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Proposal to document Nilgiris tribal culture

By Our Staff Reporter

UDHAGAMANDALAM, JULY 14. The need for authentically and systematically documenting the hoary and rich culture of various tribal communities in the Nilgiris, was emphasised by Ms. Supriya Sahu, Nilgiris Collector.

She was inaugurating a Korean arts exhibition, a music cum dance festival of tribals and a book exhibition under the auspices of the Department of Art and Culture, the South Zone Cultural Centre, the New Century Book House and the Nilgiris district Art Society here today.

She said efforts were on to enrich the tribal museum of the Tribal Research Centre near here. The Toda tribal embroidery should be preserved. She also stressed the need for reviving the artisanship of Kotas, particularly

in making pots. There was a proposal to document this under the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) at a cost of Rs. 2.5 lakh.

A research compilation "Honey hunters of the Nilgiris" was under production by Keystone, a Kotagiri-based NGO, with focus on the Irula and Kurumba honey gatherers.

Ms. Sahu said the Art and Culture Society here was being reconstituted. For marketing the tribal products, space would be provided at the "Poomalai" complex which would be constructed here at an estimated cost of Rs. 42 lakh.

Ms. Geetha Srinivasan, Conventor, Indian National Trust for Art, Culture and Heritage, Nilgiris chapter, said more art and culture related activities should be encouraged in the district.