

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 243
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT LANGUAGES

**243. SMT. BHARTI PARDHI:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI RAVINDRA DATTARAM WAIKAR:
SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the fund allocated and utilized in preserving India's ancient languages through institutional responsibilities and the proposed timeline for the establishment and operations of cultural centers in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of ancient languages, texts, manuscripts, inscriptions, oral traditions, etc. that are likely to be preserved or studied under the upcoming centres;
- (c) whether digitization, research, translation or teaching components are being included in the preservation process, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the manner in which such centers align with national policy frameworks or schemes;
- (e) whether the existing centres of excellence or heritage language programmes are being leveraged or integrated and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the infrastructure, human resource and archival capacity measures are being planned to ensure adequate preservation, academic work and public engagement and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) to (d) The Ministry of Culture through its autonomous bodies such as Sahitya Akademi, and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts promote, research, and preserve the India's cultural heritage of Ancient Languages, and also through its flagship programmes, such as Gyan Bharatam Mission, preserves India's Cultural Heritage including ancient languages.

Regional Centres of Sahitya Akademi and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts are already functioning in Maharashtra. There is no such plan to open

additional cultural centres in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Both bodies collaborate with other institutions of the Government of India and State Governments including the Government of Maharashtra and Government of Madhya Pradesh to celebrate the rich culture of the region. The details of funds released to Sahitya Akademi and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in the past 5 years is enclosed in Annexure – I.

The Gyan Bharatam Mission of the Government of India is launched as a visionary national movement dedicated to preserving, digitising, and disseminating India's vast manuscript heritage.

The centres under the Gyan Bharatam Mission focus on the preservation and study of ancient Indian manuscripts only, irrespective of script or language. Under the existing framework there is focus on the five core verticals mentioned as below:

- i. Survey and Cataloguing
- ii. Conservation and Capacity Building
- iii. Technology and Digitisation
- iv. Linguistics and Translation
- v. Research, Publication, and Outreach

The GBM signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with these Centres on case-to-case basis, to carry out the activities aligned with National Policy Frameworks.

(e) Yes. Under the Gyan Bharatam Mission, existing centres and language programmes are leveraged for the promotion of Indian languages, including ancient languages. Institutions such as the Sahitya Akademi and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts are being continuously engaged through initiatives like *Gramalok* and recognitions such as *Bhasha Samman*. Further, programmes and awards dedicated to ancient languages are organised annually to encourage their preservation and wider dissemination.

(f) Yes, Infrastructure, human resource, and capacities are planned. In this regard, the Ministry of Culture organized the **first-ever Gyan Bharatam International Conference on “Reclaiming India’s Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage” from 11th – 13th September 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**. The conference brought together over **1,000 participants**, including scholars, experts, institutions, and cultural practitioners from across the country and abroad.

Discussions centred on a wide range of themes—conservation and restoration of manuscripts, survey and documentation standards, digitisation tools and platforms, AI-driven innovations like Handwritten Text Recognition and script decipherment, translation and publication frameworks, integration with education and culture, capacity building in manuscriptology, and copyright and legal issues.

Annexure – I

**Funds Released to SahityaAkademi and
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts)**

S. No.	Organisation Name	Released 2021–2022	Released 2022–2023	Released 2023–2024	Released 2024-2025
1	SA	4368.85	4198.16	4356.59	4689.00
2	IGNCA	5330.00	22977.82	10910.00	7410.00