



SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA KALAKSHETRA

Cultural Affairs Department, Government of Assam

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra (SSK) was conceived as a grand exposition of the life and culture of the people of Assam and North-East India, of its diverse ethnic groups & sub-groups that created the cultural mosaic of the North-East in general and particularly of Assam, in respect to all its beauty and splendour. Named after the great unifier of Assam and one of the greatest integrators of the Indian society of the 15th Century, Srimanta Sankaradeva, the Kalakshetra Society attempts to capture and convey the essence of the great seer's spirit, which preaches the message of unity in diversity and the universal brotherhood of human beings. The institution attempts for preservation, restoration, research, promotion and development of the rich cultural heritage of the diverse ethnic communities inhabiting the state. The Cultural Complex was planned and conceived by the Cultural Advisory Committee of the Government of Assam in a meeting held on 5th August, 1986. It was decided to set up a complex to serve as a centre of activities in the field of dance, drama, music, fine-arts, literature etc.; with the view of preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the people of Assam. It falls under the Clause VI of Assam Accord (1985) which constitutionalizes the legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the people of Assam. This complex is an active nerve centre of cultural excellence of Assam and the neighbouring states of the region.

The foundation was laid on the 2nd of February 1988 by the then Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Sri Bhisma Narain

This institute was inaugurated by former Hon'ble President of India, Sri K.R. Narayanan on 9th November 1988

The main segments of this Institution are: Sahitya, Sangeet Natak, Lalit Kala, Sangrahalaya (Museum & Gallery) and Library

The campus spreads over a sprawling area of 17.5 hectares of land and exhibits many components of Assam and the North-east

Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra Society comes under Clause VI of the "Assam Accord 1985"

ORGANISATION



This Centre is run by a Registered Society named 'Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra Society' consisting of (a) General Council (b) Executive Council and (c) Academic council. The construction of the Complex has been fully funded by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India and also partly supported by State Government. The fund for the maintenance of the project flows in from the State and Central Govt. grants, public donations and rental from the different components of the Complex offered for various organization and institutions from time to time.



SRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL

Honourable Chief Minister of Assam is the Chairman of General Council. With a keen interest in 'Art' and deep knowledge about the Culture and Tradition of the State, he has been able to guide the team to take this Institution forward to a great extent and achieve the main objectives of preserving, protecting and promoting the Cultural Heritage. The place has lived up with lot activities and participation from the younger generations of the society.



SRI NABA KR DOLEY

Hon'ble Minister, Cultural Affairs etc., Assam is the Chairman of Executive Council of SSKS



SMT ANGOORLATA DEKA

Hon'ble MLA, Batadraba is currently the Vice Chairperson of SSKS



SRI SUDARSHAN THAKUR

is the Secretary of SSKS who is also Member, General Assembly of ICCR

This society runs with the force of a big team who have invested their time and effort to bring the institution to the level as it is today. Every individual associated with this institution in every section/wing is a great asset and their years of efforts have helped the leaders to take Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra many steps forward.

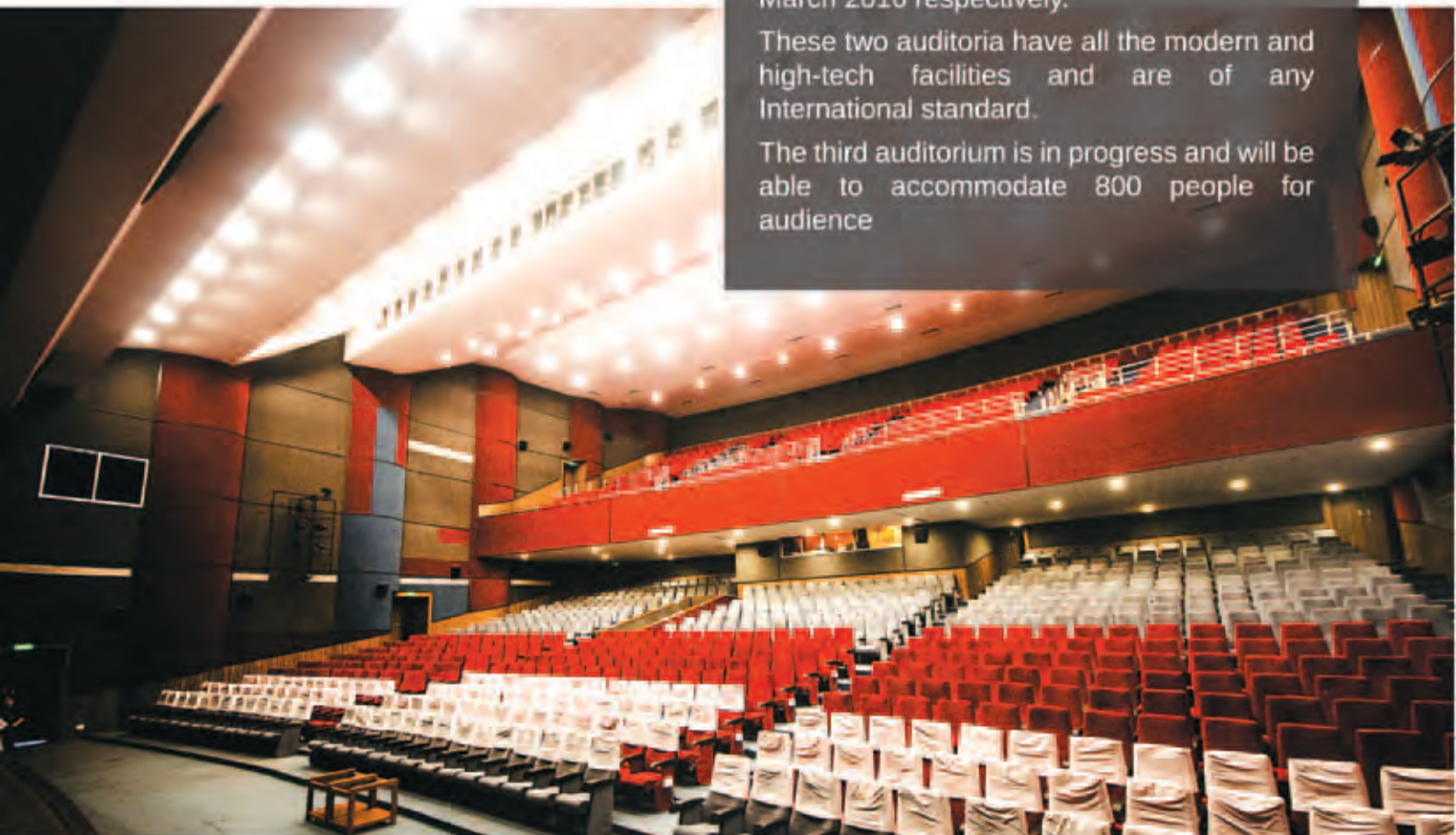
CONVENTION CENTRES AND AUDITORIA

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

The Auditorium complex is designed to have 3 Auditoria – Sri Sri Madhavadeva International Auditorium with a capacity of 300 and Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium with a capacity of 1250 are ready and in use since 30th Jan 2006 and 1st March 2016 respectively.

These two auditoria have all the modern and high-tech facilities and are of any International standard.

The third auditorium is in progress and will be able to accommodate 800 people for audience



RANG GHAR BAKORI MANCHA

This platform adjacent to the 'Rang Ghar Bakori' has an open area in the front. This stage along with the ground is best suitable for holding outdoor events like festivals, fairs and other open shows.

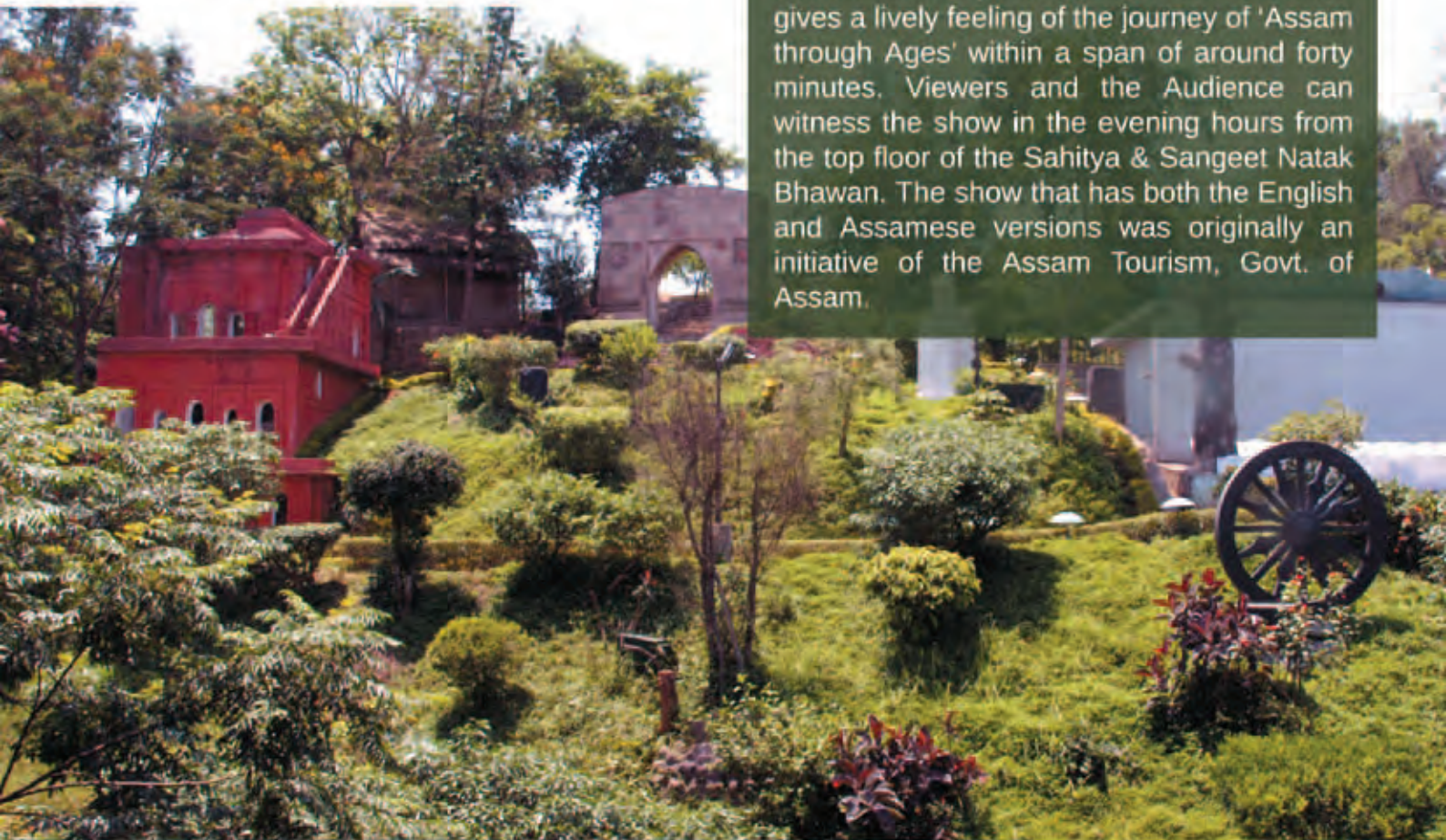
OPEN AIR THEATRE

This amphitheater can accommodate 2000 people for audience. This facility is a great platform to hold various events like folk festivals, traditional dance and drama performances, events of schools etc. Seated in the open air under the sky, spectators get to experience a different kind of involvement during various shows that are presented here.

ATTRACTIONS FOR VISITORS

SOUND & LIGHTSHOW

A 'Sound & Light' show has been designed with fine blend of narration, music, lights and objects to recreate the various sequences of the history of Assam from the mythological time to the Independence of India. The show gives a lively feeling of the journey of 'Assam through Ages' within a span of around forty minutes. Viewers and the Audience can witness the show in the evening hours from the top floor of the Sahitya & Sangeet Natak Bhawan. The show that has both the English and Assamese versions was originally an initiative of the Assam Tourism, Govt. of Assam.



NAMGHAR

Namghar that act as a centre of art, culture and community activities apart from the devotional rites, is a unique contribution of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva who propounded Neo-Vaishnavism in Assam in 15th & 16th Century. A replica of Namghar is built atop a hillock of Kalakshetra where one can witness the ambience and structure of this traditional socio-cultural institution of Assam.



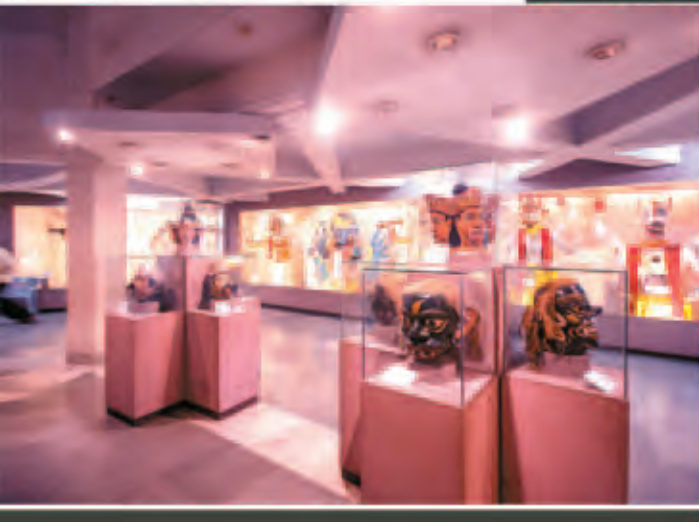
DR. BHABENDRANATH SAIKIA CHILDREN PARK

Considering the need to make the young members of the society familiar with the heritage, tradition & history of their land as well as the modern happenings of the world, a Children Park was set up at Kalakshetra on 13th October, 2006; where the youngsters can gather knowledge through amusement and recreation. A State Level Renewable Energy Park had also been set up along with the children park with solar lights and other energy related exhibits.



PURBAJYOTI SANGRAHALAYA

ETHNOGRAPHIC & HERITAGE MUSEUM



The Purbajyoti Museum, an important part of the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, the aim of which is to systematically collect, preserve and display artifacts and art objects representing the unique and age-old culture of the people of Assam in particular and Northeast India in general. This museum presents the story of the past and present in the realms of material culture and indigenous technology. The museum houses more than 4000 artifacts, under the different categories such as - Sattriya Masks, Musical Instruments, Terracotta & Clay Arts, Textiles & Costumes, products from Cottage Industries of Assam & Northeast, Basketry & Wood Products, Bell Metal & Brass Products and Objects from Sankari Culture.

PORTRAIT GALLERY

On the 2nd floor of the Sahitya and Sangeet Natak Bhawan there has been established the Portrait Gallery. Here portraits of eminent personalities who have had contributed immensely in the field of Assamese Literature, Dance, Drama, Music and Fine Arts have been displayed. Altogether, portraits of 117 noted such persons have been displayed along with the dates of their births and demise. Also on display are specimen handwritings of some of the stalwarts.





SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA MUSEUM



Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangrahalaya fulfills the visible demand of portraying the life, works and contributions of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva in this premier cultural centre that has been named after the great saint. Srimanta Sankaradeva brought about a renaissance into the medieval Assam with reforms for society and contributions in the field of literature, dance, drama, music, painting and many other areas. This museum in the Sahitya and Sangeet Natak Bhawan is an attempt to revere the great Saint's life. On display are objects, photographs, artifacts etc. that provide a glimpse of the huge attainment of Sankaradeva and the movement he initiated.

SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA STUDY CENTRE

A study centre has been set up to initiate and support academic activities on various aspects of the great Saint of Assam - Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva. This centre promotes study and research activities on the contributions made by Srimanta Sankaradeva in the field of literature, dance, drama, music, painting and other related areas. This Centre was inaugurated on 1st March 2016. Presently it has a collection of important books apart from age-old manuscripts, thesis papers and so on. Kalakshetra Society is contemplating on introducing courses on Performing Arts under this centre.



PARK FACILITIES

RANG DHEMALI PARK

This is a special playground for the children having a set of multi activity play equipments. Installed in the Srimanta Sankaradeva International Convention Centre. This children's park has attractive features for those kids that are fond of variety of games.

This park was inaugurated on 2nd July 2018 and aims towards providing amusement as well as physical and mental development of the children visiting the campus.



DIBYA PUSHPABAN

Dibya Pushpaban is developed with a variety of plants that have been mentioned in Assamese classic Kirtan Ghosa composed by the medieval saint Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva. As many as 80 varieties of plants, mostly from the chapter of Haramohan of the scared book have been identified and are being nurtured here to create a grove representing the local flora as mentioned in the age-old scripture.

HERITAGE PARK

Found here are murals depicting myths, legends, historical events, life styles, dance forms, festivals etc. of Assam apart from a water body in the centre that symbolises the mighty Brahmaputra. A replica of Ahom days' monument Rang-Ghar and a number of statues holding various traditional musical instruments are the highlights of this park.

ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES

ARTISTS VILLAGE

This place serves as an accommodation for performers, artisans, trainees, scholars etc. who come to participate in various festivals, workshops, seminars and so on. It can accommodate 150 people in its well furnished dormitories and rooms. The cluster of small houses here are of traditional designs that offer the guests an experience and an atmosphere of the villages of Assam.



VIP GUEST HOUSE

A VIP Guest House with five suites each having two beds is also there for accommodating eminent personalities and distinguished guests.

OTHER FACILITIES

Souvenir Shop
Book Stall
Textile Showroom
Canteen & Restaurant
ATM Facilities

Doll Museum

Considering the attraction children world over have for dolls, a Dolls Museum was set up in the Dr. Bhabendra Nath Saikia Children Park to showcase traditional & modern dolls of Assam as well as of the other parts of the world. Noted filmmaker of West Bengal, Mrinal Sen donated a big amount for the establishment of this Dolls museum in Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra



Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Museum

This museum was later made as an expansion project by Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra inside the campus area to preserve and showcase the various objects associated with the life of the legendary music icon Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. This Museum houses objects like awards & honours that were bestowed upon him, musical instruments, furniture, dresses etc used by him, important photographs, books etc that are testimony of his immense contributions and accomplishments. This Museum was inaugurated while this legend was alive.



Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbaroa Museum

This Sangrahalaya showcases the life and works of the literary icon, Lakshminath Bezbaroa (1864-1938) who was one of the pioneers in the field of Modern Assamese Literature. The museum gives a panoramic view of his life's journey through the medium of photographs. There are rare images of Bezbaroa, his family members and friends, books to his credit, few of his belongings and so on. This Museum was inaugurated on 26th March 2018 coinciding with the 80th death anniversary of this doyen.



Srimanta Sankaradeva Mati-Aakhora Kendra

Mati-Aakhora is a physical practice comprising of basic dance units and pure exercises which form the foundation of the Sattriya Dance form. Mati-Aakhora may vary from Sattriya to Sattriya, yet images of as many as 64 acceptable Mati-Aakhora have been displayed in this centre. This centre was inaugurated on 15th August 2018. It is open for visitors on weekdays; and with prior permission, it is open for interested students and researchers for practice on Saturdays and Sundays.



EVENTS

PHOTOGRAPHS

Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra has witnessed many important events from the time it was inaugurated till date. With every passing year, newer and more relevant events are also being organized of National as well as International levels; Guwahati International Film Festival is one such event that happened in the past year. With a vibrant and active culture, SSK has been able to draw

a lot of tourists and also a lot of interest and attention from world over to this part of the country. To mention a few of such events; in this year Kalakshetra Foundation from Chennai presented an extravagant dance drama in the Sri Sri Madhavadeba Auditorium, a three day festival was held by the National School of Drama and many more.





**SOME PHOTOGRAPHS FROM IMPORTANT EVENTS HELD AT
SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA KALAKSHETRA**

Namgharia Culture Gallery

'Namghar', found in every nook and corner of the state, holds a very important place in the life and culture of the people of Assam. Although basically a religious prayer house, Namghar plays a much bigger role as a socio-cultural institution. This significant institution, usually found in every Assamese village, was a contribution of the great Saint, Srimanta Sankaradeva which was aimed to propagate his philosophy of 'Ek-Saran-Naam-Dharma'. This Gallery, inaugurated in the month of January, 2018, portrays the popular 'Namghar' and the cultural traits associated with it.



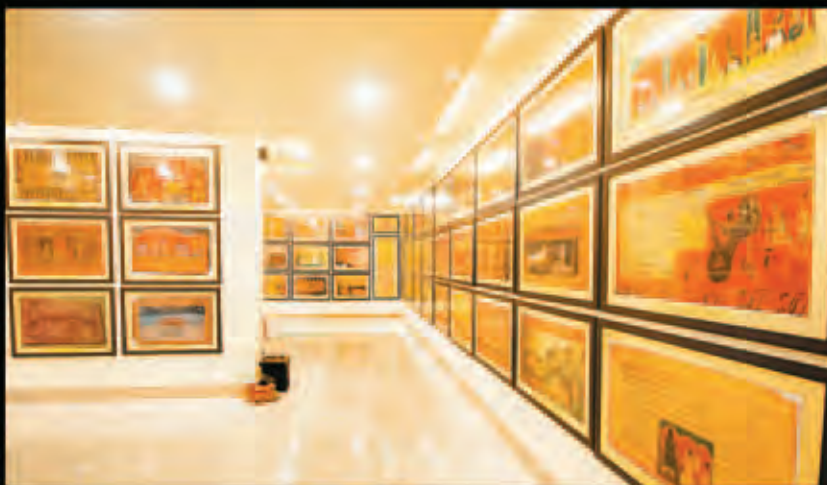
Gallery for Dance Forms of Northeast India

This Gallery in the Sahitya and Sangeet Natak Bhawan displays prominent dance forms of Assam and other Northeastern States through life-sized models. The dance forms that can be seen here are: Sattriya, Bihu, Bardoi Sikhla of Bodos, Gumrag of Mishings, Baldima of Dimasa, Ritnong Chingdi of Hills Karbi and then Ponung of Adis from Arunachal Pradesh, Raslila of Manipur, Shadpdung of Meghalaya, Cheraw of Mizoram, Moatsu of Ao-Naga of Nagaland and Hozagiri of Reangs from Tripura. Allahabad Museum (Uttar Pradesh) extended immense help in setting this museum up.



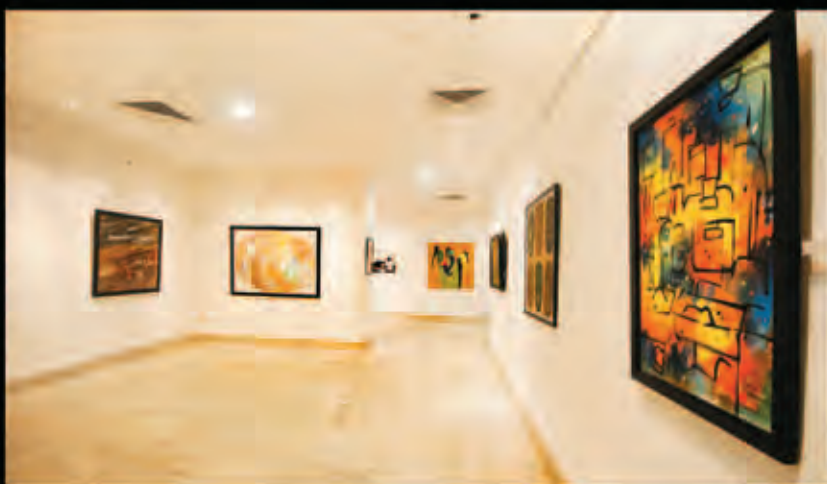
Illustrated Manuscript Gallery

The art of Manuscript painting that flourished in Assam from 16th Century, was not only a practice of illustrating the religious and other texts, but now serves as testimony of the vibrant art tradition prevalent in mediaval Assam. This art tradition was propelled by the Neo-Vaishnavite movement initiated by Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva. It gradually turned into an affluent practice and resulted in a huge repository of illustrated scriptures scattered all over Assam. This gallery, inaugurated in January 2018, is an effort to offer a glimpse of this priceless tradition. Displayed here are 125 enlarged folios of age old manuscripts.



Art Gallery

The Lalit Kala wing of SSK provides a dynamic platform to the regional community of artists to develop and exhibit their creative talents. Regular Art-Exhibitions are held in the Art Gallery of Lalit Kala Bhawan since its inauguration in September, 2002. Prominent personalities of the State have exhibited their works in this Gallery. This Gallery is open for renting out to organizations and individuals for organizing exhibitions or events depending on the nature of the events.



PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATION OF BOOKS BY SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA KALAKSHETRA SOCIETY

Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetara Society has always taken keen interest in Publication of noteworthy works by people of Assam and other areas of Northeast. This Society has published more than 50 books so far. These books have been written / compiled by popular people and noted persons of the field. Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra has also always been supportive and encouraging their works from time to time.

To mention a few of important publications :

- Sachitra Kirtan Ghosha (Illustrated Kirtan Ghosha)
- Sachitra Bhakti Ratnawali (Illustrated Bhakti Ratnawali)
- Sachita Srimad Bhagavata (Astam Skandha) (Illustrated Srimad Bhagavata)
- Sachitra Srimad Bhagavata (Ekadash Skandha)
- Sachitra Banamali Deva Charit (Illustrated Banamali Deva Charit)
- Chitra Bhagavata (IS' Part of 10" Cento)
- Parijat Haran Naat (with Eng. & France Tr.)
- Ram Wjoy Naat (with Eng. & Spanish Tr.)
- Textile Tradition of Assam: Collection of Purbajyoti Museum, S.S.K.
- An Alphabetical Index of Illustrated Manuscripts of Assam





MORE FACILITIES AT SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA KALAKSHETRA

LIBRARY

Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra has a unique library of rare books and manuscripts. Special emphasis has been given on the publications that deal with various aspects of culture while developing the collections of the library. Variety of publications like old periodicals, magazines, thesis, newspaper collections, lectures on Assamese folk literature and culture are being preserved in this library. A portion of the library houses the Library and Information Centre of DIPR, Govt. of Assam which also has a good number of books apart from a rare collection of Newspapers from 1965 onwards. There is a future mission for Kalakshetra Society to develop a library in the line of National Library to collect and preserve all books published in Assam and all books written on Assam and about its people.

GRAPHIC STUDIO

The Graphic Studio along with the required ancillaries is a vital unit of the Lalit Kala wing that offer support to the artists involved in the particular method of art. This was set up with the support from the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi. Artists can avail the facilities of the Studio by paying a nominal fee. This Studio was also the Regional Working Centre of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and scholarship holders of the Akademi had been using the Studio free of cost for a couple of years.

SOVENIR SHOP

The Souvenir Shop, on the ground floor of the Sahitya & Sangeet Natak Bhawan, is an outlet for sale and exhibition of the art works, handicrafts, mementos, books and others that can be procured by visitors as a souvenir of their visit to Kalakshetra. Publications of Kalakshetra Society and of other publishers with content pertaining to cultural heritage of region are also sold here for the convenience of the researchers, students and culture enthusiasts.

Bhasatattwabid Dr. Banikanta Kakati Auditorium

This auditorium has been renovated recently and facilities like film projections and air-conditioning have been installed to upgrade it. To commemorate and honour the valuable contributions of the linguist and scholar Dr. Banikanta Kakati, this auditorium has been dedicated in his name on 15th November, 2017.

Khagen Mahanta Udyan

A Garden was inaugurated in the year 2019 in the Srimanta Sankaradeva International Convention Centre campus dedicated to the music icon of Assam Khagen Mahanta.

Audio Recording Studio (Sabda Sanchayan Kendra)

A sound recording studio by the name Shabda Sanchayan Kendra has been set up at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra with the main objective of preserving the traditional folk and modern music of Assam. This studio has the modern facilities to record sound in digital format and the same can be availed by any interested individual or organization through proper booking procedures.



A centre dedicated for ART, CULTURE and LITERATURE.

A centre to hold high the glory of the Cultural Heritage of different ethnic groups of the state of Assam and Northeast for ages to come. A centre to protect, preserve, promote and present the bright & colourful cultures and age-old traditions of the people of Assam and Northeast India.



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