



National Mission for Manuscripts and National Culture Fund

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Why in News?

Recently the Ministry of Culture and Tourism shed light on the achievements made in the [National Mission for Manuscripts](#) and [National Culture Fund](#).

What are the National Mission for Manuscripts?

▪ About:

- The National Mission for Manuscripts was **established in 2003**, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India.

▪ Objective:

- The key objectives of the National Mission for Manuscripts are **documentation, conservation, digitization**, and online dissemination of the manuscript heritage of India.
 - To achieve this mandate, the mission has **established more than 100 Manuscripts Resource Centres** and Manuscripts Conservation Centres all over India.
- India **possesses an estimated ten million manuscripts**, probably the largest collection in the world. These cover a variety of themes, textures and aesthetics, scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations, and illustrations.

▪ Manuscript:

- A **manuscript is a handwritten composition** on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf, or any other material dating back **at least seventy-five years** that has **significant scientific, historical, or aesthetic value**.
 - Manuscripts differ from historical records like [epigraphs, firmans](#), and revenue records, as they primarily contain knowledge content rather than direct historical information.
 - Manuscripts are **found in hundreds of different languages** and scripts.

Note

The [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958](#) defines an "**Ancient Monument**" any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of **historical, archaeological or artistic interest** and which has been in existence for **not less than 100 years**.

What is the National Culture Fund?

▪ About:

- The government set up the **National Culture Fund (NCF)** as a Trust in 1996 under the **Charitable Endowment Act, 1890** to mobilise extra resources through **Public Private Partnerships (PPP)** towards **promoting, protecting, and preserving India's cultural heritage.**
- It **serves as a financing mechanism for enabling donor/sponsor institutions to support the Protection, Restoration, Conservation, and Development of India's rich tangible and intangible culture and heritage (Monuments/Cultural Traditions) directly as partners with the Government.**
- **Objectives:**
 - For the **training and development of a cadre** of specialists and cultural administrators.
 - **Provide additional space in existing museums & construct new museums** to accommodate or create new & special galleries.
 - **Documentation of cultural expressions and forms** that have lost their relevance in contemporary scenarios and are either fading out or facing extinction.
- **Features of NCF:**
 - NCF provides a **dependable and innovative platform for partnerships in the fields of heritage, culture, and the arts.**
 - The projects are **overseen by a Project Implementation Committee (PIC)** that has representatives from the Donor, Implementer, and NCF.
 - The **accounts of NCF are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India** annually.
- **Members:**
 - NCF is managed by a **Council Chaired by Minister of Culture** and an **Executive Committee (chaired by Secretary).**

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait? (2019)

- (a) Humayun
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir
- (d) Shah Jahan

Ans: (c)

Q. Recently, the manuscripts of which one of the following have been included in the UNESCO's Memory of World Register? (2008)

- (a) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- (b) Mahabharata
- (c) Ramayana
- (d) Rig-Veda

Ans: (d)

Mains:

Q. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. (2018)

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