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30 November 2023

West Bengal News

Chhau Dance



- It is considered to be one of the popular folk dances of West Bengal.
- It is mainly performed in the **Purulia district**. Big, colorful, and eye-catching masks are an essential part of Chhau dance.
- This folk dance is performed by men. It primarily revolves around the tales of Hindu mythology epics **Ramayana and Mahabharata**.
- Chhau dance comprises energetic **movements of martial arts, athletics, and stunts**. It is a part of the sun festival of West Bengal.

GI tags of WB

- The GI tag is an official recognition that highlights a product's unique taste and quality. It also provides legal protection to the product's unique identity, reputation, and quality.

To be eligible for a GI tag, a product must have the following qualities:

- Reputation
- Qualities of the place of origin
- Produced by rural, marginal, and indigenous communities over generations
- Garnered a massive reputation at the international and national level.

Agricultural:

- Darjeeling tea
- Laxman Bhog mango
- Khirsapati (Himsagar) mango
- Malda Fazli mango
- Gobindabhog rice
- Tulapanji rice

Crafts:

- Nakshi Kantha
- Shantiniketan leather goods
- Santipur saree
- Baluchari saree
- Dhaniakhali saree
- Joynagar Moa

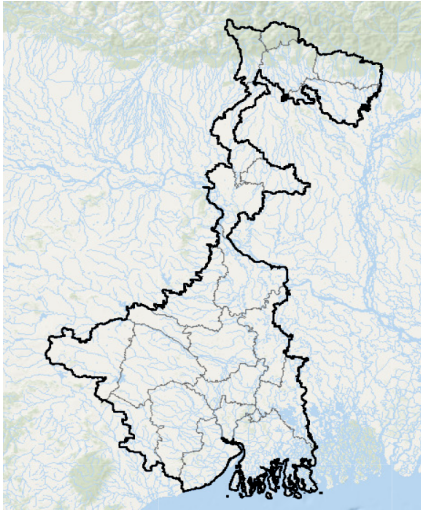
Other:

- Purulia Chhau mask



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One District One product



- West Bengal agreed to participate in the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme in **January 2023**.
- The scheme aims to benefit from economies of scale in procurement, marketing, and common services.

Some of the products are:

- Leather products from Kolkata
- Wooden masks from South Dinajpur
- Tangail and Jamdani from Shantipore
- Handloom Dhanekhali saree from Hooghly's Dhaniakhali
- Patachitra from West Midnapore
- Dokra products from Bankura

Fakir Dance

- Among the folk dance forms of Bengal, like **Baul and Kirtan dance**, Fakir dance is also a spiritual dance form.
- It is performed by Fakirs or the **followers of Madar Pir**.
- They believe in spirituality more than religious rituals.
- The Fakirs dance in a group around a fire which they light to burn the offerings for Madar Pir.
- The performers usually wear bells around their ankles and long loose garments.

Victoria Memorial :Cultural Heritage of WB



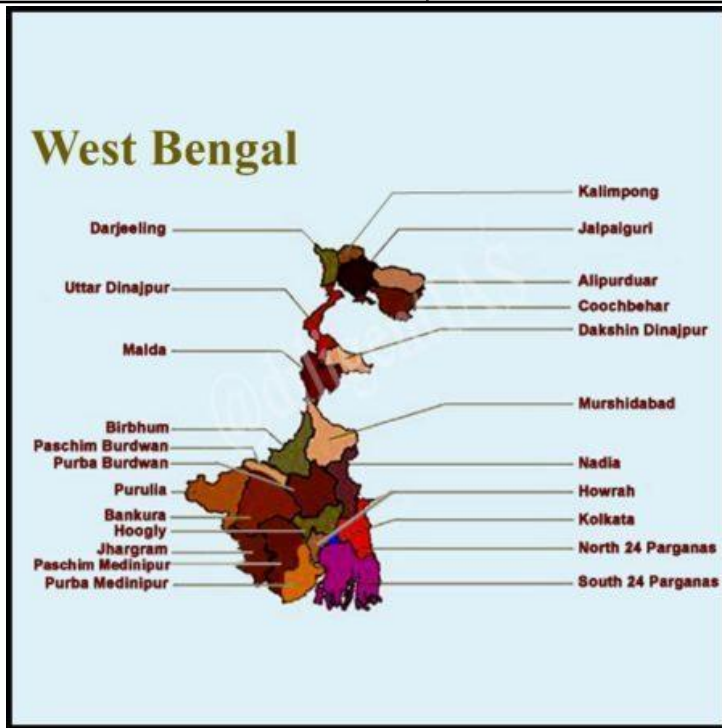
- **Iconic Landmark:** The Victoria Memorial, located in Kolkata, India, is an iconic monument that stands as a testament to the city's colonial history.
- **Architectural Marvel:** Built between 1906 and 1921, the memorial is a stunning example of Indo-Saracenic architecture, blending British and Mughal elements, designed by Sir William Emerson.
- **Dedicated to Queen Victoria:** The memorial was commissioned to honor Queen Victoria and boasts a grand marble structure surrounded by lush gardens, reflecting pools, and numerous sculptures.
- **Museum and Art Gallery:** Today, the Victoria Memorial serves as a museum and art gallery, showcasing a vast collection of artifacts, paintings, and sculptures from the British colonial period.
- **Gardens and Grounds:** The sprawling gardens surrounding the memorial provide a peaceful retreat for visitors, offering a serene environment amidst the hustle and bustle of the city.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural Hub: Beyond its historical significance, the Victoria Memorial serves as a cultural hub, hosting various exhibitions, events, and light and sound shows, attracting tourists and locals alike.
Baul Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bauls are a group of spiritual minstrels living in different parts of West Bengal. The Baul songs and dance are part of Baul culture.• The Nikita is a vital part of the Baul dance. Usually, Bauls hold Nikita (musical instrument) in their right hand and play it simultaneously while dancing and singing Baul songs.• This form of dance is highly spiritual and mystic by nature.
Dhali Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many states and communities in India have folk dance forms that showcase scenes of battle and the warrior spirit of the clan. And one such dance form is the Dhali dance.• It is performed in different parts of West Bengal.• In Dhali dance, two groups of dancers (warriors) holding bamboo sticks as swords and cane as shields fight each other.• It is an energy-packed folk dance of Bengali culture showcasing the fighter spirit of the community.



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