

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 Artificial 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/Augmented 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](#)

