

# **CALL FOR PAPERS**

## **NATIONAL SEMINAR**

**On**

### **Oral Tradition, Ritual and History of Kajir Ronghangpi - the ‘Rhinoceros Lady’**

(As part of the annual commemoration of the ‘The Rhinoceros Lady’ on the 5th December)

**14-16 April, 2023**

**Organized by**

***The Art & Culture Department, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) in  
association with the Assam University, Diphu Campus (AUDC) &  
Diphu Government College (DGC), Diphu, Assam***

**Venue:** Arboretum cum Craft Centre, Diphu, Karbi Anglong

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

Karbis are rich in oral tradition and oral literature. For a culture that thrives in orality, the ‘main available sources’ to ‘reconstruct’ their past (Vansina, 1961), are the oral sources. Kajir Ronghangpi, who inspired the naming of the world-famous Kaziranga National Park, once in the midst of extensive Karbi settlements, is worshipped, deified, and kept alive in Karbi social memory through songs, rituals, and oral discourses. Though the oral tradition of Kajir Ronghangpi is often visualized in the memories of the local people, it has not been recorded or preserved in the documents which led to the change in the political narrative of the current ‘territory of the Kaziranga National Park.’ The cultural territories of the Karbis have indeed been constructed with their ‘cognitive’ or ‘relational space’ ideas which always imply their values, feelings, beliefs, and perceptions. It is pertinent to remember a popular saying that stories are always told by people, about people, for people, and therefore, derivations of the great legend Kajir Ronghangpi are not only about the territory of the Kaziranga National Park but also about oral tradition and ritual of the people who have been living there for centuries. Stories and attributions of these people, therefore, need to be explored and documented with the help of orality. Unfortunately, the local territories have not been constructed with ‘interactive ideas’ of the community rather they are constructed by ‘meta-historical ideas’ which are often contested in the making of ‘local history’. Hitherto, the argument is, the tradition of Kaziranga National Park is not merely a passive ground upon which events unfold, cultures amalgamate, and social processes take shape. It is part of the entire process that produces oral traditions and oral discourse of the community.

Kaziranga National Park is the centre of biodiversity where the local people and their ecological systems have highly been influenced by Kajir Ronghangpi’s cultural traditions. She also played a vital role in the conservation of the flora and fauna, especially the local rhinos. Such cultural tradition can be seen in the oral narratives of the Karbis. Recently biodiversity has been transformed due to changes in the relationship between people and animals, the government’s perceptions towards flora & fauna, deforestation, sacred groves, climate change, growing demand for natural resources, etc. In this context, this seminar tries to explore the local ecosystems that have been produced by the tradition of Kajir Ronghangpi and her people and continued the same tradition for making their history. Another important aspect of this seminar is to explore the cultural heritage of the Kaziranga National Park.

Heritage is often constructed by the local ecological or cultural values which cannot be separated from space and time that has been carved by the locals. But, such heritage can be altered when the claims or attributions of the people are forcibly changed (changes in space and time) due to ‘hegemonic ideas’ perpetuated by the so-called state with modern ‘territorial ideas’. Yet, Kajir Ronghangpi’s heritage is a vibrant process in the construction of the identity of the Karbis and their history.

In this context, this seminar is an attempt to reiterate the ecological, cultural, and spatial ideas of Kajir Ronghangpi which can be constructed through studying oral narratives (myths, folktales, legends, folk poetry, proverbs, riddles, etc., and any other epistemologies) of the Karbis. One of the unique facets of this seminar is to comprehend the contribution, ritual, and tradition of Kajir Ronghangpi from a cross-disciplinary approach. This approach is integrative and assumes a cross-disciplinary (science, arts & social sciences) study but remains connected with the core conceptual ideas of the seminar mentioned above.

The Three-Day seminar, the first of its kind, will be organized by the Art & Culture Department of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Diphu, in association with the Department of History, Assam University, Diphu Campus (AUDC), Diphu and the Diphu Government College (DGC), Diphu aims to promote researches into the iconic figure of Kajir Ronghangpi as part of the annual commemoration of the ‘The Rhinoceros Lady’ on the 5th December.

**Subthemes:**

1. Archaeology & Geography Approaches
2. Epistemologies and Ontological Approaches
3. Memory and History
4. Mythology and Myths
5. Oral Narratives (Myth, Folktales, Ballads, Legends, Folk Poetry, Proverbs, Riddles etc.)
6. Oral Traditions& Material Culture
7. Ancestor Worship and Rituals
8. Linguistics, Translation and Transliteration
9. Biographical Study
10. Gender Studies
11. Folklore & Cultural Heritage
12. Migration and Resistance
13. Identity Formation and Resistance
14. The Politic of Territorial Identities
15. Eco-Feminism & Eco-Criticism
16. Social & Economic Values
17. Children’s Literature
18. Human-Animal Relations
19. Place/Space Folklore & Cartography
20. Relational and Relative Spaces & Identities
21. Biology and MorphologicalAspect
22. Flora and Fauna
23. Sacred Groves and Cultural Ecology
24. Biodiversity, Conservation and Wildlife

**Guidelines for Submission of Abstract:**

- The abstract should not exceed 250-300 words.
- It should include the title of the abstract, the author's name, designation, institutional affiliation, mailing address, E-mail ID, and contact number
- Authors are requested to send the abstract through E-mail [terondspost@gmail.com](mailto:terondspost@gmail.com) or [vullidhanarajaudc@gmail.com](mailto:vullidhanarajaudc@gmail.com) **latest by 5th April 2023.**

#### **Guidelines for Submission of full Paper:**

- The presented papers shall be published by reputed publishers in collaboration with the organizers and therefore, write the paper keeping in view of the publication.
- The length of the full paper including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc. should be between 4000 to 8000 words.
- The full paper should be in English and typed in MS Word in Times New Roman with font size 12 and 1.5 spaced.
- References and Notes should be arranged as Footnote in APA Style (7th edition) (*When using APA format, follow the author-date method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the year of publication for the source should appear in the text, like, for example, (Teron, 2023). One complete reference for each source should appear in the reference list at the end of the paper*)
- The selected full version of the papers should be submitted in soft copy latest by **12, April 2023.**
- A Committee will review the full papers and information regarding acceptance, modification, and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently.

#### **Hospitality and Travelling Allowance:**

- The organizing committee will make modest arrangements for boarding and lodging to the outstation paper presenters and resource persons in local guest houses/hotels in Diphu. The organizing committee of the seminar will take care of travelling allowances for the resource persons and the paper presenters.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

<b>Abstract Submission(250-300 words)</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> April, 2023</b>
<b>Last Date for Full Paper Submission</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> April. 2023</b>
<b>Seminar Dates</b>	<b>14-16April, 2023</b>
<b>Email ID for Submission of Abstract</b>	<b><a href="mailto:terondspost@gmail.com">terondspost@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:vullidhanarajaudc@gmail.com">vullidhanarajaudc@gmail.com</a></b>

#### **Shri Suriya Rongphar**

Chairman, Preparatory Committee of Annual Commemoration of Kajir Ronghangpi &  
Hon'ble Executive Member, i/c Art & Culture, KAAC, Diphu

#### **Contact persons for quarries regarding the seminar:**

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