



NATIONAL MISSION FOR MANUSCRIPTS: NEW DELHI
Manuscript Resource Centre
INSTITUTE OF TAI STUDIES AND RESEARCH
MORANHAT - 785670 ASSAM (INDIA)



Registration No. 256/04 of 1997-98, under the Society Registration Act XXI of 1860.

**National Mission for Manuscripts, Under Ministry of Culture,
New Delhi**

**Sponsored Five-Day Workshop On:
Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts
December 4-8, 2017**

The Institute of Tai Studies and Research is organizing a five day Workshop Cum Training Programme on: **Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts** w.e.f December **4-8, 2017**. The main issues to be focused in this workshops are – Familiarization of manuscript – Its history in Assam, causes of destruction of documents, understanding preventive measure of conservation, deacidification- A practical demonstration; Recognition and control of deterioration in Manuscripts, Traditional method of Preservation of Manuscript, Chemical and human factors of deterioration of manuscripts and their control measures, Indigenous method of care of manuscripts, Different types of Inks and its effects on paper, Preventive and Curative measures for deterioration of Paper Records, Biological factors of deterioration of manuscripts and their control measures.

The applications are invited to join the workshop from those who are repositories of Manuscripts either individually or Institutional. The interested persons working in the library and archive and scholars interested in Manuscript may also apply. The application through proper channel should reach the Co-ordinator, MRC, Institute of Tai Studies and Research on or before 15th November, 2017. The application form may be obtained from Website www.taistudiesmoranhat.org and contacting Ph. No. 09435132505/09435132027/08751871042.

(Girin Phukon)

Co-ordinator, MRC
& Workshop

Institute of Tai Studies & Research

Workshop on Preventive Conservation of Manuscript

Organized by
Institute of Tai Studies & Research: Moranhat: Assam

In collaboration with
National Mission For Manuscript, Department of Culture,
Government of India, New Delhi

December 4-8, 2017

An outline

A large number of rare and valuable manuscripts written on Sanchi tree bark are still lying scattered and unidentified in the Tai villages and Buddhist Monasteries of upper Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, which urgently need conservation. If these are not properly conserved through scientific devices, all the valuable rare materials will be extinct for ever and many of them have already lost. Only a handful of persons have got the knowledge of reading and writing of the Languages of the Manuscript. After the demise of these persons, it will be difficult to translate the manuscript for the knowledge of the commoners. It may be noted that the International Community also expresses its concern about the classical languages of Northeast India. In 2006, the Educational and Social Council of UNO declared two languages of Northeast India i.e. **Edu- Misimi** and **Tai Khamyang** as 'endangered' language which may be extinct for ever if no appropriate measure is taken for their conservation. Recently the UNESCO has also declared **Tai Ahom language** not only as 'endangered' but also as 'extinct' language. In view of this, it has become very important to take every possible measures to protect the language and the Manuscripts.

It may be mentioned that thousands of manuscripts are available with those section of the people who neither can afford to take care of them nor aware of the importance of the rare documents which not only bears the testimony of the long six hundred years rule of the Ahom but also rich cultural heritage of Assam. It is necessary to conserve the hidden knowledge contained in the unidentified manuscript for future generation to come. These old and rare Manuscripts are of different types and its literature is linked with history (social, political, religious, cultural, ethical and economical etc.) religion and secular literature, hymn and Mantra, Astrological and Lexicographical literatures etc. Thus Documentation, Publication, Preservation and conservation of the manuscripts on Tai society, religion, culture, art, archaeology, literature, polity and economy would greatly contribute towards the larger human civilization and enrich the world of knowledge. These 400-500 years old very rare Manuscripts are neither conserved nor deciphered and documented, translated and published. We propose to make an effort to unfold this treasure house of learning and knowledge. It would be a valuable source of empirical research. A number of Foreign Scholars from German, Australia, China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand come to this part of Northeast India every year in search of these materials. Of late **it has come to our notice that some of the owners of Manuscripts unfortunately sale them to the Foreign Scholars due to lack of knowledge of conservation and their importance. More importantly, some manuscripts are either burnt or burried along with the dead body of a person who possessed those rare documents.**

The Institute of Tai Studies and Research has already possessed a good number of Manuscripts which are not yet conserved. Besides, after undertaking the work of survey of Manuscripts, under MRC programme, it has come to our knowledge that a large number of rare and valuable Manuscripts need urgent treatment to protect them from extinction. It will be a crime on our part if we do not take appropriate measures to conserve those "endangered" Manuscripts before these are lost forever.