



Khajuraho Dance Festival Completes 50 Years

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated the **golden jubilee (50th edition)** event of [Khajuraho Dance Festival](#).

- On this occasion **1484 artists** set a new world record for **largest Kathak dance** performance with the most number of performers.

Key Points

- The record setting (world record) performance of **'Kathak Kumbh'** at the famous world heritage site is the 3rd successive one after the Ujjain and Gwalior events, also recorded and recognised by the **Guinness World Record**.
 - In Ujjain 11 lakh 71 thousand and 78 diyas were lit.
 - While in Gwalior's Tansen Samaroh, a total number of 1600 tabla artists played in tandem during the Taal Darbar in [Gwalior Fort](#).
- The CM announced the setting up of the **country's first Gurukul for training tribal and folk arts in Khajuraho**
- The Khajuraho Dance Festival (KDF) is being **organized by the Cultural and Tourism Department** under the guidance of Principal Secretary Sheo Shekhar Shukla.
- KDF has chosen to dedicate the event to [Lord Natraj Mahadev](#), often referred to as the 'God of Dance'. This particular **Shiva avatar represents how dance is a sacred medium of direct contact with God**.
 - In the choreography of famous dance guru Rajendra Gangani, the artists from different cities of the state presented a mesmerizing performance in **Raag Basant**.
- All facilities will be made for aspirants training in traditional arts of tribal and rural communities with courses on teaching **specialised crafts, leadership, singing, music, painting, regional literature** with the help of senior experts and 'gurus' at the Gurukul.

Khajuraho Dance Festival

- It was **started in 1975** and since then it has been successfully organised by Ustad **Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy under the Department of Culture**, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Since then, this dance ceremony has been held in the courtyard of well-known temples of Khajuraho.
- So far, young and senior artists of all the major classical dance styles of India like **Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Kathak, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Yakshagana, Manipuri etc.** have spread their aura in the Khajuraho Dance Festival.
- Through the festival, efforts have been made to innovate while maintaining the dignity of classical dance.

Kathak (North India)

Derived from the word 'Kathika' (Story)

Origins

- Ras Leela of Brajbhoomi
- Combined music, dance and the narrative
- Temple or village performance

The **Radha-Krishna theme** is immensely popular in Kathak

- Classical Dance: **North India (Primarily Uttar Pradesh).**
- The classical style of Kathak was revived by **Lady Leela Sokhey** in the twentieth century.
- Only style of classical dance associated with **Hindustani or North Indian music.**

Performance

Recites verses from the epics, with gestures and music

The focus is more on footwork and movement of the legs. It puts more importance on expression and grace

Usually **solo performances**

Elements of a Kathak recital

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| - Ananda | - Introductory item |
| - Thaata | - Soft and varied movements. |
| - Todas and Tukdas | - Small pieces of fast rhythm. |
| - Jugalbandi | - Competitive play between the dancer and the table player. |
| - Padhant | - Dancer recites complicated bols and demonstrates them. |
| - Tarana | - Pure rhythmic movements before the end. |
| - Kramalaya | - Concluding piece comprising of intricate |
| - Gat bhaav | - Dance without any music or chanting. |

Famous Proponents

Birju Maharaj

Lacchu Maharaj

Sitara Devi

Damayanti Joshi

Instruments

- Tabla
- Pakhawaj
- Sarangi
- Sitar



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