



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivar Kamarajar"

Ladakh Festival

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Why is in news? Leh: Tourists from different parts of the world to witness Ladakh Festival

Tourists from different parts of the world have gathered at **Chokanga Vihara to witness the colorful mask dances, locally called Chams.**

Along with Chams, heritage walk in Leh old town, **Thangka exhibition, a handicrafts exhibition, Art Exhibition on Birds of Ladakh and Archival photo exhibition** at historic Leh palace have pulled the crowds.

Similarly, a colorful **Sand Mandala exhibition** by the monks at Leh Indoor Stadium attracted intellectuals.

Ladakh Festival which is **celebrated every year in Leh and its nearby villages.**

The **festival is for one week** which includes events like **archery, polo, and Masked dances** from the monasteries.

It also includes dances by cultural troupes from the villages.

Masked Dances:

Cham Dance is a famous masked dance from Ladakh which is the major attraction of the festival.

It is also performed on **Tsech Festival** which is the **yearly spiritual festival** carried out in many monasteries in Ladakh.

It is said to bring good luck to the people viewing this dance.

The moment the **celebration hour cloaks in**, the Lamas appear **wearing colorful masks and dancing rhythmically** on the courtyard. They dance in **tune with the beats of drums and cymbals.**

This dance which is accompanied by music played by monks using traditional Tibetan instruments is **usually performed by a few selected sects of Buddhism.**

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