



9. Beats in Memoir

*What do you know about Panthi Dance ?
Share it with your classmates.*

Chhattisgarh's Panthi Dance form is famous all over the world and has brought much acclaim to Indian folk art. The credit for popularizing Panthi Dance goes entirely to Devdas Banjare. Banjare has showcased the cultural heritage of his community, state and country and won several awards for his performance on the platforms of the world through his commitment.

What was Devdas Banjare's contribution towards Panthi Dance ?

Devdas Banjare was born on 1st January 1937 in Sakra Village in Dhamtari District. His father's name was Bodhram, but Phool Singh Banjare, whose surname he adopted, raised him. The boy was exposed to Panthi by a twist of fate. As a youth, Banjare was a gifted Kabaddi player. As a result of an injury sustained during a match, he had to stop playing the game. Banjare then shifted his attention to Panthi dance. He had to practice hard and strengthen his body because the dance required strength and vigour.



Why did Devdas Banjare stop playing kabaddi ?

The Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) where Banjare worked as a dance teacher in the education department encouraged him to pursue his interest. Banjare brought much fame and honour to the BSP over a span of two decades.

The Panthi dance form belongs to the Satnami community in Chhattisgarh. The Satnamis consider Guru Ghasidasji as their Guru. Panthi dance is the medium through which they honour their Guru. Banjare had said in an interview, "It is the prime responsibility of individuals to maintain their body and health so as to properly use god's gift to do good and discharge their responsibilities in a correct manner"

According to Banjare, what is the most important responsibility of any person ?

In Panthi, the dancers perform various *Mudras* such as '*Jai Sthamb*', '*Dharti Pranam*' (invocation to the land) and '*Phool Arpan*' (offering flowers). The rich culture and legacy of the Satnami community is displayed through traditional costumes and more importantly the dancer's energy. The '*Ghungroo*', the '*Dhoti & Kurta*' and the '*Kanthi*' (garland made of Tulsi) comprise the costume of the dancer. Indigenous instruments such as the '*Mandar*' (Dhol) accompany the artists in their performance.

The artiste had worked with Habib Tanvir's New Theatre and had toured several countries for performances. His role in 'Charandas Chor' a film by Shyam Benegal, had received critical acclaim. Banjare had performed in many of the Bharat Utsav festivals as a folk art representative of India. He had toured over 60 countries in his career spanning 30 years. He had received the Chief Minister's gold medal in 1972, the President's gold medal in 1975 and countless other felicitations.

Name a film in which Banjare acted.

Tragically, Devdas Banjare died in a car accident in 2005. His legacy however continues as several disciples trained by him continue to stage Panthi performances all over the country and abroad. Banjare's commitment to Panthi was unparalleled and he dedicated his life to popularise the rich traditions and customs of his community and state.

- Writers' group

Word Meanings

showcase	to display something
heritage	buildings, cultural traditions of the past that we see today
commitment	dedication
prime	main
discharge	to perform one's duty
invocation	prayer to god
legacy	something handed over by the ancestors
indigenous	something done in the local environment
critical acclaim	to receive appreciation from experts
span	time duration
unparalleled	an action that has never been done before

Reading Comprehension

A. Answer the following questions:

1. What is Devdas Banjare famous for?
2. How did Banjare get exposed to Panthi?
3. Which community is famous for its Panthi tradition?
4. Why does the community cherish the dance form so much?
5. Name some popular 'Mudras' in Panthi.
6. Explain in detail the costume of a Panthi dancer.

Vocabulary

A. Complete the table with information given in the lesson. Your answer must be in phrases: (two or three words)

Sr. No.	Question	Answer
1.	What is Panthi?	.....
2.	Who was Devdas Banjare?	.....
3.	What is a 'Mudra'?	.....
4.	To which community does panthi belong?	.....
5.	Which film did Banjare act in?	.....

B. I. Add '-d', '-ed', '-n' or '-en' to the words and write them in the table.

Sr. No.	word	word + suffix
1.	Acknowledge	.....
2.	Discharge	.....
3.	Expose	.....
4.	Sustain	.....
5.	Raise	.....
6.	Strength	.....
7.	Play	.....
8.	Encourage	.....
9.	Enthrall	.....
10.	Display	.....
11.	Fright	.....
12.	Haste	.....
13.	Awake	.....
14.	Start	.....
15.	Surprise	.....
16.	Fix	.....



II. Make any five sentences, using any five words given above.

C. Fill in the blanks selecting words given in the box:

Energy, Mandar, Charandas Chor, Shyam Benegal, Guru Ghasidasji,
Phool Singh Banjare

- (1) Devdas Banjare has acted in the film by
- (2) Instruments such as the accompany the artistes in their performance.
- (3) The dancers'..... is very important in Panthi.
- (4) The Satnamis regardas their Guru.
- (5) raised Banjare as a child.

Grammar

A. Select the phrases given in the box and frame your sentences as given in the example: (Note that the sentences are about the challenges that some people faced in their childhood.)

I had to help my father in the fields.

... help my father in the fields.
... work in a shop to earn some money.
... work hard to get through the board exam.
... go on foot for six km. to get to school.
... help my mother to cook food.
... take care of my youngest sister at home.
... arrange flowers for my grand mother for worship.
... fetch water from long distance.
... study in dim light of earthen lamp in my hut.
... take animals to jungle for grazing.



B. Rewrite the sentences you framed for exercise 'A' as given in the example.
Example: When I was a child I had to help my father in the fields.

Writing

A. We regard some people as great dancers. Try and identify some qualities of a good dancer:

1.
2.
3.

Now, write a paragraph using the qualities listed above which would make a good dancer.

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B. Complete the Bio-data of Devdas Banjare:

1. Name
2. Father's name
3. Date of Birth
4. Place of Birth
5. Work-experience
6. Awards received

Activity

A. Listen carefully and answer the following:

See Appendix-1 Lesson-9

- (a) Albert Einstein was born on in
- (b) Children found Einstein as a child and he preferred to play
- (c) Einstein did not like of his school.
- (d) His first job was He later secured a job in a company.
- (e) He developed the and and won the prize for

B. Read the passage about 'Teejan Bai'. Discuss in groups what you find similar and dissimilar between Teejan Bai and Devdas Banjare.

Here is the story of the struggle of a village girl who dared to dream.

Teejan Bai belongs to Paridhan adivasi community. She could hardly get two meals a day. As a child, her grandfather's music fascinated her. But her

mother was ashamed because it was not considered good for a girl to sing and dance in that community. She often beat Teejan to stop her from singing. But this only made her more adamant. The wide gap between what she wanted to do and what others expected her to do disturbed her. However, her father supported her. Her first concert, the one most memorable for her was at Chandrakhuri. Later she gave performances all over the world. She was honoured with



Padmashri and Sangit Natak Acadamy Award. She is employed in the Bhilai Steel Plant. She has many students. She hopes that they will spread Pandvani to all corners of the world.

Teejan Bai owes her success to God. The other force behind her success, she says was her mother. Teejan's mother's resistance only made her more determined to pursue her interest.

Project

Describe any dance form of your local area. Write about:

- (a) Costume
- (b) Mudras
- (c) Musical Instruments used in the Dance performance.

