



UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

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UNESCO's ICH List recognizes various cultural practices & traditions that are passed down through generations.

Features of Intangible Cultural Heritage



Two Types of List Under ICH

Representative List of ICH of Humanity

List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

Criteria for Inscription on the Lists

Prerequisites

- Falls within domains of cultural heritage
- Complies with human rights & sustainable development
- Listed on a national representative list

Qualifying Criteria

- Recognized by communities as heritage
- Provides identity and continuity
- Passed through generations, adaptable
- Enhances cultural diversity & creativity

Procedural Criteria

- Requires community consent & participation
- Includes a safeguarding plan
- Follows procedural guidelines

5 Domains of ICH (UNESCO's 2003 Convention)

- Oral Traditions & Expressions (Including Language)
- Social Practices, Rituals & Festive Events
- Traditional Craftsmanship
- Performing Arts
- Knowledge & Practices Concerning Nature & The Universe

S.No	ICH of India	Year of Inscription	Description
1	Garba of Gujarat	2023	Traditional dance from Gujarat performed during Navratri
2	Durga Puja in Kolkata	2021	Grand Hindu festival with elaborate rituals & Durga's artistic displays
3	Kumbh Mela	2017	Hindu pilgrimage & festival → Largest peaceful congregation on earth
4	Nowruz	2016	Parsi New Year
5	Yoga	2016	Ancient Indian practice uniting mind, body, & spirit
6	Traditional Brass & Copper Craft of Utensil Making Among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab	2014	An Oral tradition passed onto generations of Thathera community
7	Sankirtana	2013	Storytelling of Krishna with singing, drumming, & dancing Region → In Manipur
8	Buddhist Chanting of Ladakh	2012	Sacred Buddhist recitation in Ladakh monasteries
9	Mudiyettu	2010	Dance drama of goddess Kali's battle with demon Danika Region → Kerala
10	Kalbelia Folk Songs & Dances of Rajasthan	2010	Known for fluid, snake-like movements
11	Chhau Dance	2010	Tribal martial art dance blending folk traditions of eastern India
12	Ramman	2009	Religious Festival & Ritual Theatre of The Garhwal Himalayas
13	Ramlila	2008	The Traditional Performance of The Ramayana
14	Tradition of Vedic Chanting	2008	Oral tradition preserving Vedic chants with precision
15	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre	2008	Ancient theatre → merging rituals & drama Region → Kerala

All these elements of ICH from India are included in UNESCO'S List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



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