



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

# Koodiyattam & Theyyam

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Kalidasa's epic poetry gets a new-age twist

In the cloistered environment of a boarding school in the foothills of the Himalayas, a timeless drama of love, and longing plays out, creating visual poetry on screen.

The past seamlessly coalesces into the present in **filmmaker Rahat Mahajan's debut feature film Meghdoot**.

Performative arts such as **Koodiyattam, Kathakali and Theyyam** are woven skilfully into the cinematic narrative to bring alive the immortal tale of Jaivardhan and Tharini.

## **Koodiyattam:**

Koodiyattam is the **oldest existing classical theatre form in the entire world**, having originated much before Kathakali and most other theatrical forms

Koodiyattam was traditionally a part of the temple rituals

Traditionally, Koodiyattam is presented by Chakyars, a temple caste of Kerala, and Nangiars, the women of Nambiar caste.

It is officially recognised by **UNESCO** as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

## **Theyyam:**

Theyyam is a popular **ritual form of dance worship** in Kerala and Karnataka, India.

It consisted of **thousand-year-old traditions**, rituals and customs.

The people consider Theyyam itself as a channel to a god and they thus seek blessings from Theyyam.

Each Theyyam is a man or a woman who attained divine status by performing heroic deeds or by leading a virtuous life

Most Theyyams are believed to be the **incarnations of Shiva or Shakti** (the consort of Shiva). Or they have strong associations with these principal deities of Hinduism

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