

**1. National Mission for Manuscripts to be made autonomous****National Mission for Manuscripts**

The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was established in February 2003 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. A unique project in its programme and mandate, the Mission seeks to unearth and preserve the vast manuscript wealth of India.

According to the Ministry of Culture, the NMM has documented around 5.2 million manuscripts across the country. It has conserved 90 million folios of manuscripts and digitised 3.5 lakh manuscripts that contain 3.5 crore number of pages.

**Granting Autonomy**

Steps have been initiated to make the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) autonomous, with the Centre allocating ₹491.66 crore over the next six years separately to the institution through a Special Finance Committee. The Special Finance Committee has allocated an amount of ₹491.66 crore to the body till 2031.

The NMM was till now functioning as a part of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). But for January to March, the funds for institutions were routed through the Sahitya Akademi. Sahitya Akademi is autonomous in nature. Thus, routing funds through Sahitya Akademi implies autonomy for National Mission for Manuscripts as well.

**Budget proposal: Gyan Bharatam Mission**

New 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' for manuscripts was announced in the Union Budget last week. According to the Budget document, the Gyan Bharatam Mission intends to cover more than one crore manuscripts. It would undertake the "survey, documentation and conservation" of India's manuscript heritage lying with academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collectors.

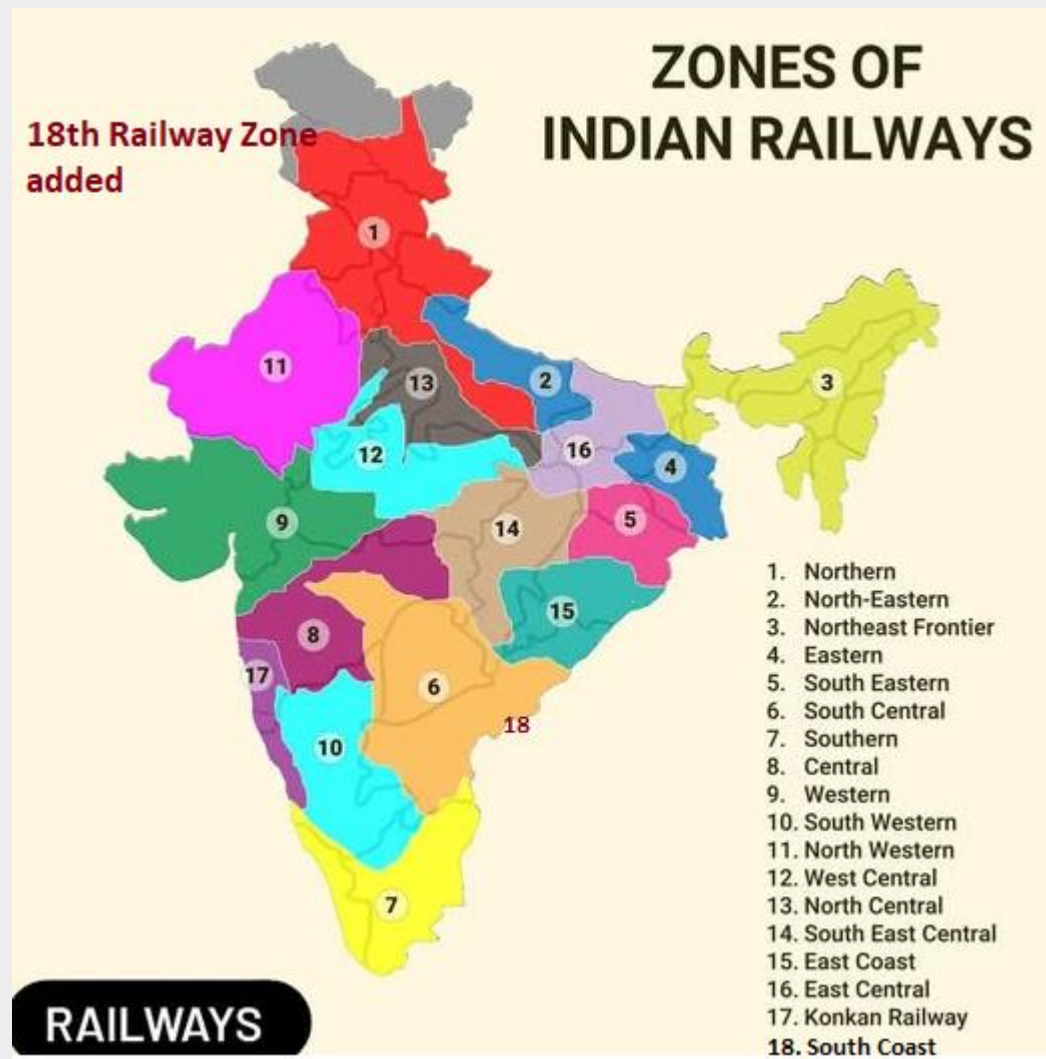
It is to be noted that it is not yet clear whether the new 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' for manuscripts, announced in the Union Budget last week would be a part of the NMM or be a separate entity.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Governance  
Source: The Hindu

**2. 18th Railway Zone has been created****South Coast Railway Zone**

The Union Cabinet ex post facto approved the plan to create the new South Coast Railway Zone. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the South Coast Railway headquarters in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Created under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014, which led to the formation of Telangana state, the SCoR zone will be the 18th zone of the Indian Railways. Its jurisdiction has been carved out from parts of the East Coast Railway and South Central Railway zones.



### **Divided and Renamed the Waltair Railway Division**

The Cabinet also divided the Waltair Railway Division (earlier under the East Coast Railway) into two parts. Citing its colonial-era name, the government renamed the first part as the Visakhapatnam Railway Division and included it under the new zone. The other part will be converted into a new division with headquarters at Rayagada, Odisha, under the East Coast Railway.

It is to be noted that a single Railway Zone is divided into multiple divisions.

### **Why was the new railway zone announced?**

According to item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, Indian Railways was to examine establishing a new railway zone.

The Central government announced its decision to create a new railway zone, envisaged as a strategic hub for operations in Andhra Pradesh. It would help improve operational efficiency and provide focused service to the growing passenger and freight demands.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Economics

Source: Indian Express

### **3. Trump authorises sanctions against ICC: What is the International Criminal Court?**

#### **Introduction**

US President Donald Trump has authorised economic and travel sanctions targeting people who work on International Criminal Court investigations of US citizens or US allies such as Israel.

The move, which was condemned by the court, is a protest against the ICC's arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

#### **When was the ICC set up and why?**

The court was established in 2002 to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression when member states are unwilling or unable to do so themselves. It can prosecute crimes committed by nationals of member states or on the territory of member states by other actors. It has 125 member states.

#### **What is the ICC investigating?**

The ICC is conducting investigations from the Palestinian territories to Ukraine and African states such as Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya to Venezuela in Latin America and Myanmar and the Philippines in Asia, according to its website. It says there have been 32 cases before the court, with some cases having more than one suspect. ICC judges have issued at least 60 arrest warrants.

#### **Who is on the court's arrest warrant list?**

The ICC has issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu, who is accused of being criminally responsible for acts including murder, persecution and using starvation as a weapon of war in the Gaza conflict.

It also issued a warrant for Netanyahu's former defence chief Yoav Gallant and for Hamas leader Ibrahim al-Masri, also known as Mohammed Deif. The warrant for Masri lists charges of killing, rape and hostage-taking during the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks in Israel that triggered the Gaza war.

The Israeli leader dismissed the decision as anti-Semitic and said the accusations were absurd and false.

Also on the list is Russian President Vladimir Putin, accused of the war crime of illegally deporting hundreds of children from Ukraine. In March 2023, after the court issued the warrant, the Kremlin said the move was meaningless. Moscow has repeatedly denied accusations that its forces have committed atrocities during its invasion of Ukraine.

### **Which countries are not members of the ICC?**

Although the court is supported by many United Nations members and the European Union, other countries such as the United States, China and Russia are not members, arguing the ICC could be used for politically motivated prosecutions.

Myanmar is not a member of the court, but in 2018 and 2019 judges ruled the court had jurisdiction over alleged cross-border crimes that partially took place in neighbouring ICC-member Bangladesh, such as deportation and persecution, and said prosecutors could open a formal investigation.

Israel is not a member of the court and does not recognise its jurisdiction, but the Palestinian territories were admitted as an ICC member state in 2015. This, together with a ruling by judges, means the court can look at potential war crimes carried out by Hamas fighters in Israel and by Israelis in the Gaza Strip.

India is also not a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Like other non-members, India has not ratified the Rome Statute, which is the legal basis for membership in the ICC.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Organisations

Source: Indian Express

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