Gyan Bharatam Mission

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently union government has launched Gyan Bharatam Mission, a major initiative for digitization of manuscripts.

> *A **manuscript** is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other material dating back at least seventy-five years that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value. Lithographs and printed volumes are not manuscripts.*

- **Aim** – To Survey, Document, Conserve, Digitize, and *make accessible more than One Crore Manuscripts* located in academic Institutions, Museums, Libraries, and Private collections across India to people.
- To revive its civilizational knowledge traditions for future generations.
- **Ministry** – Ministry of Culture.
- **Under** – National Manuscripts Mission (NMM).

- **Key objectives** – Digitize and catalog more than 10 million manuscripts nationwide.
- Create a National Digital Repository for manuscripts.
- Incorporate Articificial Intelligence, OCR (Optical Character Recognition – technology that converts different types of documents, images, PDFs into machine-readable text),
- blockchain technologies to enable smart access, transcription, and tracking of origins.

> *Around 80% of manuscripts in India are with private parties.*

- **Strategic pillars & implementation plan- Scholarly leadership & institutional development** – Led by experts in Indology, philology, and conservation.
- Establish a full-time Director (CEO) and a multidisciplinary team.
- **Technological integration** – Create an AI-assisted platform for digitizing manuscripts.
- Utilize blockchain for provenance tracking and cloud storage for preservation.
- Develop APIs (Application Programming Interface) for connecting with national and international manuscript archives.
- **Conservation & capacity building** – Set up new labs for conserving palm leaf, birch bark, and paper manuscripts.
- Launch "*Pandulipi Mitras*," a network of trained volunteers in around 100 districts.
- **Public engagement** – Create educational modules for schools and universities.

- Offer immersive Virtual Reality/Augumented Reality experiences highlighting manuscript heritage.
- Organize Manuscript Melas and national social media campaigns.
- **Timeline Overview (2025-2031)** – **Phase 1** – Institutional setup, pilot digitization, and training.
- **Phase 2** – Launch national repository and activate tech platforms.
- **Phase 3** – Expand outreach and integrate with manuscript archives.

Reference

1. PIB| Gyan Bharatam Mission
2. Ministry of culture| GBM

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