

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No.209

TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

Preservation and Digitisation of Manuscripts in Tamil Nadu

***209 Smt. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government proposes to take special measures to document, digitize, and conserve manuscripts from Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;
- b) the details of the number of manuscripts from Tamil Nadu already surveyed, documented, or digitized under the previous National Manuscripts Mission and to be prioritized under the revamped Gyan Bharatam Mission;
- c) whether the Government proposes to address the concerns of private manuscript holders who are hesitant to share their collections due to lack of access policy and legal clarity;
- d) the details of the funds allocated under this Mission specifically for Tamil Nadu, Institutions-wise; and
- e) whether any regional centres or digitization hubs are being planned in the State and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (E) TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 209 FOR REPLY ON 04.08.2025 REGARDING PRESERVATION AND DIGITISATION OF MANUSCRIPTS IN TAMIL NADU ASKED BY SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

- (a) Yes, the Government is taking special measures to document, conserve, and digitise manuscripts from Tamil Nadu. These efforts include the identification of manuscripts, training of personnel in conservation techniques, and establishing strategic partnerships with academic and cultural institutions across the States including Tamil Nadu.
- (b) Under the earlier National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), 213902 unique verified numbers of manuscripts were surveyed and documented. However, digitization work has not happened in the past. Under the Gyan Bharatam, a National Digital Repository has been announced in the Union Budget 2025(Annexure A).
- (c) Yes, the Government is actively engaged with all manuscript stakeholders to address their concerns including their rights over the manuscripts.
- (d) An amount of Rs.1,64,79,000/- has been dedicatedly allocated for institutions in Tamil Nadu. The details are given as per (Annexure B).
- (e) Multiple institutions across the country including in the state of Tamil Nadu have been associated under the Gyan Bharatam.

Annexure – A

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.209 for
04.08.2025**

Manuscripts Resource Centre (MRC) Tamil Nadu

Sl No.	Name & Address of MRC	Total Data Documented
1	CPR Institute of Indological Research 1 Eldam Road, Alwarpet, Chennai	17
2	Govt. Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras Univ. Campus, Chennai	67,611
3	Institute of Asian Studies CemenceryTambaram, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu	2,398
5	Sri ChandrashekarendraSaraswatiViswamahavidyalaya, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu	55,810
6	Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji'sSaraswati Mahal Library, Tanjavur, Tamil Nadu	35,901
7	Survey Data of Tamil Nadu	52,165
	Total No of Data	2,13,902

Annexure – B

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.209 for 04.08.2025

The details of funds allocated for Tamil Nadu institutions under this Mission

(Rs. In Lakh)

Financial year	For Documentation of Manuscripts				For Conservation of Manuscripts			
	Government Oriental Manuscript Libarary, Chennai	Government Museum, Egmore	Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswathi Mahal Library, Thanjavur	Kanchipuram, Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Viswamahavidyalaya	Government Oriental Manuscript Libarary, Chennai	Government Museum, Egmore	Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswathi Mahal Library, Thanjavur	Tamil University, Thanjavur
2002-03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2003-04	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2004-05	0.00	2.40	3.00	3.00	0.00	1.50	1.50	0.00
2005-06	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00
2006-07	0.00	2.17	3.00	3.00	0.00	2.68	1.50	0.00
2007-08	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
2008-09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	1.50	0.00
2009-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00
2010-11	0.00	4.50	0.00	2.96	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00
2011-12	10.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.27	0.00	0.00
2012-13	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2013-14	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2014-15	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2015-16	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2016-17	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017-18	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2018-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50
2019-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2020-21	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50
2021-22	2.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2022-23	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.70	0.00	0.00	3.60
2023-24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
2024-25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.95	0.00	0.00	8.00
Total	58.06	9.07	9.00	17.96	29.65	15.95	4.50	20.60

Total = 164.79 lakh