

Call for Nominations for UNESCO Memory of World (MoW) International Register for Cycle 2022-23

I am pleased to share with you that the Nominations for UNESCO Memory of World (MoW) International Register for Cycle 2022-23 is now open.

<https://en.unesco.org/news/call-nominations-unesco-memory-world-international-register-2022-2023-nomination-cycle>

Introduction to UNESCO Memory of World (MoW) Programme :

The UNESCO Memory of World (MoW) Programme was established in the year 1992. The vision of the Memory of the World Programme is that the world's documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all and, with due recognition of cultural mores and practicalities, should be permanently accessible to all without hindrance. It has three Registers, namely, International Register, Regional Register and National Register. Further, every country can nominate only two Submissions, each in International Register and Regional Register. However, there is no restriction on joint nomination on shared heritage with other countries. There is also no restriction on number of Submission to National Register. Since the launch of UNESCO MoW Programme, India has 9 Submissions to the International Register. There is so far no submission from India to Regional Register and National Register is yet to be created.

Now UNESCO is inviting new nominations for its Memory of the World International Register for Cycle 2022-23, which lists documentary heritage items of world and historical significance. Any person or organization, with the prior written consent of the owners or custodians, may submit nominations through Nodal Agency i.e., Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). As each country can submit only two nominations to International Register, hence all the received nominations will be scrutinized and evaluated through a set process before forwarding it through the Ministry of Culture and the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO.

What to nominate?

The International Register is composed of documentary heritage that meets the criteria set out in the General Guidelines, among which world significance is the primary criterion. Documentary heritage can include materials from a variety of fields and forms, including visual, audio, paper and digital, among others.

The nominated items of documentary heritage must also be finite and precisely defined; broad, general or open-ended nominations will not be accepted. The Register does not include all the records in public and private archives, no matter how important those bodies or individuals may be. Repositories should nominate for inclusion on the

Register only those documents that fulfil the defined criteria, including that of world significance. Once added to the Memory of the World Register, the document group cannot be changed or redefined over time.

In the case of documentary heritage which exists in several locations, or several owners or custodians, full details of each component, owner or custodian are to be provided.

Why nominate an item or collection for the Memory of the World International Register?

- Strategic opportunities arising from the right to use the UNESCO Memory of the World logo.
- Prestige conferred on organizations and collections as a result of UNESCO's recognition.
- Opportunities for increased public awareness.
- Strengthening arguments for sponsorship, grants, and funding for preservation.
- Being part of the global effort to enhance awareness and support for the preservation of documentary heritage.

How to nominate

The guidelines as to how to submit the nominations are available on the Link https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/mow_general_guidelines_en.pdf

Link for Nomination Form:

https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/mow_register_nomination_form_en.pdf

The International organizations meeting the criteria set out in the General Guidelines of the Memory of the World Programme may also submit joint nominations.

As you might be aware, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), an autonomous Trust under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is a premier Research Institute of the country, promoting Indian art and culture through Research Projects, and also through various academic programmes, such as seminars, workshops, exhibitions, etc., in all parts of the country.

The IGNCA has also, in collaboration with the UNESCO, undertaken many initiatives in the field of art and culture. In recognition of its contribution, the IGNCA was designated by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India as the Nodal Centre for implementation of UNESCO Memory of World (MoW) Programme in India, sometime in August, 2014.

I am sure your Library/Archives/Museum/Repository must be having collection/material of historical significance that can be nominated for the MoW International Register.

You may kindly note that every individual or organization must send their Nominations ONLY THROUGH NODAL AGENCY, i.e., IGNCA.

I shall therefore be grateful if you could kindly share the material for nomination with the undersigned through EMAIL and also in hard copy at the below-mentioned address for the purpose, by **30th September, 2021** so that the same could be compiled, scrutinized and evaluated along with the material/collections from other departments well before the deadline given by the UNESCO MoW Programme, i.e., November 21, 2021.

Contact details for sending Nominations:

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