

TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC

Date: 24.09.2024

Koodiyattom

Source: The post is based on the article published in “The Hindu” on 24th Sep 2024.

In News: Cholliyattom is an informal platform for the younger generation of Koodiyattom artists in Kerala following different styles to collaborate and to keep alive various Koodiyattom traditions and styles.

Syllabus: Mains – GS III (Art & Culture – Dance)

Koodiyattom:

- It is one of the oldest traditional theatre forms of Kerala and is based on Sanskrit theatre traditions.
- The prefix “kuti” in Malayalam language primarily means “combined” or “together”, and “attam” means “acting”: therefore, the word “kutyattam or Koodiyattam” means “combined acting.”
 - The **Nangiar Koothu** is the solo section of female performance in Kutiyattam
- Characters of this theatre form are: Chakyaar or actor, Naambiyaar, the instrumentalists and Naangyaar, those taking on women's roles.
- It is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in the Hindu temples.



- Koodiyattam themes are based on Hindu mythology.
- Kutiyattam has been **declared as among the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.**

Physical Demands:

- ❖ Koodiyattam is famous for its use of mudras, or hand gestures, which are part of a highly developed mime language.
- ❖ Koodiyattam performances feature bold and lively facial expressions.
- ❖ This performance uses symbolic colours through makeup.
- ❖ Koodiyattam performers wear elaborate headgear.
- ❖ Koodiyattam performances feature contained movements and intense emotions.
- ❖ In some Koodiyattam performances, actors sit on a wooden stool and narrate a story in flashback, using only hand gestures and facial expressions.

Training:

Margi:

A trust that offers Koodiyattam training at two centers in Thiruvananthapuram. Margi's training system is based on the Gurukula model, and they also offer short-term courses for foreigners.

Adishakti Theatre Arts:

Offers two-day training sessions that focus on the physical, vocal, and psychological aspects of performance. Their training is based on physical forms like Kalaripayattu, breath practices, and rhythm patterns.

Kutiyattam Kendra:

A center that conducts workshops, performances, and lecture-demonstrations to spread the art of Koodiyattam. They also provide a regular venue for performances at the Government Museum in Thiruvananthapuram and the Jawahar Library Hall in Kannur .

Learning:

- ◆ This book by Vidhya Bhavani Suresh provides insights into the nuances of Koodiyattam's performance techniques and aesthetic principles.
- ◆ The main musical instruments used in Koodiyattam are the mizhavu, kuzhitalam, edakka, kurumkuzhal, and sankhu.

- ◆ Koodiyattam performances often tell stories based on Hindu epics, such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- ◆ Koodiyattam has three types of characters the actor (Chakyaar), the instrumentalists (Naambiyaar), and those who play women's roles (Naangyaar).
- ◆ Koodiyattam uses a stylized and codified theatrical language that emphasizes eye expression (neta abhinaya) and gestures (hasta abhinaya).
- ◆ Koodiyattam is traditionally performed in Kuttambalams, which are permanent theaters attached to some of Kerala's major temples.