



## Yakshagana

### Why in News

Recently a Yakshagana artiste died while performing on stage.



## Key Points

- Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of **Karnataka**.
- It is a **temple art** form that depicts mythological stories and Puranas.
- It is performed with massive headgears, elaborate facial make-up and vibrant costumes and ornaments.
- Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in **Malayalam** as well as **Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka)**.

### Note:

- Tulu is a **Dravidian language** whose speakers are concentrated in the region of Tulu Nadu, which comprises the districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi in Karnataka and the northern part of Kasaragod district of Kerala.
- The oldest available inscriptions in Tulu are from the period between 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- It is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cymbals) and chakratala or elathalam (small cymbals).
- The most popular **episodes are from the Mahabharata** i.e. Draupadi swayamvar, Subhadra vivah, etc. and **from Ramayana** i.e. Rajyabhishek, Lav-Kush yuddh, etc.

| Theatre Forms | State                                | Theme                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nautanki      | Uttar Pradesh                        | Often draws on <b>romantic Persian literature</b> for its themes.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Tamasha       | Maharashtra                          | Evolved from the folk forms such as gondhal, jagran and kirtan.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Bhavai        | Gujarat                              | <b>Subtle social criticism</b> laced with humour.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Jatra         | West Bengal/Orissa and eastern Bihar | Originated in Bengal as a result of the <b>Bhakti movement</b> . Initially known as Krishna jatra due to Chaitanya's (spiritual founder of Gaudiya Vaishnavism) influence.                                                                                               |
| Koodiyattam   | Kerala                               | <b>Oldest traditional theatre forms</b> of India, it follows the performative principles of the ancient tradition of Sanskrit theatre. In 2001, Koodiyattam was officially recognized by <b>UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage</b> of Humanity. |
| Mudiyettu     | Kerala                               | Traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama from Kerala that enacts the mythological tale of a <b>battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika</b> . The ritual is a part of the bhagavathi or bhadrakali cult.                                              |
| Bhaona        | Assam                                | A creation of Srimanta Sankardeva (an Assamese saint-scholar), these plays were written in <b>Brajavali, a unique Assamese-Maithili mixed language</b> , and are primarily centered on <b>Hindu deity, Krishna</b> .                                                     |
| Maach         | Madhya Pradesh                       | It is a sung folk theatre that has a semi sacred character, blending religious and secular themes.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Bhand Pather  | Kashmir                              | <b>Satire, wit and parody</b> are commonly used in this folk drama that incorporates local mythological legends and contemporary social commentary.                                                                                                                      |

**Source: The Hindu**

