



## UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

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### Why in News

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**Hawker Culture in Singapore** has been inscribed on the **UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** at the **15<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC)** that was held online.

### Key Points

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- **Hawker Culture in Singapore:**
  - It is a living heritage shared by those who prepare hawker food and those who dine and mingle over hawker food in community dining spaces called hawker centres.
  - It reflects Singapore's multicultural identity as a people and nation, and resonates strongly with Singaporeans across all races and social strata.
- **UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage:**
  - This coveted list is made up of those **intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage** and **raise awareness** about its importance.
  - The list was established in **2008** when the **Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** came into effect.
- **Intangible Cultural Heritage of India, recognized by UNESCO:**

## 13 ICH traditions recognised by UNESCO

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|----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | Tradition of Vedic chanting, 2008   | 8.  | Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India, 2012 |
| 2. | Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana, 2008                          | 9.  | Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur, 2013   |
| 3. | Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre, 2008  | 10. | Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India, 2014                        |
| 4. | Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India, 2009 | 11. | Yoga, 2016  |
| 5. | Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala, 2010                           | 12. | Nowruz, 2016  |
| 6. | Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan, 2010                                   | 13. | Kumbh Mela, 2017  |
| 7. | Chhau dance, 2010   |     |   |

The **Ministry of Culture** has also launched the **draft National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India.**

- The National ICH List is an attempt to recognize the diversity of Indian culture embedded in its intangible heritage.
- This initiative is also a part of the **Vision 2024 of the Ministry of Culture.**

## UNESCO

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- UNESCO is the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.** It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture.
- UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals** defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.
- It has 193 Members and 11 Associate Members. **India joined UNESCO in 1946.**  
In 2019, **the USA and Israel formally quit UNESCO.**
- It is **headquartered in Paris, France.**
- **UNESCO-IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission)** is leading a global effort to establish ocean-based tsunami warning systems as part of an overall multi-hazard disaster reduction strategy.  
Recently, UNESCO-IOC approved the **recognition of two communities of Odisha** viz., Venktraipur and Noliasahi as Tsunami Ready Communities.

- **Other Initiatives of UNESCO:**

- **Man and Biosphere Programme:**

- Biosphere Reserves focus on the harmonised management of **biological and cultural diversity**.
- Out of 18 notified biosphere reserves, India has 12 biosphere reserves under the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), the latest one included is **Panna Biosphere Reserve**.

- **World Heritage Programme:**

- World Heritage Sites promote the **conservation of natural and cultural sites** of outstanding universal value.
- India has **38 world heritage sites, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site**. The latest one included is **Jaipur city, Rajasthan**.

- **UNESCO Global Geopark Network:**

- UNESCO Global Geoparks give **international recognition** for sites that promote the importance and significance of protecting the **Earth's geodiversity** through actively engaging with the **local communities**.
- **India does not have any UNESCO Global geopark**.

- **UNESCO's Network of Creative Cities:**

- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was **created in 2004** to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- The Network covers seven creative fields: **Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music**.
- There are **five Indian cities** in UCCN as follows:
  - Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019).
  - Mumbai – Film (2019).
  - Chennai - Creative city of Music (2017).
  - Jaipur - Crafts and Folk Arts (2015).
  - Varanasi - Creative city of Music (2015).

**Source:IE**