

Upcoming Project: Karanja Manuscript Conservation Project



Preserving Cultural Heritage: A Mission of the Acharya Shantisagar Foundation (ASSF)

Following the successful completion of our pioneering conservation project at Kumbhoj, Bahubali, the Acharya Shantisagar Foundation (ASSF) is proud to announce the **Karanja Manuscript Conservation Project**. This initiative continues our mission to protect and restore invaluable manuscripts and cultural artifacts, ensuring their legacy for future generations.

About Karanja: The Kashi of Jainism

Karanja, a historic Jain center, is home to three prominent mathas (monastic institutions): **Sengan Matha**, **Kastha Sangh Matha**, and **Balatkar Gana Matha**. These institutions house ancient temples and significant manuscript collections, including handwritten folios, palm leaves, and archival books, making Karanja an invaluable site for cultural and religious heritage.

- **Sri Parshwanatha Digambar Jain Sengan Mandir**
 - Features 62 stone idols and 49 metal idols.
 - Holds approximately 1,200 handwritten manuscripts.
- **Shri Chandranath Swami Jain Kastha Sangh Temple**
 - Contains 400 handwritten manuscripts and a significant idol collection.
- **Moolsangha Chandranath Swamy Balatkar Gana Jain Temple**
 - Houses approximately 1,200 manuscripts and unique Sahasrakuta temples.

- **Mahavir Brahmacharya Ashram**
 - Preserves 350 handwritten manuscripts, 4 Tadpatras, and a Jain heritage museum.
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Project Scope

The Karanja Project aims to conserve and digitize approximately 3,500 manuscripts across these institutions. This initiative will:

1. Preserve rare handwritten manuscripts and palm leaves.
 2. Digitize and catalog manuscripts for broader accessibility.
 3. Ensure a sustainable conservation process that respects cultural and historical significance.
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Key Challenges and Proposed Solutions

1. Manpower

- **Challenge:** Current team size is insufficient for the scale of this project.
- **Solution:** Recruit local interns and an experienced conservator to enhance capacity.

2. Procurement

- **Challenge:** Timely access to materials and cost control.
- **Solution:** Partner with reliable local vendors for streamlined supply chains.

3. Equipment Needs

- **Challenge:** Limited availability of essential tools like fume extractors, laptops, and humidity chambers.
- **Solution:** Procure critical equipment to ensure efficiency and safety.

4. Salary and Career Stability

- **Challenge:** Delays in salary payments and lack of clear career growth paths.
 - **Solution:** Establish fixed payment schedules and communicate long-term career opportunities.
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Our Commitment

The project is backed by a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **National Mission for Manuscripts**, ensuring financial support and operational guidance. ASSF is committed to achieving the following annual targets:

- Preservation of **60,000 folios**.
- Conservation of **6,000 folios**.

Monthly and annual reports will be submitted to ensure transparency and accountability.

Budget Overview

First-Year Estimates:

- **Total Cost:** ₹75,00,000
- Major allocations include:
 - Personnel salaries.
 - Material and equipment procurement.
 - Miscellaneous and operational expenses.

Second- and Third-Year Estimates:

- **Total Cost:** ₹60,00,000 per year.

A detailed breakdown of expenses is available in the project document.

Support Us

The Karanja Manuscript Conservation Project is a monumental step in safeguarding Jain heritage. We invite individuals and organizations to support this initiative through donations, partnerships, and volunteering. Together, we can ensure these timeless treasures are preserved for generations to come.

Join Us in Preserving History

For inquiries or contributions, please contact **Acharya Shantisagar Foundation (ASSF)** at [contact information].