



**Embassy of India
Bahrain**

PRESS RELEASE

Indian Community in Bahrain celebrate the declaration of Garba of Gujarat as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO

A group of dancers from the vibrant Indian community showcased Garba dance form at the iconic 200 years old Shrinathji temple in Manama to celebrate the declaration of Garba of Gujarat as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. The event was organized by Thattai Hindu community in association with the Embassy of India and was attended by the members of the Indian community including the Gujarati community and also Bahraini friends of India. Garba dance is performed traditionally every year at the Shrinathji temple during nine days of Navratri festival.

2. 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO, under the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage during the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 5th -9th December, 2023 in Kasane, Botswana.

3. Garba of Gujarat is the 15th ICH element from India to join this list. This inscription underscores Garba's pivotal role as a unifying force that fosters social and gender inclusivity. As a dance form, Garba of Gujarat is entrenched deeply in ritualistic and devotional roots, involving people from all walks of life and it continues to thrive as a vibrant living tradition bringing communities together. The inscription further highlights the commitment and efforts of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India towards the safeguarding, promotion and preservation of our intangible cultural heritage.

4. Ambassador of India H.E. Shri Vinod K. Jacob, who joined the celebration, congratulated the Indian community and said that it is a matter of pride and honour for India. Garba dance form strengthens the community bonds and the celebration at the historical Shrinathji temple stands as a testimony to the deep-rooted traditions between India and Kingdom of Bahrain. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi during his state visit to Bahrain in 2019 also visited the Shrinathji temple. Mr. Yousuf Lori, Director of Information & Follow up, Capital Governorate and Mr. Nabeej Ajoor, Director of M/s. A.R. & E.M. Ajoor & Co. also attended the event.

5. In India, the Government of Gujarat is organizing several curated 'Garba' events across districts in Gujarat to celebrate this milestone.

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