

# National ICH INVENTORY.



Name of the Element:

**NII\_006\_Beillar Nachari/Lachari (Behular Nachari)**

**Name of Inventory: National ICH Inventory (NII), 2022 - 2023**

**Serial No: NII-0006-15MAR23**

### **Brief Description**

Although *Beillar Nachari* is basically a dance performed on a song, it is part of a folk theatrical performance presented in a dialogic manner. In the case of dialogue projection, it follows the genre of 'Jatra' with its own characteristic variations. *Beillar Nachari* is performed in almost all upazilas of Kalihati, Ghatail, Sakhipur, TangailSadar, Bhuapur, Mirzapur, Gopalpur, Madhupur, Delduar, Nagarpur in Tangail district of Bangladesh. Artists perform regularly seven-eight times a year. There are more or less 13 different teams in Kushtia district which practice this form of dance.

These performances are in fact **efficacious, performative rituals executed against a *manot* or pledge, by a householder to appease *Manasa* in the hope of getting a boon from her, in the form of 'good health' for the household, or to overcome other such minor household woes and obstacles.** Importantly, the ritual is participated by both Hindus and Muslims from marginalized communities. In *Beillar Nachari*, men dress up as women and participate in the performance. In many cases, hijras take part in female roles. One important character and one minor character can play multiple roles. The actors memorize the dialogues and are dependent on a literate 'prompter'. However, most of the other artists are non-literate. Behula, Lakkhindar and Padmadevi are the three most important characters in *Beillar Nachari*. Handsome teenagers between fifteen and twenty years of age are selected for these roles. They excel in dance, song and dialogue. The head of the musical chorus is known as 'Ostad', 'Ojha', 'Bayati' etc. Fifteen to twenty-five artists are required to form a troupe of *Beillar Nachari*. Two character artists stand at the four corners of the stage ar, and perform *bandanas* or songs. Many times during the performance of *bandana*, the main singer, or *gayen*, takes a position within the group of dohar (chorus) musicians. After the performance of the *bandana* song, the master comes on the stage and starts narrating the story. The narrative begins with the story of the birth of Goddess Padma. This song is performed till midnight.

**Region:**

**Tangail District, Dhaka Division**

Photographs: Video: Consent: Submitted

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