

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2015

Intangible Heritage Festival -2015 is being organised by National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady(SSUSK), Centre for Environment and Development, Kochi International Book Festival, Moozhikkulam Sala from 03-05 December 2015 at SSUS, Kalady

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.

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) even though it is difficult to distinguish between the two. Eleven forms have been inscribed in to the UNESCO List of ICH of Humanity from India so far. Three forms (Kutiyattam, Samaveda and Mudi yettu) will be involved in IHF15.

This festival is being organised with the aim and objective to suggest safeguarding measures on IH in India in genera and to undertake documentation of one UNESCO representative list inscribed in to the ICH of Humanity: Mudi yettu. Also to discuss about a methodology for long term documentation of IH in India as a method of its safeguarding involving panchayathiraj institutions and to act as a capacity building training programme for young students/ researchers in Museology/ Heritage.

The 3 day festival will have session on intangible cultural heritage, intangible natural heritage, intangible heritage and museums, workshop on Mudiyettu and presentations on UNESCO ICH of humanity: Mudiyettu, Kutiyattam & Sama veda. The inauguration of the festival will be held on 3rd December at Kanakadhara auditorium of SSUS, Kalady at 10 am.

Dr B. Venugopal, Director of the National Museum of Natural History (Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India) is the Coordinator of the IHF15.

Dr. M. C. Dileepkumar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, SSUS will preside over the function and Shri T. P. Srinivasan, Former Ambassador & Vice Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council will deliver the inaugural address and with a special address by Dr. Sucheta Nair, Pro Vice Chancellor, SSUS Kalady.

Prof. Amareswar Galla, Executive Director, International Institute for the Inclusive Museum, Australia; Curator, Amaravati Ancient Town, Andhra Pradesh will deliver key note address on the topic: “Fluidity, Resilience and Sustainability in Safeguarding Intangible Heritage”.

During the function Primary Performers of UNESCO ICH of Humanity Sama Veda and Mudiyettu will be honoured by Presidents of Panchayaths

About 75 people including 25 Experts from outside Kerala will deliberate on various academic sessions such as

1. Intangible Cultural Heritage
2. Intangible Natural Heritage
3. Intangible Heritage and Museums
4. Intangible Heritage of Kerala
5. Workshop on Community Intangible Heritage Registers
6. Workshop on Mudiyettu in Koratty

There will be an Exhibition on Intangible Heritage coordinated by the National Museum of Natural History at the Kochi International Book Festival.