



Quick Revision Module (UPSC Prelims 2024)
Art & Culture

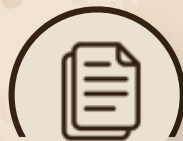
Indian puppetry

Sources:



Ancient Linkage

- Srimad Bhagavata: Mention of three strings-Satta, Raja and Tama, and God as puppeteer.
- Harappa and Mohenjo-daro: Excavation of puppets.



Written evidences

- Earliest reference to the art of puppetry: Tamil classic 'Silappadikaaram' and in Mahabharata.
- Natyashastra: 'Sutradhar' meaning the holder of strings.



Meanings

- Sanskrit terminology Puttalika and Puttika means 'little sons'.
- The root of Puppet is derived from the latin word 'Pupa' meaning a doll.



String Puppets

- ▶ Kathputli, Rajasthan
- ▶ Kundhei, Odisha
- ▶ Gombeyatta, Karnataka
- ▶ Bommalattam, Tamil Nadu

Shadow Puppets

- ▶ Togalu Gombeyatta, Karnataka
- ▶ Tholu Bommalata, Andhra Pradesh
- ▶ Ravanachhaya, Orissa



Rod Puppets

- ▶ Putul Nautch, West Bengal
- ▶ Yampuri, Bihar



Glove Puppets

- ▶ Pavakoothu, Kerala







Jointed limbs
controlled by
strings.

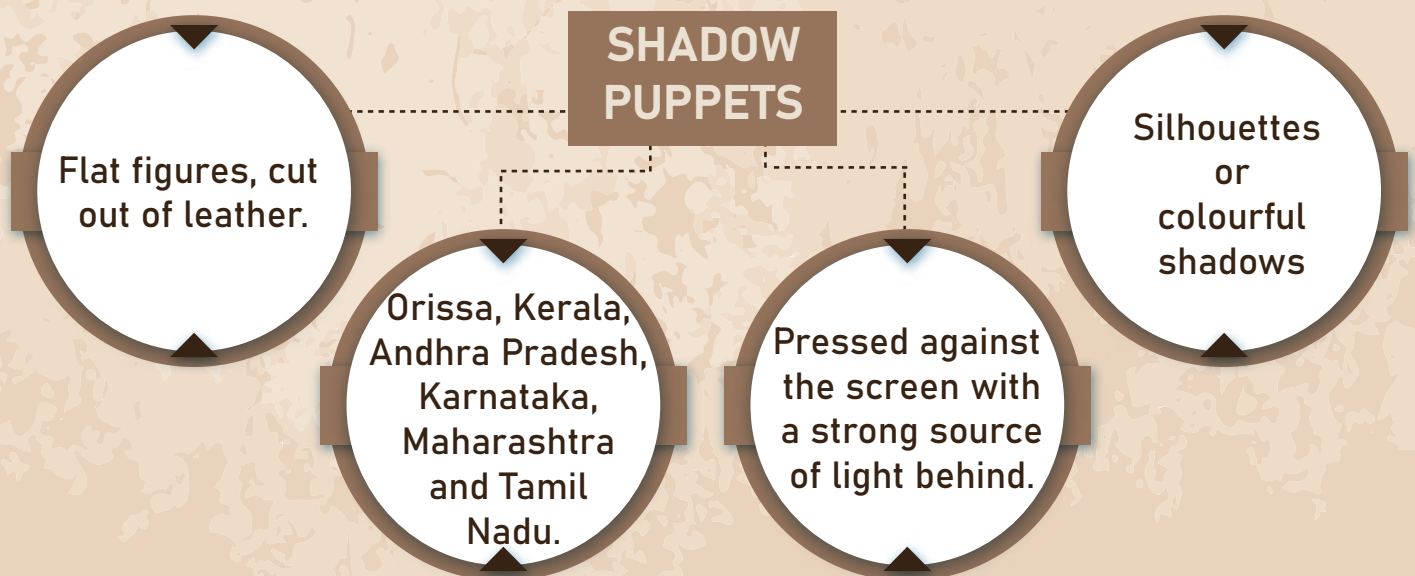
Rajasthan, Orissa,
Karnataka and
Tamil Nadu.


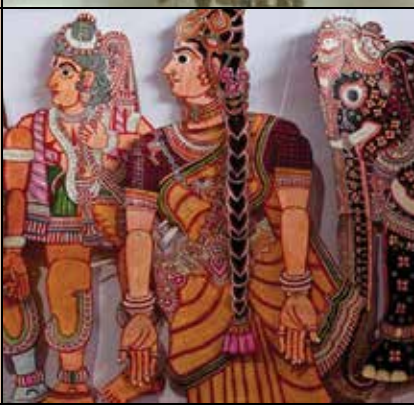

STRING PUPPETS

Miniature jewellerys
and other accessories
are attached.



String Puppets	Features	Image
Kathputli, Rajasthan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Traditional marionettes. ▶ Carved from wood (Kath), puppets are like large dolls (Putli) that are colourfully dressed. ▶ Accompanied by a dramatic folk music. ▶ Puppets wear long trailing skirts and do not have legs. 	
Kundhei, Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Puppets have no legs but wear long flowing skirts. ▶ Have more joints and are, therefore, more versatile, articulate and easy to manipulate. ▶ Influenced by Jatra traditional theatre. 	
Gombeyatta, Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Designed like the characters of Yakshagana. ▶ Episodes enacted are usually based on Prasangas of the Yakshagana plays. ▶ Manipulated by two to three puppeteers at a time. 	
Bommalattam, Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Combine the techniques of both rod and string puppets. ▶ Manipulation strings are tied to an iron ring worn like a crown on his head. ▶ The largest, heaviest and the most articulate of all traditional Indian marionettes. ▶ 4 stages: Vinayak Puja, Komali, Amanattam and Pusenkanattam. 	



Shadow Puppets	Features	Image
Togalu Gombeyatta, Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mostly small in size. ▶ Variation of puppet size based on social status. ▶ Large size: kings and religious characters. ▶ Smaller size: Common people or servants. 	
Tholu Bommalata, Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Large in size and jointed waist, shoulders, elbows and knees. ▶ Coloured on both sides. ▶ Music is dominantly influenced by the classical music. ▶ Themes are drawn from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas. 	
Ravanachhaya, Orissa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ One piece and have no joints. ▶ Throw opaque shadows on the screen. ▶ Puppets are made of deer skin and are conceived in bold dramatic poses. ▶ Use of non-human puppets. 	



Rod Puppets

- Extension of glove-puppets.
- Controlled by Rods.
- West Bengal, Assam and Orissa.



Putul Nautch, West Bengal

- Costumed like the actors of Jatra.
- Mostly three joints.
- Accompanied by a musical troop.



Yampuri, Bihar

- Made of wood and are without any joints.
- Carved out of a single piece of wood and then painted and dressed in bright colours.



Glove Puppets

- Sleeve, hand or palm puppets.
- Made of cloth or wood.
- Popular all across India.



Pavakoothu, Kerala

- Originated around 18th century.
- Influence of Kathakali dance.
- Themes like Ramayana and Mahabharata.

