

Chapter- 17

Our Culture and Heritage

STUDY NOTES

- India is an ancient land.
- Over the centuries, people from different lands have chosen to make India their home.
- They brought with them their customs and traditions.
- Over time, these mixed with the local traditions of India.
- As a result of this intermixing of culture, today India has a rich and unique culture and heritage.



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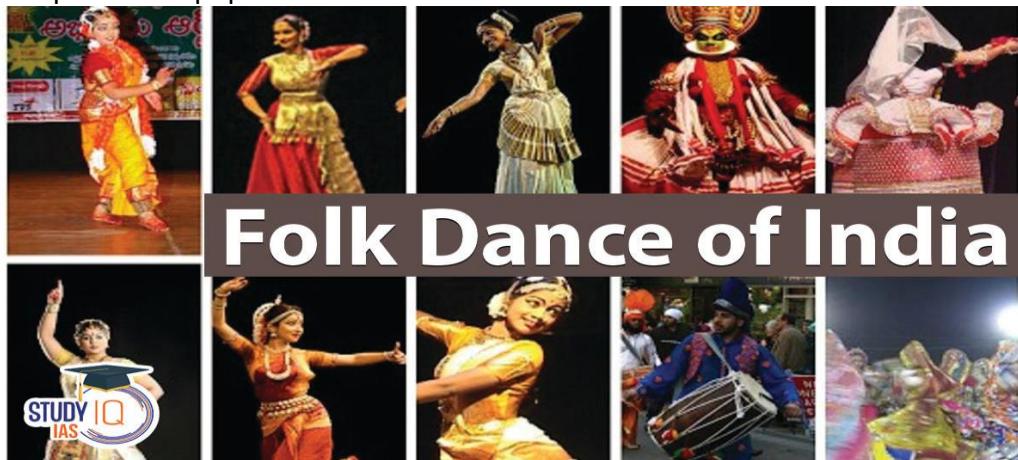
Our Languages

- You have already seen that our country has a number of languages.
- Almost every state has its own language.
- As of May 2008, there are 22 officially recognized, or scheduled, languages in India.
- Hindi is understood and spoken by number of people in our country.
- It was, therefore, chosen as the official language of the government of India and English was chosen as the second official language of the Indian Government.
- One language may be spoken in different ways in different parts of the country.
- For example, Hindi is spoken in several ways.
- Different forms of the same language are known as dialects.
- Each language has its own style of writing, known as the script. Most languages are written from left to right.
- Most languages are written from left to right.
- Urdu, Sindhi, and Kashmiri are written from right to left.



Our Clothes

- Our country has different traditional clothes for men and women.
- Saree is the most popular among women.
- the style of wearing the saree, differs from state to state.
- Salwar-kameez is another popular attire worn by women throughout India.
- The Ghaghara is common in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- Long narrow skirts with stripes of different colours are worn in the north-eastern states of India.
- Among men traditional clothes are dhoti-kurta, the common kurta-pyjama and lungi shirt.
- Turbans of different types are worn in different states. In Kashmir, the salwar-kameez and phiran are popular.



Folk Dance of India

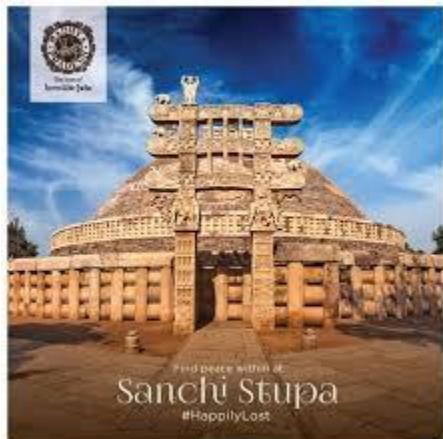
Our Dance and Music

- India has a long tradition of dance and music and the dance forms of some of the states.
- There are two main types of dances and music- Folk and Classical.
- Most classical dances began as forms of worship.

- Trained dancers performed in temples.
- Some even performed in temples.
- Today these performed in courts of kings and queens.
- The major dance forms of dance are as follows:
 - Bharatnatyam- Tamil Nadu
 - Kathak – Uttar Pradesh
 - Kathakali - Kerala
 - Kuchipudi- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
 - Manipuri- Manipur
 - Mohiniattam- Kerala
 - Odissi - Odisha
 - Sattriya - Assam
- Folk dances are performed by groups of people to express their joy.
- They are performed on occasions like marriages, birth of a child, festivals or harvesting of crops.
- Some of the popular folk dances are:
 - Bhangra - Punjab
 - Bihu - Assam
 - Garba-Gujarat
 - Ghoomar - Rajasthan
 - Cheraw - Mizoram
 - Kolattam - Tamil Nadu
 - Yakshagana – Karnataka
- Classical music was also performed in temples or courts of kings and queens in India.
- There are two styles of classical music in India.
 - ❖ They are:
 - Hindustani music developed in North India.
 - Carnatic music developed in South India.
 - Many instruments are used in classical music.
 - Some of these are sitar, sarod, veena, flute, mridangam and tabla.

Painting

- Traditional painting in India has also been inspired by either religion or by rulers.
- The famous wall paintings in the Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra show the life of Buddha.
- They were drawn by Buddhist priests, and are more than 1500 years old.



Architecture

- Architecture, or the art of building, was earlier inspired by religion.
- Buddhism inspired the building of many stupas. Emperor Ashoka and his successors built the beautiful stupas at Sanchi and Sarnath.
- Several Hindu temples with beautiful carvings were built later.
- The Kailash Temple at Ellora has been carved from a single stone.
- The Sun Temple at Konark, Meenakshi Temple at Madurai, Khajuraho Temples in Madhya Pradesh, and the Dilwara Temple of Mount Abu are famous for their architecture.
- The Turks and Mughals brought their own style of architecture to India.
- The Taj Mahal, with its dome and minarets, is the best example.
- The Qutb Minar, Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Humayun's Tomb in Delhi are a few examples of their grand architecture.
- The British brought new styles of architecture to India.
- The Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament House in Delhi are some beautiful buildings built by the British.



Our Festivals

- You have seen that India is a land of variety.
- Few other countries have so many different types of people, with different languages and religions.
- Naturally, we celebrate more festivals than many other countries.
- We celebrate three types of festivals.
- National days such as Independence Day (15 August), Republic Day (26 January) and Gandhi Jayanti (2nd October).
- Religious festivals such as Diwali, Eid, Christmas, Gurpurbs, Ganesh Chaturthi, Dusshera and Durga Puja, Buddha Purnima and Mahavir Jayanti.
- Harvest festivals are celebrated when a crop is harvested.
- They express the joys of the farmers. Some of these are Onam in Kerala, Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Bihu in Assam, Holi in Uttar Pradesh and other states of North India, and Baisakhi in Punjab.

Let's Know More.**I. Fill in the blanks:**

1. Madhubani', a style of folk paintings, is popular in _____.
2. Pungi is a dance form related to _____ state.

Let's Do.

1. _____ is the classical dance form of Assam.
2. The two main types of dance and music in India are _____ and _____.
3. The two main styles of classical music in India are _____ and _____.
4. The Mughals introduced the art of _____ paintings.

B. Name the following.

1. One example of British architecture in India:
2. One famous Buddhist stupa:
3. The caves in Maharashtra with the famous 1500-year-old wall paintings:
4. Different forms of the same language:

C. Understand and Answer.

1. Why was Hindi chosen as the official language of the Government of India?
2. Name three examples of Mughal architecture in India.
3. Which languages of India are written from right to left?
4. On which occasions are folk dances performed?
5. Why are harvest festivals celebrated? Name three harvest festivals.

D. Multiple choice questions.

1. One of the 22 scheduled languages of India is
 - a. Maithili

- b. Bihari
- c. Jharkhandi
- d. None of these

2. A language that is written from right to left is

- a. Nepali
- b. Konkani
- c. Sindhi
- d. Hindi

3. The classical dance form of Assam is

- a. Bihu
- b. Sattriya
- c. Manipuri
- d. Ghoomar

4. The wall paintings in the Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra show the life of

- a. Krishna
- b. Buddha
- c. Mahavira
- d. Rama

5. The Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi was built by the

- a. Mughals
- b. Turks
- c. British
- d. French

Memory Map.

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Teacher's Note.

Write the name of seven states and their dance forms.

Improve Your G.k

According to the cultural history of India 'Panchayatan' is Temple construction style.

Answer Key**I. Fill in the blanks:**

1. Bihar
2. Himachal Pradesh

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. Bihu
2. Folk and classical
3. Hindustani and Carnatic
4. miniature painting

B. Name the following.

1. Victoria Memorial

2. Sanchi Stupa
3. Ajanta Caves
4. dialects

D. Multiple choice questions.

- 1.
- a. Maithili
- 2.
- c. Sindhi
3. The classical dance form of Assam is
- b. Buddha
- 5.
- c. British

C. Understand and Answer.

1. Hindi is understood and spoken by the largest number of people in our country. It was therefore, chosen as the official language of the Government of India.
2. Three examples of Mughal architecture in India are:
 - a. Taj Mahal
 - b. Jama Masjid
 - c. Qutb Minar
3. The languages of India are written from right to left are Urdu, Sindhi and Kashmiri.
4. Folk dances are performed by groups of people to express their joy. They are performed on the occasions like marriages, birth of the child, festivals or harvesting of crops.
5. Harvest festivals are celebrated when a crop is harvested. They express the joy of the farmers. Three harvest festivals are Onam, Pongal, Makar Sankranti.