

LESSON 4- Folk dances of MP



- ▶ Lokranjan' - an annual dance festival at Khajuraho organised by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Department and Madhya Pradesh Adivasi Lok Kala Academy is a platform to present a number of popular folk and tribal dance forms of Madhya Pradesh and other parts of India.

Rai dance

- ▶ The Rai dance of Baghelkhand is performed by a man disguised as a woman to the accompaniment of the musical instruments dholak and nagara.
- ▶ It is performed by the women of the Ahir community of Baghelkhand and this is particular to the occasion of birth of a child in Vaishya community.
- ▶ The dancers dressed in their traditional attire and bejewelled sway gently to convey the spirit of the auspicious occasion.

Matki dance

- ▶ This is a community dance of the Malwa, Matki is performed by the women on various occasions.
- ▶ The dancers move rhythmically to the beating of a drum, locally called Matki. Initiated by a lone woman locally called Jhela, others join dressed in their traditional Malwi wardrobe and with a veil covering their faces.
- ▶ The graceful hand movements and steps of the participants create a stunning effect.

Gangaur dance

- ▶ This dance is performed mainly during the nine days of Gangaur festival, the associated rituals have a number of dance and song sequences to it.
- ▶ Dance form performed on the occasion of Gangaur in Nimar region is a devotional form in honour of their deity Ranubai and Dhaniyer Suryadev.

Badhai dance

- ▶ Popular on the occasions of the birth, marriage and festivals in the Bundelkhand region is Badhai. Men and women dance vigorously to the tunes of accompanying musical instruments .
- ▶ The dancers accentuate supple and acrobats like movements and their colourful attire leaves the viewers simply amazed.

Baredi dance

- ▶ Baredi dance is performed during the period starting the festival of Diwali till the day of Poornima.
- ▶ One of Madhya Pradesh's most stunning performances, the dancers in a group of colourfully dressed 8-10 young men are choreographed by a head male performer.
- ▶ Usually, a two line devotional poetry form called Diwari proceeds the dance performance.

Naurata dance

- ▶ This dance has a special significance to the unmarried girls in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh.
- ▶ Naurata dance is performed by the would be brides to invoke the God seeking a good match and conjugal bliss.
- ▶ The nine day festivities during the period of navratri are marked by creating Naurata intricate designs outside the house made from lime and various colours.

Ahirai dance

- ▶ The most popular dance form of Bharia tribe is performed on the occasion of marriage.
- ▶ Drums and timki (a pair of brass metal platter) are the two musical instruments used as accompaniment to this group dance performance.