

## Workshop on



# Restoration of Traditional Woodcarving & Conservation of *Sāncipāt* Manuscript:

9-15 March 2022

**Venue:** Auniati Satra, Majuli

*Organized by*

**Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University**

### Introduction:

There are a large number of heritage woodcarvings in different museums, Satras, Namghars and personal possession in Assam which were traditionally made and painted using traditional mineral and herbal pigments, namely, Hengul, Haital, Neel, Kharimati, and traditional gum. Recent research at the Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University on the tradition of the painting has revealed some interesting traditional knowledge which contributed to their elegant look as well as preservation in a harsh hot and humid climate of Assam. On the other hand, tens of thousands *Sāncipāt* manuscripts of medieval Assam is a treasure of cultural and literary heritage of Assam. The manuscripts were written on Sancipat, a unique and exquisite writing folio made of *Sānci* tree bark. As *Sāncipāt* was not used in any other part of the world, people of other parts of the world are obviously not interested in its conservation and there is no standard method of conservation of these manuscripts. The researchers at the Department of Chemical Sciences, TU, based on their research on conservation of *Sāncipāt*, have also come up with a customized scientific method of its conservation.

A workshop on “**Restoration of Traditional Woodcarving & Conservation of *Sāncipāt* Manuscript**” has been organized by Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University during 9-15 March 2022 at Auniati Satra, Majuli for restoration of some precious centuries-old heritage woodcarvings and for conservation of some deteriorating *Sāncipāt* manuscripts by a method customized for *Sāncipāt* manuscript based on the traditional method of their preparation without using chemicals.

### Objectives of the workshop:

- (1) Restoration of a large woodcarving of Garud Pakhi
- (2) Conservation of some *Sāncipāt* manuscripts
- (3) Training of some participants on the the restoration of woodcarvings and conservation of *Sāncipāt* manuscripts and also on preparation of *Sāncipāt* and *Māhi*, an herbal ink used to write on *Sāncipāt*, as these will be required for the conservation purpose.

### Participants:

Only selected monks from Auniati Satra, Majuli

### Organizing Committee:

Chairperson: Ruli Borah, Professor & Head, Department of Chemical Sciences, TU  
Members: All Faculty Members, Department of Chemical Sciences, TU  
Convener: Robin Kumar Dutta, Professor, Department of Chemical Sciences, TU  
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