



Kathakali Maestro Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair

Why in News

Recently, the Kathakali actor Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair died at the age of 105 in Kozhikode, Kerala.

- He played a significant role in making Indian classical dances popular in Kerala.

Key Points

▪ Born:

- **Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair** was born on 16th June, 1916.

▪ Career:

- He studied at **Kalladikkodan school of Kathakali** and was specialised in “**Kalladikodan**” style.
- The Kalladikodan shailee was created by Chathu Panicker Aasaan, and is one among **the three major styles of Kathakali**. The other two are Vettathu and Kaplingadu.
- **Kalladikodan** style gives equal importance to the three aspects of **nritta** (the dance movements in their basic form), **nriya** (expressional component i.e. mudras or gestures) and **natya** (the dramatic element of the dance i.e. the imitation of characters).
- His one of the most popular portrayals on stage is that of **Lord Krishna and Sudama** (known as Kuchela, mostly in Southern India).

▪ Awards:

- Guru Chemancheri was awarded with [Padma Shri in 2017](#)

▪ About Kathakali: [//](#)



- Kathakali is one among the **[eight classical dances of India.](#)**
 - It is a blend of dance, music and acting. The dance involves dramatisation of stories, adapted mostly from the Indian epics.
 - The roles generally portrayed include kings, gods and demons, the vocalists narrate the legend and the percussionists play the musical instruments.
- Kathakali involves **use of heavy make-up** and stunning costumes (elaborate masks, huge skirts and big head-dresses).
 - Different facial colours are used to indicate different mental stages & character, for example green- nobility, black- wickedness and red patches- combining royalty & evil.

Eight Classical Dances of India

- Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu)
- Kathak (North India)
- Kathakali (Kerala)
- Mohiniyattam (Kerala)
- Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)
- Odissi (Odisha)
- Sattriya (Assam)
- Manipuri (Manipur)

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