



**Department of English**  
(South Campus)  
**University of Kashmir**



TWO-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

**“INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (ICH) OF KASHMIR:  
PRESERVATION, HEALING AND RECONCILIATION”**

December 11-12, 2024

*in collaboration with*

**Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi**



## CONCEPT NOTE

The intangible cultural heritage (ICH), unlike the tangible heritage, of Kashmir is a rich tapestry of traditions, practices, and expressions that have evolved over centuries amidst the region's diverse ethnic, linguistic, and religious communities. This conference in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), shall present a comprehensive exploration of Kashmir's intangible cultural heritage, aiming to uncover its significance, resilience, and contributions to the broader cultural landscape.

Kashmir has a very rich heritage, that is pleading for attention and preservation. The conference aims to rekindle interest in the ICH as a site for forging a sense of commonness amid difference, a sense of collaboration in the making of ICH amid a feeling of estrangement. The conference, while being an endeavour to shed light on the eclectic origin of ICH and seeking to heritagise the latter for posterity, will argue for its potential use in healing and reconciliation among different communities. The natural, tangible and intangible heritages are all under threat in the midst of violence and conflict, with the latter being most at risk as it is the most neglected (with hardly any organized printed material available) making this conference even more relevant.

The ICH of Kashmir has been instrumental in uniting the different communities. Because in the making of ICH, there is not the role of just one community, but it is the product of the combined endeavour of different religious traditions. The point made by Claude Levi Strauss in his 1952 UNESCO lecture *Race et histoire* that “all cultures are the result of a mishmash, borrowings, mixtures” fits in well with the ICH in Kashmir. Sometimes that harmonious cohabitation of diverse religious traditions is locally known as *Kashmiriyat*; A way of life which is intertwined with these “immaterial” sites and the associated rituals and social practices of ICH. Therefore, a renewed effort at



creating awareness about the eclectic ICH can boost the scope and desire for a peaceful coexistence. It can also highlight the stake different and contesting communities have in the sustenance of ICH. These ICH elements are like the multi-helical strands of the DNA of Kashmir.

Kashmir already has an attraction for tourists due to its topography, and the ICH will only add to that appeal, and generate sources of income for the economically deprived. Traditionally, the focus of heritage study and practice in Kashmir (globally too) was predominantly on the tangible cultural heritage, however, there has occurred a marked shift towards ICH, as an acknowledgment of the fact that ICH, broadly speaking, is actually a system of interactions of which tangible heritage is only a concrete manifestation. What makes ICH special, and a vital tool for employment in healing and reconciliation, is the presence of source communities and professional group of practitioners as both subjects as well as objects of heritage practice. The source communities are not mere transmitters or bearers of a cultural practice but vital agents of ICH. The ICH is not merely a product but a process, a living process with centrality accorded to the human component, the people who breathe it in and out, transferring knowledge, skill and experiences from one generation to the next unlike the tangible cultural heritage constituted by material sites. The source community and the professional group of practitioners for ICH in Kashmir are plural, creating thus the potential for dialogue and inter-denominational exchange. Even the UNESCO World Report; Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue (2009) acknowledges the role of heritage and affirms that both tangible and intangible heritages “are the cornerstone in the construction of a more harmonious, polyphonic and pluralistic world.” Different religious traditions have irrigated the veins and arteries of ICH and keeping it alive is critical for a prosperous future.



## Sub-Themes of the Conference

1. ICH in Kashmir: Past, Present and Future.
2. Bhand Pather (Folk theatre of Kashmir): Types, Characters, Significance.
3. Dhammael (A ritualistic performance art). Origin, Evolution and Contemporary Dynamics.
4. Phryaov (Traditional festival of lights for local saints)
5. Arts, Crafts and Cuisine.
6. Traditional Medicinal Practices.
7. Sufiana Kalaam (Sufi/mystical Music): Types, Practitioners, Instruments.
8. Traditional rites, rituals and festivals of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians of Kashmir.
9. Folk songs/stories. Their Characters, Structure and Content.
10. Sufism: Local (Kashmiri) Expression, Orders, Practice.
11. Shaivism: Tenets, Exponents, Practitioners and Impact.
12. ICH and the Methods of Preservation.
13. ICH and the Use in Healing and Reconciliation.
14. ICH, Economic Empowerment and Tourism



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**Chief Patron**

**Prof. Nilofer Khan**

Vice-Chancellor  
University of Kashmir

**Patron**

**Dr. Naseer Iqbal**

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University of Kashmir

**Co-Patron**

**Prof. Raies A Qadri**

Director, South Campus

**Convener & Organizing Secretary**

Dr. Javaid Iqbal Bhat  
Department of English

**Organizing Committee**

1. Dr. Shabir Hussain (Shabir Magami)
2. Dr. Muzaffar Karim
3. Dr. Firdous Ahmad Mir
4. Mr. Irfan Mohammad Malik
5. Dr. Peer Mohd Ashraf
6. Dr. Shafaq Muzaffar
7. Dr. Showkat Hussain Dar



**Abstract Submission Guidelines:** Abstracts of 250-300 words (including references) in PDF and word formats, along with a brief bio note, are to be sent to the email id: [conferenceenguk.sc@gmail.com](mailto:conferenceenguk.sc@gmail.com) and register at: <https://tinyurl.com/2rx4jc25>

### Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline:

- 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

Notification of acceptance:

- 22<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

Submission of Full working Papers

- 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

- The full paper should be a minimum of 3,500 words, including references, formatted according to the latest MLA guidelines.
- All accepted/shortlisted papers after editorial revision will be published in a book with an ISBN number.

### Registration:

Registration fee includes conference kit, lunch, tea and e-certificate.

Conference registration fee for participation cum paper presentation should be sent in advance with a receipt of payment shared with the convener of the conference. This is obligatory for all the participants.

### Fee Details:

S. No	Category	Registration Fee
1	Faculty Members	Rs. 2000
2	Research Scholars	Rs. 1000
3	P.G Students	Rs. 800
4	Foreign Delegates	\$ 100

### PAYMENT DETAILS

Account No.	0472040500000024
IFSC Code:	JAKA0SAADIQ (The 5 <sup>th</sup> character is ZERO)
SWIFT Code:	JAKAINBB
MICR Code:	192051005
Name of the Account:	DIRECTOR SOUTH CAMPUS WELFARE FUND
Bank Name and Address:	The Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Saadiqabad, Near G. P. O Saadiqabad, K. P. Road, Anantnag, J&K, 192101

**Venue:** South Campus, Anantnag is about 80 Kms away from the Srinagar airport. Organising Committee of the conference is not responsible for providing accommodation to the participants.

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Venue/Location

