

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2015

[IHF15]

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2015

Dates: 02-05 December 2015

Venue: SSUS Kalady



Organiser

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (NMNH)

Collaborators

**INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA MANAV SANGRAHALAYA (IGRMS),
SREE SANKARA UNIVERSITY OF SANSKRIT KALADY (SSUK)**

Associates

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT,
KOCHI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL,
MOOZHICKULAM SALA**

1. INTRODUCTION:

- 1.1. Intangible Heritage (IH) is a term increasingly used while discussing about Heritage. The term has been in circulation only during the last decade or so. Before the arrival of the term IH, Heritage in general has been restricted to the tangible aspects only. However, it has been felt during the last decade or so that restricting Heritage to the tangible/ materialistic aspects alone excludes a large percentage of heritage efforts, especially from the Asian countries including India. The World Heritage tag, which was earlier restricted to sites of materialistic / tangible heritage (TH) such as forts, monuments, national parks etc were expanded to include IH as well by efforts such as the Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.
- 1.2. UNESCO, which is the specialized agency within the United Nations system with a specific mandate in culture, assists its Member States in the elaboration and implementation of measures for an effective safeguarding of their cultural heritage. Among those measures, the adoption of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was a major step for developing new policies in the field of cultural heritage.
- 1.3. Intangible Heritage Domains: 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
- 1.4. 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) even though it is difficult to distinguish between the two.
- 1.5. Eleven forms have been inscribed in to the UNESCO List of ICH of Humanity from India so far. Three forms will be involved in IHF15.



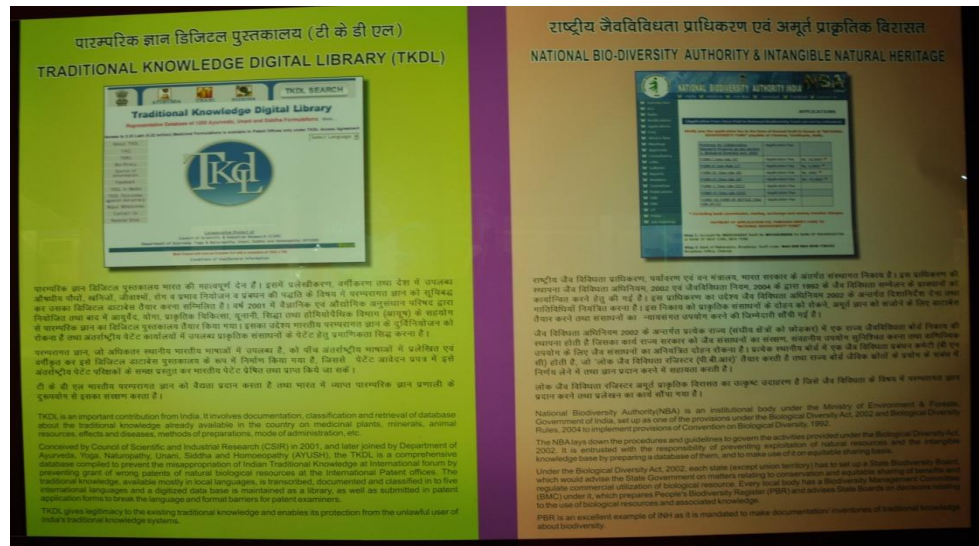
2. NEED FOR SAFEGUARDING IH:

- 2.1. **Extinct/ Endangered:** Many IH forms have become extinct or died out or on the verge of extinction as endangered. Here it is pertinent to point out that while five families were known to preserve the traditional chanting of Jaiminiya School of Sama-veda at the beginning of the Sama veda project undertaken by the SSUS Kalady, only two are now alive to continue with this tradition.
- 2.2. **Importance:** The importance of safeguarding of INH /TKBD (Traditional Knowledge about Biodiversity) by documentation is highlighted in the following: ‘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.’ (Page 19, National Biodiversity Action Plan, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi November 2008).



3. EFFORTS ON SAFEGUARDING IH:

- 3.1. **Ministry of Culture:** The Nodal Ministry in the Government of India for ICH, the Ministry of Culture is deliberating to set up a ‘National Mission on ICH’ to preserve/ promote rich/ diverse cultural traditions of India.
- 3.2. **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change:** The Nodal Ministry in the Government of India for Environment, Natural Heritage etc, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has itself acknowledged the need for “documenting the un-coded, oral traditional knowledge of local people, especially of little-known bio-resources of potential economic value”. Accordingly there is need for the MoEFCC to launch an ‘All India Coordinated Project on TK/ INH’ similar to Projects such as All India Coordinated Project on Ethno-biology etc, as is mentioned in its National Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 3.3. **Ministry of Science & Technology:** The documentation of traditional knowledge available in our ancient texts is being undertaken by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in the form of a computerized database called Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which has become a landmark reference point on TK and IPR on an international level.
- 3.4. **Role of Museums:** With the change in definition of Museums by ICOM (International Council of Museums) incorporating intangible aspects of material culture as one of the functions, museums have come to play an important role in IH. Museums in India such as the NMNH, IGRMS, NMI and Indian Museum have been involved in this endeavour. The important instruments include the Indian Model on IH, the Calicut Charter and the Shillong Charter.



4. THE FESTIVAL:

4.1. The proposal to organise an Intangible Heritage Festival 2015 (IHF 2015) during 02-05 December 2015 is part of the concerted efforts by the NMNH and IGRMS, the two leading Museums in India involved in INH and ICH respectively, to support the cause of safeguarding of IH (both cultural and natural aspects of IH) on a regular basis by organising a large number of programmes in different parts of the country with the help of a large number of other IH stake holding organisations/ individuals. This is supported by a few other stake-holding agencies. It is envisaged that the Festival will lead to the setting up of a National Coordination Mechanism to organise IHF as an annual event on a regular basis.

4.2. Aims:

- To suggest safeguarding measures on IH in India in general
- To undertake documentation of one UNESCO Representative List inscribed in to the ICH of Humanity: Mudiyettu
- To discuss about a methodology for long term documentation of IH in India as a method of its safeguarding involving panchayathiraj institutions,
- To act as a capacity building training programme especially on Exhibition Development Programme (EDP) for young students/ researchers in Museology/ Heritage.

4.3. **Objectives:** By the end of the Festival, the participants will have

- Recognised that Museums are institutions for the safeguarding of IH
- Understood that both the tangible and intangible elements of heritage are important for better interpretation of heritage collected, documented, conserved and exhibited in Museums
- Realised that both the two aspects of IH, ie Cultural and Natural, are equally important
- Suggested that the IHF as a national platform to discuss various aspects of IH on a regular basis.
- Trained in EDP which will help in the development of Exhibition on IH



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PROGRAMME SUMMARY (Tentative)

(Hr)	Day 1 (02-12-2015)	
1400-2000	Arrival	Delegates arrive; Registration
(Hr)	Day 2 (03-12-2015)	
1000-1100	Inauguration	
1100-1300	Seminar 1	Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-1600	Seminar 2	Intangible Natural Heritage (INH)
1600-1800	Seminar 3	IH and Museums
1800-1900	Cultural Programme 1/ Film show	Mudiyettu
(Hr)	Day 3 (04-12-2015)	
0800-1400	Workshop 1: Mudiyettu	Travel to venues of Workshops
		Workshops in Working Groups
		Return to Kalady; Report of Groups; Discussion
		Lunch
1400-1600		Travel to Ernakulam /Kochi
1600-2000	Workshop 2: EDP	IH Exhibition (Venue: KIBF 2015: Ernakulam)
	Cultural Programme 2	Kutiyattam
	Lecdem	Sama-veda
2000-2100		Return to Kalady
(Hr)	Day 4 (05-12-2015)	
0900-1100	Workshop 3	IH Documentation Methodology: Community IH Registers (CIHR)
1100-1230	Seminar 4	IH Kerala
1230-1300	Valediction	(Possible mechanism for organisation of IHF every year)
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-	Departure	Delegates depart



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UNESCO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE: INDIA LIST:

The following are the UNESCO Representative List inscribed in to the ICH of Humanity from India

No.	Year	Name	Location
1	2008	Kutiyattam: Sanskrit Theatre	Kerala (India)
2		Ramlila: the traditional performance of Ramayana	India
3		The Tradition of Vedic chanting	Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha (India)
4	2009	Ramman: religious festival and ritual theatre	Garhwal Himalayas (India)
5		Novruz, Nowrouz, Nooruz, Navruz, Nauroz, Nevruz	Azerbaijan India Iran (Islamic Republic of) – Kyrgyzstan–Pakistan–Turkey–Uzbekistan
6	2010	Chhau dance	India
7		Kalbelia folk songs and dances	Rajasthan (India)
8		Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama	Kerala (India)
9	2012	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region	J&K (India)
10	2013	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing	Manipur (India)
11	2014	Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru	Punjab (India)

ROLE OF MUSEUMS IN SAFEGUARDING OF IH: NMNH INITIATIVES

The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) has been involved in the ICOM (International Council of Museum) movement on IH for which it has organised a large number of Programmes related to safeguarding of IH especially INH (Intangible Natural Heritage):

1. 2002: Arunachal Pradesh: Workshop on Hornbill and Tribal empowerment
2. 2002: Shanghai (China): In the ICOM-ASPAC Meeting at Shanghai, the NMNH has suggested the Kani model on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) as the Indian Model on IH.
3. 2007: Calicut: National Conference on “Museums and Intangible Natural Heritage” was organized during 18-20 April 2007. The “Calicut Charter on Intangible Heritage and Museums” was released which highlighted the importance of Hortus Malabaricus as the earliest systematic scientific example of documentation of INH in Asia,
4. 2008: Kochi: A National Workshop was organised in Kochi (where the original efforts on the preparation of *Hortus Malabaricus* was done by Van Rheede, the Dutch Governor of Malabar with headquarter in Cochin) in March 2008.
5. 2009: Mysore: An Exhibition originally curated by Dr Annamma Spudich (Stanford University, USA) (“Such Treasure and Rich Merchandize”) was re-structured as a new Museum Gallery on “Such Treasure and Rich Merchandize: Early Plant Heritage of India” and opened to public at the RMNH Mysore in January 2009.
6. 2011: Kalady: “Festival of Museums and INH” during 22-27 June in collaboration with SSUS, Kerala Forest Dept.
7. 2011: Jodhpur: A National Seminar on INH and Traditional Knowledge about Biodiversity during Sept 28 to October 2 in collaboration with ZSI
8. 2012: New Delhi. National conference on INH
9. 2012: New Delhi: Established the first Museum Gallery/ Exhibition on INH
10. 2012: Hyderabad: International Conference session on INH, on the sidelines of the UN CoP 11 during 4-5 October in collaboration with Salarjung Museum
11. 2013: Bhubaneswar: National Conference on Folklore and INH in January
12. 2013: Thiruvananthapuram: National workshop on “Museums and INH with focus on Methodology” during 9-11 March 2013 in collaboration with CED
13. 2013: Jaisalmer: National workshop on “Museums and INH with focus on Desert”, 19-21 March



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FOR THE ATTENTION OF DELEGATES

1	Registration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation to the IHF15 is by invitation / registration. 2. Delegates may register for each of the activities of the IHF (Seminars, Workshops, Lecdem and CPs) separately
2	Accommodation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is limited number of accommodation (shared) especially for outstation delegates. 2. Those sponsored by their institutions/ organisations/ university/ colleges are requested to make their own arrangements for accommodation.
3	Travel arrangements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is limited number of sponsorship for reimbursement of TA restricted to Train fare (2nd AC) from the delegate's nearest Rail station to Ernakulam Rail stn (both ways) 2. All other delegates are requested to make their own travel arrangements
4	Presentation of Papers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For paper presentation, reading of papers not encouraged. Instead power point presentations/ posters are preferred. 2. However, for the purpose of Publication later, full papers are required. 3. Copies of Abstracts, Papers and pp presentations to be sent to the organiser.
5	Presentation of Posters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those who desire to present Posters may do so with attractive captions, text and photographs/ illustrations. Size of posters: 1>> 1 m. 2. Digital copy of the Poster to be sent to the organiser
6	Proceedings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a possibility of selected papers presented to be included in the Proceedings which will be published by the NMNH + IGRMS at a later stage. 2. Hence, all presenters are requested to submit papers to be presented in advance.
7	Deadlines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receipt Registration form along with abstract, if any: 30th, October, 2015 2. Communication on acceptance of Registration and Abstract: 10th November, 2015 3. Receipt of Full Papers and Posters from confirmed participants: 20th November, 2015 4. The Registration form may be filled up and signed and the scanned copy along with Abstract (200-300 words), if any, may be sent by email
8	Communication	Email: 2015ihf@gmail.com and nmnhdir@gmail.com

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REGISTRATION FORM

1	Name (Capital Letters)		
2	Designation/ Status		
3	Address for communications		
4	Are you a Student/ Researcher?		Yes/ No
5	Communication Mobile and Email	Mobile:	Email:
6	Participation (Please tick at appropriate numbers/ words)	Seminars	1, 2, 3, 4
		Workshops	1, 2, 3
		Cultural Programmes	1, 2
		Lecdem	Yes/ No
		Inauguration	Yes/ No
		Valediction	Yes/ No
7	Are you a Presenter/ Speaker?	Paper	Yes/ No
		Poster	Yes/ No
8	Have you enclosed Abstract?		Yes/ No
9	Travel funding	Will you be able to manage by own?	Yes/ No
10	Accommodation funding	Will you be able to manage by own?	Yes/ No
Signature			
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