

CHAPTER - 3

NATIONAL SYMBOLS & ART AND CULTURE

National Flag

- On August 1, 1906 at Parsee Bagan Square (Green Park , Calcutta the first national flag of India was hosted. It was a boycott day against the partition of Baganla and Sir Surendranath Banerjee hosted this flag to mark the unity of India.
- Madam Cama on 22nd of August 1907 at Stuttgrat, Gerinazw, hoisted the flag and attained the status of the first Indian flag to be hoisted at the foreign land.
- In 1916 Pingali Venkatija, a writer and a geophysicst, designed a flag with the intention to bring the whole nation together. He met Mahatma Gandhi and sought his approval. Mahatma Gandhi suggested him to incorporate 'Charkha the symbole of economic regeneration of India, in the flag.
- The National Flag of India is based on the flag of the Indian National Congress (INC), which was designed by Pingali Vena of Andhra Pradesh and adopted in 1931 (Karachi Session).
- 1947: When India got independence, a committee headed by Rajinder Prasad was formed to discuss the National Flag of India and they decided to adopt the flag of Indian National Congress, with suitable modifications, as the flag of India. As a result, the flag of 1931 was adopted as Indian flag but 'Charkha in the middle was replaced by Chakra' (wheel) and hence our National Flag came into being. The Indian flag can only be made up of Khadi.
- The National Flag of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on the July 22, 1947.
- The National Flag of India is horizontal tricolor of deep saffron ('kesari') at the top, white the in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. Ratio of the width of the flag to its length is 2:3.
- In the centre of the white bank is a navy blue wheel which represents the Chakra.
- Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashok (Dharma Chakra). Its diameter approximates to the width of the white bank. It has 24 spokes.
- Saffron stands for courage, sacrifice and renunciation. White stands for truth and purity. Truth in words and actions, and purity in thoughts. Green is the symbol of life, abundance and prosperity. Chakra is the symbol of progress and of movement.
- January 26, 2002: Fifty-four years after the tiranga (our Indian flag as it is popularly known) was adopted by the Constituent Assembly as the national flag, the citizens were free to hoist the. Indian flag
- The Indian national flag was hoisted on Mt. Everest, the highest peak in the world, on May 29 1953.
- In 1971, the Indian flag, went into space on board Apollo-15. It flew into space as a medallion on Thpacesuit worn by Cosmonaut Wing Command Rakesh Sharma
- The Flag Code of India, 2002, takes effect from 26 January 2002 and supersedes the 'Flag Code—India as it existed.

HISTORICAL JUDGMENTS

- The Delhi High Court in a judgment on September 22, 1995, said that any citizen can fly the National Flag on his or her house / building, nullyfing the Fladg code which confers the honour on a few top government officials.
- In another major ruling on January 23, 2004, the Supreme Court declared that hoisting of the National Flag by the citizens is a Fundamental Right under Article I 9(1)(a) of the Constitution.

- Apart from non-statutory instruction issued by the Govt. from time to time, display of the National Flag is governed by the provisions of the flag code of India, 2002, there shall be no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of general public, private organisations, educational institutions, etc, except to the extent provided in the emblems and names (Preventions of Improper use) Act 1950 and the prevention of Insult to National Honour Act, 1971 and any other law enacted on the Subject.

State Emblem

- The state emblem is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion.
- In the original, there are four lions, standing back to back, mounted on an abacus with a frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion separated by intervening wheels over a bell-shaped lotus.
- Carved out of a single block of polished sandstone, the Capital is crowned by the Wheel of the Law (Dharma Chakra).
- The state emblem was adopted by the Government of India on 26 January 1950.
- The words Satyameva Jayate from Mundaka Upanishad, meaning 'Truth Alone Triumphs', are inscribed below the abacus in Devanagari script.
- The emblem of India is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.
- Emperor Ashoka the Great erected the capital atop an Ashoka Pillar to mark the spot where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma and where the Buddhist Sangha was founded. In the original there are four Asiatic lions, standing back to back, mounted on a circular abacus with a frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion separated by intervening Dharmachakra or Ashoka Chakrawheels over a bell-shaped lotus. It was carved out of a single block of polished sandstone.
- The four lions (one hidden from view) - symbolising powers courage and confidence rest on a circular abacus The abacus is girded by four smaller animals - guardians of the four directions the lion of the north, the elephant of the east, the horse of the south and the bull of the west. The abacus rest on a lotus in full bloom, exemplifying the fountainhead of life and creative inspiration
- The emblem forms a part of the official letterhead of the Government of India, and appears on all Indian currency as well. The wheel "Ashoka Chakra" from its base has been placed onto the center of the National Flag of India

National Anthem

- The song Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on 24 January 1950.
- It was first sung on 27 December 1911 at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress.
- The song 'jana gana mana' was first published in January 1912, under the title Bharat Vidhata in the Tatva Bodhni Patra edited by Tagore himself The song was translated into English by Tagore in 1919, under the title 'Morning Song of India'.
- The complete song consists of five stanzas.
- The playing time of the full version of the National Anthem is approximately 52 seconds. The playing time of the short version consisting of first and last lines of the stanza is approximately 20 seconds.
- India and Bangladesh adopted two songs written by the first Asian Nobel prizewinner and noted Bengali poet/author Rabindranath Tagore as their national anthems, Jana Gana Mana and Amar

Saka	Gregorian
1 Chaitra 30/31 days	March 22/21
1 Vaishaka 31	April 21
1 Jaishta 31	May 22
1 Ashadha 31	June 22
1 Shrawana 31	July 23
1 Bhadra 31	Aug. 23
1 Ashvina 30	Sept. 23
1 Kartika 30	Oct. 23
1 Margashirsha 30	Nov. 22
1 Pausa 30	Dec. 22
1 Magha 30	Jan. 21
1 Phalgun 30	Feb. 20

Shonar Bangla, respectively. This is a very rare occasion where one person is the author of the National anthems of two different countries, if not unique.

- The poem was composed in December 1911, precisely at the time of the Coronation Durbar of George V and is considered by some to be a paean in praise of the overlord of India destiny. The composition was first sung during a convention of the then loyalist Indian National Congress in Calcutta on Dec. 16, 1911.
- In 2005, there were calls to delete the word "Sindh" and substitute it with the word Kashmir. The argument was that Sindh was no longer a part of India, having become part of Pakistan as a result of the Partition of 1947. The Supreme Court of India refused to tamper with the national anthem and the wording remains unchanged.

National Song

- The song Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chattrji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom.
- Vande Mataram is a poem in the novel by Anandamatha by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay. It is written in a mixture of Bengoli and Sanskrit. It is a hymn to the goddess Durga, identified as the national personification of Bengal. It came to be considered the "National Anthem of Bengal, and it played a part in the Indian independence movement, first sung in a political context ' by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress. In 1950 its first two verses were given the official status of 'national song' of the Republic of India, distinct from the national anthem of India Jana Gana-Mana.
- A commonly cited English translation of the poem, Mother, I bow to thee!, is due to Sri Aurobindo (1909).
- The concept of Vande Mataram came to Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay when he was still a government official under the British Raj, around 1876.
- It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950, along with the National Anthem. It has an equal status with 'Jana Gana Mana'.
- It is widely believed that the tune set for All India Radio station version was composed by Ravi Shankar.

National Calendar

- The national calendar based on the Saka Era, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 from 22 March 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar.
- Dates of the national calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian calendar, 1 Chaitra falling on 22 March normally and on 21 March in leap year.
- The calendar was introduced by the Calendar Reform Committee in 1957, as part of the Indian Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac, which also contained other astronomical data, as well as timings and formulae for preparing Hindu religious calendars, in an attempt to harmonise this practice. Despite this effort, local variations based on older sources such as the Surya Siddhanta may still exist.
- Usage officially started at Chaitra 1, 1879 Saka Era, or March 22, 1957.
- Rashtriya Panchang: The Reform Committee also formalised a religious calendar, referred to as the Rashtriya Panchang. This, like many regional calendars, defines a lunisolar calendar based on the authoritative version of the Surya Siddhanta from the 10th century.
- The National Calendar is issued for the following official purposes:
 1. Gazette of India
 2. News broadcast by All India Radio
 3. Calendars issued by the Government of India, and
 4. Government communications addressed to the public.
 5. In leap year Chaitra has 31 days and starts on March 21.

National Animal

- The magnificent tiger, *Panthera tigris*, a striped animal is the national animal of India, it has a thick yellow coat of fur with dark stripes.
- Out of eight races of the species known, the Indian race, the Royal Bengal Tiger, is found throughout the country except in the north-western region and also in the neighbouring countries, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.
- It is also the national animal of Bangladesh.
- To check the dwindling population of tigers in India, which came down to just 1,827 in 1972, massive conservation program was initiated in April 1973 known as the 'Project Tiger' This project aims to maintain a viable population of tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values.
- Lion was the national animal of India till 1972. Later on, it was replaced by tiger.

National Bird

- Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*), which is a symbol of grace, joy, beauty and love is the national bird of India. Peacock occupies a respectable position in Indian culture and is protected not only by religious sentiments but also by parliamentary statute.
- In India the peacock is found in almost all parts and enjoys full protection under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

National Flower

- Lotus, botanically known as the *Nelumbo Nucifera Gaertn* is the national flower of India.
- The Lotus Flower symbolizes divinity, fertility, wealth, knowledge and enlightenment.
- Apart from India, Lotus is also the national of Vietnam.
- In Egypt the Lotus Flowers are considered to auspicious because they are regarded as the symbol of Sun God.

National Tree

- The Banyan tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) is the National Tree of India.
- The largest such tree now found in Kolkata in India. One of the most famous of banyan trees was planted on the island of Kabirvad in Gujarat. Records show that the Kabirvad tree is more than 300 years old.
- Also in Hindu culture, the banyan tree is also called kalpavriksha meaning wish fulfilling divine tree. In modern parlance in the Hindi language, it is known as Bargad, Vatavriksh, and Barh.
- Buddha is believed to have achieved enlightenment in Bodhgaya in India while meditating under a banyan tree of the species Sacred Figure. The tree is known as Bodhi Tree.

National Fruit

- Mango (*Manifera Indica*) is the National Fruit of India. Mango is a rich source of Vitamins A, C and D.

National River of India

- Ganga a National River.
- November 4, 2008 : Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared Ganga as National River
- February 20, 2009: The Central government set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)

National Game

- Hockey is the National Game of India.
- The Golden Era of hockey in India was the period from 1928 - 1956 when India won 6 consecutive gold medals in the Olympics.

National Aquatic Animal

- To save dolphins (*Planista gangetica*) from extinction, the Union government has declared them as the national aquatic animal on October 5, 2009. The dolphins found in the Ganga are a rare species.

ART AND CULTURE

Lalit Kala Akademi

- To promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, both within and outside the country, the Government of India established Lalit Kala Akademi (National Akademi of Arts) at New Delhi in 1954.
- Every three years, the Akademi also organises Triennial India, an International exhibition of contemporary art in New Delhi.
- The Akademi has regional centres called Rashtriya Lalit Kala Kendras at Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai Chennai New Delhi and Bhubaneswar with workshop facilities in painting sculpture, print-making and ceramics.
- The Akademi also brings out bi-annual art journals, Lalit Kala Contemporary (English), Lalit Kala Ancient (English) and Samikaleen Kala (Hindi).

Music

- Two main schools of classical music-Hindustani and Carnatic continue to survive through oral tradition being passed on by teachers to disciples. This has led to the existence of family traditions called gharanas and sampradayas.
- Hindustani music: Hindustani music is an Indian classical music tradition that goes back to Vedic times (around 1000 BC), and further developed circa the 13th and 14th centuries AD with Persian influences and from existing religious and folk music. The practice of singing based on "notes was popular even from the Vedic times where the hymns in Sama Veda, a sacred text, was sung as Samagana and not chanted. In contrast to Carnatic music, the other main Indian classical music tradition (originating from the South), Hindustani music was not only influenced by ancient Hindu musical traditions, Vedic philosophy and native Indian sounds but also enriched by the Persian performance practices of the Mughals. Besides pure classical, there are also several semi-classical forms such as thumri and tappa.
- Carnatic music: The present form of Carnatic music is based on historical developments that can be traced to the 15th - 16th centuries AD and thereafter. From the ancient Sanskrit works available, and the epigraphical evidence, the history of classical musical traditions can be traced back about 2500 years. Carnatic music is completely melodic, with improvised variations. The main emphasis is on vocal music; most compositions are written to be sung, and even when played on instruments, they are meant to be performed in a singing style (known as gayaki). Like Hindustani music, Carnatic music rests on two main elements: raga, the modes or melodic formul, and tala, the rhythmic cycles.
- Purandara Dasa is credited with having founded today's Carnatic Music. Purandara Dasa was the first composer who started commenting on the daily life of the people in compositions.

Folk Music

- The Bauls: The Bauls were an order of musicians in 18th, 19th and early 20th century India who played a form of music using a khamak, ektara and dotara. The word Baul comes from Sanskrit batul meaning divinely.
- Bhangra: Bhangra is a lively form of music and dance that originated in the Punjab region to celebrate Vaisakhi the festival of the Sikhs.
- Bhavageete: Bhavageete is a form of expressionist poetry and light music. It is a popular genre in the states of Maharashtra (marathi language) and Karnataka (kannada language).
- Dandiya: Dandiya is a form of dance-oriented folk music that has also been adapted for pop music. The present musical style is derived from the traditional musical accompaniment to the folk dance. It is practised in (mainly) the state of Gujarat.

- **Lavani** : Lavani comes from the word Lavanya which means beauty. This is one of the most popular forms of dance and music that is practiced all over Maharashtra. Traditionally the songs are sung by female artistes, but male artistes may occasionally sing Lavanis.
- **Qawwali**: Qawwali is a Sufi music based on the principles of classical music. It is performed with one or two or many lead singers, several chorus singers, harmonium, tabla, and dholak.
- **Rabindra Sangeet**: Rabindranath Tagore was a towering figure in Indian music. Writing in Bengali, he created a library of over 2,000 songs now known by Bengalis as 'rabindra sangeet' whose form is primarily influenced by Hindustani classical sub-classicals, Karnatic, western, bauls, bhativali and different folk songs of India.
- **Rajasthan**: Rajasthan has a very diverse cultural collection of musician castes, including Langas. Sopera, Bhopa, Jogi and Manganiyar (lit. the ones who ask/beg). Rajasthan Diary quotes it as a soulful, full-throated music with Harmonious diversity.
- **Ganasangeet**: Ganasangeet is generally sung in chorus carrying some social message. The songs are usually about Freedom, community strength, patriotism. Due to the British occupation in India, a lot of protest songs about anti-imperialism/pro-socialism has been written in India.

Famous Instrumentalists

- **Violin**: Gajanan Rao Joshi, M.S. Gopalakrishnan, T.N. Krishnan, Lalgudi O. Jayaraman, Baluswamy Dikshitar, Mysore T. Chowdiah, Dwaran Venkataswamy Naidu, V.O. Jog, Govindswamy Pillai, L. Subramaniam.
- **Sitar**: Ravi Shankar, Hara Shankar Bhattacharya, Nikhil Banerjee, Vilayat Khan, Mustaq Au Khan.
- **Sarod**: Buddadev Dasgupta, Au Akbar Khan, Amjad Au Khan, Bhadur Khan, Zarin S. Sharma, Sharan Rani, Alauddin Khan, Hafiz Khan.
- **Flute**: Han Prasad Chaurasia, N. Ramani, Pannalal Ghose, T.R. Mahalingam.
- **Tabla**: Zakir Hussain, Kishan Maharaj, Nikhil Ghosh, Alla Rakha Khan, Pandit Samta Prasad, Kumar Bose, Latif Khan.
- **Veena**: Doraiswamy Iyengar, Chittibabu Emani Sankara Shastri, K. R. Kumaraswamy, Dhanammal, S. Balachandran.
- **Shehnai**: Bismillah Khan.
- **Santoor**: Shiv Kumar Sharma.
- **Sarangee**: Pt. Ramnarayan, Ustad Binda Khan.
- **Pakhawaj**: Gopal Das, Baba Rain Shanker Pagaldas, Pt. Ayodhya Prasad.
- **Nadaswaram**: Neeruswamy Pillai, Sheikh. Chinna Moula, Rajaratnam Pillai.
- **Kanjira**: Pudukkottai Dakshinamurti Pillai.
- **Mridangam**: Karaikudi R. Mani, Paighat Raghu, Paighat Mani Iyer.
- **Been**: Zia Moinuddin Khan, Asad Au Khan.
- **Surbahar**: Sajjad Hussain, Annapurna.

DANCE

- The major dance form of India and their originating states has been laid down below-Bharat Natyam - Tamil Nadu; Kathakali - Kerala; Katak-North India; Manipuri - Manipur; Odissi — Orissa; Kuchipudi - Andhra Pradesh; and SaraikelliandlCaodiyattam-Kerala.
- **Bharatnatyam**: It is believed that Brahma, the supreme Creator, created Natya by taking literature

THEATRE

The following rural or semi urban theatre forms are keeping up their tradition.

1. Jatra	Bengal
2. Tamasha	Maharashtra
3. Bhavai	Gujarat
4. Nautanki	Uttar Pradesh
5. Khayal	Rajasthan
6. Naqal	Punjab
7. Maach	Madhya Pradesh
8. Yakshagana	Karnataka
9. Koodiyattam	Kerala
10. Raasleela & Raamleela	Uttar Pradesh
11. Bhand	Punjab

from the Rig Veda, songs from the Sama Veda, abhinaya or expression from the Yajur Veda and rasa or aesthetic experience from the Arthava Veda. All the dance forms are structured around the nine rasas or emotions. They are hasya (happiness), shoka (sorrow), krodha (anger), karuna (compassion), bhibasta (disgust), adbhuta (wonder) bhaya (fear), vikram (courage) and shanta (serenity). In fact Bharata Natyam was till the early 20th century, only performed by devadasis or maids of God', in temples. This dance is the oldest of the classical dance forms, and its origin can be traced to Bharata's Natya Shastra. It is essentially a solo dance and has close affinities with the traditional dance-drama form called Bhagvat Mela performed only by men, and folk operettas called Kuruvanji performed only by women.

- **Kathakali:** Kathakali has its origin in the courts of the kings of Kerala. It is one of the most refined and most scientific dance forms of Kerala. Its present form is not more than 300 years old. This art demands complete control over every part of the body. Kathakali draws heavily from drama, utilising elaborate masks and costumes. The stories or attakathas, which are depicted via Kathakali are selected from epics and mythologies.
- **Kuchipudi:** It originates from Kuchelapuram in Andhra Pradesh, is the corresponding style of the Bhagvata Mela Nataka of Tamil Nadu. Except that the emphasis is on the animation, the grammar is derived from the Natya Shastra. The most popular dance is the pot dance, where the dancer keeps a pot on her head and on the rims of a steel plate places her feet. She moves on the stage manipulating the brass plate without spilling a drop of water on the ground. The modern Kuchipudi is classical Karnatic.
- **Mohinigattam:** This dance form also belongs to the Devadasi dance heritage, like Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi. The word 'mohini' literally means the 'maiden who steals the hearts of men'. It is believed that Lord Vishnu took the guise of a 'Mohini to enthrall people, during the churning of the ocean as well as the slaying of Bhasmasura. Thus, the Vaishnava devotees gave the name 'Mohiniyattam' to this dance form, It is a solo dance which is similar to Bharatanatyam, its movements are graceful like Odissi and the costumes are attractive but sober.
- **Yakshagana:** The origin of this can be traced to the rural areas of Karnataka. It is about 400 years old and is a blend of dance as well as drama. The language used for the Gana meaning music is Kannada and the themes are based on Hindu epics. As prescribed in the Natya Shastra, it has the Sutra Dhara (conductor) and the Vidushaka (the jester).
- **Odissi:** This is also based on the Natya Shastra and it can be traced back to the 2 B.C. when the Jam King Shashtra ruled. He himself was an expert dancer and musician, who arranged a performance of Thandava and Abhinaya. In the 17th century a class of boys known as the Gotipuas came into being. They dressed as women and danced in the temples. The present Odissi as a solo form, evolved—out of all these. Its technique is built round a basic motif in which the human body takes the three deflected (tribhanga) position of Indian sculpture. The dances are performed to poetry ranging from invocations of Ganesha to the verses of the Gita Govinda.
- **Kathak:** Kathak finds its roots in katha meaning 'story'. A band of storytellers attached to temples in Northern India, narrated stories from epics. Later they added mime and gesture to their recitation. The popularity of the Radha-Krishna legend, led to further innovations in the dance form. With the advent of the Muslim rule, it was brought out of the temples and in to the courts of the rulers. Since then it has been commonly identified with the court traditions of the later Nawabs of northern India. It is really an amalgam of several folk traditions, the traditional dance drama forms prevalent in the temples of Mathura and Vrindavan known as Krishna and Radha - Lila. Jaipur, Benaras and Lucknow became the main centers of the dance.
- **Manipuri:** The dances known as the rasa dances evolved only as a result of the interaction of the Vaishnava cult and several highly developed forms of ritual and religious dances which were prevalent in the area, in the 18th century. The numbers presented are Lai Haraoba and Rasa Leela. The former deals with the creation of the world and the latter deals with the intimacy between Krishna and his consort - Radha.

SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI

- Sangeet Natak Akademi India National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, may be regarded as a pioneer in the process of creation of modern India

- The National Academy of Dance, Drama, and Music, named Sangeet Natak Akademi, was the first of these entities to be established by a resolution of the Ministry of Education headed by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, signed on 31 May 1952. On 28 January 1953, Sangeet Natak Akademi was inaugurated by the then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

- The Akademi also establishes and looks after institutions and projects of national importance in the performing arts. Chronologically, the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy in Imphal, the premier institution in Manipuri dance and music established in 1954, is the first of these institutions. In 1959 the Akademi established the National School drama and in 1964 the Kathak Kendra, both being based in Delhi. The Akademi's ongoing projects of national importance are in Kutiyattam theatre of Kerala,

which commenced in 1991 received recognition from UNESCO as a Master piece of oral and intangible heritage of Humanity in 2001. The project in Chhau dance of Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal began in 1994. The project support to Sattriya music, dance, theatre and allied arts of Assam was started in 2002.

- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award 2009: The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the national academy of music, dance and drama, has chosen four eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna (Akademi Fellows). The four are: Smt. Sitara Devi, Khaleed Choudhury, Shri R.C. Mehtra and Shri Bhuperi Hazarika. In the field of music, some important artists are — Ulhas Kashalkar and M.R. Gautam (Hindustani vocal music); Puranam Purushottama Sastri (Carnatic vocal); Kumariyolin and Manrgudi A. Easwaran (mridangam) for Carnatic instrumental music and Ningombam Iboi Singh (Nata Sankirtana, Manipur) for other major traditions of music have been selected.

- In the field of dance, nine eminent practitioners Saroj a Vaidyanathan, (Bharatnatyam); Shashi Shankhla (Kathak) Kalamandalam Kuttan (Kathakali) Ramani Ranjan Jena (Odissi); Vasanta Lakshmi and Narasimhachari (joint award in Kuchipudi); Kalamandalam Leelami (Mohiniattam); Yog Sunder Desai (creative and experimental dance) and Ramhari Das (music for dance, Odissi) have been selected. R. Satyanarayana of Karnataka has been selected for his contribution to scholarship in performing arts.

IMPORTANT REGIONAL FESTIVALS OF INDIA

Andhra Pradesh	Pongal, Teppern, Vaikuntha Ekadasi.
Tamil Nadu	
Assam and Manipur	Bhageli Bihu, Bohag Bihu (or Rangali Bihu), Spring Festival of Konyak Nagas.
Bengal	Purnima, Naba Barsha.
Bihar	Chhath Sarhul, Karam.
Delhi	Sair-i-Gulfaroshan
Goa	Zatra at Cansaulim, Carnival
Himachal Pradesh	Minjar Mela, Jwalamukhi Fair
Karnataka	Ugadi, Karaga, (held every 12 years in veneration of Gomateswara Bahubali at Sravanbelagola.
Kashmir	Nav Warih, Pilgrimage to Amarnath Cave
Kerala	Thy Pongal, Poorum, Onam.
Maharashtra and Gujarat	Gudi Padva, Divali
Orissa	Car Festival (at Puri)
Punjab and Haryana	Lohri, Tikka
Rajasthan and MP	Gangaru
Tripura	Karchi Puja, Tripureshwari Temple Festival
Uttar Pradesh	Sravana Festival, Kans Ka Mela

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is at present an autonomous body of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programmes.

National School of Drama

- National School of Drama (NSD) was set up by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1959.
- In 1975, it became an autonomous organization.
- Since 1998, the school has organized National Theatre Festival for Children christened 'Jashne Bachpan', every year.
- The objective of NSD is to train students in all aspects of theatre, including theatre history, production, scene design, costume design, lighting, make-up, etc.
- The first ever National Theatre Festival christened Bharat Rang Mahotsav was held from 18 March to 14 April 1999 to commemorate the 50th year of India's Independence.

Sahitya Akademi

- The Akademi was founded in March 1954 as an autonomous body fully funded by the Department of Culture. The Akademi has recognized 24 languages.
- Sahitya Akademi is the Indian National Academy of Letters meant to promote the cause of Indian literature through publications, translations, seminars, workshops, cultural exchange programmes and literary meets organised all over the country.
- The highest honour conferred by the Akademi on a writer is by electing him its Fellow. This honour is reserved for the 'Immortals of Literature' and limited to 21 at any given time.
- It has three journals, Literature (bi-monthly Hindi) (bi-monthly in English) Samkaleena Bharatiya Sahitya (b-monthly in Hindi) and Samskrita Pritbha (half-yearly in Sanskrit.)

Sahitya Akademy Award 2008

- The youngest awardee was 44-year-old Dinesh Panchal (Rajasthani) while the oldest was 90-year-old Nepali writer Haiman Das Rai Kirat; both in the short story category.
- Some other awardees: Govind Mishra (Hindi novelist, Kohre Mein Kaid Rang, Ghulam Nabi Aatash (Kashmiri critic, Bazyaft).
- Poets : Om Pakash Pande (Sanskrit) and Jayant Parmer (Urdu).
- The three fellowships by Sahitya Akademi are:
 - Sahitya Akademi Honorary Fellowship
 - Anand Fellowship
 - Premchand Fellowship

Some Other Cultural Institutions

S.No. Name	Location
1. Central Institute of Buddhist Studies	Leh
2. Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	New Delhi
3. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya	Bhopal
4. Library of Tibetan Works and Archives	Dharamshala
5. National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property	Lucknow
6. Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies	Varanasi
7. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies	Kolkata
8. Institute of Traditional Culture	Chennai
9. National Institute of Kathak Dance	New Delhi
10. Theosophical Society	Chennai

Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata

- The Institute was conceived in 1936 as one of the permanent memorials to Sri Ramakrishna (1836-1886) on the occasion of his first birth centenary.
- It was formally established on 29 January 1938 as a bench centre of the Ramakrishna Mission founded by Swami Vivekananda to propagate the message of Vedanta as propounded by Sri Ramakrishna.

Anthropological Survey of India

- There are 24 Circles and 5 Regional Directorates through which the Archaeological Survey of India administer the work of preservation and conservation of monuments under its protection.
- The Anthropological Survey of India is a premier research organisation under the Ministry of Culture.
- Anthropological Survey of India was established in 1945 at Kolkata.
- It carry out anthropological researches in the area of bio-cultural aspects of Indian population in general and on those who are referred to as the "Weakest of the Weak in particular."

Archaeological Survey of India

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established 1861.
- It functions as an attached office of the Department of Culture.
- Three sites, namely, Chairiariei - Pavagarh Arhaeological Park in Gujarat, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) Station in Mumbai and the Brihadisvara temple complex, Gangakondacholapuram and the Airavatesvaira temple complex, Darasuram as an extension to the Brihadisvara temple complex, Thanjavur (now commonly called as the Great Living Chola Temples) have been inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO in 2004.
- Latter on valley of Flowers as an extension to the Nanda Devi National Park in Uttaranchal was also included in the list.
- The major activities of the Archaeological Survey of India are
 - i) Survey of archaeological remains and excavations;
 - ii) Maintenance and conservation of centrally protected monuments sites and remains;
 - iii) Chemical preservation of monuments and antiquarian remains;
 - iv) Architectural survey of monuments;
- Nomination dossiers for the following sites have been sent to the World Heritage Centre for Heritage List of UNESCO: (i) Shri Harminder Sahib (Golden Temple) at Amritsar, Punjab. (ii) Majuli Island in Mid-stream of river Brahmaputra in Assam. (iii) Valley of extension to the Nanda Devi National Park in Uttaranchal. (iv) Red Fort, Delhi (a deferred nomination).

National Archives of India

- The National Archives of India (NAI), New Delhi known until Independence as Imperial Record
- Department was originally established in Kolkata on 11 March 1891.
- It is the official custodian of all non-current record of permanent value to the Government of India and its predecessor bodies.
- It has a Regional Office, at Bhopal and three Record Centres at Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Pondicherry.

National Mission for Manuscripts

- The National Mission for Manuscripts was launched in February, 2003 by the Ministry of Culture to save the most valuable of our cultural inheritance, i.e. manuscripts.

National Museum

- The National Museum, which was set up in 1949 and which has been functioning as a subordinate office under the Ministry of Culture since 1960, houses over 2.6 lakh art objects dating from prehistoric era onwards.

Museums in India.

- Archaeological Museum Amaravati District Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
- Asiatic Society, Kolkata, West Bengal
- Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Indian Museum, Kolkata
- International Dolls Museum, Delhi
- Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Himachal Pradesh
- Mani Bhavan Gandhi Museum and Library - Mumbai
- Nagarjuna Konda Museum, Nagarjuna Sagar, Andhra Pradesh
- Nalanda Archaeological Museum, Nalanda- Bihar
- National Museum, New Delhi
- National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi
- National Rail Museum, New Delhi
- Nehru Museum & Planetarium, New Delhi
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai
- Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum. Pune.Maharashtra
- Revi Karunakaran Museum, Alleppey, Kerala
- Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
- Shree Bhavani_Museum, Aundh, Satara, Maharashtra
- Si GramjivanMuseum (Kaneri Math), Kaneri, Koihapur, Maharashtra
- Sri Venkateswara Museum Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
- Tribal Museum, Araku, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore
- Victoria Jubilee Museum in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- Victoria Memorial, Kolkata, West Bengal

National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology

- The National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi, an autonomous organisation fully funded by the Ministry of Culture was established and declared a Deemed to be University in 1989.
- This is the only Mutn University in India.

National Library

- The National Library, Kolkata was established in 1948 with the passing of the imperial Library (Change of Name) Act, 1948.

Central Secretariat Library

- The Central Secretariat Library (CSL) originally known as Imperial Secretariat Library, Kolkata was established in 1891. Since 1969 the Library has been housed at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, it has a collection of over seven lakh documents mainly on Social Sciences and Humanities. It is a - depository of Indian Official Documents, Central Government and has -a strong collection of State Government documents also.

Centre for Cultural Resources And Training

- The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) is one of the premier institutions working in the field of linking education with culture. The Centre was set up in May 1979 as an autonomous organisation by the Government of India.

- Today it operates under the administrative control of Ministry of Culture, Government of India. With headquarters in New Delhi, it has two regional centres at Udaipur and Hyderabad.

Zonal Cultural Centres

- Zonal Cultural Centres have been conceptualised with the aim of projecting cultural kinship which transcend territorial boundaries.
- The seven zonal cultural centres were established under this scheme during 1985- 86 at Patiala, Kolkata, Thanjavur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Dimapur and Nagpur.

National Gallery of Modern Art

- The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi was founded in 1954.
- The main aim of the NGMA is the promotion and development of contemporary Indian Art.
- The NGMA Mumbai was inaugurated in 1996.

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

- Established in 1985 in the memory of the Late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, it is involved in multifarious activities such as research, publication, training, documentation, dissemination and networking and is poised to grow into a large repository of information pertaining to the arts in India.
- The IGNCA has been designated as a nodal agency for setting up a National Data Bank on Arts, Humanities and Cultural Heritage.

National Research Laboratory For Conservation Of Cultural Property

- The aims and objectives of the NRLC are to develop conservation of-cultural property in the country which was established in 1976.
- The headquarters of NRLC is situated at Lucknow
- It is a Subordinate Office of the Department of Culture and is recognised by the Department of Science and Technology as a scientific institution of the Government of India