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ROLE OF INDIAN MUSEUMS IN SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF NORTH EAST INDIA : A PROACTIVE APPROACH

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Abstract : North East India is a place renowned for its magical beauty and bewildering diversity among many communities, faiths and cultures. Commonly known as the "Seven Sisters" as comprised of seven states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura of which each state reflects rich intangible heritage manifested by its communities' vigorous art and craft tradition, festivals and colourful celebrations and other modes of their living and livelihood. Due to the rapid social changes taking place in many parts of this region, however, a significant part of this rich heritage is on the verge of extinction. A wide range of problems like poverty, poor health condition, lack of connectivity/road ways, dearth of power supply and transportation, unemployment, illiteracy, border insurgency, drug trafficking, identity crisis are also responsible for under representation and under development of this region including proper dissemination of its intangible heritage. It is therefore one of the most urgent needs to conserve intangible cultural heritage of this region and hand it down to future generations. Museum, as a unique institution of the society, concerned to care and preservation of cultural heritage with its chief worldwide organization, International Council of Museums (ICOM), has been focusing more attention on intangible heritage at least for the last decade. In India there are many museums not only in North East region but throughout the country which contain rare collection of North Eastern textiles, bamboo and cane crafts and pottery as well as musical instruments etc. These museums should play the role of a mediator or Communication Bridge to fill up the gap between generations and the diverse range of visitors by their multifarious activities. These museums should also collaborate with various organizations engaged in safeguarding the rich intangible heritage of North Eastern region for effective service. Thus, there lies great potential for undertaking activities in this area. This paper gives a list of Indian museums holding rich collection of intangible heritage of North East region and urges the need for a proper strategy that is required to be taken up by these museums which will ensure systematic identification, authentic documentation and effective dissemination of such heritage of North East region.

Key Words : Dissemination, Documentation, Identification, Intangible Heritage, Museums

Introduction

North East India commonly known as the "Seven Sisters" comprises of seven states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura of which each state has its distinct cultures and traditions due to their historical,

archaeological, ethnographical, religious and artistic endeavours and craftsmanship. The region has been the epitome of variform human creativity in terms of tangible and intangible heritage along with its lushness of landscape, the range of communities and geographical and ecological diversity which altogether makes this region a unique place of the subcontinent. North East India is the homeland of several ethnic groups of the Indo-Mongoloid origin with multiple dialects. The topography and ecology of the plains and hills have influenced almost every sphere of the life including socio-cultural activities of the people of this region. Art and craft have been integral to tangible heritage as well as intangible heritage reflecting emotions, perceptions, beliefs, experiences and world views with multiple meanings and in different forms responding to rituals, festivals and social occasions. The traditional craftsmanship of North East India is rich and comprises textile weaving, wood work, pottery making, mask making, doll making, basketry making, metal craft, etc. A vast unwritten oral knowledge has been carried across the diverse communities to keep these traditions alive through generations.

Over the years, our country has a number of museums especially anthropological museums administered by the agencies of both the public and private sectors which through their thematic display techniques along with other curatorial activities reflect the life and culture of people. It showcases the harmony of their body-mind-soul, material, technique, art, energy, harmony between grace and power, beauty and utility. In many Indian museums, not only in the North Eastern region but throughout the country, there are rich collections of objects made of bamboo, cane, clay and stone. Various headgears, textile, musical instruments and other items for daily use of North Eastern people unveil the anthropomorphic physiognomy of the characters of the folk narratives, performing arts of vivid religious traditions and practices and traditional craftsmanship. These also reveal the role of women in shaping the culture of the region, contribution to small scale industries, freedom movement of the country and many such other aspects of the society. Not only in India, there are many objects in foreign museums, too. According to Samiran Baruah, a researcher in the Assam State Museum, manuscripts of Brahmabaibartta Purana belonging to the 18th century is in the British Museum. He also added that Vrindavani Vastra, the figured silks from Assam, from the 16th-18th century are found preserved in the British Museum, Chepstow museum in UK and Gemau Museum in France.

Intangible heritage and Museums

The adoption of the 2003 Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations) was a major step for developing new policies in the field of cultural heritage throughout the world. The Convention has several systems for safeguarding at the international level such as preparing the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, the

Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices, etc. In the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003, art: 2, para: 1) it is said:

> The "intangible cultural heritage" means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

India ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) on 09.09.2005. To fulfil the aims and obligations, under this convention, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, initially assigned this work to the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) and later to the Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA). So far, a Representative List of 341 items of ICH has been drawn up by UNESCO. India has eleven items on this List:

1. Chhau dance of Eastern India
2. Kalbelia: Folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
3. Mudiyettu**:** Ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
4. Ramman: Religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas
5. Novruz celebrated by Persian communities of India
6. Kutiyattam: Sanskrit Theatre of Kerala
7. Ramlila: Traditional performance of Ramayana
8. The Tradition of Vedic chanting
9. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh
10. Sankirtana: Ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur
11. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab

The "new museology" movement understands cultural development as an ecosystem where museums serve as focal points of identity formation and tools for social intervention. At its general conference in Barcelona, Spain in 2001, ICOM (International Council of Museums) emphasized the importance of intangible heritage in museums and the urgent need for the definition of accurate safeguarding methodologies. In October 2002, the 7th Asia Pacific Regional Assembly of ICOM was facilitated as a strategic initiative in Shanghai, China and ratified the Shanghai Charter in which it is stated:

> We, the coalition of participants, at the 7th Asia Pacific Regional Assembly of the International Council of Museums convened between 20-24 October 2002 in Shanghai, affirming the significance of creativity, adaptability and the

> distinctiveness of peoples, places and communities as the framework in which the voices, values, traditions, languages, oral history, folk life and so on are recognized and promoted in all museological and heritage practices, recommend that museums as facilitators of constructive partnerships in the safeguarding of this heritage of humanity.

Again in 2002, CIDOC (ICOM's International Committee for Documentation) organized international conference on the theme "Preserving cultures: documenting nonmaterial heritage" which held in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In 2004, ICOM declared "Museum and Intangible Heritage" as the theme for the International Museum Day and later (October, 2004) deliberated on the same theme at the 20th ICOM General Conference in Seoul, Korea. Finally, ICOM in 2007, at the 21st General Conferences in Vienna, Austria, adopted the modified definition of museum, perceiving the importance of intangible heritage. The modified definition (ICOM Statutes art.3 para.1: 2007) of museum is:

> A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.

List of Museums holding tangible materials related to North East Indian Intangible Heritage

A list presented below contains general information about the Indian museums (based on available information) which have collection of tangible aspects of rich Intangible heritage of North East India. A unique number has been assigned to each individual museum following bipartite system of which first part contains code indicating location of the museum, and second part contains serial number of museums within that code. For museums in North East region code 'NE' is used and for museums outside North East region code 'O' is used.

1. Museum Code No: O1

i) Name of the museum : National Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Janpath, New Delhi

iii) Administrative Control: Ministry of Culture, Government of India

iv) Year of Establishment: 1949

v) Type of Museum: History Museum of National importance

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: A Total of 327 excellent tangible materials such as dresses, apparel, ornaments, basketry, wood carvings and personal adornments, etc., related to rich intangible heritage of several tribal groups inhabiting the land of "Seven Sisters" are on view in the gallery 'Tribal Life Style of North East India'. Many of these exhibits are Luthra's collection and Dr. Verrrier Elwin's collection.

2. Museum Code No: O2

i) Name of the museum : National Handicrafts and Handlooms Museum (NHHM) also known as Crafts Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Bhairon Road, New Delhi

iii) Administrative Control: Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1952

v) Type of Museum: A specialized Art and Craft Museum of National importance

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and cane crafts and Textiles of North East India. Museum's Village Complex (which is a remnant of a temporary exhibition on the theme of rural India, set up in 1972) includes village dwellings of Arunachal Pradesh.

3. Museum Code No: O3

i) Name of the museum : Museum of Performing Arts, Sangeet Natak Akademy

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Feroze Shah Road, New Delhi

iii) Administrative Control: Ministry of Culture, Government of India

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1952

v) Type of Museum: Museum of Performing Arts

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Musical instruments related to performing arts, festive events and rituals of North Eastern people. These instruments can be classified as: Wind instruments (aerophonic) including Pepa, Siphung of Assam, Tangmuri of Meghalaya, Murai Sumui of Tripura ; String instruments (chordophonic) including Dendung, Dotara, Gintong, Sananda, Sarinda of Assam, Chempreng, Sarinda, Tok-Du-Treng of Tripura, Lha, Pena, Sananta of Manipur ; Percussion instruments (membranophonic) including Dagar, Dhol, Kharam-Dubang of Assam, Bom, Dama, Ksing Shynrang of Meghalaya, Pung of Manipur, Dama, Kham of Tripura, Naga Drum of Nagaland and (idiophonic) including Bortal, Tokka of Assam, Ksing-Phong, Mieng of Meghalaya, Senmu, Sheng Kheng of Manipur, Lebang-Ti, Rang-Thali of Tripura, etc.

4.Museum Code No: O4

i) Name of the museum : Tribal Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Ahmadabad, Gujarat

iii) Administrative Control: Tribal Research and Training Institute, Gujarat Vidyapith

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1962

v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Textiles of North Eastern India

5.Museum Code No: O5

i) Name of the museum : Calico Museum of Textiles

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Ahmedabad, Gujarat

iii) Administrative Control: Sarabhai Foundation

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1949

v) Type of Museum: A specialized museum for Textiles

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Collection of the tribal costumes from North Eastern India

6. Museum Code No: O6

i) Name of the museum: Museum of Folk and Tribal Art, also known as K.C. Aryan's Home of Folk Art

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Gurgaon, Haryana

iii) Administrative Control: K.C. Aryan's Trust

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1984

v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Tribal sculpture and traditional textiles of Assam and Nagaland

7. Museum Code No: NE1

i) Name of the museum : Nagaland State Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Kohima, Nagaland

iii) Administrative Control: Department of Art and Culture, Government of Nagaland

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1964

v) Type of Museum: General Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and Cane Crafts especially Basketries and Pottery

8. Museum Code No: NE2

i) Name of the museum : Anthropological Museum, also known as Madhab Chandra Goswami Anthropological Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Guwahati, Assam

iii) Administrative Control: Department of Anthropology, Guwahati University, Government of Assam

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1948

v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and Cane Crafts including Fishing baskets and basketry, comb, flint box, smoking pipe, headgear, agricultural implements, hunting implements and musical instruments

9. Museum Code No: NE3

i) Name of the museum : Purvabhararti Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Nalbari, Assam

iii) Administrative Control: Nalbari Sahitya Samaj

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1972

v) Type of Museum: Art and Craft Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Collection of the tribal costumes, Pottery and Bamboo and Cane Products

10. Museum Code No: NE4

i) Name of the museum : Commercial Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Guwahati, Assam

iii) Administrative Control: Guwahati University, Government of Assam

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1956

v) Type of Museum: A specialized museum for handicrafts

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Specimens of handicraft products especially of bamboo and cane made by the people of Assam

11. Museum Code No: NE5

i) Name of the museum : Assam State Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Guwahati, Assam

iii) Administrative Control: Directorate of Museums, Government of Assam

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1940

v) Type of Museum: General Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Collections of tribal sculpture, paintings, metal, ivory and woodwork, costumes. There are exhibits of reconstructed huts of Assamese tribes. There are also displays of weavings and musical instruments.

12. Museum Code No: NE6

i) Name of the museum : Cottage Industry Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Guwahati, Assam

iii) Administrative Control: Industrial Department, Government of Assam

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1955

v) Type of Museum: Art and Craft Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: This museum displays many colorful items from the Sattriya culture and indigenous art and craft. The Museum has two main sections: Textiles & Handicrafts. In the handicraft section there are specimens of wood-carving, clay works, ivory work, etc.

13. Museum Code No: NE7

i) Name of the museum : District Museum, Barpeta

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Barpeta, Assam

iii) Administrative Control: Government of Assam

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1987

v) Type of Museum: General Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: It has a collection of the textiles based on the Sattriya Vaishnavite culture

14. Museum Code No: NE8

i) Name of the museum : Ethnological Museum, Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Guwahati, Assam
iii) Administrative Control: Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes
*iv) Year of Establishment:*1977
v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum
vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: A variety of ethnographic objects including ornaments and costumes, agricultural, fishing and hunting implements, etc.

15. Museum Code No: NE9

i) Name of the museum : Sonitpur District Museum
ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Tezpur, Assam
iii) Administrative Control: Government of Assam
*iv) Year of Establishment:*1986
v) Type of Museum: Archaeological museum
vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Traditional Assamese textiles

16. Museum Code No: NE10

i) Name of the museum : Bomdila District Museum
ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh
iii) Administrative Control: Government of Arunachal Pradesh
*iv) Year of Establishment:*1956
v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum
vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and cane crafts, clay works and textiles of different tribes of Arunachal Pradesh such as Apatani; Adi; Bangni; Dafla; Digaru; Gallong; Hill Miri; Monpa; Mishmi; Mininyong; Nishi; Nocte; Pasi; Padam; Sherdukpen; Tagin; Tangsa; Wancho, etc.

17. Serial Number of the Museum: NE11

i) Name of the museum : Ziro District Museum
ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh
iii) Administrative Control: Government of Arunachal Pradesh
*iv) Year of Establishment:*1956
v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum
vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and cane crafts, clay works and traditional textiles of different tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

18. Museum Code No: NE12

i) Name of the museum : Along District Museum
ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Along, Arunachal Pradesh
iii) Administrative Control: Government of Arunachal Pradesh
*iv) Year of Establishment:*1956
v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum
vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and cane crafts, clay works and traditional textiles of different tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

19. Museum Code No: NE13

i) Name of the museum : Pasighat District Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh

iii) Administrative Control: Government of Arunachal Pradesh

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1956

v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and cane crafts, clay works and traditional textiles of different tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

20. Serial Number of the Museum: NE14

i) Name of the museum : District Museum, Changlang

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh

iii) Administrative Control: Government of Arunachal Pradesh

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1956

v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and cane crafts, clay works, textiles and the costumes of different tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

21. Museum Code No: NE15

i) Name of the museum : Tezu District Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Tezu, Arunachal Pradesh

iii) Administrative Control: Government of Arunachal Pradesh

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1956

v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and cane crafts, clay works and traditional textiles of different tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

22. Museum Code No: NE16

i) Name of the museum : Khonsa District Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Khonsa, Arunachal Pradesh

iii) Administrative Control: Government of Arunachal Pradesh

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1956

v) Type of Museum: Anthropological Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Bamboo and cane crafts, clay works and traditional textiles of different tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

23. Museum Code No: NE17

i) Name of the museum : Jawaharlal Nehru State Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

iii) Administrative Control: Government of Arunachal Pradesh

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1980

v) Type of Museum: General Museum

vi) *Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH:* Wood carvings, musical instruments, textiles, handicrafts of different tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. It also holds a handicraft center which specializes in traditional cane manufacture.

24. Museum Code No: NE18

i) *Name of the museum :* Mizoram State Museum
ii) *Location (State/Union Territory of India):* Aizawl, Mizoram
iii) *Administrative Control:* At present Department of Art & Culture, Government of Mizoram
iv) *Year of Establishment:*1977
v) *Type of Museum:* Anthropological Museum
vi) *Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH:* Bamboo and cane crafts, tribal utensils, musical instruments, weapons and tribal textiles

25. Museum Code No: NE19

i) *Name of the museum :* Manipur State Museum
ii) *Location (State/Union Territory of India):* Imphal, Manipur
iii) *Administrative Control:* Government of Manipur
iv) *Year of Establishment:*1969
v) *Type of Museum:* General Museum
vi) *Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH:* Textiles, art and craft objects of different tribes of Manipur

26. Museum Code No: NE20

i) *Name of the museum :* Manipur University Museum
ii) *Location (State/Union Territory of India):* Imphal, Manipur
iii) *Administrative Control:* Manipur University
iv) *Year of Establishment:* 1980
v) *Type of Museum:* General Museum
vi) *Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH:* Traditional Manipuri and tribal earthen wares, traditional musical instruments, traditional ornaments, weaving implements, traditional Manipuri textiles, traditional costumes, basketry items collected from different parts of North East India

27. Museum Code No: NE21

i) *Name of the museum :* Meghalaya State Museum, now known as Williamson Sangma Museum
ii) *Location (State/Union Territory of India):* Shillong, Meghalaya
iii) *Administrative Control:* Department of Art and Culture, Meghalaya
iv) *Year of Establishment:*1975
v) *Type of Museum:* General Museum
vi) *Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH:* Traditional tools, traditional musical instruments, arts and crafts of local people of Meghalaya

28. Museum Code No: NE22

i) Name of the museum : Tripura Government Museum

ii) Location (State/Union Territory of India): Agartala, Tripura

iii) Administrative Control: Government of Tripura

*iv) Year of Establishment:*1970

v) Type of Museum: General Museum

vi) Preserved tangible items of North Eastern ICH: Tribal textiles of Tripura

Following list contains some other museums (including upcoming museum projects) holding tangible materials related to North East Indian Intangible Heritage:

29. **Museum Code No: O7:**Arts and Crafts Museum, Bhavnagar, Gujarat
30. **Museum Code No: O8:** Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
31. **Museum Code No: O9:** Tribal Museum, New Delhi
32. **Museum Code No: NE23:** RIWATCH (Research Institute of World's Ancient Traditions Cultures & Heritage) Museum, Arunachal Pradesh
33. **Museum Code No: NE24:** Peoples Museum, Kakching, Manipur
34. **Museum Code No: NE25:** Koirei Museum, Ukhrul, Manipur
35. **Museum Code No: NE26:** State Kala Akademi Museum, Manipur
36. **Museum Code No: NE27:** Ragailong Museum, Manipur
37. **Museum Code No: NE28:** Mutua Museum, Keishampat, Manipur
38. **Museum Code No: NE29:** Tribal Research Institute cum Museum, Imphal, Manipur
39. **Museum Code No: NE30:** Leimarel Museum and Research Centre, Imphal, Manipur
40. **Museum Code No: NE31:** Anthropological Museum, Manipur University, Manipur
41. **Museum Code No: NE32:** Auniati Satra Museum, Guwahati, Assam
42. **Museum Code No: NE33:** Sibsagar College Museum, Assam
43. **Museum Code No: NE34:** Tribal Research Institute, Shillong, Meghalaya
44. **Museum Code No: NE35:** Don Bosco Museum of Indigenous Cultures, Shillong, Meghalaya
45. **Museum Code No: NE36:** Naga Heritage Museum, Kohima, Nagaland

Strategy for safeguarding intangible heritage in Museums

Museums which are listed above should develop certain strategy to provide careful consideration to the relevance of intangible heritage in relation to their collections and impact on the curative practices. In present practice, some contextual information related to tangible collection is recorded by some museums mentioned above. But data on specific intangible heritage, stored in this way is undervalued and difficult to use as a resource in its own right. Therefore, documentation on intangible heritage in these museums need to be made more explicit to ensure that all information requirements are adequately dealt with.

The UNESCO provided a format for inventories of intangible cultural heritage which includes the following information categories :

1. Identification of the element
   1a) Name of the element as used by the community or group concerned;
   1b) Short, maximally informative title (including indication of domain(s));
   1c) Community(ies) concerned;
   1d) Physical location(s) of element;
   1e) Short description
2. Characteristics of the element
   2a) Associated tangible elements;
   2b) Associated intangible elements;
   2c) Language(s), register(s), speech level(s) involved;
   2d) Perceived origin
3. Persons and institutions involved with the element
   3a) Practitioners(s)/performer(s): name(s), age, gender, social status, and/or professional category, etc.;
   3b) Other participants (e.g., holders/custodians);
   3c) Customary practices governing access to the element or to the aspects of it;
   3d) Modes of transmission;
   3e) Concerned organizations (NGOs and others)
4. State of the element: viability
   4a) Threats to the enactment;
   4b) Threats to the transmission;
   4c) Availability of associated tangible elements and resources;
   4d) Viability of associated tangible and intangible elements;
   4e) Safeguarding measures in place
5. Data gathering and inventorying
   5a) Consent from and involvement of the community/group in data gathering and inventorying;
   5b) Restrictions, if any, on use of inventoried data;
   5c) Resource persons(s): name and status or affiliation;
   5d) Date and place of data gathering;
   5e) Date of entering data into an inventory;
   5f) The inventory entry compiled by….

References to literature, discography, audiovisual materials, and archives

In using display techniques to showcase intangible heritage the following consideration should be kept in mind.

1. It should consist of tangible objects related to the specific intangible heritage: the strengths of original objects over other forms of media are: aesthetic qualities,

resolution and density of information, appreciation of scale; their authenticity- sense of personal connection between the visitor and practicing communities or individual concerned.

2. Different visual media such as photographs, documents, maps, etc. can be used for contextualization.
3. For focusing various aspects of intangible heritage, a sensible ambience can be created by using interactive table divided into parts by a series of vertical screens. The interactive settings should be supported by "natural interfaces" like devices that react by using common means of communication - touching, treading, and emitting sound, etc.
4. The interactive multimedia contents may include motion silhouettes showing the lifestyle of people, working of a craft person, a 3D model of the site concerned, etc.
5. The potentialities of using new multimedia technologies in order to facilitate people's interaction and participation in the fruition of the intangible heritage is a matter of consideration which, for its immaterial nature, needs to be supported and understood in a narrative structure.

These museums should arrange various in-house and outreach programmes in collaboration with other Government/private organizations to build up techniques, training method and repertoire of the dance styles and the musical component related to the North East Indian intangible heritage. Lecture-demonstrations, seminars and conferences should be arranged for interaction with the practioners, experts, and scholars with a view to expand the academic work including the work of documentation, survey and workshops with focus on specific subjects such as training methodology, techniques of craft making, textile weaving, etc. The museums may introduce an integrated course on some of the distinctive North East Indian intangible heritage in collaboration with Government universities to provide the opportunity to the interested people including the practicing communities. This will help to perceive those unique traditions through an extensive learning experience with theoretical and practical methods.

Conclusion

North East India has 42% of nation's tribal groups and it is a home to 200 (approx.) tribal groups. Each group retains its individual cultural identity which is manifested by their tangible and intangible heritage. A museum holding tangible materials related to rich intangible heritage of the communities of this region can be successful by providing pro-safeguarding measure for such intangible heritage. Institutionalized construction of the physical space by utilizing communities' own belongings will engage sufficient participation and active communication. This can also motivate local constructivism to imagine and create a better cultural centre, a tourist spot and neighbourhood. Therefore, such museums of our country should take some initiative for authentic and effective dissemination of rich

living heritage of this region. The practices through sustainable development will help the practicing communities to understand in an innovative way, the ecosystem, people and memories.

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