

KUTIYATTAM

(IHF Programme on 4th December 2015).

Inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2001)

VEDICCHANTING

(IHF Programme on 4th December 2015).

Inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2003). The SSUS has undertaken a project to document the whole of Jaiminiya School of Samaveda of Kerala Namputiri version by audio-visual method into CDs and then into interactive multi-media mode.

MUDIYETTU

(IHF Workshop on 4th December 2015).

Inscribed in 2010 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. At present there are four main Schools of Mudi yettu: Two in Koratty, third in Keezhillam and fourth in Pazhoor. The NMNH was able to bring all the four Schools into a common forum at the National Workshop on Museums and ICH organised in Thiruvananthapuram in 2013.

PEOPLE'S BIODIVERSITY REGISTERS

(IHF Workshop on 5th December 2015).

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (No. 18 of 2003) and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 envisages that 'every local body shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC's) within its area of jurisdiction'. The mandate of the Biodiversity Management Committee has been clearly highlighted in the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and involves "to prepare People's Biodiversity Register in consultation with the local people."

THE INDIAN MODEL ON IH:

Presented by the NMNH in the International Council of Museum's Asia Pacific Regional Assembly in Shanghai (2002) is based on PBR involving Access and Benefit Sharing between TBGRI (Tropical Botanical Gardens Research Institute) and Kani tribes, whose knowledge led to the development of a drug (Jeevani) which was marketed.

IMPORTANCE OF PBRs FOR MUSEUMS:

PBR is a classic example of how intangible heritage is documented and made tangible. The PBRs bring in an enormous amount of documentation along with resources/collections, samples of which may be deposited in local level (community/village/ small town) museums which may be called as heritage museums. These Heritage Museums may act as Local Community Resource Centres (LCRC) as well. The collections of PBR may be exhibited for public benefit, supplemented with its enormous documented resources. The intangible element (knowledge) along with the associated tangible elements (its documentation as well as collections) may become irresistible resource materials for local museums. This may supplement museums already in existence or may help launch many more new museums.

COMMUNITY INTANGIBLE HERITAGE REGISTERS (CIHR).

During the IHF15, an exercise will be undertaken to apply the advantages of the democratic PBR method of documentation to one of the ICH forms of Humanity, Mudi yettu



BACKGROUND

UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage proposes five broad 'domains' in which intangible cultural heritage is manifested:

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language;
- Performing arts;
- Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- Traditional craftsmanship;
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe

The domain on "Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe" may generally be called INH (Intangible Natural Heritage) in contrast to all other domains generally grouped under ICH (Intangible Cultural Heritage).

Eleven forms have been inscribed in to the UNESCO List of ICH of Humanity from India so far. Three forms (Kutiyattam, Veda and Mudi yettu) will be involved in IHF15.

NEED FOR SAFEGUARDING IH

Extinct/Endangered:

Many IH forms have become extinct or died out or on the verge of extinction as endangered. While five families were known to preserve the traditional chanting of Jaiminiya School of Sama-veda at the beginning of the Sama veda project, only two are now alive to continue with this tradition.

Importance:

The importance of safeguarding of INH /TKBD (Traditional Knowledge about Biodiversity) by documentation is recognised by the MoEFCC: 'Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) is expected to document the un-coded oral traditional knowledge of local people. Considering that this would be a stupendous and time consuming exercise, there is a need for an All India Coordinated Project on Traditional Knowledge for documenting the un-coded, oral traditional knowledge of local people, especially of little-known bio-resources of potential economic value.' (National Biodiversity Action Plan 2008).



INTANGIBLE HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2015

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