

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2208

TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

NEW NATIONAL MANUSCRIPTS MISSION

2208. SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the key differences in structure and authority between the proposed new National Manuscripts Mission (NMM) and the existing NMM under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts;
- (b) the manner in which the new National Manuscripts Authority will leverage advance technologies to improve the preservation, digitization and accessibility of manuscripts;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated under the proposed new National Manuscripts Mission for preservation and study of rare manuscripts;
- (d) whether the Government has taken appropriate measure to address the deterioration of manuscripts, scarcity of traditional conservation skills, and gaps in the regional manuscript collection as part of this initiative; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Culture established the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) in 2003 during the 10th Five Year Plan to document, conserve, and promote access to Indian manuscripts. The scheme was evaluated by a committee of experts, which recommended its continuation with broader reach and direct oversight by the Ministry. The National Mission for Manuscripts presently functions as a unit under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, for which funds are provided to the organization. The NMM uses technology with contributions from IGNCA for preservation and digitization of manuscripts. The digitized manuscripts are uploaded to the <https://www.pandulipatala.nic.in>.

In order to address challenges of deterioration of Manuscripts, NMM employs different methods of preservation such as lamination, restoration, and deacidification of manuscripts. Training is offered for various aspects of preventive conservation. Manuscript Resource Centres (MRCs) and Manuscript Conservation Centres (MCCs) address regional and thematic collection and conservation gaps.
