather, ceramics, terracotta etc.



Patua work on the fabric done in the workshop.

### International Workshop and Seminar

CASM organized international workshop and seminar from 22 to 26 February, 2024 and on 5-6 March, 2024 respectively.

The workshop and seminar were organized as a part of the project titled ' Patuas working at the Centre and Peripheries: Engaging with the Folk Artisans beyond Naya and Daspur and Crossing National Borders' collaboratively done by Prof. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay, CASM,VU and Prof. Urmila Chakraborty, State University of Milan, Italy.

The participants of the workshop went to Naya village to work with the patuas. A new scroll based on a folk tale was painted in the workshop and an accompanying song was composed.

The Seminar was inaugurated by Professor Susanta Kumar Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Jayanta Kishore Nandi, Registrar, VU; Prof. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay, Director, CASM, VU; Prof. Urmila Chakraborty, State University of Milan; Prof. Stefano

Caldirola, Soste, Italy; Ms. Luciana Trappolino, noted Italian Photographer; Cristina Rodondi, Rotary Club, Milan; Aban Desai, noted art curator and Sandip Ghosal, film maker were present in the seminar.

Scholars and invited speakers presented their papers which revealed how the patua art is being transformed to blur the conventional boundaries. The poster and certificate was designed by Italian artist Cristina Gentile.



Palash Biswas, a scholar of CASM is presenting paper in the seminar. Prof. Urmila Chakraborty is on the Chair.