



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

Villu paatu

Published On: 11-10-2022

Why is in news? Villu paatu exponent dead

Villu Paatu also 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 Nadu and 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 **villu (bow)**, the age-old weapon of warriors - paradoxically lends itself to be used as a primary musical instrument (a musical bow) for the Villu Paatu artists.

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**.

Villu paatu troupes **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 Villu Paatu artists are **mostly traditional folk-songs**. The songs sung mostly in Villu Paatu **praise a god or tell a story**.

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

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**