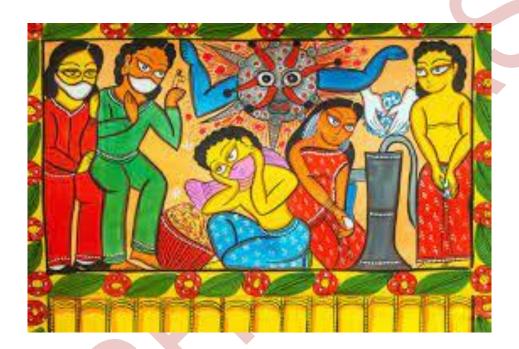
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In Bengal's tribal villages, art fights COVID-19



Chhau dance:

- Chhau dance is a semi classical Indian dance with martial and folk traditions, with origins in the Kalinga(Odisha) region from Mayurbhanj, and panned out to its variants in the states of West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- It is found in three styles named after the location where they are performed, i.e. the Purulia Chau of West Bengal, the Seraikella Chau of Jharkhand and the Mayurbhanj Chau of Odisha.
- It is a form of **mask dance** that uses vigorous movements.
- Chhau dance enacts episodes from epics including the Mahabharata and Ramayana, local folklore and abstract themes. Chhau dance is intimately connected to regional festivals, notably the spring festival Chaitra Parva.
- In 2011, UNESCO inscribed Chhau in the representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Paik dance:

• Paik is a martial folk dance. The dancers are armed with wooden spears and shields and show off their skills and agility in infantry like formations.

Patachitra:

- Pattachitra is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting, based in the eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal.
- The paintings show a mix of classical and folk elements, with a bias towards the latter.

Context:

• A campaign is being organised by the community radio of Jadavpur University with support from UNICEF and being executed by the Kolkata-based Chalchitra Academy, a collective of artists to use the folk arts to spread awareness about COVID-19 and to promote vaccination.

