

## India's Folk Traditions at IFFI

**Mains:** *GS I - Indian Culture - Salient aspects of Art Forms*

### Why in News?

Recently, Day 3 of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2025 transformed the INOX venue in Panaji, Goa, into a vibrant showcase of the nation's diverse performance arts.

### What is the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?

- **Origin** – Born in 1952, the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) stands tall as South Asia's oldest and largest celebration of cinema.
- **Host** – Jointly hosted by
  - The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).
  - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
  - The Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG).
  - State Government of Goa.
- **Significance** – The festival has grown into a global cinematic powerhouse—where restored classics meet bold experiments, and legendary maestros share space with fearless first-timers.
- What makes IFFI truly sparkle is its electric mix—international competitions, cultural showcases, masterclasses, tributes, and the high-energy WAVES Film Bazaar, where ideas, deals and collaborations take flight.
- **56th edition** – Staged against Goa's stunning coastal backdrop from November 20-28.
- The 56th edition promises a dazzling spectrum of languages, genres, innovations, and voices—an immersive celebration of India's creative brilliance on the world stage

### What are the traditional performances that took place?

- **Gussadi (Telangana)** – Gussadi is a vibrant folk dance from *the Gond tribe* in Telangana, performed during the Dandari festival which coincides with Diwali.
- The *male-only dancers* wear elaborate costumes, including colorful clothes, peacock feather turbans, and deer antlers, and perform energetic routines to traditional instruments like the dappu and tudumu.
- **Mahishasura Mardini (West Bengal)** – It is a *dramatic folk play-dance*, offering a powerful depiction of good triumphing over evil.
- The performance vividly recreated the epic battle between Goddess Durga and the demon Mahishasura, complete with appearances by other major deities and striking martial choreography inherent to the Chhau style

- Mahishasura Mardini in West Bengal most commonly refers to the Mahishamardini Shakti Peeth in Bakreshwar, a sacred site dedicated to the goddess who slays the demon Mahishasura.
- It also refers to the famous Durga Puja festival, where a central image is the deity Mahishasura Mardini (a form of Durga), a tradition deeply ingrained in the state's culture.
- **Sambalpuri Chutkuchuta (Odisha)** - Chutkuchuta" in Odisha can refer to a traditional folk dance, an album of songs, or a restaurant.
- Sambalpuri Chutkuchuta is an energetic folk dance from the Sambalpur region of Odisha, while "Chutku Chuta" and "Chutkuchuta" are also the titles of popular Odia music albums.
- Additionally, "Hotel Chutkuchuta" is a specific hotel in Odisha.
- **Tarpa Dance (Daman and Diu/Maharashtra)** - Tarpa Dance is a tribal folk dance originating from tribes in Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu.
- It is characterized by performers dancing in a circle to the music of a wind instrument also called a "tarpa".
- The dance is performed during celebrations like harvests, marriages, and childbirths, often on moonlit nights.
- The dancers form a spiral or circle, and others can join in, with the musician staying inside the circle
- **Chari Dance (Rajasthan)** - The Chari dance is a traditional folk dance from Rajasthan, India, performed by women, particularly from the Kanjar and Gurjar communities.
- Dancers balance brass pots on their heads while performing graceful movements and twirls.
- The dance symbolizes the hard work of women collecting water and is performed at festivals and celebrations, with the pots sometimes carrying flaming lamps to create a fire effect.
- **Lavani (Maharashtra)** - Lavani is a traditional folk dance form of Maharashtra, known for its energetic blend of song, dance, and theatrics.
- Originating around the 16th or 18th century, it is performed by women dancers wearing nine-yard sarees and ghungroos to the rhythmic beats of instruments like the dholki.
- The name "Lavani" comes from the Marathi word "lavanya," meaning "beauty".
- **Ram Vandana (Assam)** - Ram Vandana" in Assam refers to a part of the Sattriya classical dance form originating from the Majuli island.
- It is a devotional performance that can be a segment in a larger play, such as the 15th-century "Ram Vijay" by Shrimant Shankardev, and features the graceful and refined movements characteristic of Sattriya dance.
- **Bihu (Assam)** - Bihu is the most important festival in Assam, celebrated three times a year, with the most popular being Rongali Bihu (or Bohag Bihu) in April, which marks the Assamese New Year and the start of spring.
- The festival celebrates life, unity, and gratitude through traditional music, the famous Bihu dance, community feasts, and various cultural events.
- The other two Bihu festivals are Bhogali Bihu in January, celebrating the harvest, and Kati Bihu in October, which focuses on the new paddy crop.

## Reference

[PIB| IFFI and Indian Folk dances](#)

