



DEEPAVALI ADDED TO UNESCO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE LIST

CONTEXT:

- Deepavali has been inscribed on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 20th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee, held in New Delhi.
- India is hosting the 20th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2025 in Red Fort complex, New Delhi.

About Intangible Cultural Heritage

UNESCO defines “intangible” as “expressions that have:

1. Passed from one generation to another.
2. Evolved in response to their environments.
3. Contributed to giving us a sense of identity and continuity.

Deepavali



Deepavali, also known as Diwali, celebrated on Kartik Amaavasya, which typically falls in **October or November**.



It is followed by **Naraka Chaturdashi**.



The **third day** is the highlight of Deepavali- **the sacred Lakshmi- Ganesha Puja**.

According to an official document by UNESCO, ‘intangible cultural heritage’ includes “**oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices** concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.”

To date, 16 Indian elements have been inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List (including Deepavali)

S. No.	ICH Heritage	Year of Inscription
1	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre	2008
2	Tradition of Vedic chanting	2008
3	Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana	2008
4	Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India	2009
5	Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala	2010
6	Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan	2010
7	Chhau dance	2010
8	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh	2012
9	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur	2013
10	Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India	2014
11	Yoga	2016
12	Nawrouz, Novruz, Nowrouz, Nowrouz, Nawrouz, Nauryz, Nooruz,	2016
13	Kumbh Mela	2017
14	Durga Puja in Kolkata	2021
15	Garba of Gujarat	2023
16	Deepavali	2025