

FIRST REPORT

For "Hafiza Dance" under the Scheme Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India, sanctioned under Sanction Letter No: Reference No: 28-6/ICH-Scheme/33/2014-15/11404, Dated: 30-1-2015 in favour of Khursheed Ahmad Mir R/o 43/1, Mir Mohalla, Patti Brein, Nishat, Srinagar Kashmir 191121.

Hafiza Dance is such a form of dance that is prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir and mostly performed during social practices, rituals, festive events and marriage ceremonies. Hafiza Dance form is performed by the ladies called Hafizaas, who are specially trained for it. It might appear to be a simple dance but it is not that easy to perform.

Like many other forms of Kashmiri dance, Hafiza Dance is performed along with Sufiana Kalaam from music. This is a kind of music that relates to the Sufie's and hence, its lyric have got the Persian literary touch. The songs are soothing and engage a person into deep thinking.

Hafiz Nagma is usually a lyrical, expressing love for the Divine. Hafiz Nagma was introduced during Mughal era in Kashmir.

The dance based on the sofiyana kalam is a part of the classical Sufiana Music, Hafiz Nagma makes use of Santoor-a hundred stringed instruments played with sticks. In Hafiz Nagma, there is a female dancer, accompanied by a number of males with instruments. The dancer, known as Hafiza, moves her feet to the musical notes. It is a folk version dance meant for the sophisticated and initiated audience.

Many of these dancers stayed and worked in Shalimar garden at Srinagar Kashmir. The bungalow, lit by candles and lanterns, was used for performance and entertaining visitors. Who are the bearers and practitioners of the element/Cultural Traditions? Are there any specific roles or categories of persons with special responsibilities for the practice and transmission of it? If yes, who are they and what are their responsibilities?

The people ought to be made aware about the social and cultural importance of this dance form so that the people will once again generate interest in it. It will be beneficial for the people in getting self liberation as well as for the Hafiza dancers so that they can earn something.

There is also a need to train new generation in this skill through workshops, Seminars, Training Courses and Festivals.

The knowledge and skill related to Hafiza Dance was traditionally transmitted by dancers to their generations but it was banned in 1948 and same dance called "Bacha Nagma" was introduced and in this form boys were dancing instead of girls.

In current scenario the Hafiza dancers are not in a large number in our valley and instead of this form Bacha Nagma dancers are available but they are not able to earn their livelihood through this profession because people are very less interested in their performance.

The authorities as such are not taking any direct measures to safeguard this dance form. Though there are a few numbers of schemes for safeguarding cultural art forms in general but at practical level they are rarely implemented and have not touched plinth of Hafiza Dance yet.

My project is aimed to preserve and revive this rare form of dance form so that the younger generation will join again this dance form of the valley of Kashmir. The Masters of the Hafiza Dancers will be involved to sensitise people in getting awareness and also training the younger generation in workshops, Seminars and Training Courses and for this purpose I searched a person aged 95 namely Ghulam Rasool BBhagat, who was in this art in his youth and he helped me to train two young females to get involved in this art.

Progress: The project titled "Hafiza Dance" which was approved under the Scheme Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India under Approval No: Reference No: 28-6/ICH-Scheme/33/2014-15/11404, Dated: 30-01-2015, in which a two females were mobilized and given basic training.

Signature: 

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KHURSHEED AHMAD MIR

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Cell No: 9796280904

Ref. No: _____

Dated: 11/5/15



Appraisal for Proposal "Hafiza Nagma" approved under Scheme, "Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India".
Reference No: 28-6/ICH-Scheme/33/2014-15/11404, Dated: 30-01-2015.

D.S. (Dy. Secy)
15/5/15
[Signature]

1. The Project

HAFIZA DANCE

Jammu & Kashmir is Home to some of the most enthralling forms of folk arts in India which has attracted to the attention of all. The forms of dance, music and all other arts that are traditional to Kashmir are performed during different festivals of the Valley. The people of Kashmir indulge themselves in performing various dance forms during different festivals and ceremonies such as birth, marriage, sacred thread, harvest etc. Hafiza Dance is such a form of dance that is prevalent in Kashmir and mostly performed during marriage ceremonies.

The Hafiza Dance form is performed by the ladies, who are specially trained for it. It might appear to be a simple dance but it is not that easy to perform.

Like many other forms of Kashmiri dance, Hafiza Dance is performed along with Sufiana Kalaam from music. This is a kind of music that relates to the Sufie's and hence, its lyric have got the Persian literary touch. The songs are soothing and engage a person into deep thinking.

Hafiz Nagma is usually a lyrical, expressing love for the Divine. Hafiz Nagma was introduced during Mughal era in Kashmir.

The dance based on the sufiana kalam is a part of the classical Sufiana Music, Hafiz Nagma makes use of Santoor-a hundred stringed instrument played with sticks. In Hafiz Nagma, there is a female dancer, accompanied by a number of males with instruments. The dancer, known as Hafiza, moves her feet to the musical notes. It is a folk version dance meant for the sophisticated and initiated audience.

Many of these dancers stayed and worked in Shalimar garden. The bungalow, lit by candles and lanterns, was used for performance and entertaining visitors.

2. OBJECTIVE

To revive and preserve this form of ritual dance so that the younger generation will join again.

3. IMPLIMENTATION

Motivate youths to come forward to revive this dying art of Valley of Kashmir and to bring it's lost past glory and patronage. I want to prove it that Hafiza Dance is not an ancient art of antiquarian interest, but a living history which keeps on adapting itself with the modern times. After briefing the complete details and importance about this rich art form a group of 2-4 girls will be motivated and shall be given a proper training to perform.

1. LOCALE

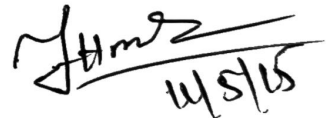
Srinagar Jammu & Kashmir

2. DATES

The workshop will be commenced from 1st June to 31st August 2015.

3. CONCLUSION

A presentation will be presented before general public immediate after the complexion of training programme.



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The Project

HAFIZA NAGMA

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The dance based on the sofiyiana kalam is a part of the classical Sufiana Music, Hafiz Nagma makes use of Santoor- a hundred stringed instrument played with sticks. In Hafiz Nagma, there is a female dancer, accompanied by a number of males with instruments. The dancer, known as Hafiza, moves her feet to the musical notes. It is a folk version dance meant for the sophisticated and initiated audience.

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I being a practising theatre artist and director, have an experience of over 20 years in reviving the rich legacy of Kashmiri people. I have confidence that sincerity of purpose and perseverance can save this imperilled folk art from the onslaught of western media and it can entertain and enlighten people even in the 21st century.

It shall be my endeavour to show that Hafiza Nagma is not an ancient art of antiquarian interest, but a living history which keeps on adapting itself with the modern times. The proposed project shall be an interface between modernity and antiquity so that the endangered art form has sufficient strength to abide side by side with modern media

like television and films.

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