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Q12

With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements: 1. It is a song and dance performance. 2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance. 3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1 only Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

Indian art, architecture, culture - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1, 2 and 3. Cymbals are central, but drums (**pung**) and other instruments are also used, so 'cymbals only' makes statement 2 false. All three is not the key.

(b) Official key

(b) 1 and 3 only. Manipuri Sankirtana is a ritual song-and-dance offering that narrates Krishna's life and deeds. Statement 2 overstates the instrument list. 1 and 3 only is the official key.

(c)

(c) 2 and 3 only. Dropping the song-and-dance description while keeping the false 'cymbals only' line is wrong.

(d)

(d) 1 only. The Krishna narrative is also correct, so 1 only is incomplete.

Summary

Official key is (b) 1 and 3 only. Sankirtana of Manipur is a Vaishnava congregational performance of song, drum and dance that tells Krishna's story, often tied to Nata Sankirtana and Ras tradition. Cymbals (**kartal**) matter, but they are not the only instruments; the **pung** drum is indispensable. UNESCO inscribed Manipuri Sankirtana in 2013. Statement 2 therefore falls.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

UNESCO list

Sankirtana, 2013 ICH

Faith

Gaudiya Vaishnavism in Manipur

Pung

Barrel drum of Sankirtana

Kartal

Cymbals used with the pung

Ras Leela

Manipuri dance on Krishna-gopis

Lai Haraoba

Older Meitei ritual, distinct from Sankirtana

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