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# INDIAN MANUSCRIPT HERITAGE AND THE ROLE OF NATIONAL MISSION FOR MANUSCRIPTS

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## **Abstract:**

The very purpose of the present paper is to focus on the all round activities of National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). It is prepared in the context of the activities rendered by NMM since its inception in 2003 to 2011 as regards to inclusion of Manuscript Conservation Centers (MRCs), establishment of Manuscript Conservation Centers (MCCs), Survey, Documentation, Cataloguing, Digitization, Capacity Building, Outreach and Publication Programmes.

**Keywords:** Manuscript, National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Digitization, Preservation, Conservation, Cataloguing, Outreach activities.

## **1. Introduction:**

India was exceedingly advanced in intellectual activity during the ancient and medieval times. This country has the distinction of multiplicity of thoughts, languages, scientific, artistic, cultural, philosophical perceptions and knowledge system. These composite knowledge is perceived as the as the key resource for developmental activities. For centuries, the Indian knowledge Systems have passed down from generation to generation through oral and written traditions. A variety of writing materials such as stones, copperplates, birch bark, palm leaves, parchments and paper had been in use to preserve the intellectual heritage. This treasure of

wisdom containing the ancient knowledge systems has come down to us in the form of manuscripts. Indian manuscripts are the richest collection of written documents that provide information on the existence of different civilizations and the cultural affluence of the nation. Written in different Indian languages; these manuscripts are spread all over the country in different monasteries, temples, libraries, museums, with individuals and in several private institutions. In fact, India has possibly the oldest and the largest collection of manuscripts in the world.

### **1.1 Manuscripts: The General Connotation:**

A **manuscript** is a written document that has been manually created as opposed to being printed or reproduced in some other way. The word '*manuscript*' is derived from the Medieval Latin term '*manuscriptum*' that means hand written documents ([www.wikipedia.in](http://www.wikipedia.in)). Manuscript is a hand written composition on bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf, paper or any other material that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value. Manuscripts are found in hundreds of different languages and scripts ([www.indianetzone.com](http://www.indianetzone.com)). Manuscripts of modern period also refer to autographs, correspondences and type written materials. The manuscripts have a long history of its existence. According to the Chambers Dictionary, "Manuscript is a book or document written by hand before the invention of printing" (Allied Chambers (India) Limited, 2000). So manuscripts include all types of early writing, which are not printed and published. In other words hand writings of any kind whether on paper or any other material in contradiction to printed materials are called manuscripts.

### **1.2 National Mission for Manuscripts:**

The National Mission for Manuscripts (NAMAMI) is an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture, Government of India, established to survey, locate and conserve Indian manuscripts, with an aim to create national resource base for manuscripts for enhancing their access, awareness and use for educational purposes. The Mission was initiated in February 2003, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is the nodal agency for the execution of this project. India possesses an estimate of five million manuscripts, probably the largest collection in the world. These cover a variety of themes, textures and aesthetics,

scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations and illustrations. Together, they constitute the 'memory' of India's history, heritage and thought. The National Mission for Manuscripts aims to locate, document, preserve Indian manuscripts and make these accessible—to connect India's past with its future ([www.ignca.nic.in](http://www.ignca.nic.in)). The National Mission for Manuscripts works with the help of 54 Manuscript Resource Centres and 49 conservation centers established across the country. The MRCs include well-established Indological institutes, museums, libraries, universities and non-government organizations those function as the Mission's coordinating agencies in their respective regions. The present paper is an attempt to focus on the all round activities of NMM.

## **2. Objectives of the Study:**

The present study is primarily intended to focus on the following objectives:

- ❖ To show the growth trend of Manuscript Resource Centers (MRCs) and Manuscript Conservation Centers (MCCs).
- ❖ To depict the zone wise distribution of MRCs and Manuscript Conservation Centres and show the establishment of MRCs.
- ❖ To make an exclusive review of the Role of National Mission for Manuscripts in respect of the following aspects:
  - Survey and Documentation
  - Compilation of Catalogues
  - Preservation, Conservation and Digitization of manuscripts
  - Outreach programmes conducted by the Mission
  - Publication activities of the Mission

## **3. Methodology:**

The Present Study is based on the activities of the Mission with regard to Survey, documentation, conservation, digitization, cataloguing, outreach and publication programmes. The required data have been collected from the Annual Reports Published so far by the mission and from the website of the Mission known as **[www.namami.org](http://www.namami.org)**. Keeping in view the objectives of the study, obtained data have been transferred to tables and figures and finally analysed to get the results.

The source material for carrying out the work covers the following:

- Report of the National Mission for Manuscripts for the year 2003-04 to 2010-11.

- Study of the different features of National Mission for Manuscripts available at the portal: [www.namami.org](http://www.namami.org)
- Study of the websites of each manuscript resource centres and manuscript conservation centres with relation to different activities covered under NMM.

#### **4. Review of Literature:**

A literature review is a body of text that determines the aims to review the critical points of current knowledge including substantive findings as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. Keeping in view the importance of review of literature, here in the present study, some literature have thoroughly been reviewed which have close similarity with the topic of the dissertation.

**Kumar, S. & Shah, Leena (2004)** in their article “Digital Preservation of Manuscripts: A Case Study” have discussed in detail about Scindia Oriental Research Institute (SORI), a pioneer manuscript repository which has the distinction securing 11<sup>th</sup> rank among the manuscript repositories as per the survey conducted by INTACH. Some 4190 manuscripts of importance have been microfilmed by IGNCA at SORI and it has been recognized as one of the MRCs for accessioning, cataloguing and launching of awareness program in Madhya Pradesh.

**Ramana, Y.V. (2005)** in the paper “Digital Preservation of Indian Manuscripts-An Overview” has given a brief overview of India’s largest and ancient manuscript collections, the forms and places of availability of these manuscripts. He has described some Indigenous methods of preserving palm leaf manuscripts like wrapping, applying extracts of some natural products and other chemical treatments. The author has elaborately given the benefits of digital preservation in dissemination of information, collection management of National Library of India in preserving the national heritage of the country, the process of digitization of manuscripts at National Library of India.

**Fazluddin, A. (2009)** in the paper “Digitization as a Means of Preserving Manuscripts: Case Study of Osmania University Library”, discusses that digitization is a powerful means for

preservation of manuscripts. At the outset the author has mentioned various factors that facilitates digitization work such as Personal Computers are more cost effective now, scanning technologies have become cheaper, storage technology have been improved. Mentions, the tools required for digitization like hardware's such as computers, scanners, digital camera and softwares like HTML editor, XML editor, OCR software, image editor, Pdf software etc. He described detailed workflow of digitization work starting from selection process of manuscript to storage and access of manuscript on the web.

**Gaur, Ramesh C. and Chakraborty, Mrinmoy (2009)** in their paper “Preservation and Access to Indian Manuscripts: A Knowledge Base of Indian Cultural Heritage Resources for Academic Libraries” discussed about the National Manuscript Mission that seeks to unearth and preserve the vast manuscript wealth of India. They have mentioned that the life of a palm leaf manuscript is far longer than a modern day device like CD or microfilm. They mentioned that, with increasing popularity of printed books the interest for collecting and preserving of manuscripts gained ground in India. Some famous bibliophiles and institutions built up their collections and as a result large repositories of manuscripts emerged and have played a significant role in preservation and access to manuscripts in India by the Institutional and individual efforts in these fields.

**Kumar, U. D., Sree Kumar, G.V. & Athvankar, U.A. (2009)** in their article “Traditional writing systems in Southern India-Palm leaf Manuscripts” mentioned about various palm leaves which were used in India for writing like *Borassus flabellifer* Linn (the palmyra palm), *Corypha Umbraculifera* Linn (talipot, fan palm) and *Corypha Taliera* Roxb. They also mentioned how the palm leaves are prepared and can be preserved in proper manner. Fumigation with thymol vapors helps to prevent fungus; fading of ink can be restored by applying carbon black mixed with oil to the leaf. Various traditional writing skills and techniques have also mentioned for example Tamil palm leaf manuscript was written by using incision with pointed metal stylus. Various types of metal stylus were used for writing on palm leaf manuscripts and then holes were punched for binding the leaves which were the only elements that breaks the text flow and a sufficient margin was given around it.

**Kharbade, V.B. (2010)** in his article “Research and Innovation in Conservation of Manuscripts-An Interim Report” explains that the Research in conservation provides essential information to conservators and others caring for cultural heritage. It imparts information on causes of deterioration, devising conservation solutions, option for taking appropriate method of treatment and assessment of treatment performance. In addition, it can also resolve the issues related to dating and authentication of art objects.

**Ghosh, Rituparna (2012)** In her paper “Palm leaf Manuscripts Conservation: A Case Study” has described about palm leaf manuscripts, which was used in India as one of the common materials for writing and has mentioned about different types of damages generally noticed in palm leaf manuscripts.

## 5. OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

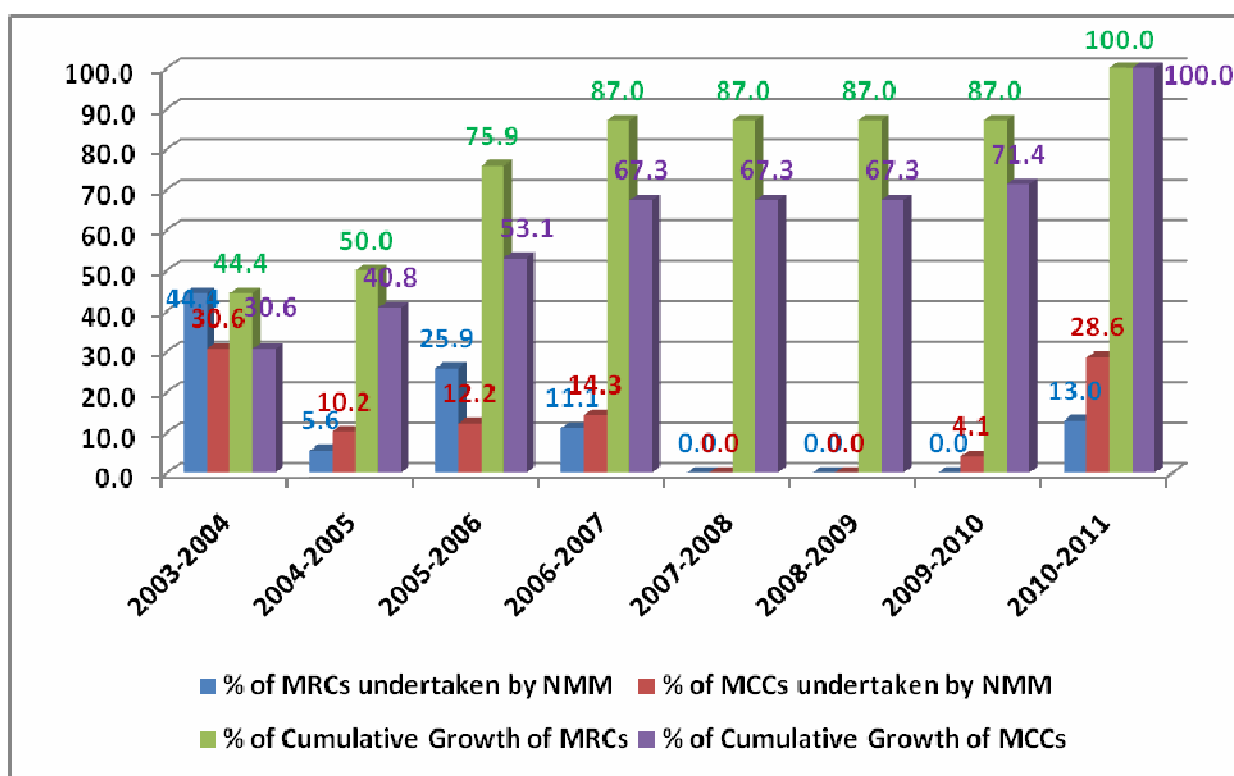
### 5.1 Growth of MRCs and MCCs:

Table 1 depicts the growth of the Manuscript Resource Centers (MRCs) and Manuscript Conservation Centers (MCCs) along with their cumulative growths covered under the NMM from the year of inception in 2003 – 2004 to 2010-2011.

**Table 1: Growth of MRCs v/s MCCs:**

YEAR	MRCs Covered under NMM	% of MRCs undertaken by NMM	MCCs Covered under NMM	% of MCCs undertaken by NMM	Cumulative Growth of MRCs	% of Cumulative Growth of MRCs	Cumulative Growth of MCCs	% of Cumulative Growth of MCCs
2003-2004	24	44.4	15	30.6	24	44.4	15	30.6
2004-2005	3	5.6	5	10.2	27	50.0	20	40.8
2005-2006	14	25.9	6	12.2	41	75.9	26	53.1
2006-2007	6	11.1	7	14.3	47	87.0	33	67.3
2007-2008	0	0.0	0	0.0	47	87.0	33	67.3
2008-2009	0	0.0	0	0.0	47	87.0	33	67.3
2009-2010	0	0.0	2	4.1	47	87.0	35	71.4
2010-2011	7	13.0	14	28.6	54	100.0	49	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>

It is observed that, there are 24 (44.44%) MRCs are covered under the ambit of NMM in the first year of its establishment. With the inclusion of 24 MRCs in the beginning, there has been a steady growth of the centers and ultimately it reaches to 54 in the year 2010 – 2011. Similarly in case of MCCs the initial year when the Mission started functioning there were 15 (30.6%) conservation centers under its purview, which have further increased to 49 as on the year of 2010-11 functioning for the safe up-keeping of manuscripts.



**Fig 1: Comparison of MRCs v/s MCCs**

The figure 1 depicts the comparative study of Manuscript Resource Centres and Manuscript Conservation Centre across the period of study. From this study it is revealed that highest number of MRCs (24) as well as MCCs (15) were undertaken during the year of inception of NMM that is 2003-04. There has been an inclusion of new MRCs & MCCs in the subsequent years except 2007-8 and 2008- 09.



## 5.2 Distribution of Manuscripts & MRCs across various Zones:

The table 2 depicts zone wise distribution of manuscripts as well as States and Union territories included in each zone *i.e.* North, South, East, West and Central. It shows that highest number of manuscripts are available in north zone that are 421409 (30.53%), where as second highest number of manuscripts are available in south zone that are 374307 (27.12%), then third highest number of manuscripts are in east zone *i.e.* 250124 (18.12%), then the number of manuscripts available in west zone are 255555 (18.52%) and lastly the lowest number of manuscripts available in central zone *i.e.* 78810 (5.71%) respectively along with the number of MRCs covered under different zones are 17 (31.48%), 15 (27.78%), 11 (20.37%), 8 (14.81%) and 3 (5.71%) respectively.

**Table 2: Distribution of Manuscripts & MRCs across various Zones:**

ZONES	NUMBER OF STATES & UTS INCLUDED	No. Of MRCs	% of MRCs	NO. OF MANUSCRIPTS	% of Manuscripts
<b>NORTH</b>	<b>8</b> (6 States & 2 UTs)	17	31.48	421409	30.53
<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>5</b> (4 states & 1 UT)	15	27.78	374307	27.12
<b>EAST</b>	<b>6</b>	11	20.37	250124	18.12
<b>WEST</b>	<b>3</b>	8	14.81	255555	18.52
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>1</b>	3	5.56	78810	5.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1380205</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is observed that highest numbers of manuscript resource centers (17) are functioning under North Zone. This zone has also the distinction of covering maximum number of states (6) and Union Territories (2) where manuscript resource centers are located.

## 5.3 Period Wise establishment of MRCs:

The table 3 and the corresponding figure 1.3 show the periodicity during which the MRCs were established. It covers a time range of early eighteenth century to twenty first century. It is observed that during the period from 1700 – 1800 A.D. only 1 MRC was established, in 1800 – 1900 A.D. it increased to 8 MRCs but during the years 1900 – 1925 the MRCs established

were only 5 and thus in 1925 – 1950A.D. it showed a similar trend of only 5 MRCs. But during the years 1950 – 1975 A.D., there has been a steady increase in the establishment of MRCs that come to 19 which was highest, then during the years 1975 – 2000 A. D. the establishment of the MRCs decreased to 15 and in the year 2000 - 2025 only 1MRC was established and a total of 54 numbers of MRCs has been established covering a period range of about three hundred years.

**Table 3: Period Wise establishment of MRCs**

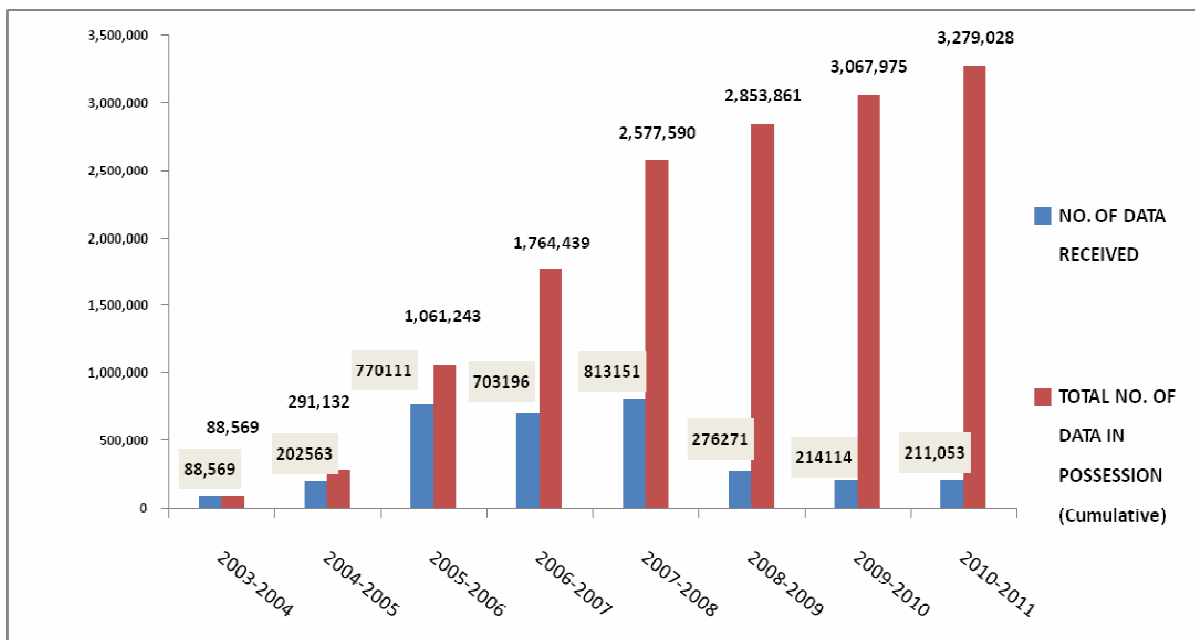
Period	No. of MRCs Established	% of MRCs	Cumulative No. of MRCs	Cumulative % MRCs	Log of MRCs	Growth Rate (gr) of MRCs
1700-1800	1	1.9	1	1.9	0.642	
1800-1900	8	14.8	9	16.7	2.815	
1900-1925	5	9.3	14	25.9	3.254	0.439
1925-1950	5	9.3	19	35.2	3.561	0.307
1950-1975	19	35.2	38	70.4	4.254	0.693
1975-2000	15	27.8	53	98.1	4.586	0.332
2000-2025	1	1.9	54	100	4.605	0.019
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>54</b>		<b>Mean</b>	<b>0.358</b>

#### 5.4 Growth of Manuscript Documentation under NMM:

**Table 4: Year wise growth of Documentation of Manuscripts**

YEAR	No. of Data Documented	Cumulative Data	Log of MRCs	Growth Rate (gr) of MRCs	Doubling Time
2003-2004	88,569	88,569	11.392		
2004-2005	202563	291,132	12.582	1.190	0.582
2005-2006	770111	1,061,243	13.875	1.293	0.536
2006-2007	703196	1,764,439	14.383	0.508	1.363
2007-2008	813151	2,577,590	14.762	0.379	1.829
2008-2009	276271	2,853,861	14.864	0.102	6.808
2009-2010	214114	3,067,975	14.937	0.072	9.581
2010-2011	211,053	3,279,028	15.003	0.067	10.419
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,279,028</b>	<b>32,79,028</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>0.516</b>	<b>4.445</b>

NMM is engaged in detailed documentation of manuscripts in India for creating a National Catalogue of Manuscripts. Development of an electronic database of manuscripts by documenting the manuscripts available in different institutions is one of the important activities of the Mission. Under this scheme it is observed that, highest number of manuscripts have been documented during the year 2007-08 (8, 13,151) and the total number of manuscripts received for documentation are 32, 79,028.



**Fig 2: Cumulative Growth of Documentation of Manuscripts under NMM**

The graph 2 depicts about the year wise documentation of manuscripts with the total number of data in possession since the year of inception in 2003 to 2011.

### 5.5 Cataloguing:

Cataloguing is one of the major activities and objectives of the Mission. In order to catalogue the vast treasure of manuscripts the Mission has evolved a solid methodology of three standard formats known as:

- Questionnaire
- CAT-CAT and

- Manus

The objective of questionnaire is to prepare a National Directory of Manuscript repositories, where as CAT-CAT is a catalogue of catalogues (compilation of published catalogues by different institutions) and Manus deals with the data sheets of manuscripts with detailed information on each manuscript such as title, author, commentary, language, script, name of the repository, name of the scribe (if available), date of the manuscript number of folios and pages and other such relevant details.

- **Directory covers data about:**

Institutional collections from more than **2000** libraries distributed across the country and also from 3500 Private collections.

- **CAT-CAT covers data of :**

Manuscript catalogues compiled around 2300 volumes.

- **Manus:**

No. of data through MRCs: 1, 35,677

No. of data incorporated by the Mission through already available data: 48,000

No. of data from IGNCA collection: 1, 70,455

Total No. of data available: 2, 91,132

## **5.6 DIGTIZATION MANUSCRIPTS:**

The table 5 shows the institutions under different zones (North, South, East, West and Central) where manuscript digitization work has been completed. It is observed that, NMM has taken up digitization work under each zone. Total numbers of institutions covered are eleven where as number of manuscripts digitized are 55,255. Around 11 institutions are covered all total under the five different zones (North, South, East, West and Central) in which the total numbers of manuscripts digitized are depicted along with its percentage.

**Table 5: Manuscript Digitization Status of various Institutions under different Zones:**

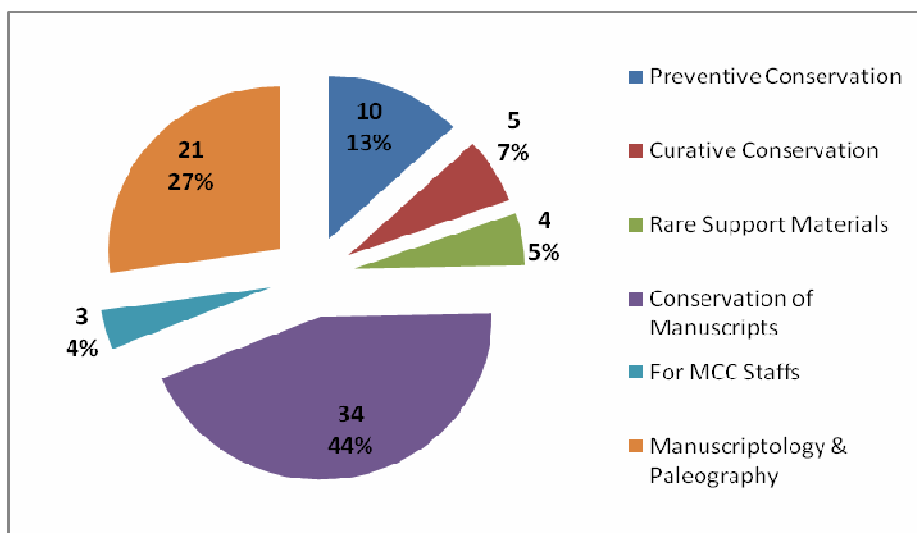
<b>ZONES</b>	<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>NAME OF INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>No. of MSSs Digitized</b>	<b>% of Digitization</b>
<b>EAST</b>	1	Odisha State Museum, Odisha	4,777	8.65
	2	Krishna Kanta Handique Library, Guwahati, Assam	2,091	3.78
<b>CENTRAL</b>	3	Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	1,010	1.83
	4	Kundakunda Jnanapeeth, Indore, Madhya Pradesh	8,622	15.60
	5	Bharat Itihas Samsodhan Mandal, Pune	3,523	6.38
<b>NORTH</b>	6	Himachal Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages, Simla, Himachal Pradesh	225	0.41
	7	Virndavan Research Institute, Virndavan Uttar Pradesh	20,075	36.33
	8	Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology	6,010	10.88
<b>SOUTH</b>	9	French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry	502	0.91
	10	Institute of Asian Studies, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	481	0.87
<b>WEST</b>	11	Anandashram Sansthan, Pune, Maharashtra	7,939	14.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>55,255</b>	<b>100</b>

### **5.7 Capacity Building:**

Conservation of cultural property through promotion of awareness, expertise and capacity building on conservation through training and workshops is a measure concern of the mission

and since its inception in 2003 the NMM has made some definite intervention in this domain through its network of MCCs and MCPCs. The kinds of workshops organized by the mission are stated below:

- Workshop on Preventive Conservation:
  - 10 number of workshops conducted during 2003 – 2008
- Workshop on Curative Conservation:
  - 5 number of workshops conducted during 2003 – 2008
- Workshop on Rare Support Materials:
  - 4 number of workshop conducted during 2003 – 2008
- Workshop on Conservation of Manuscripts:
  - 13 number of workshops conducted during 2009 – 2010
  - 21 number of workshops conducted during 2010 – 2011
- Workshop to MCC Staffs:
  - 3 number of workshop conducted during 2003 – 2008
- Workshop on Manuscriptology & Paleography (Basic & Advanced):
  - 9 number of workshops conducted during 2009 – 2010
  - 12 number of workshops conducted during 2010 – 2011



**Fig 3: Distribution of kinds of Workshops conducted by NMM**

The very objective of these workshops is to train the personnel engaged in different manuscript resource centers to take care of the manuscripts by adopting necessary preventive and curative

methods of preservation, to build up Manuscriptology skills and critical editing of the manuscripts.

### **5.8 Outreach Programmes of NMM:**

The Mission has launched the public outreach programme which was initiated in 2005. Through its public outreach initiatives the Mission seeks to bring the several facets of knowledge contained in manuscripts to the public through trainings, workshops, lectures, seminars, publications and specially designed programmes for school children and university Students. A detailed description of the outreach programmes conducted by NMM is given below.

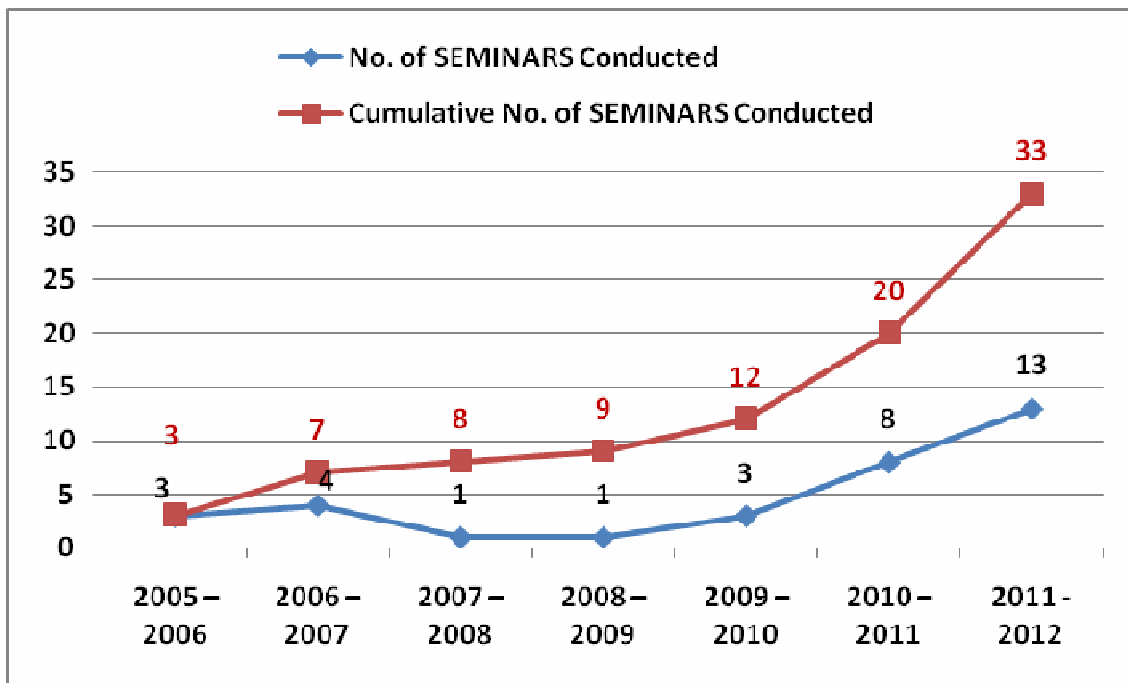
#### **5.8.1 Seminars:**

The Mission organizes national level seminars at different period of time. Scholars specializing in various fields are invited to represent research papers which are eventually published by the mission under the title Samikshika. The following Seminars have been organized by the Mission so far on different topics of interest.

**Table 6: Seminars conducted at different Manuscripts Resource Centres:**

<b>YEARS</b>	<b>No. of Seminars Conducted</b>	<b>% of Seminars Conducted</b>	<b>Cumulative No. of Seminars Conducted</b>	<b>Cumulative %</b>
2005 – 2006	3	9.09	3	9.09
2006 – 2007	4	12.12	7	21.21
2007 – 2008	1	3.03	8	24.24
2008 – 2009	1	3.03	9	27.27
2009 – 2010	3	9.09	12	36.36
2010 – 2011	8	24.24	20	60.61
2011 - 2012	13	39.39	33	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table 6 depicts about the total number of seminars conducted from the year 2005 to 2012 that come to total 33 in number. In the year 2005 – 2006 only 3 (9.09%) seminars were conducted, in 2006 – 2007 only 4 (12.12%) seminars were conducted, in 2007 – 2008 and 2008-09 only 1 seminar in each year was conducted (3.03%) then in 2009 – 2010 the number of seminars conducted was 3 and its cumulative number reached to 12, in 2010 – 2011 the seminars conducted was 8 and then during 2011 – 2012 highest numbers (13)of seminars were conducted that contributes 39.39% of the total contribution.



**Fig 4: Trend of Seminars conducted by NMM**

This figure 4 shows the year wise distribution as well as cumulative growth of seminars conducted by the Mission. It is observed that during the year 2012 -2013 highest Numbers (13) of Seminars have been conducted under the National Mission for Manuscripts.



### **5.8.2 Exhibitions:**

The mission organizes exhibition with the objective of exposure of manuscript treasures to the general public and to the scholars to make them aware the evolution of manuscripts conservation using only natural materials and on other aspects. Three exhibitions have been held in Frankfurt, New Delhi and in Bangalore.

- **Oral Traditions and Indigenous Methods and Materials of Conservation of Manuscripts: 2005** (The exhibition showcased the various organic conservation materials and indigenous techniques practised around the country.)
- **Indian Manuscripts in Frankfurt: 2006** ( This display encompasses a wide range of subjects, support materials, languages, scripts, writing instruments, shapes and forms of manuscripts).
- **Exhibition at World Sanskrit Book Fair:2011**

### **5.8.3 Memory of the world:**

The National Mission for manuscripts has taken the initiative to nominate Indian Manuscripts for inclusion in **UNESCO Memory of the World Register**. Under this programme, UNESCO provides recognition to the most valuable documentary heritage of the world and facilitates its preservation and provides universal access to it. The Shaiva manuscripts in Pondicherry were awarded the status of UNESCO's Memory of the World in **2005**; where as "**Gita Govinda**" and "**Chikitsha Manjari**" Manuscripts from Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneswar, Odisha achieved the same status being included in the Memory of the World of UNESCO in 2005.

### **5.9 Publications:**

Publication of Unpublished Manuscripts, Critical edition of Manuscripts, Seminar papers, Lectures etc. occupy a position of prime importance in the scheme of activities undertaken by

the National Mission for Manuscripts. The following publications have been brought out by NMM in collaboration with other publishers of New Delhi during the period of study.

**Table 7: Lists of Publications under NMM**

NAME OF PUBLICATIONS	FIELDS OF SPECIALISATION OF PUBLICATIONS	YEAR OF PUBLICATION OF 1 <sup>ST</sup> VOLUME	NO.OF VOLUMES PUBLISHED SO FAR	PUBLISHERS
Tattvabodha	Monthly Lecture Series	2005	3	NMM & MMP, New Delhi
Samrakshika	Seminar Papers on Conservation	2006	2	NMM, New Delhi
Samikshika	Seminar Papers	2007	4	NMM & MMP, New Delhi
Kirtibodha	Critical Edition of Rare& Unpublished texts	2007	2	NMM & D.K. Print World, New Delhi
Prakashika	Rare Texts	2011	1	NMM & Delhi Kitab Ghar, New Delhi
Kirti Rakhshana	Rare Texts	2005	22 (up to Dec 2011- March 2012) vol 7 nos. 3 & 4	NMM, New Delhi
The Word is Sacred Sacred is the Word	The Indian MSS.Tradition	2006	1	NMM & Niyogi Offset, New Delhi
Vijnananidhi	Catalogue of Select Mss.	2007	1	NMM, New Delhi
Shabad Guru	Illustrated Catalogue of Rare Guru Granth Sahib MSS.	2007	1	NMM, & National Institute of Punjab Studies, New Delhi
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>37</b>	

### 5.9.1 Vijnananidhi:

The National Mission for Manuscripts with its mandate to preserve and disseminate India's rich cultural

heritage contained in Manuscripts seeks to pay homage to the landmarks in Indian Intellectual history by identifying manuscripts with unique heritage value and has designated them as Vijnananidhi: “Manuscripts Treasures of India”. A catalogue of select manuscripts declared through this Programme as “Vijnananidhi: Manuscript Treasures of India” are selected for this outstanding value to the whole of humanity and for their contribution to Indian life, significance to the development of Indian thought and preservation of its culture.

**Table 8: Distribution of selected Manuscripts in Vijnananidhi (Treasures of India)**

SI No.	Name of Resource Centres	No. of Manuscripts	% of Manuscripts
1	The Asiatic Society, Kolkata	4	8.89
2	Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune	5	11.11
3	Calcutta University, Kolkata	3	6.67
4	Institute of Francais De Pondicherry,Pondicherry	1	2.22
5	Kannada University, Hampi	3	6.67
6	Kargon Gompa,IGOO,Ladakh	2	4.44
7	Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Library, Patna	4	8.89
8	Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Gauhati University	2	4.44
9	Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology,Ahmedabad	2	4.44
10	Library of Tibetan Works and Archives,Dharmasala	1	2.22
11	Manipur State Archives, Imphal	2	4.44
12	Sri Pratap Singh Museum,The Jammu and Kashmir State Government Libraries and Research Department	1	2.22
13	The National Museum, New Delhi	2	4.44
14	Oriental Research Institute, Mysore	3	6.67
15	Oriental Research Institute, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati	1	2.22
16	Oriental Research Institute and Mauscripts Library University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram	1	2.22
17	Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneswar	2	4.44
18	Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur	2	4.44
19	Rampur Raza Library,Rampur	3	6.67
20	Visweshvarananda Biswabandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Hoshiarpur	1	2.22
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The table 8 depicts about the 21 institutions from where some manuscripts which have unique value have been chosen and have published in Vijnananidhi. It is observed that a total of 45

manuscripts are covered under this category and the institutions are scattered throughout the nation. It is found out that Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute tops the list with maximum contribution of 5 (11.11%), manuscripts that have been declared as Manuscript Treasures. Second position occupied by two institutions namely The Asiatic Society & Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Library with 4 contributions from each (8.89%), then Calcutta University, Kannada University & Rampur Raza Library, are in the third position with (6.67%) of manuscript contribution to be placed in Vijnananidhi.

## **6. CONCLUSION:**

Manuscripts form an invaluable part of India's documentary heritage, they capture our thoughts, achievements, experience and lessons learnt from history. The present study draws the following conclusions on the basis of above observations.

- The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) is the first consolidated national effort devoted towards the preservation of manuscripts.
- The NMM functions through different types of centers known as MRCs and MCCs and these centers are established throughout the country.
- As regards to the year of establishment of MRCs it goes back to the year 1700A.D and it is observed that highest number of MRCs (19) have been established during the period 1950-1975 A.D.
- There are total 13, 80,205 Manuscripts available in Manuscript Resource Centres under NMM. These manuscript resource centres are distributed over 5 different zones of India such as North, South, East, West and Central zone.
- It has been observed that, highest number of manuscripts have been documented during the year 2007-08 (8, 13,151) and the total number of manuscripts received for documentation are 32, 79,028.

- The NMM has taken up the digitization work and total numbers of institutions covered are eleven where as the number of manuscript digitized are 55, 255.
- NMM has adopted has introduced a solid methodology of 3 standard formats known as questionnaire, CAT – CAT and Manus for cataloguing of manuscripts.
- The Mission organizes workshops and trainings on regular basis for capacity building activities.
- Organisation of seminars is one of the regular activities of the Mission and it has conducted 33 numbers of seminars on different topics till the year 2011.
- Publication of unpublished manuscripts, critical edition of manuscripts, seminar papers, lectures occupy prime emphasis by NMM. Under this scheme the books which are published are Tattavabodha, Samrakshika, Samikshika, Kirtibodha, Prakashika, The Word is Sacred; Sacred is the Word, Vijnananidhi & Shabad Guru.

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