



Yakshagana

Why in News

Recently a Yakshagana artiste died while performing on stage.



Key Points

- Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of **Karnataka**.
- It is a **temple art** form that depicts mythological stories and Puranas.
- It is performed with massive headgears, elaborate facial make-up and vibrant costumes and ornaments.
- Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in **Malayalam** as well as **Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka)**.

Note:

- Tulu is a **Dravidian language** whose speakers are concentrated in the region of Tulu Nadu, which comprises the districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi in Karnataka and the northern part of Kasaragod district of Kerala.
- The oldest available inscriptions in Tulu are from the period between 14th to 15th century AD.
- It is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cymbals) and chakratala or elathalam (small cymbals).
- The most popular **episodes are from the Mahabharata** i.e. Draupadi swayamvar, Subhadra vivah, etc. and **from Ramayana** i.e. Rajyabhishek, Lav-Kush yuddh, etc.

| Theatre Forms | State | Theme |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Nautanki | Uttar Pradesh | Often draws on romantic Persian literature for its themes. |
| Tamasha | Maharashtra | Evolved from the folk forms such as gondhal, jagran and kirtan. |
| Bhavai | Gujarat | Subtle social criticism laced with humour. |
| Jatra | West Bengal/Orissa and eastern Bihar | Originated in Bengal as a result of the Bhakti movement . Initially known as Krishna jatra due to Chaitanya's (spiritual founder of Gaudiya Vaishnavism) influence. |
| Koodiyattam | Kerala | Oldest traditional theatre forms of India, it follows the performative principles of the ancient tradition of Sanskrit theatre. In 2001, Koodiyattam was officially recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. |
| Mudiyettu | Kerala | Traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama from Kerala that enacts the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika . The ritual is a part of the bhagavathi or bhadrakali cult. |
| Bhaona | Assam | A creation of Srimanta Sankardeva (an Assamese saint-scholar), these plays were written in Brajavali, a unique Assamese-Maithili mixed language , and are primarily centered on Hindu deity, Krishna . |
| Maach | Madhya Pradesh | It is a sung folk theatre that has a semi sacred character, blending religious and secular themes. |
| Bhand Pather | Kashmir | Satire, wit and parody are commonly used in this folk drama that incorporates local mythological legends and contemporary social commentary. |

Source: [The Hindu](#)

