

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

(Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade

Guruvayoor Campus

Puranattukara (P.O), Thrissur (Dt.), Kerala – 680 551

Central Sanskrit University, Guruvayoor Campus, Puranattukara, Thrissur, Kerala in association with National Mission for Manuscripts, Ministry of Culture, Government of India conducts “15 Days National Workshop on Capacity Building Program On Manuscript Transcription” from 04 March 2025 to 18 March 2025.

Date : 04 March 2025 to 18 March 2025

Venue : Central Sanskrit University, Guruvayoor Campus

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP:

This workshop is designed to equip research scholars with the foundational principles of Manuscriptology and Paleography. The primary focus will be on identifying, preserving and critically editing ancient Manuscripts. A special emphasis will be placed on Grantha and Sharada Scripts, with practical, hands on training in reading and editing Manuscripts.

Click here to register : <https://forms.gle/eLsfCns86aaHZkVA6>

Last date to register : 28 February 2025

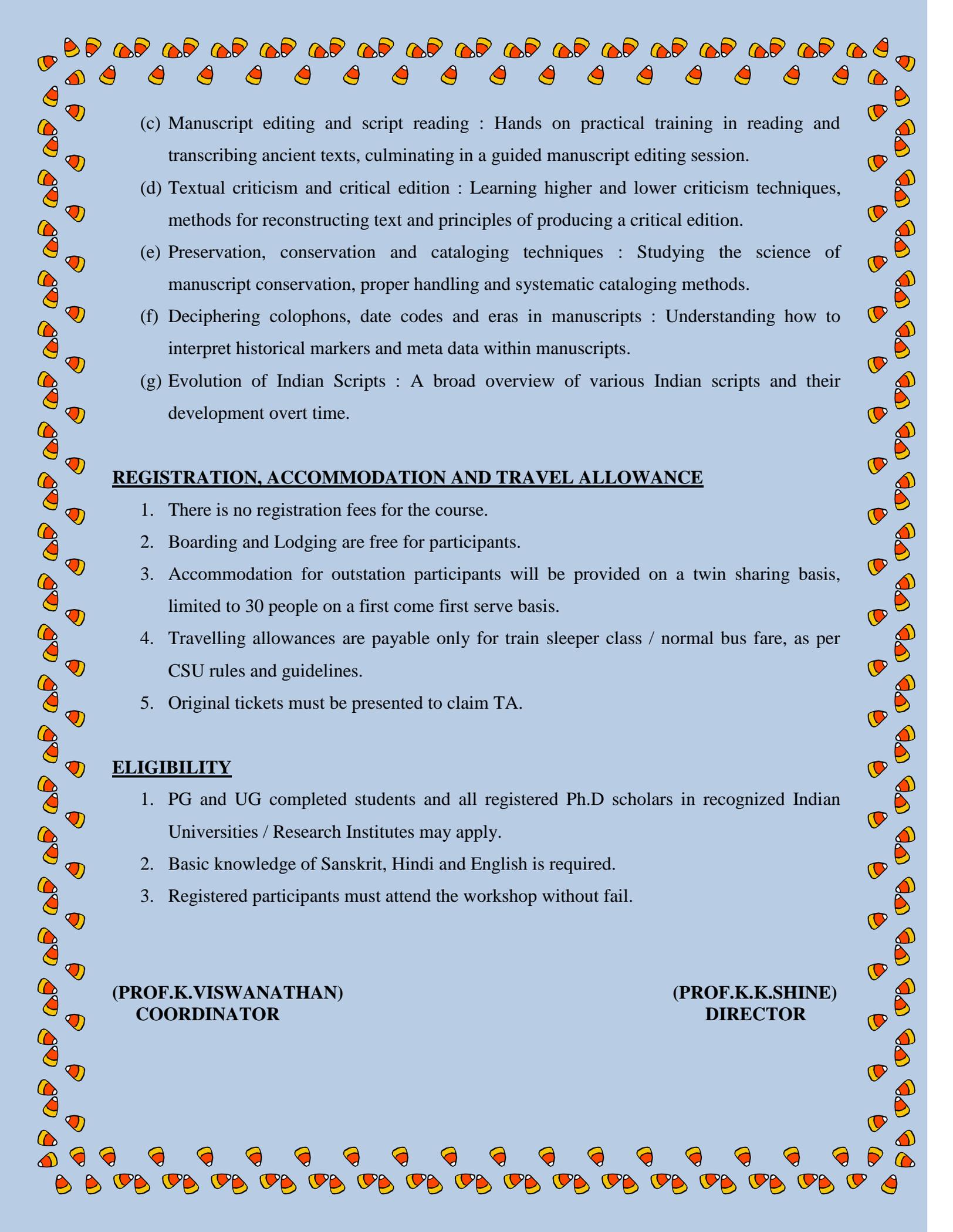
There is no registration fee for the course. Boarding and lodging are also free for the participants.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF COURSE CONTENT

Course Summary : Manuscriptology and Paleography workshop.

The comprehensive workshop is designed to provide participants with a thorough understanding of ancient Indian Scripts, Manuscript Preservation and Textual Editing. The course covers :

- (a) Manuscriptology and Writing Materials : Understanding the significance, classifications, and history of Manuscripts as well as Writing Materials, Inks and Instruments used in Manuscript creation.
- (b) Grantha, Sharada and Nandi Nagari Scripts.: Tracing the evolution of these scripts, their structural characteristics and their role in Indian Manuscript traditions.

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- (c) Manuscript editing and script reading : Hands on practical training in reading and transcribing ancient texts, culminating in a guided manuscript editing session.
- (d) Textual criticism and critical edition : Learning higher and lower criticism techniques, methods for reconstructing text and principles of producing a critical edition.
- (e) Preservation, conservation and cataloging techniques : Studying the science of manuscript conservation, proper handling and systematic cataloging methods.
- (f) Deciphering colophons, date codes and eras in manuscripts : Understanding how to interpret historical markers and meta data within manuscripts.
- (g) Evolution of Indian Scripts : A broad overview of various Indian scripts and their development over time.

REGISTRATION, ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

1. There is no registration fees for the course.
2. Boarding and Lodging are free for participants.
3. Accommodation for outstation participants will be provided on a twin sharing basis, limited to 30 people on a first come first serve basis.
4. Travelling allowances are payable only for train sleeper class / normal bus fare, as per CSU rules and guidelines.
5. Original tickets must be presented to claim TA.

ELIGIBILITY

1. PG and UG completed students and all registered Ph.D scholars in recognized Indian Universities / Research Institutes may apply.
2. Basic knowledge of Sanskrit, Hindi and English is required.
3. Registered participants must attend the workshop without fail.

(PROF.K.VISWANATHAN)
COORDINATOR

(PROF.K.K.SHINE)
DIRECTOR

**15 DAY CAPACITY BUILDING
WORKSHOP
ON MANUSCRIPT TRANSCRIPTION**

REPORT

Organised by

Central Sanskrit University Guruvayoor Campus

in Association with

National Mission for Manuscripts

DAY 1

DATE -04/03/2025

INAUGURAL SESSION - 10:00 to 11:30AM

FIRST SESSION -11:30to 1:00PM

SECOND SESSION - 2:00 to 4:00PM

THIRD SESSION - 4:00 to 5:00PM

The 15-day Capacity Building Workshop on Manuscript Transcription, conducted by Central Sanskrit University, was inaugurated by Mahamahodhyaya Prof. G. Gangadharan Nair. The welcome speech of the inaugural session was delivered by Prof. K. Viswanathan, and the presidential address was given by Prof. K. K. Shine.

Mr. S. Azhagiri and Dr. S Rajendu conveyed their felicitations, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Ganesh Krishna Bhat. In his speech, Mahamahopadhyaya Prof. G. Gangadharan Nair discussed the problems and challenges faced in the field of manuscript research.

The first session after the inaugural ceremony was chaired by Mahamahodhyaya Prof. G. Gangadharan Nair He gave a brief introduction to the evolution of scripts, explaining how speech evolved from the imitation of sounds that ancient people heard.

He described how cave paintings, which depicted their day-to-day lives, led to the development of pictorial representations and eventually to the scripts we use today. Dr. Roshini Venkateswaran delivered the vote of thanks for this session.

The afternoon session was chaired by Dr. S. Rajendu. He discussed ancient Indian scripts and their evolution, providing an overview of scripts from around the world, such as Cuneiform and Hieroglyphs. He also spoke about the Indus script and eventually traced the development of South Asian languages from the parent script, Brahmi. Additionally, he illustrated ancient trade routes in India and their connections with the Silk Route.

In the second afternoon session, Dr. S. Rajendu presented epigraphical evidence from various excavations and explained how these findings help reconstruct the historical picture of our past. He also highlighted the contributions of important scholars in the field of Indian epigraphy and recommended key books on inscriptions.

Day: 2

Date : 05/03/2025

The second day of the "15-day Capacity Building Program on Manuscript Transcription" at Central Sanskrit University, Guruvayoor Campus, Puranattukara, was held on 5th March 2025. The classes started at 10:00 am and ended at 5:00 pm.

The morning session was led by S. Azhagiri Sir, Retired Selection Grade Librarian, Pattambi Sree Neelakanta Government Sanskrit College. He taught the participants the letters of the Grantha script and how to read them.

The afternoon session was conducted by Deepak Sir, a professor at Adarsha Vidya Peedam, Balussery. He interacted with the students on the topic "Introduction to Manuscriptology". He discussed the need for manuscriptology, the Brahmi and Nandinagari scripts, manuscript conservation centers (MCCs), ancient Indian writing materials, the art of writing, and different writing techniques. He also explained what a script is and how to create written works.

Day: 3

Date : 06/03/2025

Session of days held as the part of the 15 DAYS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON MANUSCRIPT TRANSCRIPTION at Central Sanskriti University, Guruvayur campus, Puranattukara, concluded at 5:00 p.m. the morning session was lead by S. Azhagiri Sir Rtd. Selection grade librarian, p pattambi Sree neelakant govt Sanskrit college. He taught the participants the letters of cavarga, tavarga and tavarga in the Grantha script.

The afternoon session was lead by Rtd. Professor N.K nateshan, Dept. Of Sanskrit vyakarana, sree Shankaracharya University of Sanskrit, kalady. He interacted with students on the topic Kerala manuscript tradition.

He started that India is the treasury of the knowledge with all the wealth of man scripts. He introduced about the kodungallur excavation site and the unpublished manuscripts hidden in the temples and households of Kerala. He also started that humanity, morality and spirituality are the foundation of development of India.

Day ; 4

Date : 07/03/2025

Topic : Familiarising Grantha script .Resource Person: S Azhagiri, [Selection Grade Librarian (Retd), Sree Neelakant Govt Sanskrit collage Pattambi]

Summary :

First section : continuation of familiarising of Grantha script started with pavarga and rest of the consonants participants practiced writing letters.

Second section : Symbols denoting vowels and ---- consonants were introduced. After practicing the letters , words in Sanskrit and other regional language were transliterated into the Grantha script.

Third section: number system of Grantha script was introduced and writing practice continued.

Fourth section: kalapayadi number system was introduced with examples from senior Kerala --- Transliteration of ----- from Grantha script to devanagri script was given as assignment to the participants.

Day: 5

Date : 08/03/2025

The 15 day capacity building program on manuscriptology was conducted by Central samskar University, Guruvayur campus, The 5th day was successfully initiated by a welcome speech by doctor rupendra Kumar Tiwari, who invited the resource person of the first and second session on the dice, Dr. P Perumal, retired conservation and librarian, Saraswati Mahal library ,Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Perumal intrigued the students with a questions of why one needed writing materials. The students answer with "sharing and storing of information". He then threw light on the types of materials used to engrave and carve on, which where broadly clarified into hard and soft materials, further classified them into plants animals and mixed ----, He also discussed on how paper replaced all the other forms of manuscripts,

The second section discussed "palm leaves" manuscript traditions in South India: she demonstrated how to write with a styles on the palm leaf: and the different kinds of instruments used to write with. He also praised the efforts of Mr. RadhaKrishna sastri, who requested the governor general to allot more litararies to preserve and conserve manuscripts, she old so continued to thank ----- , who initiated NAMAMI , he concluded his session by displaying image of damaged manuscript which were exposed to extreme heat, dust, ---, insects ,and moisture.

Dr. Roshini venkateswaran delivered the vote of thanks and felicitated the resource person.

The third and fourth session were grandly initiated by the presentation of Mr Angad P.S, assistant professor (gust), jyothisha Department, Central Sanskrit University , Guruvayur campus, Thrissur . His presentation focused on how old manuscriptology was . He throught out examples from the four Vedas, the vedangas, guruhyasutra, matsyapurana, devipurana , and famous look like ---- and Arthasastra .He also derived the meaning of compound words of the lopi's names. He finally concluded his lecture by explaining how one's knowledge of history and importance of manuscripts. Helps in the studying and conserving of manuscripts the students actively participated in the questionnaire session .

The day lecture came to an end with the vote of thanks of Dr. Roshini venkateswaran.

Day :6

Date : 09.03.2025

The morning sessions (from 10 am to 1 pm) were led by Dr. P. Perumal, Conservator and Librarian, Saraswati Mahal Library, Tanjore. He introduced various indigenous methods used for the conservation of manuscripts. And also discussed the paper making process.

The afternoon sessions (from 2 pm to 5.15 pm) were led by Dr. L. Natesa. He introduced Nandi Nagari Script with vowels and consonants.

At the end of the sessions, Dr. Roshini Venkateswaran delivered vote of thanks.

Day :7

Date : 10.03.2025

First two sessions were headed by L Natesha Sir. First session started at 10:00 during which participants were encouraged to read the text in Nandinagari script. Participants faced difficulty in understanding the letters at first, but later picked up pace in reading.

The third and fourth sessions were headed by Dr.Vidya Sagha. Sharada script was introduced in the session starting from vowels going over to consonants and later to vowel symbols.The 4th session ended at 05:00pm.

Day: 8

Date : 11.03.2025

The participants continued their transcription work from Grantha to Devanagari for both the morning and afternoon sessions. The sessions were supervised by S. Azhagiri, Rtd. Selection Grade Librarian of Pattambi Sreeneelakanta Govt. Sanskrit College.

Day: 9

Date: 12-03-2025

We learned the script "Grantha" which is in the form of Palm leaf Hand writing script(Grantha script) taught by Azhagiri Mahodaya.

We are fully interested in transcribing the Grantha script to Devanagari with the help of Grantha script letters by team support. First I especially thank Dr. Viswanathan sir the program which is organised by them and NMM (Namami), Ministry of Culture, Government of India and our Campus to gave us such a great opportunity

15 Day Capacity building on Manuscript transcription.

Today's manuscript learning workshop was a fascinating dive into the world of historical Which in the form of Grantha Palm leaf manuscript and the xerox copies are very difficult at the starting stage. Finally I enjoyed the transliteration Initially, I was intimidated by the variety of scripts and the apparent complexity of deciphering them. However, the hands-on approach, coupled with the instructor's patient guidance, quickly demystified the process.

We began with basic paleography, focusing on recognizing common letterforms and abbreviations in different varieties of the script. The exercises,

which involved transcribing excerpts from actual manuscripts, were challenging yet incredibly rewarding. It was like piecing together a historical puzzle, each successfully deciphered word offering a glimpse into the past.

One of the most valuable aspects was learning about the contextual clues that aid in interpretation. Understanding the historical context, the author's background, and the intended audience significantly improved my ability to decipher difficult passages. We also explored different types of

manuscripts, and those Palm leaf manuscripts having ritual worship mantras and chants! each presenting unique challenges and insights.

The workshop highlighted the importance of careful observation and attention to detail. I learned to appreciate the script of handwriting. It was a reminder that manuscripts are not just texts; they are physical artifacts that tell a story or supreme knowledge in themselves.

Overall, the workshop was an enriching experience that ignited a newfound appreciation for the Sanskrit Palm leaf manuscript learning. It provided me with the fundamental skills and knowledge to approach historical documents(Granthas) with confidence and curiosity, transforming what seemed like an impenetrable field into a captivating adventure. And during the workshop we have great food facilities and Convenient weather, great teachers and team support. Finally I enjoyed today's workshop with a great experience.

Day: 10

Date :13/03/2025

Central Sanskrit University and National Mission for Manuscript(NMM) & Ministry of Culture Government of India conducted a 15 day capacity building program on manuscript transcription workshop This is the 10th day report.

There are total of 4 Section classes.All classes were conducted by S Azhagiri sir. The session focused on how to learn grantha script and to transliteration which means "Lipyantareekarana" in sanskrit which in the form of palm leaf manuscript we transliterate the script from Grantha to Devanagari. At the early stage of transliteration of the palm leaf grantha is difficult to us.

In different handwriting styles, it is difficult to identify some letters. When the letters are repeated in the same manner in different words then identify those letters through the exact words. Finally we got such a good experience in manuscript transliteration grantha to Devanagari . Through this exercise we are very familiar with Grantha script because we are sanskrit students.

During the workshop, we worked with old handwritten documents, which required patience and attention to detail. When we transliterated the manuscript We got ritual worship chants and matras in the palm leafs given as paper Xerox material.

Overall, the workshop improved my transcription skills, deepened our appreciation for historical documents, and highlighted the importance of preserving manuscripts for future research. It was a fascinating experience that combined history, language, and analytical skills.

The day was very productive and challenging.We learned something new about manuscript

Day: 11

Date :14/03/2025

The participants continued their transcription work from Grantha to Devanagari for both the morning and afternoon sessions. The sessions were supervised by S. Azhagiri, Rtd. Selection Grade Librarian of Pattambi Sreeneelakanta Govt. Sanskrit College.

Day: 12

15 MARCH 2025

One day educational trip was organised by the coordinators of workshop for providing the practical experience on the subjects taught. The trip was on 15/03/2025. Participants of the workshop were accompanied by Faculty members Dr.S Azhagiri and Dr .Remya. All necessary arrangements were done well in advance by the coordinators. The destination was Ernakulam, The business hub of Kerala and a magnet for tourists seeking an enchanting blend of natural beauty and historical richness. The students and staffs gathered in campus around 5 AM and set off the journey at 5:30 AM. As per the decisions made ,the important places to visit were Hill Palace Museum Thripunithura then the Manuscript Conservation Centre inside the Hill Palace Museum, and the Regional Archives Ernakulam District. The team first went to Vadakkumnathan temple ,an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva in Thrissur and a classical example of the architectural style of Kerala and had breakfast.

The team went directly to Sri Poornathrayeesa Temple, Thripunithura , the capital of the former of Cochin Dynasty and the first among the Eight Royal Temples of erstwhile kingdom of cochin And reached Hill palace Museum at 10.00 Am. It is the largest the archaeological museum in the

district and was the imperial administrative office and the official residence of the Maharaja of Cochin. Built in 1868, the complex included Archaeological Museum, Heritage Museum, and a Manuscript Conservation Centre.

The team after completely watching the whole museum, visited the Centre for Heritage Studies (CHS), an autonomous research and training institute set up by the Department of Cultural Affairs, of the Government of Kerala also functions at the site. The CHS is designated as the 'Manuscript

Conservation Centre' (MCC) and 'Manuscript Resource Centre' (MRC) by the National Mission for Manuscripts.. They provided a warm welcome for all participants. They explained us about the conservation and preservation of manuscript and shown us different grade archival tissues including the soft Japanese tissue and second quality tissue from Jaipur to analyse the difference and also explained how these tissues are made. After they provided a practical explanation with various chemical factors and their use in manuscript conservation.

After lunch, the team reached at Regional Archives at Ernakulam by 3:30 Pm. The department functions as a guardian of all non current records of permanent value of the state government and various department. The officer there demonstrated us how to laminate a page of paper manuscript and Also explained what are the chemicals used for de- acidification process. The team came to know about the chemicals used in conservation such as Barium Hydroxide, Methanol, Toluene and Para liquid And he also explained how these chemicals are used and what ratio is required. Then we exit from the archives and after having tea and snacks team visited Marine drive. The trip ended by gifting us a beautiful moment as the sun setting on the horizon. After having dinner, the team reached the campus by 10:30 Pm and completed the One Day Educational Trip.

All the practical sessions provided a lot of information. The overall experience of the journey was Good, Satisfactory and Useful.

Day 13

Date: 16/03/2025

Participants Continued with the transcription from grantha to devanagiri in morning session 10:00 to 1:00.

Afternoon session was led by Dr. Sayanto Mahanto .He introduced Manuscript libraries in India and also discussed the role of Westerners in Development of Oriental Studies .Asiatic Society of Kolkata 1784 , founded by Sir William Jones,played a crucial role in collecting and cataloguing Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic Manuscripts.It played a pioneering role in the study of Indian history, languages , culture and sciences.Sir William Jones discovered links between Sanskrit,Greek and Latin forming the basis of Indo - European linguistics.BORI holds over 28,000 manuscripts covering subjects like Vedic literature history,law, medicine, astronomy and philosophy.He discussed these topics in evening session 2:00 - 5:00.

Day: 14

Date: 17/03/2025

In the morning session (from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm) Dr. Sayanth Mahato introduced Brahmi script with hands - on practices and also taught how to transcribe Emperor Asoka's Rummin Dei inscription into devanagari.

In the afternoon session (2:00 pm to 5:00. Pm) participants Continued with the transcription from grantha to devanagiri under the leadership of Azhagiri sir