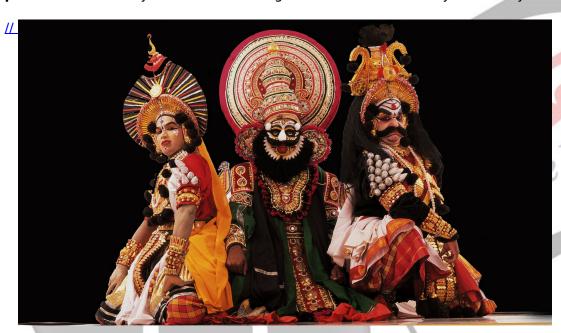


# Folk Dance Yakshagana

**Source: TH** 

#### Why in News?

**Tulasi Raghvendra Hegde,** a 15-year-old prodigy, has gained recognition as a leading **Yakshagana performer.** Recently awarded the Young Achiever Award 2024 by the Rotary Club of Madras East.



## What is Yakshagana?

- About: Yakshagana is a traditional folk dance-drama from coastal Karnataka, combining dance, music, song, and elaborate costumes.
  - Its name, "Yakshagana" translates to "celestial music" (Yaksha meaning celestial and Gana meaning music). and it presents a celestial world through scholarly dialogues and night-long performances.
  - Yakshagana performances are held in open-air theatres, often in village paddy fields, after harvest. Traditionally performed by men, women are now increasingly part of Yakshagana *Melas(*troupes).
- Key Elements of Yakshagana:
  - **The Act**: Each performance focuses on a sub-story (*Prasanga*) from ancient Hindu epics like the *Ramayana* or *Mahabharata*.
    - These performances combine stage acting and commentary, with a lead singer or **Bhagavatha** narrating the story, accompanied by traditional music.
  - **The Music**: Yakshagana music features instruments like *Chande* (drums), Harmonium, Maddale, *Taala* (mini metal clappers), and flute, creating a rhythmic atmosphere for the dancers
  - The Dress: Performers wear elaborate and unique costumes, including large headgear,

colorful face paint, body costumes, and musical beads on the legs (Gejje).

• These costumes are heavy, requiring great strength, and the performances last several hours.

#### **Folk Dance**

- **About:** It is a traditional dance form passed down through generations, reflecting the community's customs, rituals, and daily life, serving to express identity and transmit cultural heritage.
- Major Folk Dances of India:

Region	Folk Dance Form
Andhra Pradesh	Burrakatha, Butta Bommalu
Assam	Bihu
Bihar	Biraha, Jat-Jatin
Chhattisgarh	Gaur Maria, Raut Naach
Goa	Tarangamel, Fugdi
Gujarat	Garba
Himachal Pradesh	Charba
Jammu & Kashmir	Dumhal
He and the anal	Chlasti (Caraillalla)
Jharkhand	Chhau (Saraikella)
Karnataka	Yakshagana, Bhootha Aradhane, Pata Kunitha
Kerala	Kummi, Kolkali- <mark>Par</mark> ich <mark>akali, Paday</mark> ani, Kaikottika <mark>li, Chaky</mark> ar ko <mark>oth</mark> u, Mayilattam
Madhya Pradesh	Jawara
Manipur	Thang Ta
Mizoram	Cheraw
Nagaland	Rangma
Odisha	Chhau (Mayurbhanj), Paika, Jhumar, Danda- Jatra, Dalkhai
Punjab	Bhangra, Giddha, Jhoomar
Rajasthan	Ghoomar, Kalbelia
Sikkim	Singhi Chham
Tamil Nadu	Kummi, Mayilattam
Uttar Pradesh	Raslila, Dadra
West Bengal	Chhau (Purulia), Alkap

# Classical Dances of India

→ The first well-known source to address classical dances is Bharat Muni's work Natya Shastra.

# Two basic aspects Tandava

- Signifies bhava, rasa, abhinaya, and grace.
- Symbolic to the **feminine** features of dance.
- More focus on movement and rhythm.
- Symbolic to the male aspects of dance.

Three main elements (Nandikeshwara's Abhinaya Darpan

# Nritta

- Basic dance moves.
- Rhythmically performed.
- No emotion or expression at all.

## Natya

- Dramatic representations.
- The dance performance elaborates on the story.

# Nritya

- Sentiment and the emotions evoked through dance.
- Different methods of expression or mudras in the dance
- There are **108 primary mudras**, each of which is used to express a different emotion.
- According to the Sangeet Natak Akademi, there are eight classical dance forms in India.





# **UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)**

#### **Prelims**

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2014)

Garba : Gujarat
 Mohiniattam: Odisha
 Yakshagana : Karnataka

#### Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

A. (i) only

B. (ii) and (iii) only

C. (i) and (iii) only

D. (i), (ii) and (iii)

Ans: (C)

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/folk-dance-yakshagana