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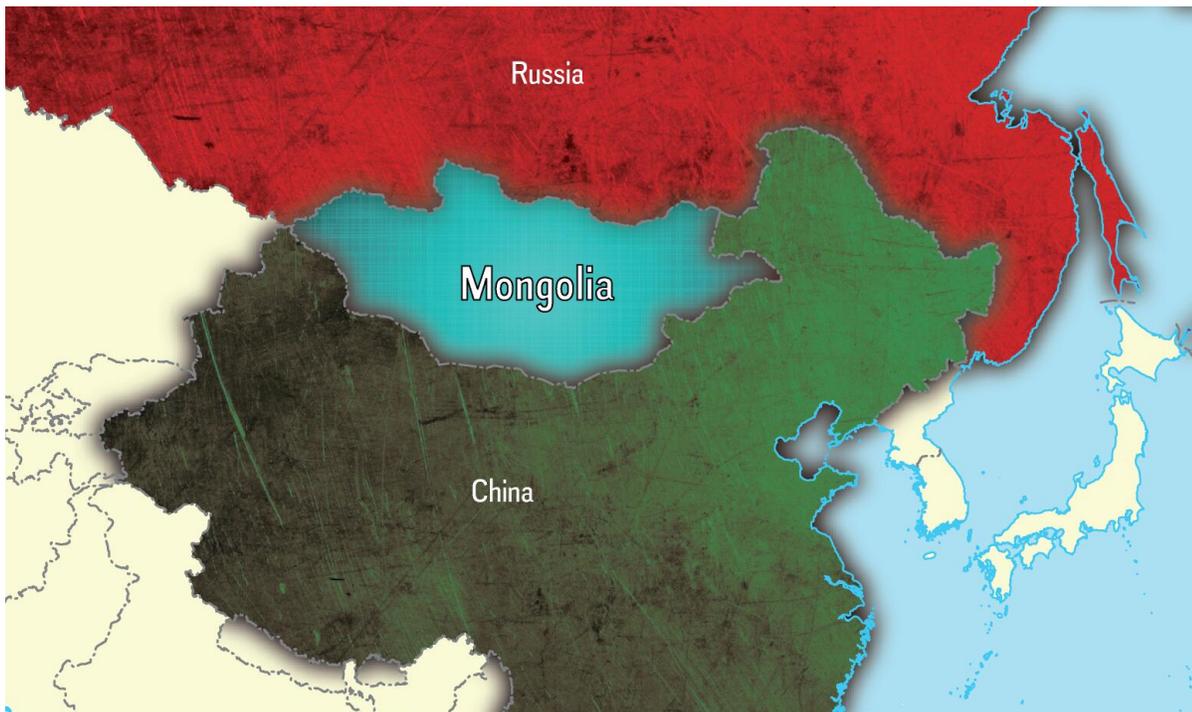
Mongolian Kanjur Being Reprinted

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Why in News

The **Ministry of Culture** has taken up the project of reprinting **108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur** by March 2022 under the **National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM)**.

Some copies were presented to the government of Mongolia on the occasion of **Guru Purnima**, also known as **Dharma Chakra Day**, on 4th July, 2020.



Key Points

- **Mongolian Kanjur:**
 - It is a **Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes** and is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia. It is a source of providing a cultural identity to Mongolia.
 - In the Mongolian language ‘Kanjur’ means ‘**Concise Orders**’- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.
 - It has been **translated from Tibetan and is written in classical mongolian.**
- **Cultural Relations Between India and Mongolia:**
 - Buddhism was carried to Mongolia by Indian cultural and religious ambassadors during the early Christian era. As a result, today, Buddhists form the single largest religious denomination in Mongolia.
 - India established formal **diplomatic relations** with Mongolia in 1955. The publication of Mongolian Kanjur by the Government of India for the Government of Mongolia will act as a **symbol of cultural harmony between India and Mongolia** and will contribute to furtherance of bilateral relations during the coming years.

National Mission for Manuscripts

- The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was launched in **February 2003** by the Government of India with the mandate of documenting, conserving and disseminating the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts.
 - 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 distinct from historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, revenue records which provide direct information on events or processes in history.
- One of the objectives of the mission is to **publish rare and unpublished manuscripts** so that the knowledge enshrined in them is spread to researchers, scholars and the general public at large.
- It is under the **Ministry of Culture.**

Source: PIB