

VIII. Living Human Treasures System

Culture refers to both tangible and intangible aspects of life. UNESCO recognises this situation as well. It has also recognized the establishment of a "Living Human Treasure System" with a view to preserve the skills and techniques necessary for the creation of the cultural manifestations that a country may consider to have a high historical or artistic value. In this system, a 'Living Human Treasure' is considered to be a person who embodies in the very highest degree, the skills and techniques necessary for the production of selected aspects of the cultural life of a people and the continued existence of their material cultural heritage. India's Padma Awards seek to achieve a similar purpose.

It is awarded to citizens of India to recognize their distinguished contribution in various spheres of activity including the Arts, Education, Industry, Literature, Science, Sports, Medicine, Social Service and Public Affairs. However, it has also been awarded to some distinguished individuals who were not citizens of India and who did contribute in various ways to India.

Besides that IGNCIA under its project cultural mapping of Himachal Pradesh has planned to document the Living Human Treasure. This is a first kind of endeavour to preserve and promote the skill and further transmission to the next generation.