



**Ashish Jain**  
Researcher | Educator  
Heritage Conservationist

Ashish Jain is a dedicated scholar and practitioner in the field of archaeology, ancient scripts, and heritage conservation. Holding a Master degree in Archaeology with a specialization in Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology, Ashish has further honed his expertise with post-graduate diplomas in Marine Archaeology, Heritage Management, and Scientific Conservation from esteemed institutions like the National Institute of Oceanography and Deccan College, Pune.

He has served as a guest and visiting faculty at prestigious institutions including Sathaye College (Mumbai), Deccan College (Pune), and KKSU Ramtek, where he led workshops on Brahmi Script and ancient knowledge systems. A certified expert in Brahmi and Nagari scripts, he has also

completed specialized courses in Greek language, manuscript studies, LIDAR, and laser technology for heritage preservation.

Ashish has worked with organizations like the National Archives of India, National Mission on Manuscripts, and Manuscript Conservation Centres, documenting and conserving thousands of ancient manuscripts. He has actively participated in national exhibitions, seminars, and workshops at institutions such as VNIT, IITs, and IIIT.

A lifelong learner and advocate of India's cultural heritage, Ashish is affiliated with the Indian Science Congress, Theosophical Society, and other scholarly bodies, continuing his mission to preserve and promote ancient wisdom.

## Bridging Scripts and Science: Ashish Jain and the Revival of India's Intellectual Heritage

In an era where digital technologies surge forward, a quieter, profound revolution is also taking place—one that looks back to move ahead. At the intersection of ancient wisdom and modern science stands **Ashish Jain**, a dedicated heritage researcher, manuscript conservator, and educator. With training that spans archaeology, conservation science, and scriptology, he is building pathways between India's past and its aspirations for *Viksit Bharat*—a future that respects tradition while embracing innovation.

His is not the conventional story of a technologist or a policymaker. It is the story of someone who breathes life into palm-leaf manuscripts, deciphers fading Brahmi inscriptions, and teaches the science of scripts and conservation across India's classrooms and labs.

### Excavating Knowledge: A Scholar Grounded in India's Roots

Ashish Jain's academic foundation is as rich and layered as the manuscripts he works with. Holding a **Master's degree in Archaeology** (Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology), he has also pursued **three postgraduate diplomas** in:

- **Marine/Ocean Archaeology** (NIO & Deccan College),
- **Heritage Management and Scientific Conservation** (Deccan College),
- **Prakrit Language Studies** (Kalidasa Sanskrit University).

His interdisciplinary training allows him to move fluidly between the worlds of ancient linguistics, scientific preservation, and cultural heritage management.

His additional certifications in **Greek language** (JNU, New Delhi), **Lidar technology**, **Laser conservation**, and over **23 ancient Indian scripts**, make him uniquely qualified to bridge traditional knowledge systems with emerging technologies.

### From Manuscripts to Museums: A Life of Conservation

Over the past decade, Ashish has worked with some of India's most significant manuscript collections. His work includes:

- **Cataloguing 18,000 manuscripts** at Nagpur University,
- **Conserving 4,200 folios** using traditional and modern techniques,
- Training under the **National Mission on Manuscripts** (Ministry of Culture),
- Participating in document archiving at the **National Archives of India**,
- Showcasing traditional conservation techniques at UGC's **Akhil Bhartiya Shikshan Sabha Exhibition (2023)** in New Delhi.

Through painstaking documentation and preservation, Ashish ensures that fragile manuscripts—from Vedic hymns to scientific treatises—remain accessible for generations.

### The Script Whisperer: Reviving Lost Languages

Ashish's passion for **ancient Indian scripts** is matched by his commitment to teaching them. From **Brahmi** and **Nagari** to lesser-known regional variants, he has not only studied them deeply but also taught them in academic and public forums.

He has conducted:

- **5-day Brahmi workshops** under the IKS (Indian Knowledge Systems) mission at KKSU Ramtek,
- Guest lectures at institutions like **Sathaye College** (Tilak University, Mumbai) and **Deccan College, Pune**,
- Community engagement programs at **Zambre School, Jalgaon** and more.

To him, every letter from an ancient script is not just a symbol—it is a gateway into how ancient Indians thought, reasoned, and recorded the world.

### Where Heritage Meets Hardware: Melding Tech with Tradition

Unlike many heritage professionals, Ashish is deeply engaged with India's STEM institutions. He has attended and presented in technical workshops at:

- **VNIT Nagpur**, in areas like photonics, data analytics, cognitive engineering, and explosive materials,
- **IIT Gandhinagar**, at the **Centre for Creative Learning**,
- **IIT Mandi**, in composite materials for engineering,
- **IIIT Nagpur**, on entrepreneurship in engineering education.

His participation in these forums reveals a rare blend: a heritage scholar who understands the relevance of his field in contemporary science and nation-building. One of his standout achievements is participating in VNIT's initiative on the "**Roadmap for Ancient Indian Knowledge Systems**", where he highlighted how traditional materials and preservation practices can inform modern materials science, conservation engineering, and even climate resilience.

### Cultural Diplomacy, Memberships & Mission

Ashish Jain is also an active member of several cultural and intellectual forums:

- **Indian Science Congress** (with participation in the **Children's Science Congress 2022**),
- **Theosophical Society of India**,
- **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**,
- **Indian Council for Philosophical Research**,
- **Granthalay Bharti**, and
- **KundKund Gyanpeeth Manuscript Centre, Indore**.

These networks have allowed him to advocate for **script literacy**, **heritage digitization**, and **community-driven conservation** in both urban and rural settings.

### A Visionary for *Viksit Bharat*

Ashish Jain's contribution to *Viksit Bharat* lies in his belief that a truly developed nation must preserve and reinterpret its knowledge traditions—not just for nostalgia, but for **innovation, inspiration, and identity**.

His vision includes:

- Establishing a **national digital script museum**,
- Developing **curricula that integrate ancient scripts with modern linguistics and AI**,
- Supporting **youth fellowships in heritage science and conservation**,
- Promoting **regional language digitization** for educational equity.

In his words: "*India's strength lies not only in the silicon chip but also in the script on palm leaves. Both have to be protected and decoded.*"

### Final Reflection: An Archivist of India's Soul

Ashish Jain's journey reminds us that development is not just about GDP or gadgets. But how well a country understands, preserves, and disseminates its intellectual roots. Whether he is **cataloguing manuscripts**, **teaching Brahmi to teenagers**, or **discussing Lidar scanning at VNIT**, Ashish is creating a uniquely Indian model of progress—one where heritage and technology walk hand in hand.

He is not only preserving the past. He is **animating it** for the future.