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## Pulikkali Folk Art of Kerala

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### Why in News

Pulikkali will be held online in **Kerala** this year due to **Covid-19** pandemic.

### Key Points



- Pulikkali (Puli means Leopard/Tiger and Kali means Play in Malayalam) is a **recreational street folk art** performed on the **fourth day of Onam** celebrations. **Onam (August–September)** is a Hindu rice harvest festival of Kerala celebrated to commemorate King **Mahabali**.
- The folk art is mainly practiced in **Thrissur** district of Kerala.
- The main theme of this folk art is **tiger hunting** with participants playing the role of tiger and hunter.

- Performers **paint their bodies** like **tigers and hunters** and **dance** on streets to the beats of **traditional percussion instruments** such as *thakil*, *udukku* and *chenda*.
- It was introduced by **Maharaja Rama Varma Sakthan Thampuran**, the then Maharaja of **Cochin**.
- Another key event which takes place during Onam is **Aranmula Boat Race**, the oldest river boat festival in Kerala.

It takes place at Aranmula in Pampa river, near a Sree Parthasarathy temple in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala.

- **Some Other Art Forms of Kerala:**

- **Ottam Thullal**
- **Talamaddale**
- **Kalaripayattu**
- **Kathakali**
- **Mohiniyattam**
- **Mudiyettu**

**Source: TH**