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WHAT IS THE NATIONAL MISSION FOR MANUSCRIPTS (NMM)?

- Presently, NMM is a **part of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts.**
- The **new body**, likely to be named the National Manuscripts Authority, **will be an autonomous entity** under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

About National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM):

- It was established in February 2003, by the **Ministry of Tourism and Culture**, Government of India.
- **Mandate: Documenting, conserving and disseminating the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts.**
- Motto: 'Conserving the past for the future'
- A unique project in its programme and mandate, the NMM seeks to **unearth and preserve the vast manuscript wealth of India.**
 - **India possesses an estimate of 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.
 - While **75%** of the existing manuscripts **are in Sanskrit**, 25% are in regional languages, according to the NMM.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Locate manuscripts** through a national-level survey and post-survey.
 - **Document each and every manuscript** and manuscript repository, **for a National Electronic Database** that **currently contains** information on **four million manuscripts** making this the **largest database on Indian manuscripts** in the world.

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- Conserve manuscripts **incorporating both modern and indigenous methods** of conservation and training a new generation of manuscript conservators.
- To **train the next generation of scholars in various aspects of Manuscript Studies** like languages, scripts and critical editing and cataloguing of texts and conservation of manuscripts.
- To promote access to manuscripts by **digitizing the rarest and most endangered manuscripts**.

What is a 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**.
 - Lithographs and printed volumes are not manuscripts.
 - Manuscripts are found in hundreds of **different languages and scripts**.
 - **Often, one language is written in a number of different scripts**. For example, Sanskrit is written in Oriya script, Grantha script, Devanagari script, and many other scripts.
 - Manuscripts are **distinct from historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, firmans, and revenue records**, which provide direct information on events or processes in history.
 - Manuscripts **have knowledge content**.
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WATER HYACINTH



- It is a perennial, free-floating aquatic plant native to tropical regions of South America, and now present on all continents except Antarctica.
- This plant rapidly increase biomass and form dense mats in lakes, dams and irrigation channels and chokes them.
- This is not an indigenous species but was **introduced to India during the British colonial rule** as an ornamental aquatic plant from South America. The plant produces beautiful purple flowers that have high aesthetic value.

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- It is rich in fibrous stems that can be processed into a wide array of handbags, interior decorative material, table mats, baskets and other products.
 - **Impact on environment:** This simple, floating aquatic plant is also an obnoxious weed that has been suffocating surface freshwater sources like rivers, rivulets, streams, ponds, dams, lakes and bogs, making the waterbodies unsuitable for commercial fishery, transportation and recreation.
 - **Significance**
 - The plant has been used as a **bio-fertiliser in some organic agriculture**
 - It has been reported that this plant is a good **phytoremediation species**, suggesting it has the ability to trap and remove toxic metabolites and harmful heavy metals from water.
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BHU-AADHAAR



- Bhu-Aadhaar is also known as **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)**.
- ULPIN was **launched in 2021** as part of the Central government's Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).
- It aims to streamline and bring uniformity to the process adopted by states in assigning unique identification numbers to land parcels.
- It is accorded to a land parcel based on the **longitude and latitude coordinates** of the land parcel and depends on detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.
- Under this initiative a **14-digit alpha-numeric identity** is given to each land parcel.
 - It contains State code, District code, Sub-district code, Village code and a Unique plot ID number.
- Once the ULPIN or Bhu-Aadhaar is generated, it is stamped on the physical land record document held by the owner.

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- The same ULPIN will be permanently attached to the plot of land. Even if the land is transferred, sub-divided, or undergoes any change, the **ULPIN will remain the same** for that geographic boundary.
 - **Key objectives of ULPIN/Bhu-Aadhaar are**
 - To assign a unique ID to each plot of land for easy **identification and retrieval of records.**
 - To create accurate digital land records with details of land owners, plot boundaries, area, usage, etc.
 - To link land records and property registration processes
 - To facilitate online delivery of land record services
 - To assist in government planning by maintaining updated land data
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MUDRA LOAN CEILING DOUBLED TO RS 20 LAKH UNDER NEW CATEGORY

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

- PMMY was launched in April 2015 for providing loans up to 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.
- These loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY. These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, MFIs and NBFCs.
- **Categories of Loans under PMMY:**
 - Under the aegis of PMMY, MUDRA has created three products namely 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' to signify the stage of growth/development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit/entrepreneur.
 - **Shishu** – Covering loan up to Rs. 50,000/-
 - **Kishore** – Covering loans above Rs 50,000/- and up to Rs. 5 lakh
 - **Tarun** – Covering loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh
- **Eligibility for PMMY**
 - Any Indian Citizen who has a business plan for a non-farm income generating activity such as manufacturing, processing, trading or service sector.

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- The applicant should not be a defaulter to any bank or financial institution and should have a satisfactory credit track record.
- The borrower can approach any of the lending institutions mentioned above or can apply online through this portal udyamimitra.in
- **Interest on Mudra loans**
 - Interest on Mudra loans by PSBs and private banks ranges from 9.15 per cent - 12.80 per cent and 6.96 per cent – 28 per cent, respectively based on the cost of funds, risk profile of the borrower, tenure of loans, etc.
- **Benefits of PMMY:**
 - **No Collateral Security:** The borrowers do not need to furnish any form of collateral to procure these loans.
 - **Easily Available:** This loan is easily available to entrepreneurs trying to set up micro-sized enterprises anywhere in India and in almost every industry domain.
 - **Defaulting Procedure:** In case of defaulting the loan legally, due to unforeseen circumstances or for losses due to natural causes, the government bears the responsibility to repay the loan.
 - **Quick Capital:** The loans under the MUDRA scheme are available to micro-sized enterprises in a quick, effortless manner.
 - **Empowering Women:** Women entrepreneurs have added special concessional benefits to the loans offered under the MUDRA scheme.
 - **Rural Empowerment:** The MUDRA Yojana loans are equally available to small-scale businesses in both rural and urban areas.
 - **Flexible Repayments:** Although one can repay the loan in a shorter period, the time frame of loan repayment can also be extended for a period of up to 7 years.
 - **Multiple Credit Possibilities:** It offers multiple opportunities to expand one's micro-unit enterprise with facilities like cash credit, equipment financing, etc.
 - **MUDRA Card:** You can also apply for a MUDRA card that provides instant and seamless access to funds and overdraft facilities.



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• Achievement

- According to government data, 66.8 million loans were sanctioned under PMMY in 2023-24, amounting to Rs 5.4 trillion.
- As of June 2024, more than 487.8 million loans totaling Rs 29.79 trillion have been sanctioned since the inception of the scheme.

PMMY DATA SHEET		
Loans provided under 3 categories		
₹50,000 SHISHU	₹50,000 - ₹5 lakh KISHORE	₹10 lakh TARUN
■ 66.8 mn loans worth ₹5.4 trn sanctioned in 2023-24	■ 487.8 mn loans worth ₹29.79 trn approved since 2015	

- Non-performing assets (NPA) of public sector banks in Mudra loans have decreased to 3.4 per cent in FY24, down from a high of 4.77 per cent in 2020-21, and 4.89 per cent in 2019-20.

- In contrast, the gross NPA of scheduled commercial banks in the country is 2.8 per cent as of March 2024.

CENTER FOR GENERATIVE AI



Recently, 'IndiaAI' and Meta announced the establishment of the Center for Generative AI, Shrijan at IIT Jodhpur.

- It will identify and **empower the next generation of AI innovators** and entrepreneurs using open-source AI and exploring possibilities in Large Language Models (LLM).
- The research under its aegis will be **shared with students via AICTE** and through direct connect with colleges.
- Shrijan will engage young developers to deploy open-source LLMs across India and unearth indigenous use cases through Hackathons.
- It will conduct **master training activation** workshops for select colleges, data labs, and ITIs, introducing them to foundations of LLMs to ignite interest.
- It will help support in creation of student-led startups experimenting with Open Source LLMs by identifying the young developers.
- Srijan is to foster indigenous research ecosystem in the country.



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- It aims to **nurture 1 lakh youth developers & entrepreneurs** in AI skills over next 3 years.
 - The idea is to remain future ready in our Development of innovative indigenous AI solutions in key areas like **healthcare, education, agriculture, smart cities**, smart mobility, sustainability, financial and social inclusion.
 - IIT Jodhpur COE Srijan will collaborate with academic, government & industry stakeholders both national & global to advance GenAI research and technology.
 - This includes Open science innovation, Develop and transfer technology solutions, Education & capacity building besides Policy advisory and governance.
 - **Funding:** Meta has committed to invest up to **INR 750 Lakhs (as donation)** over the period of three years. The IndiaAI will support the researcher working in the CoE being setup at IIT Jodhpur's Centre Srijan.
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WHAT IS BEGONIA NEISTI?



A team of researchers recently made a significant discovery in the remote Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh, uncovering a new species of flowering plant, *Begonia neisti*.

- It is a new species of **flowering plant**.
- It was discovered from **Dibang Valley** district of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The plant belongs to the **begonia sect platycentrum**.
 - The **genus Begonia** is **one of the largest groups in the plant kingdom**, with more than 2,100 known species globally, many of which are **valued for their ornamental appeal**.
- The species has been named '**begonia neisti**' to **honour the North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST)** on the successful completion of its 60 years and its immense contribution through science and technology towards the benefit of the local people of the Northeast region of India.



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- Begonia neisti boasts **striking variegated leaves** adorned with **white-silver circular spots** and **dark brownish-red patches** near the veins.
- The **large leaves** and the **distinctive white stripe along the stems** and petioles give the plant an unusual appearance, setting it apart from other Begonia species.
- The plant **thrives on moist, hilly slopes** between Hunli and Anini, blooming from November to January.
- **Classified as Data Deficient (DD)** by the IUCN Red List, Begonia neisti's habitat is threatened by road expansion, sparking concerns about its future.

ASOLA BHATTI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



The Delhi High Court recently directed local authorities to shift all the monkeys of the Capital to the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary on priority.

- It lies in **southern Delhi** and the northern parts of Faridabad and Gurugram districts of **Haryana state**.
- It is located on the **southern ridge of Delhi**, and it is **covered with the northern terminal of the Aravalli Hill Range**, which is one of the oldest mountain ranges.
- It is also **part of the Sariska-Delhi Wildlife Corridor**, which runs from the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan to Delhi Ridge.
- It covers an area of 32.71 sq.km.

Vegetation:

- As per Champion & Seth (1968), the vegetation falls under the **Northern Tropical Thorn Forests type**.
- The native **plants exhibit xerophytic adaptations** such as thorny appendages, wax-coated, succulent, and tomentose leaves.

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Flora: Consists of **Prosopis juliflora** as the **dominant exotic species** and **Diospyros montana** as the **dominant native species** in the sanctuary.

Fauna: **Golden Jackals, Striped-Hyenas, Indian crested-Porcupines, Civets, Jungle Cats, Snakes, Monitor Lizards, Mongoose, etc.**

NEMALINE MYOPATHY



- It is a **rare genetic muscle disorder** characterised by the presence of thread-like structures within muscle fibres affecting mobility and functionality.
 - It is also known as **rod myopathy**, is a **rare congenital disorder** that weakens the skeletal muscles.
 - This condition is hereditary, stemming from genetic mutations that impact muscle proteins.
 - It is found in approximately 1 in every 50,000 births.
 - The disorder can vary in severity, ranging from **mild cases with minimal impact** on daily life to **more severe forms** that lead to substantial muscle weakness, requiring significant medical intervention.
 - **Symptoms**
 - Muscle **weakness in the face, neck, and trunk**, along with difficulties in feeding, breathing, and sometimes deformities.
 - Affected individuals may also experience foot deformities, abnormal curvature of the spine (scoliosis), and joint deformities (contractures).
 - **Treatment:** There is **no cure for this** Currently, treatment for nemaline myopathy is largely symptomatic and focuses on supportive care, including physiotherapy and muscle strengthening exercises.
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