

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 520
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026**

Study of manuscripts

520. Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any scheme to involve and acknowledge experts to study rare and unpublished manuscripts of ancient India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that manuscripts related to ancient Indian knowledge remain unexplored due to reasons such as their dispersed presence in private collections and traditional institutions, lack of systematic cataloguing, limited accessibility, linguistic and script-related complexities, shortage of trained experts in manuscript studies, etc.; and
- (c) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) Gyan Bharatam Mission (GBM), announced during Union Budget 2025-26, is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture (MoC), Government of India to undertake manuscripts related activities under various components including survey and registration of manuscripts, building robust technology infrastructure and partnership, documentation, preservation, conservation, digitization, publication of manuscripts and capacity building & research. The Mission, inter-alia, envisages engagement of domain expert to identify and categorize manuscripts collection for transcription, translation and publication with critical editions.

(b) & (c) Manuscripts related to ancient Indian knowledge remain unexplored due to various reasons

such as their dispersed presence in private collections and traditional institutions, lack of systematic cataloguing, limited accessibility, linguistic and script-related complexities, shortage of trained experts in manuscript studies etc. The corrective steps taken by the Government under GBM in this regard includes onboarding of institutions across the country to carry out above mentioned activities, engaging States / Union Territories (UTs) to act as Nodal Coordinating Authority for Gyan Bharatam implementation within the State / UT concerned, launch of National Manuscript Survey for identification, documenting and creating a comprehensive national database of manuscripts available with institutions, private individuals, scholars, mutts, temples, libraries and other repositories, onboarding of technical partners for various functions including metadata creation and its integration on National Digital Repository (NDR), deployment of equipments, AI-integrated digital platform and long-term data storage etc.
