



## Kalbeliya Dance

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### Why in News

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Recently, due to **Covid-19-Pandemic** an app called **chendavia** is gaining popularity among the students of kalbeliya dance.



### Key Points

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- **About:**

- Kalbeliya dances are an expression of the Kalbelia community's traditional way of life.

It is associated with a **Rajasthani tribe of the same name.**

- It was included in the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO)** list of **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** in **2010**.
  - **UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage** is made up of those **intangible heritage elements** that help **demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage** and raise awareness about its importance.
  - It was **established in 2008** when the **Convention for Safeguarding** of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect.
- The dance form consists of **swirling; graceful movements that make this dance a treat to behold.**

The movements associated with the Kalbelia also make it **one of the most sensuous forms of folk dance in India.**
- It is generally performed for any joyous celebration and is considered to be an **integral part of the Kalbeliya culture.**
- Another unique aspect of the Kalbelia dance is that **it is only performed by women while the men play the instruments and provide the music.**

- **Instruments & Dress:**

- Women in flowing **black skirts dance and swirl, replicating the movements of a serpent**, while men accompany them on the "**khanjari**" instrument and the "poongi", a woodwind instrument traditionally played to capture snakes.
- The **dancers wear traditional tattoo designs, jewellery and garments** richly embroidered with small mirrors and silver thread.

- **Kalbeliya Songs:**

- They **disseminate mythological knowledge through stories.**
- They also **demonstrate the poetic acumen of the Kalbeliya**, who are reputed to compose lyrics spontaneously and improvise songs during performances.
- Transmitted from generation to generation, the **songs and dances form part of an oral tradition** for which no texts or training manuals exist.

- **Kalbeliya Tribe:**

- Kalbeliya tribe people **were once professional snake handlers**, today they **evoke their former occupation in music and dance** that is evolving in new and creative ways.
- They **live a nomadic life and belong to the scheduled tribes.**
- The largest number of the population of Kalbeliyas is in **Pali district, then Ajmer, Chittorgarh and Udaipur district (Rajasthan).**

- **Other Traditional Folk Dances of Rajasthan:** Gair, Kachchhi Ghodi, Ghoomar, Bhavai, etc.

## 13 ICH traditions recognised by UNESCO

1.	Tradition of Vedic chanting, 2008	8.	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India, 2012
2.	Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana, 2008	9.	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur, 2013
3.	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre, 2008	10.	Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India ,2014
4.	Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India, 2009	11.	Yoga, 2016
5.	Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala, 2010	12.	Nowruz, 2016
6.	Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan, 2010	13.	Kumbh Mela, 2017
7.	Chhau dance, 2010		

**Source: TH**