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UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Elements of India

Revised 21st May 2018



Element	Comments
Kutiyattam (Kutiyattam), Sanskrit theatre (2008)	It is an Oldest & Sanskrit theatre play reflects the local traditions of Kerala, India. The art is focused on detail and elaboration. Thus a single act may take days and a performance may last up to 40 days.
Tradition of Vedic chanting (2008)	The traditional way of reciting the Vedas is called Vedic chanting. They comprise of Hindu philosophy, myth, poetry and dialogue. There are four Vedas – Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharva. The Vedas were originally written in Vedic Sanskrit, later translated to Classical Sanskrit.
Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana (2008)	Ramlila is the dramatic folk re-enactment of the life of Rama enacted in a theatrical form. It is traditionally performed in northern India during the Sharad Navratras. Most Ramlilas are based on the Awadhi version of Ramayan called the “ <i>Ramcharitmanas</i> ” composed by Tulsidas.

[General Knowledge Questions and Answers PDF](#)

Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas (2009)	It is a festival of the Hindu community in honour of the tutelary god, Bhumiya Devta, a local divinity in the Saloor Dungra village of the Painkhanda Valley in the Chamoli district in Uttarakhand, India. This event is made up of highly complex rituals: the recitation of a version of the epic of Rama and various legends, and the performance of songs and masked dances.
Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala (2010)	It is a traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama of mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika. The ritual is a part of the Bhagwati cult. It is performed in just 4 districts of Kerala during the four day festival dedicated to Goddess Kali after the summer harvest.
Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan (2010)	Kalbelia or Kabeliya is one of the most sensuous dance forms of Rajasthan, performed by a tribe of the same name which mimics the movements of snakes in some sense and was usually performed on joyous occasions. Kalbelia songs disseminate mythological knowledge through stories, while special traditional dances are performed during Holi, the festival of colours.

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Chhau dance (2010)	Chhau dance also called the Paiku nratya (battle dance) is a semi classical Indian dance with martial, tribal and folk origins prevalent in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal. It has three sub genres based on location and is mainly performed during a regional festival, especially during the Chaitra parva, where they perform it in honor of the Cosmic God Shiva, known for his dance form Tandava.
Buddhist Chanting of Ladakh – Recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir (2012)	In the monasteries and villages of the Ladakh region, Buddhist lamas (priests) chant sacred texts representing the spirit, philosophy and teachings of the Buddha. Two forms of Buddhism are practised in Ladakh – Mahayana and Vajrayana. The lamas make hand gestures with each chant to represent what Buddha preached.
Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur (2013)	It is performed in the temples and domestic spaces in Manipur State in India. Through the performances which exhibit unparalleled religious devotion and energy, the performers narrate the many stories of Krishna. It was started by the Manipuri Hindus in the 15th century in the belief that in Kaliyuga the Punya (Merit) and Moksha (transcendence) is achievable through Sankirtan.
Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab (2014)	It constitutes the traditional brass and copper making technique of utensils in Punjab. The Group of people who have kept the art alive and still practice it till date are called “Thantheras” and the process of manufacturing is transmitted orally from father to son. They primarily use copper, brass and kansa (an alloy of copper, tin and zinc). Eating and Cooking in these metals is recommended by Ayurveda.
Nowruz/Navroz (2016)	March 21 marks the start of the year in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In India, the Parsi community, who follow Zoroastrianism, celebrate Navroz. A variety of rituals, ceremonies and other cultural events

	take place for a period of about two weeks. The festival symbolizes cultural diversity and tolerance and contribute to building community solidarity and peace.
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Yoga (2016)	Yoga is a group of physical, mental, and spiritual practices or disciplines originated in ancient India. It consists of a series of poses, meditation, controlled breathing, word chanting. There are broad variety of yoga practices, among the most well-known types of yoga are Hatha yoga and Raja yoga. Traditionally, yoga was transmitted using the Guru-Shishya model (master-pupil) with yoga gurus as the main custodians of associated knowledge and skills.
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