



**भारतीय अन्तर्देशीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण**  
(पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

मुख्यालय: जलमार्ग भवन, ए-13, सेक्टर-1, नौएडा-201 301 (उ०प्र०)

**INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

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No. IWAI-11039/17/2025-ADMIN RECTT

Date: 23.06.2026

**CIRCULAR**

Ministry of Culture, OM No. GBM-GBM/60/2026-25 (E-79028) dated 15.06.2026, reg. "Launch of Gyan Bharatam", is enclosed herewith for information and further necessary action.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Neeraj Singh)

Assistant Secretary (Admn. & Estt.)

Email Id: nsingh@iwai.gov.in

Phone: 0120-2474050

Encl: As above

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**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Sub: "GYAN BHARATAM"**

The undersigned is directed to inform that consequent to the recommendation of Standing Finance Committee, approval of Union Minister of Culture, "in-principal approval" of Department of Expenditure conveyed vide their O.M. No. 46(01)/PFC/C-II/2024 dated 27.11.2024 and in terms of announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2025-26 (Paragraph 84) on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025, regarding launch of **Gyan Bharatam**, for the Financial Years 2024-25 to 2030-31 as Central Sector Scheme with a financial outlay of ₹491.66 crore, with following components:

- I. Survey and registration of manuscripts
- II. Building robust technology infrastructure and partnership
- III. Documentation of manuscripts
- IV. Conservation of manuscripts
- V. Digitization of manuscripts
- VI. Publication of manuscripts
- VII. Capacity building & research

Consequently, the erstwhile National Manuscript Mission (NMM) stands subsumed under Gyan Bharatam.

2. **The key objectives of Gyan Bharatam are as follows:**

- I. To leverage advanced technology to significantly enhance the pace of digitization and documentation of manuscripts.
- II. Conducting survey and registration of manuscripts.
- III. To document and catalogue Indian manuscripts, wherever they may be, maintain accurate and up-to-date information about them and the conditions under which they may be conserved.
- IV. To facilitate usage of manuscripts and promote ready access to these manuscripts through publications, both in book form as well as machine readable form.
- V. To facilitate conservation and preservation of manuscripts through training awareness and financial support.
- VI. To boost scholarship and research in the study of Indian languages and manuscriptology.
- VII. To build up a National Digital Repository (NDR).

### 3. Scope of work and functions of the Gyan Bharatam:

The Gyan Bharatam has been entrusted with the responsibility to safeguard and revitalize India's Manuscript Heritage through systematic survey and documentation, scientific conservation, digitization, and publication, along with the creation of a national digital repository (NDR), ensuring its accessibility for research, education, and public engagement. The Gyan Bharatam shall have the powers and functions to ensure effective implementation of its objectives as outlined in Annexure – I.

### 4. Governance structure of the Gyan Bharatam:

The Governance structure of the Gyan Bharatam will consist of (A) Governing Council (B) Executive Council and (C) Technical Committee. Details of composition, Terms of Reference (ToR) tenure and meetings of these committees are given in Annexure-II.

### 5. Administration of Gyan Bharatam:

#### (i) Appointment and responsibilities of Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

- (a) The CEO of Gyan Bharatam shall be the Mission Director.
- (b) The CEO shall be responsible for the overall administration, strategic planning, and implementation of the Mission's objectives, including overseeing the preservation, digitization, and promotion of manuscripts.
- (c) The CEO shall have to follow the procedures prescribed by the Ministry of Culture as also the instructions issued from time to time.

#### (ii) Supporting staff for Gyan Bharatam:

The Gyan Bharatam may requisition services of supporting staff, including administrative, technical and research personnel, on outsource basis, as per its need. The indicative structure of support staff is as follows:

S. No.	Name of the post	Number of post	Nature of appointment
1.	Director	1	Deputation or contract
<b>Headquarter</b>			
2.	Assistant Director (Admn.)	1	On transfer/deputation
3.	Finance Officer	1	On transfer/deputation
4.	Zonal Coordinator	6	Outsourcing basis
5.	Support Staff	6	Outsourcing basis
<b>Division under Headquarter</b>			
<b>Survey &amp; Documentation</b>			
6.	Editor (Survey & Documentation)	2	Outsourcing basis
7.	Assistant Editor (Survey & Documentation)	2	Outsourcing basis
8.	Language & Script Expert	4	Outsourcing basis
9.	Cataloguer	5	Outsourcing basis
<b>Conservation</b>			
10.	Senior Conservator	2	Outsourcing basis
11.	Conservator	2	Outsourcing basis
<b>Digitization</b>			
12.	Computer Programmer	2	Outsourcing basis
13.	Scanner Operator	2	Outsourcing basis
<b>Research &amp; Publication</b>			
14.	Editor	1	Outsourcing basis
15.	Researcher	2	Outsourcing basis
<b>Capacity Building &amp; Outreach</b>			
16.	Coordinator	1	Outsourcing basis
17.	Social Media Expert	1	Outsourcing basis

Gyan Bharatam Regional Centres – 6 (East, West, North, South, Northeast, Central)			
18.	Zonal Coordinator	6 (1 per zone)	Outsourcing basis
19.	Language & Script Expert	6 (1 per zone)	Outsourcing basis
20.	Conservator	6 (1 per zone)	Outsourcing basis
21.	Support Staff	6 (1 per zone)	Outsourcing basis
Cluster Centre – 50 Centers			
22.	Pandulipi Mitra	50 (1 per centre)	Outsourcing basis
23.	Conservator	300 (6 per centre)	Outsourcing basis
24.	Documenter	150 (3 per centre)	Outsourcing basis
25.	Language & Script Experts	50 (1 per centre)	Outsourcing basis

7. The Standard Operating Procedures, Guidelines, Training Manual etc. related to components of the Gyan Bharatam will be notified separately.

8. Funding to the Gyan Bharatam will be met through the sanctioned budget grant of respective financial years of Ministry of Culture. Approved financial outlay for the implementation period i.e. from Financial Year 2024-25 to 2030-31 is at Annexure-III.

9. Release of funds to Cluster and Independent Centres after signing of MoUs:

Tranche	Condition	Release
1	Fund release at the start of financial year.	70%
2	On utilisation of 90% of the fund released at the start of that year	30%
	Fund release in the terminal year of MoU will be considered only after utilisation of 100% of the fund released till the previous year.	

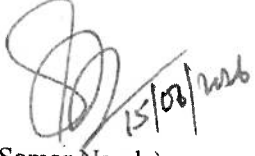
#### 10. Monitoring Framework

Concurrent monitoring of the Gyan Bharatam scheme shall be done by the Ministry of Culture through the Council/Committee as mentioned in Annexure II. Details of monitoring framework are mentioned in Annexure-IV.

11. The Gyan Bharatam shall be authorised to develop partnership network with reputed institutions, Universities, Manuscripts Repositories, research institutions in the country and abroad and also with State Governments & UT Administrations for active collaboration for survey, documentation and conservation of resources available in their possession/territorial jurisdiction.

12. This issues with the concurrence of IFD, MoC vide diary number 79028 (efile) dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.

Encl: Annexure - I to V.

  
 (Samar Nanda)  
 Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India  
 Ph. 011-23446326

**To:**

1. Secretary to Ministries/Departments of Government of India (as per standard list)
2. Chief Secretary, State Government (as per list)
3. LGs / Administrators of UT Administration (as per list)
4. ACS/Pr. Secretary/Secretary, Department of Culture, State Governments/UT Administration (as per list)
5. ACS/Pr. Secretary/Secretary, Department of Achieves, State Governments/ UT Administration (as per list).
6. Secretary, University Grants Commission with the request for further circulations to Central/State University.
7. Director General / Director / Administrator or all Organisations under Ministry of Culture.

**Copy to:**

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Culture.
2. PSO/Sr. PPS to Secretary, Ministry of Culture.
3. AS &FA, Ministry of Culture.
4. AS, Ministry of Culture.
4. All JSs Ministry of Culture.
5. Ms. Reshma R. Nair, Director, Prime Minister's Office, Sewa Teerth, New Delhi – 110011.
6. Director (PF Central-I), Department of Expenditure.
7. Project Director, Gyan Bharatam

## FUNCTIONS OF THE GYAN BHARATAM

- I. **Onboarding of manuscripts:** Gyan Bharatam shall endeavour to onboard all the manuscripts identified for their historical, literary, or scientific value, and existing for not less than seventy-five years, on the Gyan Bharatam Portal.
- II. **Evaluation of manuscripts:** Where the Central Government proposes to declare any manuscript as a national treasure, a Committee of Experts shall be constituted by Gyan Bharatam to assess its cultural or literary significance.
- III. **Preservation and conservation of manuscripts:** Conservation, restoration and preservation of manuscripts in its custody or under collaboration with other institutions. Develop guidelines and technical standards for the conservation of manuscripts and ensure adherence to best practices for their conservation.
- IV. **Digitization and cataloguing:** Undertake or authorize the digitization of manuscripts for long-term preservation, public access, and research. Develop and maintain a national database of manuscripts, ensuring that all catalogued manuscripts are properly indexed and stored in digital formats.
- V. **Research and capacity building:** Support and promote research in the field of manuscriptology, palaeography, and conservation techniques through partnership with academic and research institutions. Organise capacity-building workshops, training programmes, and seminars to train conservators, archivists, and researchers in manuscript management and preservation.
- VI. **Public awareness and outreach:** Develop educational and public outreach programmes, including exhibitions, publications, digital platforms, to raise awareness about India's manuscript heritage. It may collaborate with schools, universities, and cultural organisations to engage the public in the appreciation and preservation of manuscripts.
- VII. **National and international collaboration:** Collaborations with national and international institutions for manuscript conservation, research, and digital sharing, subject to provisions for ownership and intellectual property. Initiate MoUs with global institutions for knowledge exchange, joint research, and capacity-building activities in the field of manuscript preservation.

## Governing Structure - Councils/Committees of Gyan Bharatam & their ToR

### A. Governing Council:

#### (i) Composition:

- |  |   |                  |
|--|---|------------------|
| 1. Union Minister of Culture                                   | : | Chairperson      |
| 2. Secretary, Minister of Culture                              | : | Vice-Chairperson |
| 3. Secretary, Ministry of Ayush                                | : | Member           |
| 4. Secretary, Department of Higher Education                   | : | Member           |
| 5. Director General, Archaeological Survey of India            | : | Member           |
| 6. Director General, national Archives of India                | : | Member           |
| 7. Joint Secretary Gyan Bharatam, Ministry of Culture          | : | Member           |
| 8. Mission Director/CEO/PD, Gyan Bharatam                      | : | Member Secretary |
| 9. Three subject experts to be nominated by the<br>Chairperson | : | Members          |
| 10. Holder of Manuscripts                                      | : | Special Invitee  |

#### (ii) ToR of Governing Council:

The Governing Council shall be the highest policy-making body for Gyan Bharatam and shall monitor its overall functioning with the following key roles:

- (a) Review the current status, achievements, and challenges of Gyan Bharatam
- (b) Evaluate the infrastructure, resources and workforce of Gyan Bharatam and guide key areas including conservation, digitization, cataloguing, public access, and advanced technologies.
- (c) Explore funding models, partnerships with national and international organisations, and opportunities for international cooperation.
- (d) Develop guidelines and policies for standardized manuscript conservation, digitization and access.
- (e) Promote collaboration with academic and research institutions and engage in capacity-building initiatives.
- (f) Support educational outreach, exhibitions, and community involvement in manuscript conservation.

#### (iii) Tenure & Meetings:

- (a) The term of office for non-official members shall be three years extendable to five years.
- (b) The Government may terminate the membership of any member or reconstitute the Governing Council as deemed fit.
- (c) The Governing Council shall meet at least once a year or as frequently as required by the Chairperson.

### B. Executive Committee:

#### (i) Composition:

- |   |   |                  |
|---|---|------------------|
| 1. Secretary, Minister of Culture             | : | Chairperson      |
| 2. Financial Advisor, Minister of Culture     | : | Member           |
| 3. Joint Secretary (GBM), Ministry of Culture | : | Member           |
| 4. Mission Director/CEO/PD, Gyan Bharatam     | : | Member Secretary |

5. Experts in manuscriptology, science, technology or any other subject expert as nominated by the Governing Council : Member

(ii) ToR of Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the operational aspects of the Mission and shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Allocate financial, technological, and human resources optimally.
- (b) Approve operational guidelines and policies
- (c) Coordinate workshops and capacity-building efforts in manuscript conservation.
- (d) Enhance public awareness and engagement with national and international institutions.
- (e) Develop strategies for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting the Mission's progress.
- (f) Ensure long-term sustainability of the Mission's projects.

(iii) Tenure & Meetings:

- (a) The term of office for non-official members of the Executive Committee shall be for three years.
- (b) The Government may reconstitute the Committee or terminate memberships as necessary.
- (c) The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year or as often as required.

**C. Technical Committee:**

(i) Composition:

1. Mission Director/CEO/PD, Gyan Bharatam : Chairperson
2. Experts in manuscript conservation, technology, and linguistics as nominated by the Governing Council : Member

(ii) ToR of Technical Committee:

The Technical Committee shall provide strategic oversight and expertise for the technical aspects of manuscript management, including:

- (a) Formulating technical standards for manuscript preservation, digitization, and public access.
- (b) Assessing ongoing projects and recommending improvements
- (c) Promoting research into new technologies and methods for manuscript management.
- (d) Organising training programme for staff and stakeholders.

(iii) Tenure & Meetings:

The term of office for non-official members shall be for two years. The government may reconstitute the Committee as deemed fit. The Technical Committee shall meet quarterly or as often as required.

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**APPROVED FINANCIAL OUTLAY FOR GYAN BHARATAM FOR  
FINANCIAL YEARS 2024-25 TO 2030-31**

Year	Total (Rs. in crore)
2024-25	3.71
2025-26	99.70
2026-27	94.20
2027-28	75.60
2028-29	74.75
2029-30	73.00
2030-31	70.70
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>491.66</b>

### **Monitoring framework of Gyan Bharatam**

The monitoring framework of Gyan Bharatam by the Ministry of Culture through the Councils/Committee of Gyan Bharatam would be as follows:

1. Appraisal and approval of projects/activities to be undertaken by the Gyan Bharatam
2. Review of the current status, achievements, and challenges faced by the Gyan Bharatam
3. Focus areas such as conservation, digitization, cataloguing and public access
4. Allocation of financial, technological, and human resources
5. Potential partnerships with national and international organizations
6. Use of advanced technologies for the preservation and digitization of manuscripts
7. Implementation of digital platforms for wider accessibility and dissemination of manuscripts
8. Approval of guidelines and policies to ensure standardized procedures for manuscript conservation and usage of digital manuscripts
9. Collaborations with academic and research institutions for capacity building
10. Developing strategies to increase public awareness, educational outreach, exhibitions, and community involvement
11. Framework for concurrent monitoring and evaluation of the progress of Gyan Bharatam
12. Measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of the mission
13. Future challenges and opportunities to keep the Gyan Bharatam relevant and effective in changing technological and cultural landscapes

Online portal will be developed to gauge through the progress of work.

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### Varieties of Manuscripts

As per experiences gathered in NMM, manuscripts of varied nature are present and available across the country and abroad in terms of their theme, languages, scripts and writing materials etc. To illustrate the scale of diversity, a brief snapshot of manuscripts is given below:

	Languages	Scripts	Writing materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> <li>• Religious texts</li> <li>• Medicine/ Ayurveda/ Mathematics</li> <li>• Philosophy</li> <li>• 64 Kalas</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Astrology</li> <li>• Administrative documents &amp;</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul> <p>Highest number of manuscripts focused on Ayurveda, Buddha, Dharmasastra, Darsana, Itihasa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 official languages</li> <li>• Vedic &amp; classical Sanskrit</li> <li>• Prakrit languages (Magadhi, Ardhamagadhi, Shuraseni and Paishachi)</li> <li>• Pali</li> <li>• Persian</li> <li>• Arabic &amp;</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul> <p>Highest number of manuscripts is available in Sanskrit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siddham</li> <li>• Sharda</li> <li>• Gauri</li> <li>• Maithili</li> <li>• Devnagari</li> <li>• Ahom</li> <li>• Mattai</li> <li>• Telegu</li> <li>• Grantha</li> <li>• Tamil</li> <li>• Bangla</li> <li>• Odiya &amp;</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul> <p>Script wise, the most voluminous is Devnagari.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper</li> <li>• Palm leaf</li> <li>• Sanchipat</li> <li>• Birch Bark</li> <li>• Bamboo leaf</li> <li>• Cloth</li> <li>• Leather etc.</li> </ul> <p>Most of the manuscripts have been written on paper and palm leaves.</p>