

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 1 History, Art and Culture – Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Garba Dance's UNESCO Recognition: Celebrating Unity in Diversity

Introduction: Garba, a traditional dance form from Gujarat, recently joined the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It shares this recognition with other Indian dances like Kalbelia, Chhau, Sankirtana, and Mudi yettu, showcasing the richness of India's performing art traditions.

Intangible Cultural Heritage: Intangible Cultural Heritage refers to traditions, expressions, and practices inherited from ancestors and passed through generations. It encompasses oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, and traditional crafts.

Distinct Features of Garba:

1. Symbolism of the Cycle of Life:

- Garba is performed around a centrally lit clay lantern, symbolizing the universal womb and the earth's fertility.
- The dance represents the cycle of time, from birth to death and rebirth.

2. Inclusive Participation:

- Garba thrives on community participation, involving people of all ages, genders, skill levels, and faiths.

3. Adaptability:

- It adapts to changing times by incorporating both traditional and modern songs and techniques.
- Each generation shapes the dance to suit its preferences while preserving its cultural essence.

Challenges and Importance:

1. Inclusive Character:

- Recent reports of performances being exclusive to Hindus raise concerns.
- Retaining the inclusive character of Garba is crucial for its continued thriving as an intangible heritage.

2. Cultural Significance:

- Garba is an integral part of Gujarati celebrations, including weddings, births, and the annual festival of Navratri.
- It involves the worship of goddess Amba, a form of Durga, adding to its cultural and spiritual significance.

3. Unity in Diversity:

- Garba exemplifies unity in diversity, bringing people together across age, gender, and faith boundaries.

In conclusion, Garba's recognition as part of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage highlights its cultural significance and the need to preserve its inclusive nature for future generations.

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 1 History, Art and Culture – Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Key Highlights and Risks of Glacier Melting: A Call to Action

WMO Report Findings (2011-2020):

1. Thinning of global glaciers by an average of one meter per year.
2. Forecasted glacier volume decline of 55-75% by the century's end.
3. Greenland and Antarctica lost 38% more ice from 2011-2020 compared to 2001-2010.
4. Arctic Sea ice reached a mean minimum extent 30% lower than the 1981-2010 average.
5. Projected disappearance of glaciers on Rwenzori Mountains, Mount Kenya (by 2030), and Kilimanjaro (by 2040).

Risks of Glacier Melting:

- a) Glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs) pose a significant risk, as evidenced by events like the 2013 Uttarakhand floods.
- b) Infrastructure destruction, exemplified by incidents like the Chungthang dam collapse in Sikkim.
- c) Potential freshwater supply decrease in the future, impacting regions by 2050.
- d) Accelerated disappearance of glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayas, 65% faster in the 2010s compared to the previous decade.

Recommended Actions:

- a) Strengthen monitoring of global glacier health to address the urgent need for detailed observation.
- b) Develop and implement early warning systems, specifically targeting glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs), for disaster prevention.
- c) Conduct comprehensive risk assessments in glacier-affected regions to understand and mitigate risks effectively.
- d) Prioritize the development of resilient infrastructure in vulnerable areas, considering increased flooding and glacier-related hazards.
- e) Elevate the threat level of glacier-related risks to that of major natural disasters like cyclones and earthquakes, ensuring adequate response and preparedness measures.