

Heritage Information

Unique Id:

BGD-30.26.2023.00003

Section-1: Identification of the element

Heritage Location

Division

Dhaka

District

Dhaka

Upazila

Details Address

Geolocation(Latitude)

23.85403056

Geolocation(Longitude)

90.41549722

Community Category

Religious

Community

Hindu

Name of the Heritage, (as used by the community or group concerned)

Janmashtami Processional Rally

Short title of the Heritage, (preferably within 200 words)

A festive rally in the afternoon, on occasion of Janmashtami, is part of ICH Domain 3

Concerned Community(ies)/Group(s), (who recognize the element as part of their cultural heritage)

Physical location(s) of the element/how often it is practiced

Old town of Dhaka South, mainly Islampur area.

Short description of the Heritage, (preferably within 350 words)

Janmashtami is a public holiday in Bangladesh, where a procession is held in the capital city every year. Havans, kirtans and discussions are also organised on the occasion. Participants in the rally enact passages from Krishna Leela or Mahabharata using different props and costumes. Several youngsters dressed up resembling Krishna, called the eighth avatar of the ten incarnations of Vishnu, to participate in the procession. Every year, the procession starts the famous Dhakeshwari temple and traverses through the streets of Old Dhaka. We found in the history books, these rallies have been celebrated from the early 15th century.

☐ Domains of the Heritage (applicable fields)

- ☐ Oral Traditions and Expressions
- ☐ Performing Arts
- ☐ Social Customs and Traditions
- ☐ Knowledge and Practices related to Nature and Universe
- ☐ Traditional Craftsmanship
- ☐ Food

☐ Section-2: Characteristics of the element

☐ Practitioners(s)/performer(s) directly involved in the representation or practice of the Heritage (including roles, name, age, gender, social status, and/or professional category etc.)

Mainly Hindu communities of elite groups organize the event and other general dwellers from all ages participate.

☐ Other tradition bearers (individuals/groups and their roles))

On the occasion, colourful Janmashtami, marking the birthday of Lord Sri Krishna, a central figure of the Hinduism, processions displaying blissful events of the life of Krishna were brought out in the capital this afternoon. Other programmes of the day include puja, prayer and Gita Yogya, discussion, cultural function and distribution of 'prasad'. Therefore, tradition bearers associated with the Janmashtami festivities are from various disciplines.

☐ Language(s), register(s), speech level(s) involved

All proceeding and performances use Bangla. However, the incantations of Hindu worship use Sanskrit mantras.

☐ Associated tangible elements used (if any)

Masks, ornaments, musical instruments, costumes for performances are part and parcel of the Janmashtami Rally and festivities.

☐ How are women and people of other genders associated with this Heritage?

Actively participate, specially in some rituals for women.

☐ Division of labour during the practice of this Heritage

Each section of the community has its designated responsibility.

☐ Elements to which other customary practices or practices may be connected or accessed in any respect of the heritage (if any)

These festivities are open to all.

☐ Modes of transmission to others in the community

Traditionally practiced

☐ Organizations concerned (non-governmental organizations and others)

Dhakesswari Mandir authority.

☐ Section-3: State of the element (viability)

☐ Threats to the enactment

Busy Traffic, Religious Instability

☐ Enactment Threats Description

☐ Threats to the transmission (if any)

☐ Threat to associated tangible elements and resources (if any)

☐ Viability of associated intangible elements (if any)

☐ Have been taken any safeguarding measures to preserve this Heritage practices? (if any)

1. Make it open for all 2. Religious stability 3. Ensure security

☐ Section-4: Data gathering/documentation, Consent and preparation of inventory entries —

☐ Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

Information is accessible to all.

☐ Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any)

☐ Section-5: Resource Person —

☐ Data provider/Resource person (persons/groups, community representatives)

Documentor is from the same community.

☐ Date of data collection

26-05-2020

☐ Place(s) of data collection

☐ Section-6: Safeguarding techniques —

☐ Existing safeguarding techniques adopted by the community for the safeguarding of the Heritage

Build an awareness within the community about the uniqueness of this procession

☐ Suggestions for safeguarding of the Heritage from the community

Maintain social harmony

☐ Section-7: References to literature, discography, audiovisual materials or archives —

☐ References to/in literature

Muntassir Mamoon: Religious Festivals of Dhaka'400 Years of Capital Dhaka and Beyond' Volume II: Economy and Culture, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 2011

☐ Audiovisual materials or archives

☐ Discography or archives

James Taylor, 'A Sketch of the Topography and Statistics of Dacca', The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, March 2010 (1st Edition 1840)

□ Section-8: Modalities for updating the information contained in the inventory entry —

□ Data Compiler (persons/groups, including community representatives, who compiled the information)

Shajib Kumar Barman Email:

□ Date of Community Consent

26-05-2020

□ Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

□ Present Condition of Heritage

Becoming less

□ Brief description of Present condition of the Heritage, (if any)

□ Section-9: Community suggestions —

□ Brief description of suggestions for safeguarding of the element by community members/experts/holders, (if any)

Encourage the children to participate, wearing traditional costumes, learn to play instruments

□ Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any).

□ Section-10: Upload Document —

Heritage Images

