



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

Villu paatu

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Why is in news? Villpaatexponent dead

VillPaataalso known as **Villadichampaatu**, is an **ancient form of musical story-telling method** performed in Southern India , where narration is interspersed with music, an art of southern states of **Tamil Nadand Kerala, as well as North-East Sri Lanka**.

This art form is **popular among Nadar and Ezhava castes of erstwhile Travancore** kingdom.

Simple tunes and verses make the story easy to follow. The **vill(bow)**, the age-old weapon of warriors - paradoxically lends itself to be used as a primary musical instrument (a musical bow) for the VillPaatartists.

In Tamil villages, performers narrate **stories ranging from mythological to social**.

The main storyteller narrates the story striking the bow. The bow rests on a mud pot kept facing downwards. A co-performer beats the pot while singing.

The **local government** sometimes utilises this as a vehicle for **social messages and propaganda**.

Villpaattroupes **usually perform for temple festivals**.

There are also **Udukki (???????)**, **Kudam (?????)**, **Thala, Kattai(?????)**, which are used as **supplementary instruments** in performances.

Udukki is a small drum with a slender middle portion which is held in the left hand and played by the fingers of the right hand.

The songs used by the VillPattartists are **mostly traditional folk-songs**. The songs sung mostly in VillPaat**praise a god or tell a story**.

These days the number of artists performing VillPaatis tremendously reduced as the income earned from it is never enough for running one's life.

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