

# Mongolian Kanjur

May 17, 2021

**In news-** The Ministry of Culture is likely to complete **reprinting of about 100 sets of sacred Mongolian Kanjur (108 volumes each)** by 2022 for distribution in the main centers of Buddhism in Mongolia.

## **About the project-**

- The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting under the **National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM)**.
- This work is being carried out under the **supervision of eminent Scholar Prof. Lokesh Chandra**.
- The first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur published under the NMM was presented to the President of India on the occasion of **Guru Purnima, also known as Dharma Chakra Day**, on 4th July 2020.
- A set was then handed over to His Excellency Mr. Gonching Ganbold, Ambassador of Mongolia to India.
- The 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.

One of the **objectives of the mission** is to publish rare and unpublished manuscripts so that the knowledge enshrined in them is spread to researchers, scholars and the general public at large.

## **About Mongolian Kanjur-**

- It is the **Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes** and considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia.
- In the Mongolian language **'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'**– the words of Lord Buddha in particular.

- It is held in high esteem by the Mongolian Buddhists and they worship the Kanjur at temples and recite the lines of Kanjur in daily life as a sacred ritual.
- The Kanjur are kept in almost every monastery in Mongolia.
- It has been translated from Tibetan and the language of the Kanjur is Classical Mongolian.
- During 1956-58, **Professor Raghu Vira** obtained a microfilm copy of the rare Kanjur manuscripts and **brought them to India.**
- The Mongolian Kanjur in 108 volumes was published in India in 1970s by Prof. Lokesh Chandra, former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).
- Now, the present edition which is being published will have a list of contents indicating the original title of the sutra in Mongolian.