



Introduction

The World Living Heritage Festival (WLHF) 2018 aims to explore the relationship between tangible and intangible heritage through inquiries into association of oral history, rites and rituals with historic spaces, be it temples, monuments, museums or public squares in the cities. This exploration will be both, reflective - incorporating keynote lectures and plenary sessions, and experiential - using workshops, performances, and heritage walks as avenues. Different sessions of the festival will lead-up to a joint publication by MMCF and UNESCO New Delhi. This publication, a compendium of best practices in safeguarding living heritage will showcase and reflect on various approaches to living heritage across the world.

Dialogue during the WLHF will focus on:

- What is the role of 'oral histories'? Are they keepers of our past or are they something more?
- What is the role of stories in our cultures?
- What is the relationship between rituals or festivals and built heritage spaces such as palaces, forts, temples, step-wells, *ghats*, squares, *maidans* and old neighborhoods?
- Are these built heritage spaces just a scenic background or do they play a more significant part in our everyday lives?
- In our quest to answer these questions, can we look to an approach to living heritage which is particularly Asian? Does such an approach exist? What is it?
- And equally important, what are other approaches to living heritage across cultures all over the world? How do they relate to each other?
- What can these approaches learn from each other in order to create a richer way of understanding heritage?

Each day of the festival will address these questions within the ambit of a different subtheme - intangible heritage vis-à-vis (i) monuments, museums, and historical sites, (ii) temples, and (iii) public spaces. Each day's performances, panel discussions, workshops, and heritage walks/trails will be inter-linked by one of the subthemes and set in venues that are themselves iconic living monuments, temples, and public spaces in the city of Udaipur.



4th World Living Heritage Festival - 2018

17th - 20th October 2018 | Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

Under the aegis of Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation (MMCF)

The City Palace, Udaipur 313001, Rajasthan, India

T: +91 294 2419021-9 wlfh@eternalmewar.in www.worldlivingheritagefestival.org



Who is the intended audience?

Anyone passionate about heritage. It is our ambition to start a conversation that draws in participants from as many backgrounds and levels of expertise as possible - professional experts as well as daily practitioners, an interested audience as well as passionate performers, policy makers as well as 'consumers' of heritage.

Participants and Associates (past and present):

- UNESCO New Delhi office, ICOMOS, INTACH, DRONAH Foundation, IHCN-F, French Embassy to India
- Govt. of India, Govt. of Rajasthan, Municipal Corporation of Udaipur
- Scholars and students of architecture, urban planning, city development, heritage and various fields within the humanities and social sciences

We are happy to confirm that this year, as in the past, UNESCO New Delhi office has joined us as partner for WLHF 2018. Additionally, World Living Heritage Festival 2018 is officially endorsed by Ministry of Tourism, Rajasthan.

In WLHF 2018 we aim to further expand our audience to include more foreign governments, national agencies, temple trusts, civil society organizations, and stakeholders from all walks of life.

Tentative Programme 2018

Dates: 17th to 20th October, Venue: The City Palace, Udaipur

17th October 2018

Ashwa Poojan, a time-honored tradition of the House of Mewar, expressing gratitude to equinity - celebrated since the 16th century. To view past years' celebrations [click here](#).

18th – 20th October 2018

Keynote address by an eminent expert



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Plenary sessions (the following are working titles):

- 1. Identifying approaches to living heritage:** National and international experts on tangible and intangible heritage. A dialogue on various approaches to living heritage with case studies from around the world. Here we ask whether we can identify an Asian approach to heritage and what different approaches can learn from each other.
- 2. Rethinking temples – Agamashastra and everyday Indian experiences:** Plenary session with Agamashastris (experts on Agamashastra), Sthapathis (those who build and maintain temple buildings), and caretakers of ancient temples. The aim of this session is to explore the traditional (and enduring) Indian approach to temples as living spaces and transmitters of traditions.
- 3. Kahani, Parampara aur bhavishya: Oral traditions, their role and impact:** During this session national and international experts who have worked on or with tangible and intangible heritage in diverse ways will share their expertise and experiences in the field.

Living Performing Arts: Multiple performances are held on each day of the festival, beginning with Morning Raga, a sunrise performance of classical or semi-classical music, and ending with the evening concert featuring performance traditions from all over India and the world.

Experiential Workshops by Invited Artists and Museum experts: Invited artists and experts (storytellers, dancers, craftsmen, musicians, and curators and conservationists working with collections and catalogues) conduct workshops initiating participants into their traditions or fields of expertise. Through these workshops, the latter become much more than just performances on a stage, exotic arts on display, or niche specializations. Participants get a chance to interact with masters from different traditions and with experts from different fields as students rather than as listeners or consumers, allowing them to experience and learn firsthand the nuanced richness of living heritage.

Living Crafts Bazaar: Showcasing the best in Mewari and Indian arts and crafts

Heritage Walks and Visits: Temple walk to ancient temples within Udaipur's walled city, Heritage walk focused on communities and rituals, Lakeview trail from the terrace of The City Palace museum, Visit to Ahar (This is an add-on visit, it will take place on the 21st and is open to those delegates who choose to extend their stay).



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