

Natyashastra

December 17, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



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NATYASHASTRA

Natyashastra Latest News

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) recently organised the academic programme titled 'Natyashastra - Synthesis of Theory and Praxis' during the 20th Session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at the iconic Red Fort, Delhi.

About Natyashastra

- It is an **ancient Sanskrit treatise on performing arts**.
- The **title** is a combination of two Sanskrit words - **Natya and Shastra**.
 - **Natya** refers to the technique **of dance and drama**, and **shastra** refers to **science**.
- It was **composed** by the sage **Bharata Muni**.
- It has been dated to between the **second century BCE and the second century CE**.
- It is the **earliest known treatise on performative arts in South Asia**.
- Its primary importance lies in its justification of Indian drama as a vehicle of religious enlightenment.

- It comprises around 36,000 verses **detailing drama (natya), performance (abhinaya), music (sangita), emotions (bhava), and aesthetic experience (rasa).**
- One of the text's most profound contributions is the articulation of the **concept of Rasa**, the essential emotional essence that lies at the heart of any great work of art.
 - Bharata Muni **identified eight primary Rasas – Shringara (love), Hasya (humor), Karuna (compassion), Raudra (anger), Veera (heroism), Bhayanaka (fear), Bibhatsa (disgust), and Adbhuta (wonder).**
 - He also **explained how the skilled performer**, through the skillful deployment of bhava (emotional expression), **could evoke these sentiments in the audience.**
- **UNESCO added Natyashastra to its Memory of the World Register**, recognizing its global cultural significance.

Key Facts about Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

- It was established as an **autonomous body** by the Government of India, under the **Ministry of Culture.**
- **Mandate:**
 - **Document, preserve, conserve and disseminate the Indian arts and cultural heritage.**
 - **Train competent professionals** to work in the specialized field of culture.
- The IGNCA has **six functional units:**
 - **Kalanidhi**, the **multi-form library;**
 - **Kalakosa**, devoted mainly to the **study and publication of fundamental texts**, predominantly in Sanskrit;
 - **Janapada Sampada**, the division engaged in **lifestyle studies;**
 - **Kaladarsana**, the executive unit which **transforms researches and studies** emanating from the IGNCA into **visible forms** through exhibitions;
 - **Cultural Informatics Lab**, which **applies technology tools for cultural preservation** and propagation;
 - **Sutradhara**, the **administrative section** that acts as a spine supporting and coordinating all the activities.

Source: PIB

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/natyashastra/>

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