



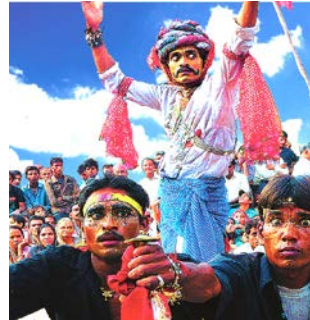
## 3-year Progress report on the Mewar Gavari Project

– A five-year comprehensive effort to publicize, protect & revitalize one of the world’s most exciting & endangered sacred folk theatre traditions.

*Presented for TAD/TRI review and reference by team leaders Harish Agneya, Tuneer Films, Lokesh Paliwal, Merijanmbhumi.com and W. David Kubiak, Big Medicine Charitable Trust*



*Gavari troupe on daily inter-village pilgrimage*



*Banjara anti-hero from popular episode*



*Typical village gathering of participants*

**The Gavari Project** is a 5-year multifaceted effort we began in 2014 to introduce Gavari’s profound messages & artistry to India and the world to safeguard their survival and renew their vitality.

### SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Publicize the Bhils’ ecstatic Gavari folk opera to draw life-giving global attention to their inspired theatrics, ecological wisdom, and women-revering culture.
- Demonstrate Gavari’s unique & timely relevance for performance arts, religious studies, folk art history, environmental activism, women’s empowerment, grassroots democracy and human rights.
- Generate more local understanding and appreciation for the tradition in schools and urban societies that now dismiss or deride it so Bhil children can again learn and practice it proudly.
- Kickstart a smart new genre of rural tourism that is knowledge-rich, reverential, & emotionally exciting and equally rewarding for visitors and their village hosts.
- Introduce protective guide & tourism codes that respect the spiritual nature of Gavari ceremonies.
- Involve local artisans in the creation of Gavari crafts & memorabilia to sustain their lives & traditions.
- Create an online multilingual portal for Gavari lore, photo sharing & bridge-building to other spiritual arts
- Promote “Gavari monsoon tourism” to publicize the eco-cultural splendour of this neglected season.

### OVERALL PROJECT STRATEGY

**Strategy:** *Publicize* Gavari’s virtues with new media materials, documentation & awareness raising projects; *protect* its integrity with new guide & tourism protocols in collaboration with affected communities; and *renew* its vitality with supportive skill sharing workshops, collateral craft revival, & educational policies.

### PROJECT PROGRESS TO DATE

#### Phase I: 2014-2015

#### Ψ Creating initial reference materials & raising local public awareness

- **Creation/publication of “Gavari – Mewar’s electrifying tribal dance drama”**, the first foreign language introduction to the tradition ever published – in collaboration with Tuneer Films & facilitated by Udaipur Collocorate
- **Introducing new Collector to Gavari** and prompting him to feature dramatic Gavari figures & themes at Udaipur’s 2014 CM-conducted Independence Day ceremonies;



## Gavari-intensive Independence Day ceremonies with CM Vasundhara Raje



Gavari diorama figures



Final procession re-enactment

### Phase II: 2015-2016

#### Ψ Preparing resources for documentary/media production & involving relevant officials & opinion leaders

- HD filming of 2015 Gavari season events including first ever documentation of initial goddess invocation rites and interactive capture of final ceremonies.
- Discovering all known Gavari archival footage and negotiation of usage terms
- Distribution of hundreds of Gavari books & briefing papers to local officials & tribal leaders, media outlets, schools, tourist agencies and government officers



#### Personal book presentations and ally recruitment



To Gov. Margaret Alva,



Raj Lok Sabha speaker



Sri-ji Arvind Singh Mewar



Gavari artists & Bhil elders

### Phase III: 2016-2017

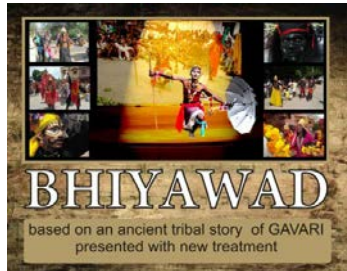
- Ψ Creation of “Rediscovering Gavari” program with support of Udaipur Collectorate;
- Ψ Presentation of multiple urban performances throughout the 2016/2017 Gavari seasons
- Ψ Extensive media outreach in collaboration with Raj Tourist Department
- Ψ Production of social network assets and Gavari.info web domains as global Gavari resource portals



- Ψ Creation of first Gavari Wikipedia page and introduction of Gavari imagery to Wikimedia Commons
- Ψ Encouragement of West Zone Cultural Centre to include more Gavari focus in folk shows & Shilpgram
- Ψ Media lobbying for revival of TRI-abandoned Rediscovering Gavari project & personally sponsored shows
- Ψ Introduction of Gavari to outside world via [ICH Courier](#), [UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage journal](#)
- Ψ Continued HD filming of urban/rural Gavari performances & interviews with noted Gavari authorities, e.g., Bhanu Bharti, Dr. Velaram Ghogra, etc.

## Phase IV: 2018-2019

Ψ Enlisted WZCC sponsorship to create **“Bhiyawad – From Tradition to Performance”**, an unprecedented 10-day workshop/performance event to introduce Gavari artistry on stage.



### – Remaining tasks to fulfil initial project vision

- Ψ Continue development of Rediscovering Gavari urban events and performances
- Ψ Introduce Gavari art, history & culture to Udaipur schools and student groups
- Ψ Finish Gavari documentary for international film festival circuit & global audiences
- Ψ Produce series of short educational Gavari videos dramatizing the tradition’s significance for religious studies, performing arts, eco-activism, women’s empowerment & cultural anthropology.
- Ψ Create Gavari intro videos for 5-star hotels, tour agencies and gov tourist promotion offices
- Ψ Design Mewar Epiphany Fest, India’s first international festival to feature Gavari – both in its pure religious form and in co-creative work with off-season Gavari dancers & other inspiring folk artists;
- Ψ Generate Gavari rural tourism framework & protective policy initiatives, e.g.,
  - Certification procedures & conduct codes for Gavari guides & tour agencies;
  - Tutor-accompanied school leaves for Bhil students to accompany elders during festival;
- Ψ Develop/revive Gavari craft lines for village artisans, e.g., character dolls, costumes, masks, etc.
- Ψ Design/create Gavari app to locate Gavari village performances in real time; explain the ritual’s history & meaning; present multilingual synopses of major Gavari plays & offer online Gavari galleries
- Ψ Continue to lobby for Gavari inclusion in UNESCO & SNA Intangible Cultural Heritage registries
- Ψ Develop/revive Gavari craft lines for village artisans, e.g., character dolls, costumes, masks, etc.

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