

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2512
ANSWERED ON- 11/08/2025

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON JAIN MANUSCRIPTOLOGY

2512. SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government organized a National Workshop on Jain Manuscriptology recently at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad to promote and preserve Jain literary heritage under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK);
- (b) if so, details thereof along with key outcomes of said workshop;
- (c) whether Government has any plans to conserve, digitize minority heritage manuscripts of Jain tradition and make them available to public and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has collaborated with any other University of the country to preserve literary heritage of other minorities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) Yes sir, Ministry of Minority Affairs has organized a national workshop on the significance of Jain Manuscriptology on 19th July, 2025 at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. The workshop was conducted under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), with the aim of promoting and preserving the rich literary heritage of Jainism.

(b) The workshop was attended by the scholars, researchers, cultural experts and community leaders who highlighted the significance of Jain manuscripts. Following are the outcomes of the workshop:

- Dialogue on preservation techniques and research potential of Jain manuscripts
- Importance of incorporating ancient wisdom into modern academic and cultural narratives
- Community engagement for collaborative conservation efforts

(c) Under PMJVK, the Ministry has approved the project to the University of Gujarat for the establishment of a Centre for Jain Manuscriptology at Gujarat University to create a dedicated, state-of-the-art infrastructure for Digitization and conservation of Jain manuscripts.

(d) & (e) The Ministry has collaborated with these Universities to set up Centres of Excellence for minority literary heritage. The following five projects have been approved under PMJVK and their details are as under:

Sl.No	Name of the Project	University	Related Minority Community	Objective of project
1.	Centre of Excellence in Minority Heritage Languages and Cultural Studies	University of Mumbai	Parsi & Buddhist	To promote research in Avesta-Pahlavi, Pali and Prakrit, and preserve heritage languages and traditions.
2.	Centre for Advanced Studies in Buddhist Studies	University of Delhi	Buddhist	To promote advanced academic research, fostering Bharat-centric perspectives, preserving cultural heritage, and encouraging interdisciplinary and institutional collaboration.
3.	Centre for Gurumukhi Script	Khalsa College, University of Delhi	Sikh	To preserve, promote, and teach Gurumukhi script using digital tools, community support, and interactive platforms.
4.	Centre for Jain Manuscriptology	Gujarat University	Jain	To digitize and conserve Jain manuscripts with proper metadata and cataloguing, while establishing training and research facilities in manuscriptology.
5.	Centre for Jain Studies	Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore	Jain	To promote Jain heritage and culture through academic programs, research and global collaboration.
