



Felicitating Paper-Product Entrepreneurship

A certification-cum-vaedictory function was organised on 6th April 2018, to certify the first batch of 50 potential women entrepreneurs who successfully completed the 40-day training programme on Paper Product Development, under the Khadi Reform and Development Programme (KRDP) at Kalpi Hand Made Paper Cluster, Uttar Pradesh. This programme was initiated by Asian Development Bank (ADB), with the support of Government of India, and with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as the Nodal Agency for implementation and Shri Bhagwan Das Gramadyog Sewa Sansthan as the Implementing Agency. The programme is an effort to revitalise KVI through a comprehensive reform package, which is expected to bolster employment opportunities in rural India, particularly for women and the minorities. Under the programme, the Development Alternatives (DA) Group, as the Technical Agency, has been facilitating reform and development of the Kalpi cluster through various hard and soft interventions like technology upgradation, raw material bank, common facility centre, marketing linkages, financial linkages, monitoring support, and training & capacity building support using modules and evaluation methods. During the event, these potential women entrepreneurs were also apprised of the handholding support available to set up paper product making enterprises as a means of livelihood. The gathering witnessed participation from 105 people, of whom 70 were females. Everyone agreed that the cluster could be strengthened by successfully implementing the interventions envisaged under the programme. It was also stressed that the handmade paper industry needs to adapt, evolve and innovate with changing times and demands, to keep alive the traditional skills and artisans. The occasion was also used to announce the formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which will be entirely responsible for executing the interventions and reporting regular progress of the cluster.