



## Mission to Map Rural India's Cultural Assets

**For Prelims:** Mera Gaon Mera Dharohar, National Mission for Cultural Mapping

**For Mains:** Significance of Mera Gaon Mera Dharohar

### Why in News?

In a bid to harness the unique cultural heritage of rural India, the government has identified and documented distinctive features of more than one lakh villages across the country.

- The entire exercise has been **carried out under the 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar'** (My Village My Heritage) programme of the [National Mission for Cultural Mapping \(NMCM\)](#).

### What is the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar Programme?

- **About Cultural Mapping:**
  - The process **involves identification and mapping** the cultural **assets and art repositories** of the nation i.e., **art expressions, crafts and skills, wisdom tradition** and other cultural practices whether **oral, aural, visual or kinetic**.
  - Information about the **ritual, social and economic status** of **artists and craftsmen** within the community is also of relevance and is to be noted during the cultural mapping.
- **Categories of Villages:**
  - Villages have been categorized into **seven to eight categories** based on **ecological, developmental, and historical significance**, as well as **cultural aspects** such as famous textiles or products or connected to some historical or mythological events such as the Independence struggle or epics like the Mahabharata.
  - **Ecological Category:**
    - **Bishnoi village** in Rajasthan is a case study for living in **harmony with nature**.
    - **Raini village**, which is famous for the [Chipko movement](#).
  - **Developmental Importance:**
    - [Modhera](#) in Gujarat is the [first solar-powered village](#) in India.
  - **Historical Villages:**
    - **Kandel** in Madhya Pradesh, the site of the famous "**Jal Satyagraha**".
    - **Hanol** in Uttarakhand and **Vidurashwathar** of Karnataka, which are linked to the **Mahabharata**.
    - **Suketi** in Himachal Pradesh, **Asia's oldest fossil park**.
    - [Pandrethan in Kashmir](#), the village of Shaivite mystic Lal Ded
- **Survey Process:**
  - The cultural asset mapping of villages was **carried out through field surveys** by joint teams of the Ministry of Culture and the **Common Services Centres (CSC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
  - Citizens were involved in sharing what makes their village, block, or district unique.
  - The survey process involved a CSC **Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE)** conducting meetings with locals and uploading interesting facts about their village on a special

application.

▪ **Future Plans:**

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts plans to cover all 6.5 lakh villages in the country and **create special films on 6,500 village** clusters showcasing their unique heritage.
  - **Short films** have been made on **750 cluster villages** using drones.
- The detailed dossiers on these villages, as well as the films, will be made available on a **web portal** called "**The National Cultural Work Place**".
- The web portal will contain a **virtual living museum** of all villages documented and a facility for uploading a village through crowd-sourcing and allowing villagers to edit and upload village data themselves.

## What is National Mission for Cultural Mapping?

- The NMCM was launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2017 to develop a comprehensive database of art forms, artists, and other resources across the country.
- The programme got off to a slow start and was handed over to the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) in 2021.
- The budget approved for the mission was ₹469 crore for a period of three years.

[Source: TH](#)

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