

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No.55
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025**

Preservation and dissemination of India's manuscript

***55# SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- a) the details of Gyan Bharatam Mission, launched by the Ministry, to preserve, digitise and disseminate India's manuscript heritage;
- b) whether any measures are being undertaken under the Mission for cataloging, conservation and public access to manuscripts;
- c) if so, the details thereof; and
- d) the key features of Delhi Declaration (Gyan Bharatam Sankalp Patra) and its role in transforming manuscript heritage conservation?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 55 FOR REPLY ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INDIA'S MANUSCRIPT ASKED BY SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

(a) Gyan Bharatam, the flagship initiative of Ministry of Culture, Government of India announced in the Union Budget (Para 84) on 1st February 2025, aimed at surveying, documenting, conserving, digitising and disseminating India's manuscript heritage. The initiative envisages collaboration with academic institutions, museums, libraries and private collectors to cover more than one crore manuscripts, while establishing a National Digital Repository supported by advanced technology and Artificial Intelligence to ensure access and global reach. To support the initiative, the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) has sanctioned Rs.491.66 crore for the period 2025-2031.

(b) & (c) The measures undertaken in this regard are as follows:

- i. An International Conference on “Reclaiming India’s Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage” Was held during 11th -13th September 2025 where Gyan Bharatam Digital Web Portal was launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.
- ii. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with 31 Centers which includes 19 Cluster Centers and 12 Independent Centers for working on the following five verticals of Gyan Bharatam:
 - Survey & Cataloguing.
 - Conservation & Capacity Building.
 - Technology & Digitization.
 - Linguistics & Translation.
 - Research, Outreach & Publication.

(d) The Delhi Declaration (Gyan Bharatam Sankalp Patra) sets out a national commitment for preserving, digitizing and revitalizing India's vast manuscript heritage by uniting institutions, scholars, communities and private custodians. Emphasizing manuscripts as the living memory of India's civilization, it calls for modern conservation practices, large-scale digital access and renewed research to bring traditional knowledge into contemporary relevance. By transforming heritage preservation into a people's movement and promoting global collaboration, the Declaration plays a transformative role in safeguarding diverse scripts and knowledge traditions while positioning India as a global centre for manuscript-based learning. Transcript of Delhi Declaration is annexed.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred in part (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question Number 55 for reply on 04.12.2025 for Gyan Bharatam for Preservation and dissemination of India's manuscript

GYAN BHARATAM SANKALP YATRA

Delhi Declaration on 13th September 2025

We the manuscript custodians, academicians, scholars, conservators, digitization experts, language experts, script experts, persons connected with repositories, individual collectors, archaeologists, manuscriptologists, paleographists, technology experts, institutions related to archiving and all other people who care for the manuscript heritage of Bharat, assembled here in the International Conference on Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy Through Manuscript Heritage, after thorough deliberation and deep realization resolve to declare that:

Bharat is the land of the world's richest and most diverse manuscript heritage, embodying the wisdom of thousands of years across philosophy, science, literature, arts, spirituality, and many other subjects. These manuscripts, inscribed on palm-leaf, birch-bark, cloth, handmade paper and other such materials represent the living memory of the nation and the foundation of its civilizational identity.

In the spirit of Viksit Bharat 2047, we resolve to join the movement of GYAN BHARATAM to preserve, digitize and disseminate this vast treasure, making it accessible to citizens and scholars alike across the world. We firmly believe that Manuscripts are not merely relics of the past; they are guiding lights for the future—connecting heritage with innovation, tradition with technology and knowledge with development.

We further resolve and pledge that we all will work together to:

GUARD and preserve the priceless manuscript heritage of Bharat as the cultural and intellectual cornerstone of Viksit Bharat 2047.

YIELD GLOBAL LEADERSHIP by making Bharat the foremost hub of manuscripts, showcasing the world's most diverse written knowledge traditions.

AWAKEN A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT by turning the Gyan Bharatam into a Jan Andolan that strengthens cultural identity and knowledge-based growth.

NURTURE EVERY SCRIPT AND LANGUAGE by caring for manuscripts from all regions as symbols of unity in diversity, deepening cultural bonds across communities.

BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER by involving citizens, scholars, students, women, youth and elders to participate actively in safeguarding this heritage.

HARNESS SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY to build capacity, strengthen expertise and adopt modern methods for preservation, conservation, cataloguing, digitization and dissemination.

ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOUR CUSTODIANS, institutions and individuals safeguarding India's knowledge treasures across centuries.

RESEARCH AND REINTERPRET manuscripts through systematic efforts to read, decode and contextualize them for academic and socio-cultural benefit.

ACQUIRE AND REPATRITAE original manuscripts or secure their digital copies from abroad, ensuring access for research and national pride.

TRANSMIT ANCIENT WISDOM by making manuscripts available for education, innovation and intergenerational learning.

ADVOCATE PUBLIC AWARENESS campaigns to inspire respect, curiosity and pride in Bharat's manuscript traditions.

MENTOR FUTURE GENERATIONS to sustain the spirit of Gyan Bharatam and carry forward the living legacy of India's written knowledge.
