



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



National Mission on Cultural Mapping Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar

Index

1. National Mission on Cultural Mapping

- About the project
- Organisations (Ministry of Culture, IGNCA, CSC e-Governance Services India Limited)
- Goals

1. Cultural mapping

1. Role of the Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE)

1. Cultural Assets

- Explanation
- Prompts and questions Guidelines to document entries of each domain
- Sample/Example

1. Process of the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar-Cultural Mapping Survey

- Guidelines for on-ground field survey
- Documentation/Interview: Survey ethics- consent
- Dos and Don'ts



National Mission for Cultural Mapping

About the Project

National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) is aimed at addressing the necessities of preserving the threads of rich Indian Art and Cultural Heritage, converting vast and widespread cultural canvas of India into an objective Cultural Mapping while creating strong 'Cultural Vibrancy' throughout the nation. It will **identify, collect and record cultural assets and resources**. This database shall be used to preserve culture and provide government schemes in the future.



National Mission for Cultural Mapping

Organisations

- National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) is a scheme administered by the **Ministry of Culture (MoC)** conceptualized for the purpose of developing a comprehensive database of artists, art forms and other resources gathered from cultural organizations in the Ministry of Culture, other Ministries and also States on a robust IT-enabled platform. The Ministry of Culture had approved the NMCM in 2017 to build a comprehensive database of artists, art forms and other resources from organisations under the Ministry.
- **CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC)**, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (Meity), is given the task by Ministry of Culture to carryout National Mission on Cultural Mapping.
- This National level Cultural Mapping Mission is getting executed under the guidance of **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**.

Goals

Under this Mission, at broad-level, there are a few important objectives:

- **National Cultural Awareness Abhiyan: Hamari Sanskriti Hamari Pahchan Abhiyan (Our Culture Our Identity)**
- **Nationwide Artist Talent Hunt/Scouting Programme: Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Abhiyan**
- **National Cultural Workplace:** Centralised Transactional Web Portal with database and demography of cultural assets and resources including all art forms and artists
- **Defining local distinctiveness** is a key outcome of cultural mapping. Local distinctiveness is a function of **identity**, inseparably linked to place, human activity and the **symbolism**, meaning and values associated with places and the activities that communities pursue. It fosters self-respect, pride and creativity amongst them.
- **Information** about the village and its community (culture, social organization, language, history, inter-ethnic relationships).
- Documenting and mapping it is the first step towards **protecting** it.
- To build a **comprehensive database of artists (National Register of Artisans)**, art forms and other resources
- **Create Village Level Cultural Gazetteer** as per guidance in this document.

Cultural Mapping

Cultural mapping is a way to record cultural uniqueness of a region/landscape/place like local stories, rituals and practices, arts and crafts, languages and literature, built heritage, cuisines, memories and historicity that make them into meaningful locations. This helps define the local culture.

- It is a means to capture and present the history of indigenous peoples or to describe their traditional activities within a given territory.
- It involves documenting tangible and intangible assets of a place to ultimately develop a cultural resource or asset mapping.
- It begins with a culturally sensitive approach, seeking to present a 'sense of place', people-place meanings, and distinctive elements.



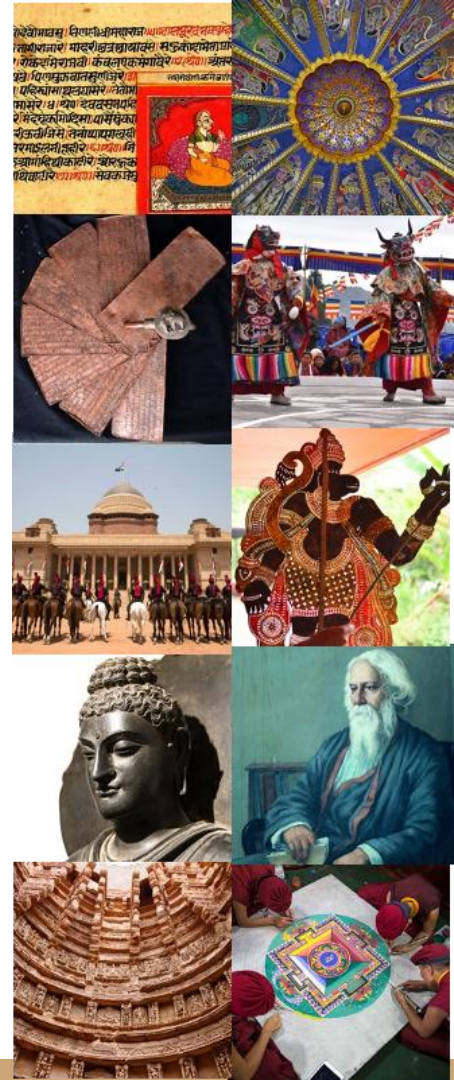
Role of the Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE) in Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar Cultural Mapping

- **Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE)** , as CSC operators are known, is the key stakeholder and crucial resource for executing the National Mission for Cultural Mapping-Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar and carrying out the survey on village level.
- VLEs will survey the village/s they are assigned to, interview people in those villages and collect qualitative primary data (textual, photo, video and audio) about cultural assets of those villages in the advised format provided in this manual.
- They will collect and feed that data in the ‘Culture Map of India’ mobile application. They are central to developing quality information on the cultural profile of assigned villages.
- They will be responsible for answering the queries arising during the process of standardisation of that data by the Fellows, pertaining to all the data collected by them. They will also be attending all the meetings regarding updates on their surveys.

Cultural Assets

Various cultural aspects at village level will be documented under following sections:

1. Cultural profile of the village
2. Domains
 - Traditional Foods
 - Traditional Dress
 - Traditional Ornaments
 - Traditional Arts and Crafts
 - Beliefs
 - Heritage places
 - Festivals and fairs
 - Famous Personalities
 - Prominents Artists



Cultural Profile of the village

This section will come before the traditional asset domains of the village.

This will include:

- What makes the village unique?
- What is your village famous for?
- Are there any legends or stories related to your village?
- Are there any famous historical events that have happened in your village?

Traditional Foods

- Traditional foods are foods and dishes that are passed on through generations or which have been consumed for many generations including Traditional home remedies, and traditional drinks like mahua, sulphi, thandai
- Traditional foods can be a national dish, regional cuisine or local cuisine. Some traditional foods have geographical indications and traditional specialties. For example, Biryani is made all over the country but there are variations according to region. Hyderabadi biryani is different from the biryani found in Lucknow– we have to note these subtle differences.

*To be included in this domain:

- People involved in the cooking of the food
- Processes: Practices and rituals surrounding their local culinary traditions- associations with certain festivals, rituals or ceremonies, unique cooking techniques
- Materials: special ingredients
- Local names of the food items



Examples

Common Food: Sarson ka Saag Makai ki Roti, Daal Baati Churma, Sambhar Dosa, Daal Bhaat, Vada, Idiyappam,

Speciality: Kambu Koozh, Poha Jalebi, Batata Wadaa,

Sweets: Parwal ki Mithayi, Sondesh, Malpua, Firni, Til ke Laddoo

Associated with ritual/custom/practice: A spoonful of curd and sugar before any new venture, Bhog, prasad after pooja, glass of milk for newlyweds, waazvan, Sheer kurma, halwa, kheer, and Shahi tukda made during eid, Chana puri during kanjak, plum cake during christmas, Sarbhaja, Bada (prepared on the ritual of Pola)

Drinks: Kahwa, Mahua, Bhang, Thandai, Feni, Lassi, Sambharam, Chhachh



Prompts/questions you can ask to get information for entries of in this domain:

- What do people in your village usually have for breakfast?
- What is the common food of your village?
- Is there a special dish that your village is known for, for e.g. Indore is known for Poha Jalebi
- Are there any specific dishes that are prepared during a particular festival or ritual?
- Any traditional drink of your village?
- Any traditional sweet of your village?
- Any local names for special feasts?
- Any special utensils used for preparing/serving food?
- Any special way of cooking or preparing food?
- Whether or not that food/dish is related to any ritual like childbirth, death, marriage, gender or community specific, mourning period, lent period, other?
- Any special utensils used? For e.g. Trami (a special kind of decorated plate is used for Wazwan in Kashmir)
- Any special way of cooking the food?



Documentation format


Name/Title	Local name of the food/drink (how it is known in the village)
Description	<p>Explain the dish (details). Explanation may incorporate elements like: its significance, if there is anything unique about it, any difference in how its prepared, when it is made, if it is prepared during the time of any festival or ritual, if it is gender specific, any belief or legend associated with it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives about that same cultural practice.● Record those multiple opinions and interpretations
Picture/s	<p>Photograph/s associated with that food/drink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You can upload multiple relevant photographs● Picture should be clear (taken from above or from a vantage point to get a better view) and clicked with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice● If that ritual or practice is not happening around the time of your survey then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival pictures capturing that item. You can take a picture of that old photo/or get it scanned and upload
Video/s	<p>Video/s associated with that food/drink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You can upload multiple relevant videos● Provide narrative in the video (explain that dish, activities happening in the recording of that ritual/custom)● Video should be in landscape format and clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and shot with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice● If that ritual or practice is not happening around the time of your survey then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival videos capturing that cultural practice. You can take that video with their consent and upload.
Respondent/s details	<p>Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives. Take answers from multiple respondents and take their details as as required in the Application</p>

Sample

Name/Title	Bhakari
Description	Bhakari is a roti prepared with rice or Jowar flour. On the occasion of Gauri Vrata in the villages of coastal Maharashtra, it is made a part of the bhog with leafy vegetables, <i>ghavanghatala</i> (pancakes made from rice flour) and <i>payasam</i> for worshipping the devi for three days. Unlike the Deccan, in the coastal region, these different food items are offered on all three days.
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberiya, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher



Sample

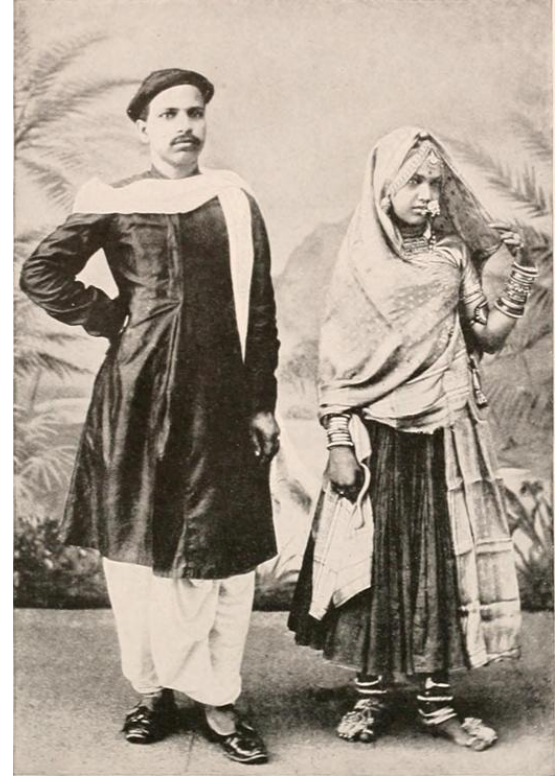
Name/Title	Kozhikode Halwa
Description	It is believed that the famous Kozhikode Halwa to be brought to the Malabar Coast of Kerala by Arab traders. Addition to the ingredients like all purpose flour and dry fruits, the recipe incorporated native elements like coconut oil, and assumed a character of its own. Kozhikode's halwa is today famous throughout the state. Unlike its Tirunelveli counterpart where ghee is used, Kozhikode's halwa owes its distinct taste to the use of pure coconut oil.
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	
	Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberiya, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher

Traditional Dress

- Traditional dress may be defined as the garments, and accessories worn by a group of people.
- Traditional dressing is not specific to women. Men too have specific way of dressing in every culture.

*Information to be included in this domain:

- People/community: who wears the particular clothes?
- Materials: what materials is it made of?
- Processes: what tools are used to make it and how is it made? Information about processes also includes practices and rituals, festivals and customs surrounding local and traditional dressing.
- Stories: Are there any specific reasons for why the people wear the traditional dress?
- Local names of the dresses



Examples

- **Common clothes:** Dhoti Kurta, Panche and lungi, Mundu Neriyathu, Pheran, Pathani Salwar, Monpas, Chemais, Innaphi, Phanek, Dumdyam, Ghaghra, Aagari
- **Associated with ritual/custom/practice:** Paanittar (Gujarat), Yogar or Lokpa (Ladakh)



Prompts/questions you can ask to get information for entries of in this domain:

- What is the common attire for both men and women in your village? (provide local names, identify any gender associations, list the materials used to make the clothes)
- Are there any clothing items that cannot be found anymore in your village but used to be worn earlier?
- Are there any particular clothes linked with any rituals or customs? (including clothes worn During prayer, Childbirth, Death, Marriage, Gender specific, Community event, Festivals, Lent period, Mourning period, Other)
- Any clothes associated with a particular community of the village?
- Are there any clothes related to different demographic groups? (age, marital status, etc)
- Any particular/unique draping style?



Documentation format

Name/Title	Local name of the dress/clothing (how it is known in the village)
Description	<p>Explain the dress/clothing(details). Explanation may incorporate elements like: its significance, if there is anything unique about it, material it is made, when it is worn, associated with any festival or ritual, if it is gender specific, any belief or legend associated with it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives about that same cultural practice.● Record those multiple opinions and interpretations
Picture/s	<p>Photograph/s associated with that dress/clothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You can upload multiple relevant photographs● Picture should be clear (taken from above/front or from a vantage point to get a better view) and clicked with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice/festival● If that ritual/practice/festival is not happening around the time of your survey when people wear those traditional dress then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival pictures capturing that item. You can take a picture of that old photo/or get it scanned and upload
Video/s	<p>Video/s associated with that dress/clothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You can upload multiple relevant videos● Provide narrative in the video (explain that dress/clothing, activities happening in the recording of that ritual/custom)● Video should be in landscape format and clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and shot with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice● If that ritual or practice if not happening around the time of your survey then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival videos capturing that cultural practice. You can take that video with their consent and upload.
Respondent/s details	<p>Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives. Take answers from multiple respondents and take their details as as required in the Application</p>


Sample

Name/Title	Yogar or Lokpa
Description	<p><i>Yogar</i> or <i>Lokpa</i> is another distinctive garb worn only by women around shoulders to cover their backs. The cloak is made of sheepskin with the woollen part facing inside touching the body of the wearer, while outside it's usually printed or covered with a green fabric, accented with patterns of red or silk brocade to look appealing. <i>Yogar</i> is designed to provide the wearer warmth and cushioning for their backs while carrying heavy loads during their chores. In the olden days, <i>Yogar</i> was a necessity for women. However, today, they are been used as accessories during festivals and public gatherings such as marriages, child birth celebrations and so on. The designed and beautified <i>Yogor</i> or <i>Lokpa</i> is called <i>Bok</i>.</p>
Picture/s	➡
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	<p>Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberiya, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher</p>



Source: <https://www.ju-lehadventure.com/ladakh-information/traditional-dresses-of-ladakh>
Photo credit: Jimmy Nelson

Sample

Name/Title	Pheta
Description	Men from the Dhurva tribe wear a turban known as <i>pheta</i> which is six feet long and twelve to fourteen inches wide.
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberiya, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher



Source: <https://www.sahapedia.org/traditional-tribal-textiles-of-bastar>

Traditional Ornaments

- Traditional ornaments may be defined as items such as jewellery that are worn by different groups and may have been passed on from older generations.
- Traditional ornaments are not specific to women. Men too have been wearing traditional ornaments in every culture. For e.g. Gokhru earrings and Hansuli are worn by men in Rajasthan.

*Information to be included in this domain:

- People/community: who wears the particular clothes?
- Materials: what materials is it made of?
- Processes: what tools are used to make it and how is it made? Information about processes also includes practices and rituals, festivals and customs surrounding local and traditional ornaments.
- Stories: Are there any specific reasons for why the people wear the traditional dress? Ornaments can have aesthetic as well as symbolic meanings.
- Local names of the ornaments



Source: <https://www.sahapedia.org/folk-ornaments-of-chhattisgarh>

Examples

- **Ornaments for the legs:** Bichhiya, Chutki, Paajeb, Painjan (Hollow), Toda/Tora, Kada/Karal
- **Ornaments for the waist:** Kardhan/Kardhani, Kamarbandh, Tagdi, Kamarpatta
- **Ornaments for the hands and fingers:** Dauriya Parchhaiya, Mundari, Lapeta, Angoothi, Jhalar
- **Ornaments for the arms:** Nagmori, Bajuband, Gajra, Kalivari, Tabiz, Pahuchi
- **Ornaments for the neck:** Hansli, Chokar, Ranihaar, Champakali, Kanthimala, Dhanmala
- **Ornaments for the nose:** Phulli, Phiephir, Nath, Koka, Motyanchi Nath
- **Ornaments for the ears:** Jhumka, Karnphool, Bali, Khinva, Chaandbali



Examples

- **Ornaments for the forehead:** Lalat Patti, Borla, Teeka, Matha Patti
- **Ornaments for the head/hair:** Jhabli
- **Ornaments now not in use:** Mekka Mothiram earrings (worn by christian women in Kerala), Aama thodu mothiram (worn only by artists in Kerala)
- **Related to any tradition (like passing on to next generation):** Lisum (passed on from mother to daughter in the Aalo tribe of Arunachal Pradesh), Dokso, Likar, Sohne
- **Not in use anymore:** Mekka Mothiram earrings (worn by christian women in Kerala), Aama thodu mothiram (used to be worn only by artists in Kerala)
- **Associated with ritual/custom/practice:** Bindi, Kada, birthstone rings



Source:
<https://www.sahapedia.org/folk-ornaments-of-chhattisgarh>



Prompts/questions you can ask to get information for entries of in this domain:

- What are the common ornaments worn in your village?
- Are there any specific or distinct traditional ornaments related to any special occasion?
- Are there any ornaments people in your village used to wear earlier but are not found anymore?
- Are there any ornaments related to different demographic groups (age, gender, marital status, etc)
- Are there any traditions related to jewellery in your village? (for e.g. like passing on to the next generation)
- Are there any communities involved in jewellery making in your village?




Source: <https://www.sahapedia.org/folk-ornaments-of-chhattisgarh>

Documentation format

Name/Title	Local name of the ornament/jewellery (how it is known in the village)
Description	<p>Explain the ornament/jewellery (details). Explanation may incorporate elements like: its significance, if there is anything unique about it, material it is made, when it is worn, if it is prepared during the time of any festival or ritual, if it is gender specific, any belief or legend associated with it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives about that same cultural practice.• Record those multiple opinions and interpretations
Picture/s	<p>Photograph/s associated with that ornament/jewellery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant photographs• Picture should be clear (taken from above/front or from a vantage point to get a better view) and clicked with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice/festival• If that ritual/practice/festival is not happening around the time of your survey when people wear those traditional ornament/jewellery then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival pictures capturing that item. You can take a picture of that old photo/or get it scanned and upload
Video/s	<p>Video/s associated with that ornament/jewellery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant videos• Provide narrative in the video (explain that ornament/jewellery, activities happening in the recording of that ritual/custom)• Video should be in landscape format and clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and shot with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice• You can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival videos capturing that ornament/practice. You can take that video with their consent and upload.
Respondent/s details	<p>Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives. Take answers from multiple respondents and take their details as as required in the Application</p>

Sample

Name/Title	Nagmori
Description	The Nagmori is an armlet worn by tribal women, and is especially popular amongst the Gond, Agaria and Raut communities. The Nagmori has a face of a serpent and is made of silver or gilat. The weight of a Nagmori varies from 200 to 1000 gm. Die and wires are used in its making.
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberiya, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher



Source: <https://www.sahapedia.org/folk-ornaments-of-chhattisgarh>

Sample

Name/Title	Kardhan
Description	<p>The kardhan is an ornament that is worn on the waste by women of almost all tribes and castes in the villages of Chhattisgarh, but especially by Satnamis. It is a waist belt worn with a clip, which has the purpose of reducing the flabbiness of the stomach of a young mother after delivery. It is worn only by married women, not widows. The kardhan is made in many designs (especially jhalar and chainphas), in silver or gilat, depending on budget. Generally, the size varies from 25 to 38 inches, according to the size of the waist. The weight varies from 200 gm to 2000 gm, depending upon the material and design desired by the client. The kardhan is made by soldering wires (silver or gilat) and with dies and moulds.</p>
Picture/s	➡
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	<p>Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberiya, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher</p>



Source: <https://www.sahapedia.org/folk-ornaments-of-chhattisgarh>

Traditional Arts and Crafts

Three broad aspects or sub-domains of documenting Traditional Arts and Crafts are:

- Visual and Material: sculpture, painting, pottery, textiles, woodcraft, metalwork, handloom, puppetry, toy-making
- Performing arts: dance (classical and folk), music (vocal and instrumental), theatre, sports, folk songs
- Literature: books, poetry, folk tales and lores, storytelling, epic narration

*To be documented in this domain:

- People: who are engaged with the arts and crafts?
- Materials: what do they use in the arts and crafts? What are the items, clothes, ornaments, instruments etc. made of?
- Processes: is it associated with any rituals or festivals? What do they do in the art and craft
- Stories: any stories/legends associated with it?
- Local names of the art forms



Examples of performing arts

- **Dance:** Kathak, Sattariya, Bharatnatyam, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam, Odissi and Manipuri, Ghoomar, Kalbeliya, Bhangra, Giddha, Daff, Dhaman, Bhand, Ludi Khela, Karma, Lavani, Chang lo, Chham, etc.
- **Music:** Baul (West Bengal), Jori or Algoza (Kutch, Gujarat), Thiruvathirakali (Kerala)
- **Theatre:** Kutiyattam, Kumauni Rangmanch
- **Sports:** Pehalwani, Mallkhamb, Kalaripayattu (Kerala), Silambam
- **Puppetry:** Kathputli (Rajasthan), Bommalattam (Tamil Nadu), Sakhi Kandhei (Odisha)



Source:
<https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/travelnews/story/71217/panthers-take-a-stroll-through-streets-of-udaipur>

Prompts/questions you can ask to get information for entries of in this domain:

Performing Arts

- Is there any local dance form in your village?
- Is there any local music tradition in your village?
- Is there any local theatre tradition in your village?
- Is there any local puppetry tradition in your village?
- Are there any traditional sport or martial art forms in your village?
- Is there any community associated with a particular performing arts?



Prompts/questions you can ask to get information for entries of in this domain:

Performing Arts

- Are there any festivals/rituals/customs/beliefs associated with any performing arts?
- Are there any traditional musical instruments associated with the local music tradition of your village?
- Are there any art forms that are performed at religious places or fairs?
- Are there any artforms that used to be practiced but aren't there anymore? Are they being brought back by anyone/through any initiatives?
- Are there any artforms related to agriculture? (record AV examples of it if possible)



Examples of visual and material arts

- **Sculpting:** Stone or ivory sculpting
- **Painting:** Thang ka, Pichhwai, Manjusha, Warli
- **Pottery:** Molela Murtikala (Rajasthan), Potteryware, Terracotta pottery, Plack clay pottery (UP) Khavda pottery (Gujarat)
- **Handloom:** Kalamkari (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Ajrakh (Gujarat), Kerang (Gadaba Adiwasi Community), Laal Paad (Baraik Community, Jharkhand)
- **Woodcraft:** Phipha (Nagaland), Walnut wood carving (Kashmir)
- **Metal work:** Bidri (Karnataka), Brass work (Moradabad)
- **Toy making:** Thanjavur dolls, Chennapattana toys, Golu dolls
- **Others:** Bangle Making (Firozabad), Ittr making (Kannauj), Leather work (Mojri making, Rajasthan)



Prompts/questions you can ask to get information for entries of in this domain:

Visual & Material Arts

- Are there any local arts or crafts traditions in your village? For e.g.: Sculpture, Painting, Literature, Leatherwork, Carpentry, Cinema, Glasswork, Handloom, Handicrafts. Music instruments.
- Is there any community associated with a particular art or craft?
- Are there any festivals/rituals/customs/beliefs associated with any arts and crafts?
- Are there any art forms that are done at religious places or fairs?
- Are there any artforms that used to be practiced but aren't there anymore? Are they being brought back by anyone/through any initiatives?
- Do the craftsmen/artists have access to any markets, schemes etc?

Examples of literature

- **Local Literature:** Kavad storytelling through the shrine, Wayanad Ramayana (Kerala), Kathaiyum Paattum (Tamil Nadu), Dastangoi, Puran Pravachan, Katha Kathan, Burra Katha, Villu Paatu, archival text



Prompts/questions you can ask to get information for entries of in this domain:

Literature


(folktale/lores, storytelling, poetry, epic narration, local written traditions)

- Are there any folktales and folklores in you village?
- Are there any unique epic narration traditions in your village?
- Are there any old manuscripts available in your village temple or place of worship which is considered sacred?
- Is the form of literature or oral tradition associated with any beliefs/local practices/customs/rituals?

Documentation format

Name/Title	Local name of the art/craft (how it is known in the village)
Type (Visual & Material Arts, Performing Arts, Literature)	Select the type of that art/craft
Description	<p>Explain that art/craft (details). Explanation may incorporate elements like: its significance, what is unique about it, when does it happen, where does it happen, people/community who practices it, who all participate, if it is gender specific, what kind of activities people do while performing that in a particular ritual/custom/occasion, any specific dress code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives about that same cultural practice.• Record those multiple opinions and interpretations
Picture/s	<p>Photograph/s associated with that art/craft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant photographs• Picture should be clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and clicked with consent of the participants involved in that art/craft• If that art/craft is not happening around the time of your survey then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival pictures capturing that art/craft. You can take a picture of that old photo/or get it scanned and upload
Video/s	<p>Video/s associated with that art/craft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant videos• Provide narrative (explain that art/craft and activities happening in the recording of that art/craft) and in the video• Video should be in landscape format and clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and shot with consent of the participants involved in that art/craft• You can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival videos capturing that cultural practice. You can take that video with their consent and upload.
Respondent/s details	Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives. Take answers from multiple respondents and take their details as required in the Application

Sample

Name/Title	Raas
Type (Visual & Material Arts/ Performing Arts/ Literature)	Performing Arts
Description	<p>Raas, popularly known as dandiya raas is one of the most popular folk dances of Gujarat. Associated with agricultural activities, it can be termed as occupational dancing of farmers. Dandiya raas takes its name from dandiya, a pair of wooden sticks, used to mark time. It is performed during Navratri, Satam-atham (Janmashtami) fairs, and weddings in Kathiawar and Saurashtra region of Gujarat.</p> <p>Traditionally raas is performed only by males. A typical raas mandali (troupe) comprises of 16-20 dancers and musicians. Men, holding dandiya (wooden sticks), weave complex choreographic formations in a circle, and dance to songs that are accompanied by several musical instruments viz. harmonium, dhol (a kind of drum), naragha (tabla), zanz, pavo, shernai. Songs are characteristic of Saurashtra region and those which are sung in praise of Lord Krishna follow a proper protocol.</p>
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberi, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher




Sample

Name/Title	Libuh
Type (Visual & Material Arts/ Performing Arts/ Literature)	Performing Arts
Description	<p><i>Libuh</i>, a one-string musical instrument like Iktara is indigenous to the Chokri Chakhesang people of Nagaland. It is also known as <i>Heka Libuh</i>. It is used to accompany the folk song form known as Li. <i>Li</i> is the song of the people. <i>Li</i> is the Chokri word for folk song.</p> <p><i>Libuh</i>, measuring about 3-4 feet in length, is made of a dried caved-out bottle gourd. This bottle gourd is covered with thin film and attached to one end of a pole. The pole is made of a special kind of bamboo known as <i>Ruki</i> and <i>Dithuh</i> also. A string is tied between the two ends of the pole over the film covered bottle gourd.</p>
Picture/s	➡
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Imnasenla, Female, 35, Journalist



Source: <https://www.sahapedia.org/li-and-libuh-folk-music-of-the-chokri-naga-tribe-0>

Sample

Name/Title	Maach
Type (Visual & Material Arts/ Performing Arts/ Literature)	Performing Arts
Description	<p>Maach is a prominent folk theatre form of Madhya Pradesh and it is believed that it has been an integral part of the local culture of the Malwa region since the early eighteenth century, making it a 200–250-year-old art form. Gopalji Guru of Bhagsipura, Ujjain, is touted to be the one who introduced maach in Madhya Pradesh; he eventually authored many maach plays himself. Traditionally, maach is performed around the Indian festival of Holi and it is also believed that maach originated to entertain the local communities as there was no other mode of entertainment available in those times.</p> <p>Maach is basically a musical play where a group of performers sing and dance along with dramatic representation of many mythological, religious and historical stories. It has over 150 manuscripts and more than 125 melodies, which are orchestrated around five to seven different rhythms.</p>
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	<p>Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker</p> <p>Puna Kalberi, Female, 61, Village elder</p> <p>Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch</p> <p>Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher</p>



Sample

Name/Title	Pottery
Type (Visual & Material Arts/ Performing Arts/ Literature)	Visual & Material Arts
Description	<p>Gundiyali village is famous for being a craft cluster for about 450 years. It has more than 72 terracotta craft families in Gundiyali, Kutch (near Mandvi), from which about 25 families are engaged in the craft practice today. They practice the craft as a family, and also independently.</p> <p>The pots of Gundiyali get their red colour from Geru, a type of soil (ocher/ umber), and the black and white dots and stripes are also made with natural material. The terracotta pots of Gundiyali are distinct from the ones we may see elsewhere, because of their smooth finish which is a result of repeated cleaning at every stage of the process of their making.</p>
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	<p>Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberi, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher</p>



Source: https://celebratinggundiyali.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Maati-Kaam-at-Gundiyali_Reimagining-Vernacular-2020.pdf

Beliefs

- A belief system is an ideology or set of principles that helps us to interpret our everyday reality. This could be in the form of religion, philosophy, or spirituality, among many other things.
- Beliefs could be associated practices and customs that are part of everyday life of the village. For e.g.:
 - life cycle- related major events such as birth, naming, puberty (menstruation), marriage, death, etc.
 - Agricultural cycle related practices and rituals
 - Weather cycle related practices and rituals
 - Healing rituals
 - Unique belief/ritual/custom/practice apart from the above mentioned categories
- There can also be beliefs specific to a certain community linked to their history, local identity, and customs.



Examples

Birth: If the infant is a son, shirin leaves are hung outside the house, as an indication of the lucky incident in some villages in Punjab.

Naming: As a tradition of a tribe in the Aalo village, Arunachal Pradesh, a child's name begins with the last alphabet (akshar) of his/her father's name.

Puberty: In many villages of South India, the Ritu Kala Samskara ceremony or Ritushuddhi is performed to celebrate menarche (first menstruation) of a girl and she wears saree for the first time.

Marriage: In Jawai village, Rajasthan, the bride does not farewell, but the groom leaves his house and comes to his in-laws' house.

Death: The ancient ritual of Santhara, also called Sallekhana, consists of voluntary starvation to embrace death. The Shwetambar (white sect) community, which practises the ritual, considers it the ultimate way to attain moksha (release from the cycle of rebirth), when one believes his or her life has served its purpose.



Note:

- When noting down religious beliefs, focus on local manifestations of religion- **what is unique to the village** within a larger religion like Hinduism, Islam etc?
- To be able to get good information from the villagers, we need to interview people of different religions and different communities. Do not record data related to just one community.
- Although religion is a part of beliefs, it is not the entirety of the domain. Maintain the **distinction between community and local beliefs and religion.**

Prompts/questions you can ask to get information for entries of in this domain:

- What are the common belief systems of your village? What all religions are followed in your village?
- Do you have a 'Gram Devata' of your village?
- What kind of activities people do for worshipping that deity?
- What kinds of rituals happen on the birth of a child/marriage ceremonies/death of a person?
- Any specific rituals related to the agricultural activities?
- Any specific rituals related to different weathers?
- Are there any distinct rituals and customs of your village? Any myths or superstitions that the villagers believe in?
- Are there any ritualistic healing practices in your village?
- Any unconventional practices like witchcraft?



Source: <https://www.ipsnews.net/2015/07/tribal-priestesses-become-guardians-of-seeds-in-eastern-india/>

Documentation format

Name/Title	Local name of the belief system with which it is known in the village
Type (religion/custom/myth or superstition/other)	Select the type of that belief
Description	<p>Explain that belief system (details). Explanation may incorporate elements like: its significance, what is unique about it, when does it happen, where does it happen, who all participate, if it is gender specific, what kind of activities people do while performing that ritual/custom, any specific dress code, any special food associated with it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives about that same cultural practice.● Record those multiple opinions and interpretations
Picture/s	<p>Photograph/s associated with that cultural practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You can upload multiple relevant photographs● Picture should be clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and clicked with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice● If that ritual or practice is not happening around the time of your survey then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival pictures capturing that cultural practice. You can take a picture of that old photo/or get it scanned and upload
Video/s	<p>Video/s associated with that cultural practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You can upload multiple relevant videos● Provide narrative (explain that cultural practice and activities happening in the recording of that ritual/custom) and in the video● Video should be in landscape format and clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and shot with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice● If that ritual or practice is not happening around the time of your survey then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival videos capturing that cultural practice. You can take that video with their consent and upload.
Respondent/s details	Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives. Take answers from multiple respondents and take their details as required in the Application

Sample

Name/Title	Worship of Earth
Type (religion/custom/myth or superstition/other)	Custom
Description	<p>Every phase of cultivation in the Sidhbari village, Uttarakhand, has a ritual or festival associated with it. Earth is considered the life and food provider and worshipped. As Nag devata is central to the popular belief of the village, he is also worshipped all around the agricultural cycle. The rituals are not only performed to thank the gods and ask for their blessings but also to apologise to the earth when it is ploughed (farmers apply tikka and draw <i>swastik</i> on the earth and offer sweets and flowers as a part of the ritual); to Nag devta (the snake god) when rain is needed; to agricultural tools which bring food and prosperity. Every object and process related to agriculture is considered sacred. While the sacred rituals are accompanied by chanting of hymns and verses, the everyday rituals like working in the fields, thrashing and pounding rice are often associated with songs.</p>
Picture/s	➡
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	<p>Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberi, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher</p>



Source: <https://www.sahapedia.org/symbiosis-between-humans-and-their-ecology-through-agricultural-rituals-kangra-valley>

Sample

Name/Title	Godna
Type (religion/custom/myth or superstition/other)	Custom
Description	<p>In the Baiga tribe of Basokha village, Chhattisgarh, tattoo art is performed only on women. Although, many of the Baigas have also taken up Christianity the beliefs regarding tattooing run deep about its importance in the tribal customs and the act of tattooing is followed by rituals that are observed to appease the forest gods. A girl is tattooed for the first time on forehead at the age of five and by the time she is married almost all of her body gets covered with tattoos. Only a <i>Badneen</i> (a baiga tattoo artist) can perform the process and it is done at a considerable distance in the forest. Ink is prepared from local herbs and kala til (black sesame seeds).</p> <p>Tattoo is considered as an enhancement of beauty and they also believe that tattoos are carried into the afterlife because the ink integrates with the body itself.</p>
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberiya, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher



Heritage Place

This domain has two types or sub-domains:

1. Built Heritage:
 - It refers to any building, structure of site that holds importance to the local community or a state/nation at large
 - It can also be a place that has existed for more than a 100 years.
 - Examples:
 - Historical monuments/architecture,
 - Places of worship and other rituals
 - Cemeteries/memorials/chhatris, distinct burials
 - Factories and fences, distinct building/house techniques, traditional architectural elements. For e.g. *Kath-kuni* architecture of Himachal Pradesh
 - Stepwells and kunds
 - Fort structures, *kos minars*, etc.



Source:
<https://www.sahapedia.org/the-himalayan-vernacular-kath-khuni-architecture>



Heritage Place

2. Natural Heritage: Things in nature that are considered sacred or significant to a local community or a region/nation at large.

- Examples:
 - Sacred groves and trees
 - Rivers, lakes and ponds

*To be included in this domain:

- Legends and stories associated with the heritage site
- People associated with them
- Significance of the place- why is it important to the community?



Examples

- **Historical monuments/architecture:** Dholavira archaeological site, Kalibangan archaeological site, Jallianwala Bagh (Amritsar), Fort structures, *kos minars*, stepwells and kunds.
- **Places of worship and other rituals:** Maheshwar mahadev temple, Heritage tree Rayan (Sander, Gujarat), Baba Umer Dargah (Solapur, Andhra Pradesh)
- **Cemeteries/memorials/chhatris, distinct burials:** Memorial Hero stones in Rajasthan, memorials for famous personalities like freedom fighters, South Park Cemetery (Kolkata), Parsi Cemetery (Delhi), Bhowanipore Cemetery



Examples

- **traditional architectural elements:** *Kath-kuni* architecture (Himachal Pradesh), use of jalis in rajasthani monuments, building houses on stilts in Himachal Pradesh, houseboats (Kerala and Kashmir)
- **Sacred Groves and Trees:** Sacred groves of Kodagu, Groves in Khasi and Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya and Aravalli Hills of Rajasthan, Groves in Thar Desert of Rajasthan maintained by the Bishnois
- **Rivers, ponds and lake:** River Ganga, River Narmada, River Kosi, River Banganga, etc.



Source: <https://www.itrhd.com/projects1.asp?catid=1&subcatid=10>

Prompts/questions you can ask to get information for entries of in this domain:


- Is the heritage place linked to any religious practice/ Is it a place of worship? (Hindusims, Islam, Jainism etc and their sects)
- What kind of activities take place at the heritage place, if any? Are they places of national importance? (Ceremony as Place of Worship, Meditation, Prayer, Bhajans, Offerings Puja, Activity requiring Priests/ Conductor, Whether any Sacrifice involved, Lent, abstinence to be followed if any as a part of the pilgrimage, Feast, Distribution of food (Langar), Distribution of alms –part of belief)
- Are there any places with historical and archaeological significance? (example: stepwells, forts, monuments, tombs, archaeological sites etc.)
- Are there any places or things like sacred groves, lakes, trees etc?
- Any specific architectural style of building houses and temples in your village?
- Any cemeteries, memorials, chhatris, distinct burials?



Documentation format


Name/Title	Name of the Heritage place (with which it is known in the village)
Type (Built Heritage or Natural Heritage)	Select the type of that belief
Description	<p>Explain that heritage place (details). Explanation may incorporate elements like: its significance, what is unique about it, people and communities associated with it, deity associated if any, what kind of activities/ritual/custom people do around it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives about that same heritage place.• Record those multiple opinions and interpretations
Picture/s	<p>Photograph/s associated with that heritage place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant photographs• Picture should be clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and clicked with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice• If that heritage place does not exist anymore then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival pictures capturing that cultural practice. You can take a picture of that old photo/or get it scanned and upload
Video/s	<p>Video/s associated with that heritage place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant videos• Provide narrative (explain that heritage place and activities happening in the recording of that ritual/custom) and in the video• Video should be in landscape format and clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and shot with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice• You can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival videos capturing that cultural practice. You can take that video with their consent and upload.
Respondent/s details	Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives. Take answers from multiple respondents and take their details as as required in the Application

Sample

Name/Title	Sinauli Archaeological Site
Type (Built Heritage or Natural Heritage)	Built Heritage
Description	The Sinauli Harappan Site is an archaeological site located in Sinauli, western Uttar Pradesh. The site gained attention for its artefacts associated with the bronze age civilization of the Indian Subcontinent for e.g. solid-disk wheel carts, found in 2018, which were interpreted by some as chariots.
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Tahir Khan, Male, 40, Metal craftsman



Sample

Name/Title	Khejri or Khejra Tree
Type (Built Heritage or Natural Heritage)	Natural Heritage
Description	<p>The Khejri tree holds a special place in the lives of the Bishnois of Rajasthan, and cutting down or lopping its branches is taboo. This small evergreen tree has been hailed as the lifeline of the Thar desert. It is a source of shade; its leaves provide fodder to camels, goats, cattle and other animals; its pods are edible and the wood is used as fuel; its roots fix atmospheric nitrogen, making the soil fertile. The khejri is, therefore, invaluable to desert economy and ecology. Revered as <i>shami</i> since Vedic period, the tree features prominently in both the Ramayana and Mahabharata.</p> 
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Chandramolle Modgil, Female, 30, Student



Festivals and fairs

- **Festivals** are simply gatherings of people to celebrate something. There can be religious, commemorative, or national festivals. For example: Diwali, Ramadan, Eid, Shaheedi Diwas, Valmiki Jayanti
- **Fair** can be described as a gathering of people for various entertainment or commercial activities. For example, Pushkar Mela, Ichhapuri Mata ka Mela, weekly/monthly/quarterly haats/bazaars.



Examples

- **Festivals** (Agricultural/Seasonal/Village Specific/Community specific/Common): Hariyali Teej (Rajasthan), Navroz, Muharram, Harela Chhattisgarh), Thaipusam (Tamil Nadu), Pola (Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh), Shahidi Diwas (Khatkar Kalan, Punjab), Tring (Tripura), Gudi Padwa (Maharashtra), Margamkali (Kerala)
- **Fairs:** Diwali Mela, Pushkar Mela (Pushkar, Rajasthan), Ichchhapuri Mata ka Mela (near Rewari, Haryana), Rann Utsav (Kutch, Gujarat), Rajur Pashu Mela (Maharashtra)



Examples



Prompts/ What all you can ask to get information for this domain?

- What are the common festivals celebrated in your village?
- Are there any festivals that are unique to your village/region?
- Is the festival linked to any religious belief/practice?
- Any particular deity or religious personalities associated with the festival?
- What do you do to celebrate the festival? Any specific ritual/practice associated with it? (Example: Ceremony at place of worship, ceremony at other common premises, ceremony at home, meditation, prayers, bhajans, offerings puja, any specific dress code, any specific code of conduct to be followed, activity requiring priests/ conductor, abstinence to be followed if any as a part of the belief, feast, distribution of food and alms, etc.)
- Who are the people/communities associated with the festival?
- Is there any exclusive Gender relation, if any
- Are there any festivals associated with agriculture/nature/season?
- Any specific cuisine or dish prepared for the occasion?

Prompts/ What all you can ask to get information for this domain?


- What are the common fairs organised in your village?
- Are there any fairs that are unique to your village/region?
- Is the fair linked to any religious belief/practice?
- Any particular deity or religious personalities associated with the fair?
- Who are the people/communities associated with the festival? Who organises it?
- Is there any exclusive gender relation, if any
- Are there any fairs associated with agriculture/nature/season?



Documentation format


Name/Title	Local name of the festival/fair with which it is known in the village
Type (Festival or Fair)	Select the type
Description	<p>Explain that festival fair (details). Explanation may incorporate elements like: its significance, what is unique about it, when does it happen, where does it happen, who all participate, if it is gender specific, what kind of activities people do during that festival/fair, any specific dress code, any special food associated with it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives about that same cultural practice.● Record those multiple opinions and interpretations
Picture/s	<p>Photograph/s associated with that festival/fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You can upload multiple relevant photographs● Picture should be clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and clicked with consent of the participants involved in that festival/fair● If that festival/fair if not happening around the time of your survey then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival pictures capturing that festival/fair. You can take a picture of that old photo/or get it scanned and upload
Video/s	<p>Video/s associated with that festival/fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You can upload multiple relevant videos● Provide narrative (explain that festival/fair and activities happening in the recording of that festival/fair) and in the video● Video should be in landscape format and clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and shot with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice● If that festival/fair is not happening around the time of your survey then you can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival videos capturing that cultural practice. You can take that video with their consent and upload.
Respondent/s details	Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives. Take answers from multiple respondents and take their details as as required in the Application

Sample

Name/Title	Ambubachi Mela
Type (Festival or Fair)	Fair
Description	<p>Ambubachi Mela is one of the biggest congregations of eastern India. It is the most important festival of the Kamakhya temple and is celebrated in the month of June every year. It is more of a ritual of austerities, a festival celebrated with Shakti rites. The belief is that Kamakhya embodies the mother cult, the Shakti. During the period of Ambubachi from the seventh to the tenth day of the Hindu month of "Asadha", the doors of the shrine are closed to all as it is believed that Goddess Kamakhya goes through the annual cycle of menstruation. On the twelfth day, the doors are opened ceremonially and a big fair held at the temple premises on that day.</p>
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberi, Female, 61, Village elder



Sample

Name/Title	Hareli
Type (Festival or Fair)	Festival
Description	<p><i>Hareli</i> is celebrated among cultivators across Bastar, Chhattisgarh. Although, Hareli is considered to be the <i>pratham tyohar</i> (a prominent festival) in Chhattisgarh, it is only celebrated when seeds have germinated and seedlings have become visibly taller. The festival, based on the calculations of planets (<i>grahas</i>) is celebrated after the land has been ploughed and seeds have been sown. Beyond this no agricultural tools are used on the land. Hence, it is a festival of finally cleaning and worshipping the agricultural tools that have finished their work for the season.</p>
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher



Source: <https://festivalsofchhattisgadhi.wordpress.com/>

Famous personalities

- Famous personalities refers to men and women who are known for their significant contribution in the history and development of the community.
- They could be people who are famous just within their villages/districts or have contributed at a national level too.
- They can be performers (dancers, musicians, artists), master-craftsmen, community leaders, environmentalists, national/state awardees, war heroes, etc. who are known for their significant contributions in their respective fields.

*To be included in this domain:

- Significance: why are they famous?
- People: Do they have any family still in the village?
- Legends/stories/songs associated with them



Saalumarada Thimmakka, Hulikal Village, Karnataka

Prompts/ What all you can ask to get information for this domain?

- Is there any famous person in your village who has contributed through their work?
- Any personality who has made your village famous or known?
- Why are they famous (legends and stories associated with them)?
- Any person who has been awarded by the state or central government? (Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, State/National level sports-person etc.)
- Do they have any family members living in the village?



Documentation format

Name/Title	Name of the famous person
Description	<p>Details about that person. Explanation may incorporate elements like: why they are famous, field and duration of their contribution, if they have any family members living in the village..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives about that same cultural practice.• Record those multiple opinions and interpretations
Picture/s	<p>Photograph/s associated with that cultural practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant photographs• Picture should be clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and clicked with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice• You can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival pictures capturing that cultural practice. You can take a picture of that old photo/or get it scanned and upload
Video/s	<p>Video/s associated with that cultural practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant videos• Provide narrative (details about that person, interview with them or their family members) and in the video• Video should be in landscape format and clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and shot with consent of the participants involved• You can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival videos associated with that person. You can take that video with their consent and upload.
Respondent/s details	<p>Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives. Take answers from multiple respondents and take their details as as required in the Application</p>

Sample

Name/Title	Sudesha Devi
Description	One of the first Chipko Movement Activists (Environmentalist) from Rampur Village of Uttarakhand, Sudesha Devi is still active in the Henwalghati Valley of Tehri District, now working alongside Chipko veterans on the Beej Bachao Andolan. Chipko initially spread through several villages in the Garhwal hills of Uttarakhand as people collectively hugged trees to drive away fellers; it then spread as a forest conservation drive through Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka and other states. When the need rose for a women's struggle against the felling of trees by contractors in the forests adjoining her village in Rampur (the village she was married into), Sudesha did not have to think twice. She took to the forests by night along with other young women like herself and stayed amongst the trees, improvising songs and sharing bits of food to keep their collective strength from ebbing before the fear of armed men employed by the mighty contractors.
Picture/s	
Video/s	
Respondent/s details	Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker Puna Kalberi, Female, 61, Village elder Parwat Singh, Male, 53, Sarpanch Babu Ram Saran, Male, 26, School Teacher



Source: <https://www.sahapedia.org/walk-down-memory-lane-sudesha-devi>

Prominent Artists

- Artist, artisans, writers and master-craftsmen engaged in arts and crafts (performing arts or visual and material arts)
- Ministry of Culture wants to develop a National Register of Artists so that the artists can be included in any upcoming national or state level schemes pertaining to their art/craft category.

*To be included in this domain:

- Names and contributions
- Personal details
- If there is any family member in the village
- legends/stories associated with them



Gulabo Sapera, Kalbelia (Dance), Kotda Village, Rajasthan

Prompts/ What all you can ask to get information for this domain?

- Are there any prominent artists (dancer, musician, painter, performer, master-craftsmen, etc.) in your village?
- Name and age of the artist/master-craftsmen?
- Type of art or crafts s/he practices?
- Contact details (phone number, address, email ID, any other contact details)
- Are there any legends/stories associated with them?



Documentation format

Name/Title	Name of the Artist
Description	<p>Details about that artist. Explanation may incorporate elements like: why they are famous, field and duration of their contribution, legends and stories associated with them, if they have any family members living in the village, their contact details (phone number, email ID, Address), age, gender, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives about that same cultural practice.• Record those multiple opinions and interpretations
Picture/s	<p>Photograph/s associated with that cultural practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant photographs• Picture should be clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and clicked with consent of the participants involved in that ritual/practice• You can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival pictures capturing that cultural practice. You can take a picture of that old photo/or get it scanned and upload
Video/s	<p>Video/s associated with that cultural practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can upload multiple relevant videos• Provide narrative (details about that person, interview with them or their family members) and in the video• Video should be in landscape format and clear (taken from a vantage point to get a clear holistic view) and shot with consent of the participants involved• You can ask the people you are interviewing (in the village) if they can share any old/archival videos associated with that person. You can take that video with their consent and upload.
Respondent/s details	<p>Speak to as many respondents as you can to be able to gather more information. People from different backgrounds/age/gender/social roles can have different perspectives. Take answers from multiple respondents and take their details as as required in the Application</p>

Sample

Name/Title	Teejan Bai
Field	Epic Narration/Storytelling
Description	<p>Teejan Bai (1956) was born in the remote village of Ganiyari in Chhatisgarh to the Pardhi tribe. She was trained in the art of Pandavani by her maternal grandfather. Her debut performance was at the neighbouring village of Chandrakhuri at the age of thirteen. She sang in the <i>Kapalik</i> style which was considered to be a male bastion. Her performance stood out as she performed standing up in her characteristic gravelly voice. Since her debut she has travelled widely and received many honours like the Padma Bhushan in 2003.</p>
Picture/s	
Video/s	➡
Phone No.	
Email ID	
Address	
Respondent/s details	Trilok Kumar, Male, 21, Social Worker



Photographs

Things to keep in mind when taking audio-video/photographic recordings:

- Take clear, good quality photos
- Do not be in the photograph yourself
- Selfies will not be accepted
- Do not take photographs from the internet
- Take photographs of the village too- not just of the things associated with the different domains. We want to get a sense of the whole village.
- Always ask for permission when taking photographs.

Interview and Documentation: Survey Ethics

- **Informed Consent:** You have to take permission from the respondents before you can start collecting information from them. Inform them of the reason for the project and how their details are going to be used.
- **Value Neutrality:** you must keep your own personal feelings, opinions, and beliefs aside and record your subjects' answers as objectively and unbiased as possible.
- **Confidentiality:** if a person requests their personal information to be kept confidential, i.e. not be recorded, you must oblige. For field research, anonymity can be maintained by using aliases (fake names) on the observation reports.
- **Respect the context you're in:** Use the words that the respondents use to describe themselves/their beliefs/village. Be sensitive to their customs and sensibilities.

Step-wise process of the Village Cultural Mapping- Survey:

- **The VLE** should familiarise himself/herself with some generic information about the culture of the village (at least district/region broadly) before going for data collection of the village/s that they are assigned to. This will give them some context to ask the questions with more clarity, an idea on what information to expect and get standardised-quality data.
- Create a list of people they can interview to collect quality information on the culture of that village. They can also ask the Sarpanch, teachers, village elders etc. among others who will be able to give them information on the subject.
 - If you cannot create a list, find one relevant person and ask them to put you in touch with others they think would be useful to your study
- Request the interviewees to bring archival material such as relevant photographs, books/texts about the village- anything that can add to our knowledge of the village.

Step-wise process of the Village Cultural Mapping- Survey:

- Once in the village, when the surveyor meets the Sarpanch/village representative/villagers he /she should clearly explain about National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)- Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar by Ministry of Culture, Government of India. This should ease the local/community participants to speak more about their village.
- In case of bad network and excessive information, note down the information in a notebook or audio record it in your mobile. You can fill all that information in a systematic manner in the mobile application later in the day.

Don'ts

- **Do not** provide **generic descriptions** like ‘all indian festivals’, ‘normal indian food’, ‘regular clothes’, ‘maharashtrian food’, etc.
- **Do not** take photos and videos from the **internet**.
- **Do not** focus only on documenting one/dominant community. Please **focus on minority cultures** as well.
- **Do not** pose with subjects in the photos . **Selfies** will **not** be accepted.
- **Do not** submit entries **without proper descriptions** or details of the cultural assets (based on the guidelines provided in this document)
- **Do not** be tempted to **improvise the data** or use your own interpretations. **Never** distort the facts.
- **Never** put **pressure** on the interviewees.
- **Do not offend** the culture, values and norms of the group under study.
- **Never** go unprepared and without prior understanding of local culture.
- **Never** cross the ethical boundaries to conduct the research.
- **Never** take photos and videos without consent of the participants involved in any ritual/custom/religious-social practice/performing their respective arts and crafts.

Do's

- **Prepare a day before the survey.** Familiarise yourself with the context and on information about the village/ region. A prior study and understanding of the group and the environment is vital for a good ethnographic study.
 - **Make a list** of interviewees (**priest, village elders, teachers, women, people from different communities and groups, etc.**) who you think would be able to provide you with comprehensive information.
 - **Make arrangements for the interviews**/group interactions a day before the survey. Think about what you are going to ask beforehand and get familiar with the questions.
- **Take a notebook and pen/pencil** with you as feeding in all the information directly on the mobile application while doing the survey can be difficult. You can also use a recorder/mobile recorder to take down all the information. You can put all the information in the mobile application after completing the survey.



Do's

- **Have an open mind**, free of any kinds of prejudice or biases.
- **Take clear pictures** of the subject/s for each entry in the Cultural Survey.
- **Put your respondents at ease** during an interview try to and choose a setting where your interviewee will feel safe and comfortable.
- **Be supportive** towards the views and opinions of the subjects.
- Always keep in mind to **respect the ethics and norms of the people** under the study.
- In case, you are unable to complete your assigned village survey/s in the amount of time allotted, just let your POC know so they know how to proceed further.



Thank you

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