



Behrupiya: Folk Artiste

Why in News

The [Covid-19 pandemic](#) has impacted the livelihood of several folk artistes including '**Behrupiyas**'.

Key Points

- The word '*behrupiya*' is a **derivative of the Sanskrit word bahu** (many) and **roop** (form).
- *Behrupiyas* are **impersonators**, mostly known to perform in villages and markets all over India.
 - They put on various costumes to play figures from mythology, folklore and traditional stories.
- The ***behrupiya*** festival is a **traditional Indian style of street theatre** and takes place every year in different locations- Delhi, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Jaipur, Kumbh, Muzaffarnagar and others.
 - **National *Behrupiya* Festival** was organised by the [Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts](#) (IGNCA) from 5th-8th October 2018.
 - IGNCA is an **autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture**.
- *Behrupiyas* were more than artists in the past. They **assisted in circulating, transmitting and publicising the various knowledge forms** in the popular domain of Samaj, the people. The **vibrant tradition of Ramlila** can also be seen as an extension of this practice which continues even today.
 - **Arthashastra** makes a mention of religious processions in the Mauryan times where artistes dressed as gods and were taken out in tableaux all around the kingdom.
 - **Rajasthan's *Behrupiyas*** had served **Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh** of the erstwhile **Jaipur kingdom**. They are also said to have helped freedom fighters during the struggle for Independence.
- **Different Forms of Traditional Theatres:**
 - Bhand Pather: Kashmir
 - Nautanki: Uttar Pradesh
 - Bhavai: Gujarat
 - Jatra: Bengal
 - Maach: Madhya Pradesh
 - **Bhaona**: Assam
 - Dashavatar: Konkan and Goa Regions
 - Tamaasha: Maharashtra
 - Krishnattam, Koodiyaattam and Mudiyyettu: Kerala
 - **Yakshagana**: Karnataka
 - Therukoothu: Tamil Nadu

[Source: TH](#)

