

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1305
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026**

Proposals from Punjab

1305. Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether proposals have been received from Government of Punjab during the last five years for digitisation, preservation and AI-based archival, transcription and translation of rare Punjabi and Sikh manuscripts and for the development of museums, libraries and cultural centres in the State;
- (b) the proposal-wise details thereof, indicating the funds sanctioned, released and utilised;
- (c) the details of museums, libraries and cultural institutions in the State supported by the Central Government and the status of pending proposals, if any; and
- (d) the steps taken to preserve endangered Punjabi manuscripts and archival materials through emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, digitisation and multilingual digital repositories?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Gyan Bharatam Mission (GBM) under the Ministry of Culture envisages the identification, documentation, conservation, digitisation, research, publication and dissemination of India's manuscript heritage irrespective of script, language, dialect, tradition, community or geographical location.

The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations including Punjab State Government have also been engaged by way of signing Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate coordinated efforts and ensure comprehensive coverage of manuscript heritage across the country.

The Mission also envisages the use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), machine-assisted transcription, metadata creation and multilingual digital access for preservation and wider accessibility of manuscripts.

Under the National Mission on Libraries (NML) Scheme, financial assistance is provided for setting up one Model State Central Library and one Model District Library in each State/UT, based on the recommendations of the respective State Governments. In Punjab, financial assistance has been provided to the libraries namely Musafir Memorial Central State Library, Patiala (Rs.223 lakh) and Guru Nanak District Library, Kapurthala (Rs.87 Lakh). In addition, Under Museum Grant Scheme, Rs.250 Lakh was released to Punjab State Civil Aviation Council, Patiala, Punjab in the financial year 2021-22.

(d) The Government has initiated several measures under the Gyan Bharatam Mission for preservation and dissemination of India's manuscript heritage as hereunder:

1. Nationwide survey, identification and documentation of manuscript collections.
2. Scientific conservation and preventive preservation of fragile and endangered manuscripts.
3. High-resolution digitisation of manuscripts in archival formats.
4. Standardised metadata creation and cataloguing.
5. Development of a national digital repository for long-term preservation and public access.
6. Adoption of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), machine-assisted transcription, translation and language technologies for improved accessibility and research.
7. Collaboration with academic institutions, manuscript repositories, libraries and State Governments for identification, digitisation and preservation of manuscript collections.
8. Capacity building through training programmes, workshops and preparation of technical standards and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for manuscript conservation and digitisation.
