Heritage Information

Unique Id:

BGD-50.70.2023.00094

Section-1: Identification of the element
Heritage Location Division
Rajshahi
[] District
Ch. Nawabganj
[] Upazila
Chapainawabganj Sadar
[] Details Address
Geolocation(Latitude)
24
Geolocation(Longitude)
88
□ Community Category
Artists
[] Community
Rural
□ Name of the Heritage, (as used by the community or group concerned)
Gombhira
☐ Short title of the Heritage, (preferably within 200 words)
Gambhira is a local folk song and performance of Rajshahi region
[] Concerned Community(ies)/Group(s), (who recognize the element as part of their cultural heritage)
People of Chapainawabganj
☐ Physical location(s) of the element/how often it is practiced
Gombhira performances are centred around Chapai Nawabganj District in Bangladesh. The tradition is also popular in the nearby districts of Rajshahi and Naogaon.
Short description of the Heritage, (preferably within 350 words)
ambhira Gan a type of folk song popular in the northwestern region of Bangladesh. Gambhira songs are assumed to have originated from the worship of the god shiva, who is also known as 'Gambhir'. In ancient times, gambhira used to be celebrated as puja (worship) only. In the medieval period, most Hindu communities celebrated the puja of dharma thakur (a popular god of the Hindus) on the last three days of the Bengali year; this came to be known as the gajan of

Shiva later on. In the past Shiva was imagined to be present at the performance. Gambhira Gan Initially, gambhira was

of two kinds: the primary gambhira and the narrative gambhira. The primary gambhira would address gods and goddesses and describe human joys and sorrows, and, sometimes, important events of the year. In the narrative gambhira, every character would represent a social problem. Gambhira songs originated among the Hindu community of Maldah in west bengal. After the creation of Pakistan, Chapai Nawabganj in rajshahi became the main centre of gambhira songs, which underwent major changes in theme and mode of presentation. Muslims became the custodians of this song and made it an integral part of their social life and their culture. Apart from Rajshahi, gambhira songs are also popular inNawabganj and Naogaon. At present the main characters of a gambhira are a maternal grandfather and his grandson. The performance is structured as a dialogue, interspersed with songs. Both prose and verse are used for the dialogue. The gambhira reflects contemporary social problems through witty dialogue, songs, dances and jokes. Both the actors wear lubgi. The grey-bearded grandfather wears a mathal (straw hat) on his head and holds a stick in his hand. The grandson wears a torn jersey and has a gamchha (local checked towel) tied round his waist. In the past gambhira songs were sung in the measures of ektal, trital, dadra, khemta, kaharba etc. Today the tunes are influenced by songs from popular Bangla and Hindi movies. Kutubul Alam, Rakibuddin, Biren Ghosh and Mahbubul Alam of Nawabganj have made the gambhira song popular in Bangladesh by introducing new subjects and characters and interesting and' witty dialogue. Domains of the Heritage (applicable fields) Oral Traditions and Expressions Performing Arts □ Social Customs and Traditions Moviedge 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.) Babganj Qutubul Alam, Rakibuddin, Biren Ghosh, Mahbubul Alam etc. are prominent artists of Gambhira songs. [] Other tradition bearers (individuals/groups and their roles)) People of the Chapainawabganj Language(s), register(s), speech level(s) involved Local language of Chapainawabganj Associated tangible elements used (if any) Make up such as Nana's beard is ripe on his face, he has a head, he wears a lungi; stick in hand And the grandson's clothes are torn Genji, waist towel etc. How are women and people of other genders associated with this Heritage? Women and other people are the viewers of the performance Division of labour during the practice of this Heritage Only male play the characters of the performance Elements to which other customary practices or practices may be connected or accessed in any respect of the heritage (if any) Gambhira Utsav has become popular around Shiva Puja. One of Shiva's names is 'Gambhir', hence Shiva's festival is Gambhira festival and Shiva's bandana song is Gambhira song. Modes of transmission to others in the community Community transmission

Organizations concerned (non-governmental organizations and others)

Comm	unity arrangement
] Secti	on-3: State of the element (viability) —
[] Threa	ats to the enactment
Yes	
🛮 Enact	ment Threats Description
No lav	vs and policies
[] Threa	ats to the transmission (if any)
No	
[] Threa	at to associated tangible elements and resources (if any)
N/A	
🛮 Viabil	ity of associated intangible elements (if any)
Differe	ent kinds of music of hindi songs are used in the Gambhira Gan
] Have	been taken any safeguarding measures to preserve this Heritage practices? (if any)
None	
	ictions on use of collected data, (if any)
N/A	
] Secti	on-5: Resource Person
🛮 Data	provider/Resource person (persons/groups, community representatives)
N/A	
🛮 Date	of data collection
20-04	2024
🛮 Place	(s) of data collection
Chapa	inawabganj
Sect	on-6: Safeguarding techniques
□ Existi	ng safeguarding techniques adopted by the community for the safeguarding of the Heritage
They	occasionally arrange the Gambhira gan
[] Sugg	estions for safeguarding of the Heritage from the community
Gamb	hira gan should be organized frequently and other hind music should not be incorporated into the Gambhira

performances	
] Section-7: References to literature, discography, audiovisual materials or archives	
□ References to/in literature	
http://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Gambhira_Gan	
Audiovisual materials or archives	
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XAbODBjHwE&pp=ygUNZ2FtYmhpcmEgZ2Fhbg%3D%3D	
Discography or archives	
N/A	
Section-8: Modalities for updating the information contained in the inventory entry	
Data Compiler (persons/groups, including community representatives, who compiled the information)	
Anonymous	
Date of Community Consent	
20-04-2022	
Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying	
Yes	
Present Condition of Heritage	
Still maintaining	
Brief description of Present condition of the Heritage, (if any)	
Once upon a time Gambhira songs were sung in tunes like Ektal, Trital, Dadra, Khemta, Kaharba etc. Nowadays the has been a change in tone and Hindi and Bengali film songs are dominating. Apart from this, many themes, characteristic and dialogues of folk dramas have also been incorporated into Gambhira songs.	
Section-9: Community suggestions	
Brief description of suggestions for safeguarding of the element by community members/experts/hold (if any)	ers,
Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any).	
Section-10: Upload Document	
Heritage Details Document	

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