

MAATI KATHA



MAATI Convention 2025

HERITAGE UNDISCOVERED DEBATING THE UNRECOGNISED

The MAATI Convention 2025 revolves around a central question: What should be considered heritage, and why? While many sites and traditions enjoy formal recognition, countless others remain in the shadows, lacking acknowledgment despite their cultural, historical, and social significance.

This convention aims to foster a robust dialogue on the criteria and significance of heritage, bringing to light lesser-known examples that hold immense potential but remain formally unrecognised. The conference will delve into the complexities of identifying, documenting, and conserving these treasures through paper presentations, debates, and collaborative discussions.

By addressing both recognised and unrecognised tangible and intangible heritage, the convention will emphasise developing inclusive frameworks, policies, and practices to ensure their preservation. It seeks to create a platform where scholars, practitioners, and policymakers can share insights, propose methodologies, and highlight success stories that bridge the gaps in heritage recognition and conservation.

SUB-THEMES

Recognised vs. Unrecognised Heritage: The Need for Inclusive Conservation

Why are some cultural assets celebrated while others remain overlooked, and how can we redefine heritage to foster inclusivity?

- Examining the gaps in recognition and the biases in current heritage selection processes.
- Frameworks for integrating unrecognized heritage into national and global listings.
- Rethinking heritage criteria to embrace diverse cultural, social, and historical contexts.
- Strategies for creating a more inclusive approach to heritage conservation practices.
- Strategies for safeguarding measures for undocumented ICH practices.
- Inclusive and equitable approach to preserving and promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage

Reviving the Neglected: Forgotten Histories and Abandoned Heritage

How do forgotten histories reshape our understanding of the past, and what methodologies can effectively preserve and revitalize abandoned heritage?

- Exploring the cultural, historical, and social importance of forgotten histories and abandoned heritage sites.
- Investigating the impacts of neglect on cultural identity and collective memory.
- Documenting and rediscovering neglected heritage, with case studies and success stories.
- Proposals for frameworks and methodologies to conserve and adaptively reuse abandoned heritage.
- Frameworks to incorporate aspects of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) when exploring forgotten histories and abandoned heritage, especially in terms of oral histories, rituals and ceremonies, traditional craftsmanship etc.

Heritage Conservation: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century and Beyond

How do globalisation, urbanisation, and climate change impact heritage conservation, and what opportunities exist to address these challenges?

- Addressing modern threats to heritage, such as urban expansion, environmental degradation, and cultural homogenisation.
- Innovations in tools, technologies, and methodologies for sustainable preservation.
- Collaborative approaches involving communities, governments, and private stakeholders.
- Leveraging opportunities for heritage development while ensuring its long-term sustainability.

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Heritage and Disasters: Initiatives Preparing for Resilience

What are the key threats to heritage from natural disasters, climate change, and human activities, and how can we build resilience into conservation efforts?

- Understanding the vulnerabilities of heritage sites to disasters.
- Disaster risk management strategies, including prevention, preparedness, and response measures.
- Case studies of recovery efforts and rebuilding after disasters.
- Developing resilience planning and integrating it into conservation policies and charters.
- Proposals for safeguarding heritage sites against future risks through innovative management plans.
- How can ICH frameworks such as traditional knowledge and practices, can enhance community resilience and capacity to cope with disasters?

Balancing Historic Identity with Contemporary Needs

Should heritage sites prioritise preserving their historic identity or adapt to contemporary aesthetics to remain relevant in the modern era?

- Examining the tension between preserving historic integrity and embracing modern functionality.
- Ethical considerations in adaptive reuse and redevelopment of heritage sites.
- Case studies of projects that successfully balance preservation with contemporary needs.
- Proposals for redefining relevance in heritage conservation without compromising authenticity.

Intangible Cultural Heritage: From Documentation to Revival

How can we identify, document, and safeguard intangible cultural heritage in the face of globalisation and modernisation?

- Strategies for preserving oral traditions, rituals, performing arts, crafts, and festivals.
- Challenges in sustaining intangible heritage amid changing societal and economic conditions.
- Policies and community-driven initiatives to revive and promote intangible cultural practices.
- Examples of successful documentation and revival of intangible heritage across regions.

Policies and Frameworks for Heritage Preservation

How can existing policies and frameworks evolve to address the needs of both recognised and unrecognised heritage?

- Analysing the relevance and limitations of current charters, conventions, and guidelines.
- Developing inclusive and context-specific policies to integrate unrecognised heritage into conservation agendas.
- Proposals for sustainable governance models involving local and global stakeholders.
- Strategies for aligning heritage preservation with broader development goals.

Education and Advocacy for Heritage Conservation

How can education and advocacy efforts empower communities and stakeholders to take ownership of heritage conservation?

- Importance of awareness campaigns and educational programs in fostering heritage stewardship.
- Engaging communities, educators, and cultural institutions in heritage preservation initiatives.
- Capacity building for local stakeholders through training and skill development.
- Case studies of successful advocacy campaigns that resulted in effective conservation outcomes for tangible and intangible heritage.

PRESENTATIONS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

For the panel discussion, participants will be required to present their work using PowerPoint presentations, highlighting their research about their respective topics.