



# BACKGROUNDS

## Press Information Bureau

### Government of India

## Gyan Bharatam Mission

September 10, 2025

### Key Takeaways

- Gyan Bharatam Mission is a national initiative to preserve, digitise, and disseminate India's vast manuscript heritage, integrating tradition with technology for future generations. The Mission has been allocated **Rs. 482.85 crore (2024–31)**, with over **44.07 lakh manuscripts** already documented in the *Kriti Sampada* digital repository.
- The Gyan Bharatam Conference is the first international platform that has invited stakeholders from across the country to discuss, deliberate, and chart the way forward for preserving and digitising India's manuscript heritage.
- More than **1,400 youth participants** and **500 delegates** engaged in the Gyan Bharatam Conference, reflecting strong custodianship for the future.
- Cutting-edge **digital tools and AI innovations** central to making India's manuscript heritage globally accessible.

### Introduction

Over centuries, India's civilizational wealth of ideas and creativity has continuously adapted—finding renewed expression in today's digital age. From the gurukuls that nurtured generations of thinkers, to the great universities of Nalanda and Takshashila that attracted scholars from across the world, learning has been central to our civilization. This vast tradition was carefully preserved in manuscripts, monuments, and cultural practices that together form the foundation of our identity.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the transformative campaign of Digital India has redefined how citizens connect with governance, opportunities, and culture. Villages are powered with high-speed internet through [BharatNet](https://usof.gov.in/en/bharatnet-project)<sup>1</sup>, official documents are stored securely in

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<sup>1</sup> <https://usof.gov.in/en/bharatnet-project>

[DigiLocker](#)<sup>2</sup>, citizens avail hundreds of services through the [UMANG app](#)<sup>3</sup>, families access healthcare with greater ease via [e-Hospital](#)<sup>4</sup>, and financial inclusion has deepened through the revolutionary [UPI](#)<sup>5</sup>. Now, digital tools are also protecting our heritage—supporting archives, museums, and repositories in safeguarding priceless treasures for future generations.

In this spirit, the Ministry of Culture is organising the **first-ever Gyan Bharatam International Conference on “Reclaiming India’s Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage” from 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**. The conference will bring together over **1,100 participants**, including scholars, experts, institutions, and cultural practitioners from across the country and abroad. It will create a collaborative platform for discussion, deliberation, and shaping the way forward in preserving, digitising, and sharing India’s manuscript heritage with the world.

The **Gyan Bharatam Mission** is being launched as a visionary national movement dedicated to preserving, digitising, and disseminating India’s vast manuscript heritage.<sup>6</sup> The Mission is both a tribute to our civilisational roots and a forward-looking step towards the Prime Minister’s vision of a **Viksit Bharat by 2047**, where India emerges as a true **Vishwa Guru**, combining the wisdom of its past with the innovation of its future.

## Gyan Bharatam Conference<sup>7</sup>

### Overview of the Conference

The [Gyan Bharatam Conference](#), a landmark three-day international gathering from 11–13 September 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, marks the formal launch of the Gyan Bharatam Mission. Its timing is deeply symbolic—coinciding with the anniversary of Swami Vivekananda’s historic address in Chicago in 1893, a moment that carried India’s voice of knowledge and spirituality to the global stage. In the same spirit, the conference aims to reaffirm India’s role as a civilisation of wisdom, now empowered with technology and ready to share its legacy with the world.

The conference brings together eminent dignitaries, global scholars, and cultural custodians, reflecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of blending heritage with innovation under the spirit of “Virasat aur Vikas.” Organised in a hybrid mode, it features an inaugural and valedictory session, 4 plenary sessions, and 12 technical sessions, with participation from around 500 delegates and 75 invited experts.

Discussions centre 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.

### Sessions<sup>8</sup> and Participation

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.digilocker.gov.in/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://web.umang.gov.in/landing/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ehospital.gov.in/ehospitalssso/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.digitalindia.gov.in/initiative/unified-payment-interface-upi/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2114400>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gbm-moc.in/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gbm-moc.in/assets/pdf/schedule-detailed.pdf>

## Schedule for 3 day International Conference

### DAY 1 : 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

Session	Theme / Details
Opening Session	—
Technical Sessions 1–6	Working Group Presentations (Survey & Documentation, Manuscriptology, Digitisation Tools, Safeguarding Manuscript Heritage, Decipherment of Scripts, Gyan Setu)
Technical Sessions 7–12	Working Group Presentations (Conservation, Decoding Manuscripts, Cultural Diplomacy, Legal & Ethical Frameworks, Gyan Setu, Repatriation)
Academic Sessions 1–6	Parallel papers on Survey, Manuscriptology, Indian Knowledge System, Conservation, Decipherment, Gyan Setu
Academic Sessions 7–12	Parallel papers on Digitization, Indian Knowledge System, Legal Frameworks, Conservation, Decipherment, Gyan Setu

### DAY 2 : 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

Session	Theme / Details
Academic Sessions 13–16	Decoding Manuscripts, Manuscriptology, Cultural Diplomacy, Decipherment
Academic Sessions 17–20	Survey & Documentation, Indian Knowledge System, Conservation, Decipherment
Special Talk	Acharya Shri Balkrishna, Patanjali Ayurved
<b>Special Session with Hon'ble PM of India</b>	<b>Keynote Session</b>

### DAY 3 : 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

Session	Theme / Details
Academic Sessions 21–26	Decoding Manuscripts, Manuscriptology, Survey & Documentation, Cultural Diplomacy, Decipherment, UNESCO Memory of the World
Panel Discussion	<i>Road Map for Gyan Bharatam: From Memory and Manuscript to Digital Future</i>
Invited Presentations	Survey and Documentation, Digitisation, Indian Knowledge System, Manuscriptology
Valedictory Ceremony	Themes: Survey & Documentation; Digitisation; Indian Knowledge System; Manuscriptology

More than **1,100 participants** from schools, colleges, and institutions are attending the three-day conference, reflecting a strong collective commitment to safeguard India's cultural heritage. The participants comprise over **95 academics**, **22 administrators from government and private sectors**, **179 professionals**, **112 research scholars**, **230 students**, and more than **400 representatives from diverse fields**. The conference also features **17 national speakers** and **17 international speakers**, bringing together diverse perspectives from India and abroad. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has often highlighted that the future of the nation lies in the hands of the youth. With digitisation, AI tools, and modern platforms opening new ways to access and interpret ancient texts, the Mission is inspiring the youth to see heritage as part of their own journey — something to protect, study, and proudly carry into the future.<sup>9</sup>

### Pre-Conference Working Groups

In preparation for the Gyan Bharatam International Conference, a series of **eight specialised working groups** have been constituted, bringing together a wide range of scholars, researchers, and cultural

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gbm-moc.in/assets/pdf/participants.pdf>

dignitaries. These groups reflect the comprehensive vision of the Mission, addressing every dimension of manuscript preservation and knowledge integration.

 <div>Decipherment of Ancient Scripts such as Indus, Gilgit, and Śankha.</div>	 <div>Conservation and Restoration of Manuscripts using both scientific and traditional techniques</div>
 <div>Survey, Documentation, Metadata Standards and Digital Archiving for building reliable national databases</div>	 <div>Decoding Manuscripts as Pathways to Indian Knowledge Systems, highlighting the intellectual content and civilisational value</div>
 <div>Manuscriptology and Paleography to advance specialised skills in reading, interpreting, and studying manuscripts</div>	 <div>Manuscripts as Tools of Cultural Diplomacy, recognising their role in fostering India's global cultural connect</div>
 <div>Digitisation Tools, Platforms, and Protocols including AI, Handwritten Text Recognition, and IIIF-based frameworks</div>	 <div>Legal and Ethical Frameworks for safeguarding manuscripts, ensuring responsible access, and protecting intellectual property</div>


Together, these working groups bring diverse expertise—from archaeology and conservation science, law, technology, and cultural diplomacy. Their deliberations are shaping the roadmap of the Mission, ensuring that the **Gyan Bharatam Conference** is not only a celebration of heritage but also a platform for practical strategies and future-ready solutions.

**Gyan-Setu: National AI Innovation Challenge**


As part of the International Conference on “Reclaiming India’s Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage”, the Ministry of Culture has launched **Gyan-Setu**, a **National AI Innovation Challenge** under the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**. The initiative reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of empowering youth and innovators to use technology for safeguarding heritage. With over **10 million manuscripts** spanning subjects from philosophy and medicine to governance and the arts, the challenge aims to harness AI to make this legacy more accessible and meaningful for the world.

By opening participation to **students, researchers, institutions, and start-ups**, Gyan-Setu positions heritage preservation as a collective national endeavour. It transforms manuscripts from fragile artefacts into **living sources of learning**


KEY FOCUS AREAS




AI-based Cataloguing: Automated creation of metadata, classification, and script identification.




Digitisation Enhancement: Image restoration, OCR, and multilingual text extraction.



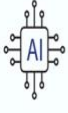
Digital Archiving: Intelligent search and semantic linking across repositories



Script Deciphering: AI recognition and transliteration of rare Indic scripts



Knowledge Dissemination: Tools for translation, interactive platforms, and wider outreach.



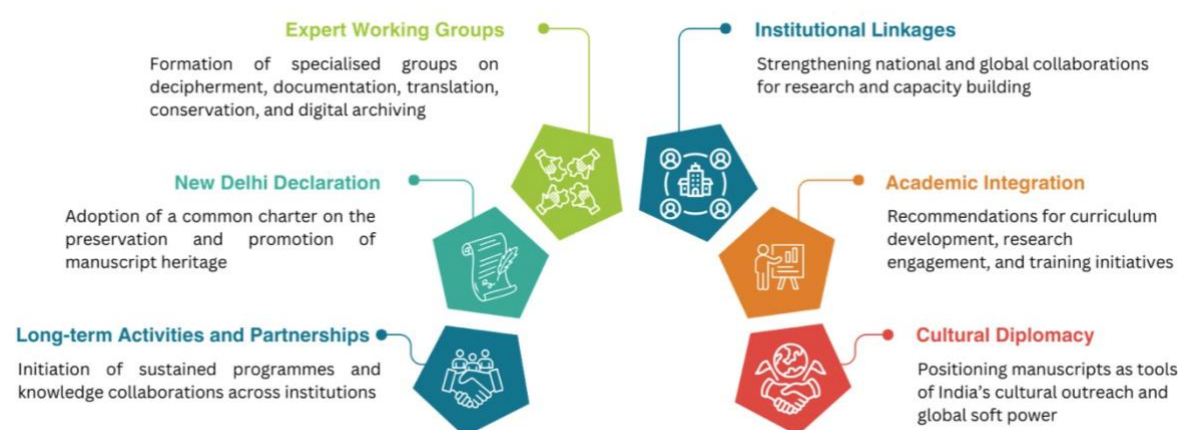
AI-Infused Library: Next-generation digital library integrating manuscripts with authentic AI-enabled text, audio, and video

and innovation, ensuring India's **Bhāratīya Jñāna Paramparā** reaches future generations with renewed strength.

### Expected Outcome

The **Gyan Bharatam Mission**, through this landmark international conference, is envisioned to be a turning point in reclaiming, preserving, and globalising India's manuscript heritage. It seeks to inspire **scholarly innovation**, strengthen **civilisational pride**, harness **technological empowerment**, and expand **cultural diplomacy**, keeping in mind India's vision of becoming an **intellectual leader globally**.

### Key Outcomes:



## Vision and Objectives of Gyan Bharatam Mission

India's cultural and intellectual legacy is reflected in its vast manuscript wealth, estimated at over five million works. These texts span a remarkable range of knowledge covering disciplines such as philosophy, science, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, literature, arts, architecture, and spirituality. Written in multiple scripts and languages, they are safeguarded across temples, monasteries, Jaina Bhandāras, archives, libraries, and private collections. Together, they form an unparalleled record of the Bhāratīya Jñāna Paramparā (Indian Knowledge Systems)<sup>10</sup> and illustrate the continuity of India's civilisational thought.

For the current financial year (2025–26), an allocation of Rs. 60 crore<sup>11</sup> has been made for the Mission, which has further been approved as a Central Sector Scheme for the period 2024–31 with a total outlay of Rs. 482.85 crore.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gbm-moc.in/conference>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2159093>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2114400&utm>

## Timeline Highlights<sup>13</sup>



## Objectives of Gyan Bharatam Mission

The Gyan Bharatam Mission has been designed as a comprehensive framework to revive India's manuscript legacy by combining preservation, digitisation, scholarship, and global accessibility. Its objectives go beyond safeguarding physical collections, they aim to re-establish manuscripts as a living resource for education, research, and cultural pride.<sup>14</sup>

**Identification and Documentation:** A nationwide network of Manuscript Resource Centres (MRCs) will be established to systematically identify, document, and catalogue ancient manuscripts scattered across institutions and private collections, creating an authentic and reliable national register.

**Conservation and Restoration:** Through strengthened Manuscript Conservation Centres (MCCs), manuscripts will be safeguarded using preventive and curative conservation methods, ensuring fragile and endangered texts are preserved with scientific precision while respecting traditional practices.

**Digitisation and Repository Creation:** The Mission envisions large-scale digitisation of manuscripts using AI-assisted Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR), microfilming, and cloud-based metadata systems. This will help in the creation of a National Digital Repository, designed to be globally accessible.

**Research, Translation and Publication:** Rare and unpublished manuscripts will be revived via critical editions, facsimiles, and translations, making them accessible in multiple languages to integrate India's intellectual heritage into global scholarship

<sup>13</sup> <https://moc.php-staging.com/gyan-bharatam-mission>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gbm-moc.in/conference>



**Capacity Building and Training:** Structured training programmes and workshops in transcription, palaeography, conservation, and manuscript studies will be organised to prepare a new generation of experts. This will strengthen institutional capacity and nurture scholars, conservators, and transcribers dedicated to the field

**Technology Development:** The Mission will also focus on building digital tools for manuscripts, including mobile applications, secure cloud storage solutions, and platforms based on the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF), thereby enabling efficient preservation and wider access

**Engagement and Incentivisation:** To boost public participation, manuscript custodians and collectors will be encouraged to share their collections via authenticity certification and revenue-sharing. The Manuscript Research Partner programme will engage young scholars through exhibitions, digital content, museums, and innovation labs

**Global Collaboration and Education:** International partnerships will be fostered for manuscript retrieval, digitisation, and standardisation, ensuring India's leadership in global knowledge exchange. Manuscript wisdom will be embedded into curricula, higher education research, and skill development programmes, ensuring that ancient insights continue to inspire and inform modern learning

Together, these objectives position the **Gyan Bharatam Mission** as far more than a preservation effort—it is a blueprint for how heritage can thrive in the digital era. It aligns seamlessly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of **Digital India**, and the national resolve of "**Virasat aur Vikas**"—progress that is firmly rooted in heritage—ensuring that as India moves towards *Viksit Bharat @2047*, its civilisational wisdom is preserved, celebrated, and shared with the world.

## Foundations of the Mission

### National Mission for Manuscripts

A manuscript is a handwritten composition on materials such as palm leaf, birch bark, cloth, paper, or even metal, dating back at least seventy-five years and carrying significant historical, scientific, or aesthetic value. Unlike printed books or administrative records, manuscripts embody **knowledge content**, covering subjects as diverse as philosophy, medicine, astronomy, literature, and the arts. They are found in hundreds of languages and scripts, sometimes with a single language often represented in multiple scripts—for instance, Sanskrit in Devanagari, Oriya, and Grantha<sup>15</sup>.

To preserve this vast wealth, the [National Mission for Manuscripts \(NMM\)](#) was established in 2003 as a repository, and it has been central to safeguarding India's intellectual traditions. The Mission has:

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.namami.gov.in/what-is-manuscript>

**Documented over 44.07 lakh manuscripts** through its ambitious digital repository, *Kriti Sampada*.

Developed **Manus Granthavali**, a software based on global metadata standards, to ensure accurate and uniform documentation.

Partnered with major repositories such as the **Saraswati Mahal Library (Thanjavur)**, **Rampur Raza Library (Rampur)**, and the **Khuda Bakhsh Library (Patna)**, while also bringing to light thousands of lesser-known collections across the country.

Compiled **more than 2,500 printed catalogues** of manuscripts under its *CAT-CAT (database of catalogues)* initiative, ensuring even catalogued works are integrated into the national record.

This legacy now provides a strong base upon which the **Gyan Bharatam Mission** is building an expansive and technology-driven framework for the future<sup>16</sup>.

### Education and Indian Knowledge Systems under NEP 2020

The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** strengthens the very foundations on which the **Gyan Bharatam Mission** rests. By encouraging teaching in the **mother tongue or regional language** till at least Grade 5, NEP ensures that children learn more effectively while remaining rooted in India's linguistic and cultural traditions.

The policy also calls for the **promotion of Indian languages, arts, and heritage**, recognising the need to preserve what has been lost and to revitalise traditions for future generations. This vision directly aligns with the Mission's work of protecting manuscripts as living records of India's civilisational knowledge.

Significantly, NEP introduces **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** into curricula, making ancient contributions in science, philosophy, medicine, and literature part of modern education. This effort resonates with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **vision** of empowering the youth to become custodians of heritage while embracing innovation. Together, NEP 2020 and the Gyan Bharatam Mission will ensure that the **wisdom of the past becomes the strength of the future**.<sup>17</sup>

### Relevance in Today's Context

The Gyan Bharatam Mission demonstrates how India is extending the transformative power of Digital India into the realm of heritage. Just as UPI revolutionised payments and DIKSHA reimagined education, GBM is using AI-driven cataloguing, digital repositories, script decipherment, and multilingual platforms, to preserve and share over five million manuscripts. This is not only about conservation but about making India's timeless wisdom accessible in classrooms, research centres, and digital libraries across the globe.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.namami.gov.in/manuscript-database>

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/NEP\\_Final\\_English\\_0.pdf](https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf)



With more than 1,400 students and scholars registered for the international conference, and initiatives like the Gyan-Setu AI Innovation Challenge inviting start-ups and innovators to design next-generation tools, the effort is inspiring young Indians to view heritage not as distant artefacts but as living knowledge to be reimagined through technology.

In bringing together civilisational heritage, digital empowerment, and youthful innovation, the Mission reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's larger goal of shaping a Viksit Bharat that is globally respected. The Gyan Bharatam Mission ensures that as India strides ahead in development, it does so with its heritage preserved, its youth engaged, and its wisdom proudly shared with the world.

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**SK/RK**