

GOUR MAHAVIDYALAYA, MANGALBARI,  
MALDA



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**FOLK ART AND DANCE OF INDIA : A  
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL OVERVIEW:**



**BHIMBETKA CAVE: PREHISTORIC INDIA: Communal**

**dance: Cave paintings in Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh, India: The walls of Bhimbetka rock shelters are rich with prehistoric paintings. Some of the oldest paintings anywhere in the world were found here. One of the earliest records of dance as a ritual was found in Bhimbetka. The painting features 2 groups of human figures holding hands and dancing along with a musician. It might be the first recorded dance in the world.**



**Kerala: Chakyar Koothu:**

**It is a highly refined ancient dance form of Kerala. The dancer narrates scenes from Hindu epics such as the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. During festivals and occasions, it is performed in the temples.**



**Dalkhai: Mainly dalkhai is named after a goddess "dalkhai Devi". Though Dusserah is the occasion of Sambalpuri folk dance Dalkhai, it's the most popular folk-dance of Odisha. Dalkhai is one of the most popular folk dances of Western Orissa. It is known as**

**Dalkhai because in the beginning and end of every stanza the word is used as an address to a girlfriend. In Oriya language, the term Dalkhai means 'lady love'. The men shout the word 'Dalkhai Bo!' at the beginning and end of each stanza sung in the dance. This is the reason why the dance is known as the Dalkhai dance. The men dancing along with the girls address them during the performance and flirt with them. The themes on which the dance is performed are the eternal love story of Radha and Lord Krishna, episodes from the Hindu epics, the Ramayana and Mahabharata.**



**WEST BENGAL: BAUL:**The origins of the Bauls are obscure. They are said to have derived their philosophy from various sects and doctrines, such as

those of the *sahajiyas*, the *sant* mystics of north India, Sufi sects, Tantric Buddhism, *sankhya* philosophy and *sakta* yoga.



**District Level Cultural Competetion:organised by NeheruYuva Kendra, Malda.Venue: GourMahavidyalaya: Date:8.7.2019.**

### **WEST BENGAL,JHARKHAND: SANTHALI DANCE:**

**Santhali dance is a popular folk dance practiced by Santhal tribes in West Bengal and Jharkhand. This dance form has attained popularity all across India and also has been featured in many reputed Bengali cinemas like 'Agantuk' by Satyajit Ray. This folk dance not only projects the culture or traditions of the local tribes but also showcases the strength of unity.**

**Gaur Maria dance is a well known art form of Bison Horn Marias of Abhujmaria plateau of Bastar in Madhya Pradesh state of India. This spectacular dance performance symbolizes the hunting spirit of the tribe, since the word 'Gaur' means a ferocious bison. This traditional dance is a dance of joy and invocation. Gaur Maria dance is quite popular during the occasion of marriage.**



Gaur Maria Dance



**MAHARASHTRA: DHANGARI GAJA:** This dance is performed by the shepherd community called the Dhangars belonging to the Sholapur district of Maharashtra. The shepherds graze their cattle in the pastures and become acquainted with the nature. Their bucolic life style is brought into their music and poetry.

The poetry consists of couples called Ovi glorifying the birth of the God Biruba. This dance is performed to appease their Lord. The dancers wear colourful tunics, dhoti, and handkerchiefs and sway in sync to the beats of the drum.



**ASSAM:** Although the origins of **Bihu dance** are unknown, the first official record of it is said to be when the Ahom king Rudra Singha invited Bihu dancers to perform at the Rang Ghar fields in about 1694 for the Rongali Bihu.





**MANIPUR: RASLEELA:** Raas Leela is an important part of traditional Manipuri culture and its uniqueness can be visibly seen in every aspect of the dance form, be it the costume or the moves. Raas Leela was first treated as a dance form in 1779 by Ningthou Ching Thang Khambatta.

Chhinton Mandal	1210HISH - 0373	121-1111-0373-15	Mandal Chh...
Tambon Dehman	1219HISH - 459	121-1111-0459-19	Tambon Dehman
Sujitkumar	1215HISH - 0452	121-1111-0452-13	Sujitkumar
MAINDY SAHA	1212HISH - 0402	121-1111-0402-10	Maindy Saha
Ashish Halder	1215HISH - 0364	121-1112-0363-19	Ashish Halder
Kaishaj Khatun	1215HISH - 0386	121-1211-0385-19	Kaishaj Khatun
Subarna Hal	1215HISH - 0416	121-1311-0416-19	Subarna Hal

From the class  
Jedun ~~or~~ p. 10  
Supriya Bioma.