



Textual Summary
Instrumental Music
Percussion (Solo)
2025



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Note – The textual summary is a mandatory part of the entry which is sent by the participants. It explains the art form being presented by the participants. The textual summary sent by the participants are printed as received. Hence, we have not corrected or edited any part of the textual summary sent by the participants.

Table of Contents

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
Andhra Pradesh	3
Assam	5
Bihar	6
Chandigarh	7
Chhattisgarh	8
Daman and Diu + Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9
Delhi	10
Goa	12
Gujarat	13
Haryana	14
Himachal Pradesh	15
Jammu & Kashmir	16
Jharkhand	17
Karnataka	18
Kerala	19
Lakshadweep	21
Madhya Pradesh	22
Maharashtra	24
Manipur	25
Mizoram	27
Odisha	29
Puducherry	31
Punjab	33
Rajasthan	34
Sikkim	35
Telangana	36
Tripura	37
Uttar Pradesh	38

Uttarakhand	40
KVS	41
NVS	42
EMRS	43

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Name of Participant: Nishit Sarkar

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical (Hindustani)

Details of the Art Form: Teen Taal, or Tintal, is a fundamental rhythmic cycle of Hindustani classical music, widely practiced across North India, including Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. It forms the rhythmic base for instrumental, vocal, and Kathak dance performances, showcasing India's rich tradition of laya (tempo) and tala (rhythm).

Historical and Cultural Background: Teen Taal, also known as Tintal, is one of the oldest and most balanced rhythmic cycles (taals) in Hindustani classical music, originating from ancient Indian rhythmic traditions described in texts like the Natya Shastra. Over centuries, it evolved as the foundational taal for tabla, vocal, instrumental, and Kathak dance performances. Its 16-beat structure symbolizes harmony, precision, and the cyclical nature of time. Culturally, Teen Taal reflects the Indian philosophy of balance between sound (naad) and silence (shunya), making it both a technical framework and a spiritual discipline for artists seeking rhythm, order, and creative expression.

Performance: The student presented Teen Taal with clarity, precision, and rhythmic control, showcasing the 16-beat cycle through expressive tabla bols and hand movements. The performance demonstrated a strong sense of lay (tempo) and tala (rhythm), highlighting both technical accuracy and creative improvisation, reflecting the discipline and elegance of Hindustani classical tradition.

Instruments used: In the presentation of Teen Taal, the primary instrument used was the tabla, accompanied by the tanpura to maintain the tonal base and harmonium for melodic support. The tabla, consisting of the dayan (right drum) and bayan (left drum), produced intricate rhythmic patterns that highlighted the symmetry and precision of the 16-beat cycle.

Additional Information: Teen Taal embodies the essence of rhythmic balance, discipline, and creative harmony in Hindustani classical music. Its cyclic structure reflects the Indian philosophy of time and continuity, symbolizing the balance between sound and silence. In contemporary times, Teen Taal remains central to music education and performance, helping learners understand rhythm's mathematical and artistic depth. Beyond tradition, it continues to inspire fusion music, contemporary dance, and world rhythm collaborations, proving its timeless relevance. Teen Taal thus bridges the ancient and modern, nurturing both technical mastery and spiritual connection through rhythm.

Photos:



Andhra Pradesh

Name of Participant: Boirisetti Gowtham

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Percussion Solo

Details of the Art Form: The Mrudangam is a traditional South Indian percussion instrument, primarily used in Carnatic music. It's a double-sided drum with a rich history, originating from India. Geographically, it's prominent in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, with skilled artists and players found in these regions, particularly in temples and concert halls.

Historical and Cultural Background: The Mrudangam is an ancient South Indian percussion instrument, integral to Carnatic music. With roots in the Natya Shastra, it's mentioned in ancient texts like the Silappatikaram and Bharata's treatises. This double-sided drum is played in temples, concert halls, and cultural events, symbolizing spiritual and cultural heritage. In South India, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, the Mrudangam is revered for its rhythmic complexity and tonal depth. It's often played during festivals, dance recitals, and spiritual gatherings, showcasing its significance in Indian classical music and cultural traditions. Its legacy continues to inspire generations.

Performance: The instrument I play is the Mrudangam, a Carnatic musical instrument. The time cycle (tala) I play is Khanda Chapu, which has five beats. In my performance, I start with two pattachantra passages, followed by Tisra Nadaka. After that, I elaborate with a Prastara and conclude with a Mohra and Mukthayi.

Instruments used: Materials Used1. Wood: The body of the Mrudangam is usually made from jackwood (Artocarpus heterophyllus) or other hardwoods like neem or rosewood. 2. Animal Skin: The drumheads are made from animal skin, typically goat skin or calf skin, which is stretched and tuned to produce the desired sound. 3. Leather Thongs: Leather thongs or straps are used to tighten the drumheads and hold them in place. 4. Paste: A special paste made from a mixture of rice paste, metal powder, and other ingredients is applied to the center of the right drumhead to produce the characteristic bass sound. 5. Tuning Paste: A special tuning paste, often made from a mixture of iron powder and other ingredients, is applied to the left drumhead to produce the desired tone and pitch. These materials are carefully selected and crafted to produce the distinctive sound and resonance of the Mrudangam.

Additional Information: The Mrudangam is a revered percussion instrument in Carnatic music, conveying:

Spiritual and Cultural Significance

1. Spiritual expression: The Mrudangam is often played in temples and spiritual gatherings, conveying devotion and spirituality.
2. Cultural heritage: It represents India's rich cultural legacy, particularly in South India, where it originated.
3. Rhythmic complexity: The Mrudangam's intricate rhythms and time cycles (talas) showcase the complexity and depth of Indian classical music.

Relevance in Contemporary Times

1. Fusion and collaboration: The Mrudangam is increasingly being used in fusion music, collaborating with Western and other genres.
2. Global recognition: The instrument has gained international recognition, with many foreign musicians learning and appreciating its nuances.
3. Therapeutic benefits: The Mrudangam's resonant sound is believed to have therapeutic benefits, promoting relaxation and well-being.
4. Empowerment through music: The Mrudangam provides a platform for artists to express themselves, promoting cultural exchange and understanding.

The Mrudangam continues to thrive, bridging traditional and modern contexts, and inspiring new generations of musicians and music enthusiasts.

Photos:



Assam

Name of Participant: Jintu Sonowal

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: NA

Details of the Art Form: Jintu Sonowal, a student of Lengeri Higher Secondary School, was selected in the category of Instrumental Music (Percussion) in the State Kala Utsav Competition, Assam and presented an impressive performance of Khol badon. The Khol is a traditional percussion instrument that holds immense cultural and spiritual significance in Assam. It was originally created by Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva, the great socio-religious reformer and the founder of the Neo-Vaishnavite movement in Assam.

Historical and Cultural Background: The Khol is an integral part of Sattriya culture, serving as the principal accompanying instrument in various religious and cultural performances such as Gayan-Bayan, Bhaona, Ankia Naat, and Sattriya dance. Traditionally, the Khol was made of clay, but modern versions are crafted from the wood of jackfruit or mango trees, with both drumheads covered in cow's skin to produce its distinctive sound.

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Instruments used: Traditionally, the Khol was made of clay, but modern versions are crafted from the wood of jackfruit or mango trees, with both drumheads covered in cow's skin to produce its distinctive sound. The instrument is known for its asymmetrical barrel shape and unique rhythmic patterns (bol-bani) that distinguish it from similar percussion instruments like the Mridanga. Taal is accompanied with khol badan.

Additional Information: The melodious and spiritual sound of the Khol is believed to bring mental peace and divine harmony. Through his performance, Jintu successfully highlighted the religious, cultural, and artistic importance of the Khol, reaffirming its pivotal role in preserving the rich musical heritage of Assam.

Photos:



Bihar

Name of Participant: Shouryawan Singh

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical Solo

Details of the Art Form: Tabla, a classical percussion instrument of North India, is known for its crisp, balanced, and melodious rhythmic quality. Consisting of two drums—dayan and bayan—it holds a significant place in Hindustani classical music. Its presence spans across India, enriching classical, semi-classical, folk, and contemporary music traditions.

Historical and Cultural Background: Tabla emerged in the 18th century, evolving from ancient percussion instruments like pakhawaj and mridangam. Over time, it became central to Hindustani classical music, accompanying vocal, instrumental, and dance traditions. The dayan represents clarity and treble, while the bayan provides depth and resonance. Its “syahi” enables precise tonal control, making tabla an integral part of India’s cultural and musical heritage. Deeply rooted in classical practice, the instrument reflects centuries of rhythmic knowledge, aesthetic sophistication, and spiritual connection with sound.

Performance: In this performance, Shouryawan Singh of class 11th will present Ektal with uthaan, peshkar, kayda, tukda, and laggi-ladi. He will then perform in Drut Teentaal, including tukda, paran, gat, chakradar, laggi-ladi, and rela. His recital will demonstrate clarity of bols, precise layakari, controlled tempo, and strong adherence to classical tabla tradition.

Instruments used: The presentation used a traditional tabla set: Dayan (wooden drum) and Bayan (metal/clay bass drum). Both drums feature a central syahi that provides pitch stability and tonal richness. A harmonium was used to play lehra for rhythmic support. Gatta (wooden blocks) and tuning hammer were used for tuning, while birwa was used for stability of instrument.

Additional Information: Tabla is not only a percussion instrument but a complete rhythmic language that conveys discipline, balance, and harmony. Its adaptability makes it relevant in classical, folk, film, fusion, and global music. In contemporary times, Tabla bridges tradition and modernity, inspiring young musicians through its vast repertoire of bols, compositions, and improvisation. It promotes cultural continuity while offering space for creativity, making it one of India’s most significant musical traditions. Tabla is not just an instrument, it is the very soul of Indian music.

Photos:



Chandigarh

Name of Participant: Harjot Singh

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Tabla

Details of the Art Form: The tabla is an integral part of music in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal. It gained popularity worldwide, with artists incorporating its rhythms into various genres, such as jazz, rock, and electronic music. The tabla is a pair of hand drums that plays a crucial role in Indian classical music, folk music, and even contemporary genres like fusion and world music.

Historical and Cultural Background: The origin of tabla dates back to ancient India, with depictions of similar drums found in ancient temples and artifacts. The modern tabla evolved from various ancient percussion instruments, such as the pakhawaj and the mridang. It gained prominence during the Mughal Empire, becoming an integral part of Indian classical music. The six major Tabla Gharana's are: Delhi, Lucknow, Ajrada, Farrukhabad, Benares and Punjab, each representing a distinct lineage of playing.

Performance: The origin of tabla dates back to ancient India, with depictions of similar drums found in ancient temples and artifacts. The modern tabla evolved from various ancient percussion instruments, such as the pakhawaj and the mridang. It gained prominence during the Mughal Empire, becoming an integral part of Indian classical music. The six major Tabla Gharana's are: Delhi, Lucknow, Ajrada, Farrukhabad, Benares and Punjab, each representing a distinct lineage of playing.

Instruments used: The tabla's shell is often made from woods like teak, rosewood, or tun wood. The tabla's playing surface is traditionally made from animal skin, such as goat skin or calf skin. Some tabla drums use metal shells, often made from brass or bronze. Wooden Pegs are used to tune the tabla. Syahi is a mixture of iron dust and gum, applied to the center of the tabla skin to produce the characteristic sound.

Additional Information: Here's a potential message through tabla performance for Viksit Bharat 2047:

“Let the beats of the tabla resonate with the rhythm of progress,
As India marches towards a brighter future, with unity and strength.
Let the tabla's tones echo the voices of our youth,
Empowered, innovative, and fearless, shaping India's growth.
With every stroke, let us strive for excellence,
For a Viksit Bharat, where every citizen shines.
Let the tabla's rhythm inspire us to work together,
Towards a prosperous, harmonious, and sustainable future, for all.”
This message conveys the themes of progress, unity, empowerment, and sustainability, which are central to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Photos:

Chhattisgarh

Name of Participant: Khileshwar Sahu

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: “तबला वादन” - यह एक ताल वाद्य है, जो कि स्वतंत्र प्रस्तुति एवं संगत के रूप में प्रयोग किया जाता है।

Historical and Cultural Background: तबला वाद्य की ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक पृष्ठभूमि में दो मुख्य सिद्धांत हैं: पहला, इसकी उत्पत्ति मध्ययुगीन काल में हजरत अमीर खुसरो द्वारा पखावज को दो भागों में तोड़कर हुई थी, और दूसरा, यह प्राचीन भारतीय वाद्यों का विकसित रूप है। 18वीं शताब्दी से आधुनिक तबले का प्रयोग शुरू हुआ और यह उत्तर भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत का एक प्रमुख अंग बन गया, जिसे विभिन्न संगीत विधाओं और लोक संगीत में भी महत्व मिला है। तबला के 6 प्रमुख घराने हैं।

Performance: विद्यार्थी अपनी प्रस्तुति का आरम्भ ताल – त्रिताल के उठान से करेगा। उसके बाद पेशकार, कायदा, एवं द्रुत लय में टुकड़ा, चक्करदार, अनाघात, लम्गी बजाएगा। प्रस्तुति का अंत टुकड़े एवं तिहाई के साथ होगा। विद्यार्थी फर्रुखाबाद एवं बनारस घराने के बोलो की मिश्रित प्रस्तुति करेगा। इसमें अनाघात पंजाब घराने का है।

Instruments used: तबला भारतीय संगीत में प्रयोग होने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण तथा लोकप्रिय ताल वाद्य है। इसका इतिहास 13 वीं शताब्दी के आस पास दिल्ली सल्तनत के दौरान शुरू होता है। यह एक जटिल वाद्य है, जिसमें विभिन्न प्रकार की ध्वनियां और लय उत्पन्न करने की अद्भुत क्षमता होती है।

Additional Information: हिन्दुस्तानी संगीत में तबला का अवनद्ध वाद्य के रूप में विशेष स्थान है। यह स्वतंत्र वादन एवं संगत दोनों रूप में प्रयोग किया जाता है। भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत में लयबद्ध आधार प्रदान करने, गायक और वादकों का साथ देने, तथा भक्ति, लोक और नृत्य शैलियों जैसे विभिन्न संगीत रूपों को समृद्ध करने में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। इसलिए इसकी विरासत को बनाये रखना तथा बचाए रखना आवश्यकता के साथ दायित्व भी है।

Photos:



Daman and Diu + Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Name of Participant: Jasmit Patel

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: Tabla – A pair of twin hand drums from the Indian subcontinent. It is widely used across North India, especially in Hindustani Classical Music, and accompanies vocal, instrumental, and dance performances.

Historical and Cultural Background: The Tabla evolved in the 18th century and became the principal percussion instrument of Hindustani classical music. It consists of two drums—the smaller Dayan (right) and larger Bayan (left). Tabla playing is deeply rooted in Indian traditions and gharanas, such as Delhi, Lucknow, and Punjab. It plays an important role in both classical and folk traditions and symbolizes the rhythm and heartbeat of Indian music.

Performance: The student Jasmeet Patel (Class X) performed a Teental (16-beat cycle) composition on Tabla. His presentation included variations in tempo and improvisations that demonstrated control and rhythm.

Instruments used: Tabla Set (Dayan and Bayan)

Additional Information: The Tabla represents the intricate rhythm of Indian life and culture. It teaches balance, coordination, and harmony. In modern times, it continues to inspire fusion and contemporary music while preserving India's classical heritage.

Photos:



Delhi

Name of Participant: Daiwik Kumar

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: आधुनिक समय का तबला सबसे अधिक लोकप्रिय वाद्य है। इसकी मधुर वाणी होने के कारण संगीत के हर क्षेत्र में जैसे गायन, वादन, नृत्य, लोक संगीत, फिल्म संगीत तथा सूफी संगीत में इसका कुशलता से प्रयोग किया जाता है। इतना ही नहीं इस वाद्य की विशेषता है कि पशु पक्षी के वाणी से लेकर बादल कड़क, रेलगाड़ी की चाल आसानी से निकाल सकते हैं।

Historical and Cultural Background: तबला एक प्रसिद्ध भारतीय ताल वाद्य है जिसकी उत्पत्ति 18वीं शताब्दी के आरंभ में हुई थी और जो प्राचीन पखावज से विकसित हुआ था। यह हिंदुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत का एक अभिन्न अंग बन गया, और गायन, वादन, नृत्य प्रस्तुतियों में हमेशा साथ देता रहा। समय के साथ, दिल्ली, लखनऊ, पंजाब, अजराड़ा, फर्रुखाबाद और बनारस जैसे विभिन्न घरानों ने अपनी अनूठी शैलियाँ, तकनीकें और रचनाएँ विकसित कीं। अपनी लयबद्ध सटीकता और मधुर बहुमुखी प्रतिभा के साथ, तबला पारंपरिक और आधुनिक संगीत शैलियों के बीच सेतु का काम करता है। यह आज भी भारतीय संगीत परंपराओं में एक केंद्रीय स्थान रखता है और अपनी लय, स्वर सौंदर्य और सशक्त अभिव्यक्ति के लिए प्रशंसित है।

Performance: आज सोलो वादन में मैं एकताल प्रस्तुत करने जा रहा हूँ। एकताल काफी प्रचलित ताल है जो गायन में विलम्बित ख्याल, छोटा ख्याल एवं तराना में संगत की जाती है, उसी प्रकार सोलो वादन में भी इसका काफ़ी महत्व है। आज मैं बनारस घराने के उठान, टुकड़े, फरमाइशी चक्रधार, कमाली चक्रधार, परन तथा उसकी बोल पढ़त के साथ स्वतंत्र वादन करने जा रहा हूँ।

Instruments used: तबला वादक को एक निश्चित, लयबद्ध तालचक्र प्रदान करने के लिए हारमोनियम, सारंगी आदि जैसे कई वाद्ययंत्रों का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यह तबले की मिठास को भी बढ़ाते हैं। तबले को इन वाद्ययंत्रों की मदद से या तानपुरा की मदद से सुर में मिलाया जाता है।

Additional Information: तबला एक मंत्रमुग्ध कर देने वाली कला है जो भारतीय संगीत की धड़कन को पकड़ लेती है। पीढ़ियों से चला आ रहा तबला वादन अनुशासन, भावना और कलात्मक निपुणता को दर्शाता है। प्रत्येक बोल—एक परम्परा और रचनात्मकता की कहानी कहता है। विविध घरानों द्वारा अनूठी शैलियों को आकार देने के साथ, यह वाद्ययंत्र प्राचीन विरासत और आधुनिक नवाचार दोनों को जोड़ता है। सम्मानित उस्तादों और युवा कलाकारों ने समान रूप से इसकी भावना को जीवित रखा है, जिससे तबला सिर्फ एक वाद्ययंत्र नहीं, बल्कि भारतीय संगीत की आत्मा का एक जीवंत प्रतीक बन गया है।

Photos:



Goa

Name of Participant: Anant Jitendra Amshekar

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical/Semi classical Percussion (Rhythmic Instrument) Tabla

Details of the Art Form: The tabla is a pair of twin hand drums originating from Bharat.

Historical and Cultural Background: From past so many centuries tabla is played as major instrument while singing songs and during classical performance. In 18 century it is fully developed as specialised instrument. In earlier time mridangam and pakhawaj were played while performing solo or in accompanishing classical performance. Swar, taal, pay are the base of this instrument

Performance: Student performs tabla in tri taal /tintaal with paran and different kayadas in different laya.

Instruments used: Regular tabla instrument

Additional Information: The tabla is a powerful instrument that conveys emotions, spirituality and cultural heritage. Tabla is recognised for its therapeutic benefits such as reducing stress and improving cognitive skills.

Photos:



Gujarat

Name of Participant: Bhargav Manojbhai Gori

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Tabla Solo

Details of the Art Form: Tabla solo is a classical percussion art form from North India, mainly associated with the Hindustani music tradition. It is popular across states like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, and Punjab. In tabla solo, the performer showcases rhythmic patterns, improvisations, and mastery over taal, highlighting expressive sound textures and complex compositions.

Historical and Cultural Background: The tabla has its roots in the Indian subcontinent and evolved around the 18th century, emerging prominently in the Hindustani classical tradition. It is believed to have developed from earlier percussion instruments like the pakhawaj. Culturally, tabla solo performances were traditionally featured in royal courts, spiritual gatherings, and classical music concerts. Over time, various gharanas (schools) formed, each preserving unique playing styles and compositions. Today, tabla solo remains an important cultural expression, showcasing India's rich rhythmic heritage and artistic improvisation.

Performance: I will present a tabla solo in Teen Taal, beginning with a Mishra-Jaati Peshkar followed by a Kaayda. I will then play a fast, expressive Rela to showcase speed and clarity, along with some Bandish compositions for variety. Throughout the presentation, I will focus on control, improvisation, creativity, and maintaining proper taal.

Instruments used: The main instruments used in this performance are the tabla and lehra. The tabla consists of two drums, dayan and bayan, made of wood and metal with stretched skins for producing rhythmic sounds. The lehra, played on instruments like harmonium or sarangi, provides a continuous melodic cycle. Together, they help maintain taal, support improvisation, and create a complete musical atmosphere.

Additional Information: Tabla solo conveys the message of rhythm, discipline, and creative expression. It highlights how complex patterns can be artistically woven into traditional taals. In contemporary times, tabla remains relevant through classical concerts, fusion music, film soundtracks, and global collaborations. Its techniques are now studied worldwide, inspiring young musicians. Tabla solo performances preserve cultural heritage while adapting to modern musical forms, showcasing India's rich rhythmic tradition in a versatile and innovative way.

Photos:

Haryana

Name of Participant: Manandeep Singh

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: Tabla is a classical Indian percussion instrument consisting of two drums, the Dayan (right) and Bayan (left). Originating in North India, it is central to Hindustani classical music. Today, its presence spans India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and globally in fusion, devotional, folk, and contemporary music.

Historical and Cultural Background: The tabla emerged in North India around the 18th century, believed to have developed from older drums like the pakhawaj. It became an essential instrument in Hindustani classical music, accompanying vocal, instrumental, and dance performances. Over time, different gharanas (schools) formed, each preserving unique playing styles and compositions. Beyond classical concerts, tabla is deeply woven into devotional music, folk traditions, and Sufi gatherings. It symbolizes rhythmic sophistication and cultural heritage, continuing to evolve in contemporary and global music settings.

Performance: The tabla emerged in North India around the 18th century, believed to have developed from older drums like the pakhawaj. It became an essential instrument in Hindustani classical music, accompanying vocal, instrumental, and dance performances. Over time, different gharanas (schools) formed, each preserving unique playing styles and compositions. Teen taal

Instruments used: Tabla, Harmonium

Additional Information: Today, the tabla remains highly relevant, not only in classical performances but also in film music, fusion, jazz, and global collaborations. Its intricate rhythmic patterns allow for creativity and improvisation, appealing to modern audiences. Many young musicians are learning tabla through both traditional gurus and online platforms, helping preserve and spread the art form worldwide. Its sound connects generations, reminding us that cultural heritage can adapt and thrive in contemporary artistic expressions.

Photos:

Himachal Pradesh

Name of Participant: Arun Dogra

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: -

Details of the Art Form: Tabla Percussion

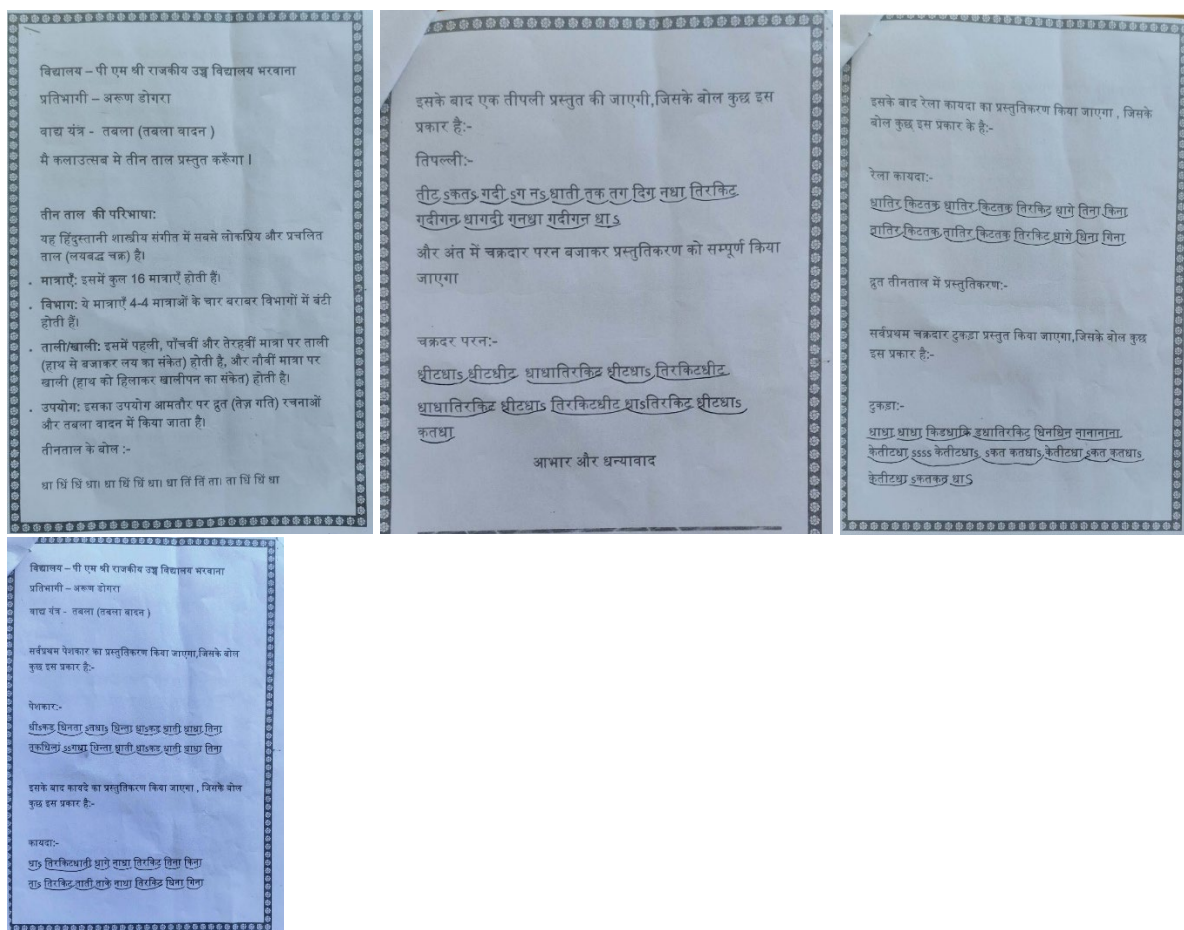
Historical and Cultural Background: Tabla Percussion

Performance: Performed on state level

Instruments used: Tabla Brass and wooden Material

Additional Information: Tabla Percussion

Photos:



Jammu & Kashmir

Name of Participant: Divij Singh

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Tabla solo

Details of the Art Form: The tabla is a classical percussion instrument of India, renowned for its rhythmic intricacy and expressive power. Predominantly popular in North India, it forms the backbone of Hindustani classical music and often features in solo performances. Its captivating beats and improvisations showcase centuries of musical tradition and artistry.

Historical and Cultural Background: The tabla, a revered percussion instrument of India, has its origins in the 18th century, evolving from earlier drums like the pakhawaj. Deeply embedded in Hindustani classical music, it embodies centuries of rhythmic tradition, accompanying vocal, dance, and instrumental performances. Tabla solos reflect the guru-shishya parampara, where intricate compositions, or bols, are passed down through generations. The art form is also tied to cultural practices of mehfil and temple rituals, celebrating music as a spiritual and communal experience. Its diverse gharanas showcase the rich heritage and regional styles that continue to thrive in contemporary performances.

Performance: The student presented a refined tabla performance featuring a traditional Delhi Gharana Kaida in Teentaal. The composition showcased clarity, balanced bols, and controlled layakari. The presentation reflected strong riyaz, confidence, and a deep understanding of classical rhythm, leaving a disciplined and graceful musical impression.

Instruments used: Tabla and harmonium

Additional Information: Tabla, as a classical percussion instrument, conveys discipline, precision, and the beauty of rhythmic expression. Its compositions—like Kaidas, Relas, and Tukdas—carry centuries of tradition while allowing space for creativity and improvisation. In contemporary times, tabla remains deeply relevant, enriching classical concerts, fusion music, film compositions, and global collaborations. It connects modern audiences to India's cultural heritage while showcasing how rhythm can communicate emotion, unity, and artistic identity across diverse musical settings.

Photos:



Jharkhand

Name of Participant: Rajpreet Singh

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Solo

Details of the Art Form: Tabla is one of the most popular percussion instruments of North India, widely used in Hindustani classical, devotional, and folk music. It originated from regions of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi and later spread across India. It holds an important place in Indian musical traditions and cultural performances.

Historical and Cultural Background: Tabla is believed to have evolved in the 18th century, derived from older percussion instruments like Pakhawaj and Mridang. It has two drums — Dayan and Bayan — symbolizing balance in rhythm and tone. The art of Tabla is deeply connected with various Gharanas such as Delhi, Lucknow, Ajrada, Benaras, and Punjab. Over centuries, it has become an essential part of Indian classical and folk music, enriching the rhythm and emotion of every performance.

Performance: The performance will be based on Taal - Teentaal (16 beats-rhythmic cycle) It will begin with Uthaan, followed by Kayeda, Palta, Rela, few Bandishes, Paran and Chakradar. The Lehra will be played on harmonium by the accompanist to maintain rhythm and melody throughout the performance.

Instruments used: Tabla – played by the candidate. Harmonium – for playing Lehra, handled by accompanist. All instruments will be properly tuned and maintained to ensure clear sound and rhythmic accuracy.

Additional Information: Tabla represents the heartbeat of Indian music. Its rhythmic patterns teach discipline, focus, and creativity. Even today, Tabla is relevant in classical, fusion, and contemporary music, bridging traditional and modern sounds. Through this art form, the performer expresses dedication, cultural pride, and the timeless beauty of Indian rhythm in today's world.

Photos:



Karnataka

Name of Participant: Akshaj Kulkarni

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Percussion (tabla)

Details of the Art Form: The tabla solo is a performing art form that thrives all over north India AND EVEN PARTS OF SOUTH INDIA. it is a key part of hindustani classical music and is essential in every hindustani classical performance. Tabla is a widely acclaimed instrument and has gotten a grasp of presence in other countries too such as US, canada and other european countries. it is too played in folk music

Historical and Cultural Background: Indian culture hasn't been complete without tabla. Tabla is played in religious offerings and played in almost every Indian festival. Tabla is believed to be goddess Saraswati and it is worshipped too. Tabla has been divided into Gharanas (houses) that's are Lucknow, Banaras, Punjab, Delhi, ajrala Delhi being the oldest. it has been said that the oldest acclaimed tabla player is Ustad Siddhar Khan of the delhi gharana. tabla used to be played in courts of kings the make the environment peaceful. it is said that the tabla was made by the pakhawaj broken into 2 pieces. amir khrusro is credited to making of tabla

Performance: The solo which i have played is in a systematic format of tabla solo. it starts with shuruat(peshkar) which literally means starting. then, kayda , rela, tukras and chakradhar to end the recital . this format is fixed for any tabla player or tablachi

Instruments used: Tabla solo consists of table (Main Instrument) and nagma (i have used sarangi lehera)

Additional Information: The Tabla Solo is a structured improvisation in Hindustani classical music based on a Tala (rhythmic cycle). The artist uses mnemonic syllables (Bols) to execute complex patterns, progressing through sections like Peshkar and Kayda. The performance culminates in a mathematically precise, repeated rhythmic conclusion called a Tihai landing on the Sam (first beat). tabla conveys a message of peace and love as it is a form of music. tabla can convey more deeper emotions to people that words themselves

Photos:



Kerala

Name of Participant: Prabhul T P

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: The MRUDANGAM is a primary rhythmic percussion instrument prevalent in South India (Carnatic) Classical music, renowned to the rich tonal quality and complex with rhythmic capabilities. In a Mrudangam the wooden part is known as 'katta' and the 'valamthalai ' the smaller side called 'moot ' and the left is called 'thoppi '. The name “mrudangam” derived from the Sanskrit words 'mrud'(clay) and 'angam'(body), reflecting the material of early instruments.

Historical and Cultural Background: The MRUDANGAM has historical and cultural background rooted in ancient Indian tradition, dating back over 2000 years, and is considered sacred in Hindu mythology. It evolved from early clay drums to modern wooden versions used today, and it remains an integral part of South Indian Carnatic music and temple rituals, representing a link between rhythm and devotion.

Performance: Misrachappu 2 matras from samam is a 7- beat thalam. This thalam consists of $3\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ aksharas and 14+2 matras. The rhythmic syllables for this thalam are often recited as “Tha Ki Ta Tha Ka Dhi Mi”. The seven beats are counted with pattern of a wave on the first beat, a clap on the fourth and the another clap on the sixth beat. The counting can be seen as a 3- beat group (Thisralaghu) follows by a 4-beat group. This thala has being used for many major krithis like 'Kripayapalaya shoure' by Swanthithirunnal.

Instruments used: Mrudangam

Additional Information: It a foundational rhythmic instrument in carnatic music. The Mrudangam provides the rhythmic backbone for vocal and instrumental performances, with the player synchronising with the lead artist and maintaing the rhythmic cycle(thala).it is essential for Indian classical dances like Bharatanatyam, where the rhythmic patterns allign with and enhance the dancers movements.

The Mrudangam is increasingly used in modern and world music, incorporating it's unique genre.

It has a rich history, possibly dating back to the sangam age, and is crucial for the development of Indian rhythmic system(thala). In present times, technological innovations such as synthetic materials for durability and interchangeable heads for different pitches has being taken. These advancements make the instrument more protical for modern musicians without sacrificing it's Classial tone and spiritual significance. The Mrudangam is increasingly used in fusion music blending traditional Indian rhythm with western instruments. Both 2 in1 Mrudangam and synthetic Mrudangam are two new modern inventions.

Photos:



Lakshadweep

Name of Participant: Mohammed Myshooque P. S

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical/Semi Classical

Details of the Art Form: Instrumental Music – Percussion is a rhythmic art form performed using traditional, non-electric instruments that produce sound through striking or shaking. It is widely present across India, especially in regions like Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and West Bengal. This form highlights strong beats, cultural rhythms, and community energy through vibrant, acoustic performances.

Historical and Cultural Background: Instrumental Music – Percussion has deep roots in India's ancient cultural traditions, where drums and rhythmic instruments were used in temples, festivals, and community ceremonies. Instruments like dolac, chenda, mridangam, and dhol have been essential for marking celebrations, rituals, and folk performances. Historically, percussion music guided dance, storytelling, and processions, symbolizing strength and unity. Over generations, these rhythms became an important part of regional identity and cultural expression. Even today, percussion ensembles preserve traditional beats, energize social gatherings, and connect communities to their musical heritage.

Performance: The student's performance in Percussion Instrumental Music was energetic, coordinated, and rhythmically steady. They handled the instrument confidently, maintained a consistent beat, and synchronized well with the group. Their presentation showed focus, discipline, and an understanding of traditional rhythmic patterns, contributing to a lively and culturally rich performance.

Instruments used: The Percussion Instrumental Music performance uses traditional, non-electric instruments crafted from natural materials. Common instruments include dolac, chenda, dhol, mridangam, and hand cymbals. These are typically made from wood, animal skin, and metal. Their strong, vibrant rhythms create an energetic and culturally rooted musical experience.

Additional Information: Percussion Instrumental Music conveys a message of vitality, unity, and cultural strength. Its powerful rhythms bring people together and reflect the energy of community celebrations. In today's modern world, this art form remains highly relevant as it preserves traditional beats, promotes physical coordination, and encourages teamwork among young performers. The use of natural, non-electric instruments also supports eco-friendly artistic practices. Percussion music continues to inspire enthusiasm, connect people to their roots, and play an essential role in festivals, performances, and cultural identity.

Photos:

Madhya Pradesh

Name of Participant: Ashay Jaiswal

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: Playing Technique: Tabla playing involves intricate hand movements, fingerings, and strokes. The player uses different techniques, such as: 1. Finger strokes (bols) 2. Palm strokes 3. Wrist movements
Types of Tabla: Several types of tabla exist, including: 1. Delhi Gharana: Known for its powerful and resonant sound. 2. Punjab Gharana: Characterized by its fast-paced and intricate playing style. 3. Ajrada Gharana: Known for its soulful and emotive playing style.

Historical and Cultural Background: Origins:

The tabla's origins are debated among musicologists, but it's believed to have originated in the Indian subcontinent around the 12th century. Some theories suggest it evolved from ancient drums like the pakhawaj or mridang.

Evolution:

The modern tabla emerged during the Mughal era (16th-19th centuries). It was refined and popularized by legendary musicians and instrument makers.

Structure:

The tabla consists of two drums:

1. Dayan (Right-Hand Drum): Smaller, higher-pitched drum played with the right hand.
2. Bayan (Left-Hand Drum): Larger, lower-pitched drum played with the left hand.

Performance: तीन ताल= तीन ताल में 16 मात्रा होती है चार-चार मात्रा के चार विभाग होते हैं पहले मात्रा पर सम तथा पांचवी एवं 13वीं मात्रा पर ताली तथा नवी मात्रा खाली

- ❖ उठान= - उठान भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत की एक महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता है, जो राग को विस्तार और सौंदर्य प्रदान करती है। - इसमें गायक या वादक की कल्पना और रचनात्मकता का उपयोग होता है, जो संगीत को एक विशेष भाव और सौंदर्य प्रदान करता है।
- ❖ पेशकार= - पेशकार भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत की एक महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता है, जो संगीत को लय और गति प्रदान करती है। - पेशकार का उपयोग विभिन्न प्रकार के संगीत में किया जाता है, जैसे कि खयाल, ठुमरी, दादरा, आदि।
- ❖ अजराडा घराना कायदा= अजराडा घराना एक प्रसिद्ध भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत घराना है, जो अपनी विशिष्ट गायन शैली और परंपरा के लिए जाना जाता है। इस घराने के गायक अपनी गायन शैली में विभिन्न रागों और तालों का उपयोग करते हैं।

Instruments used: Tabla playing involves intricate hand movements, fingerings, and strokes. The player uses different techniques, such as: 1. Finger strokes (bols) 2. Palm strokes 3. Wrist movements

Additional Information: कायदा शास्त्रीय संगीत में एक प्रकार की बंदिश है, जो ताल और लय को दर्शाती है। इसमें विशिष्ट बोलों का उपयोग किया जाता है, जो ताल की लय और गति को दर्शाते हैं।

● टुकड़े=

- टुकड़े में विशिष्ट बोलों और लय का उपयोग किया जाता है।
- इसमें संगीत को एक विशेष आकार और सौंदर्य प्रदान करने के लिए विभिन्न रागों और तालों का उपयोग किया जाता है।
- टुकड़ा शास्त्रीय संगीत की एक महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता है, जो संगीत को विस्तार और सौंदर्य प्रदान करती है।

Photos:



Maharashtra

Name of Participant: Kartik Uttam Kadam

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: The Pakhawaj is a barrel-shaped, double-headed drum that predates the tabla and is traditionally associated with Dhrupad, Dhamar. A Pakhawaj solo is a highly developed rhythmic presentation that displays the artist's mastery over laykari, bols, and tala.

Historical and Cultural Background: The Pakhawaj is one of India's oldest percussion instruments, with origins traced to 12th–13th century CE, evolving from the South Indian Mridangam mentioned in the Natyashastra. It became the primary rhythmic instrument for Dhrupad, the oldest form of Hindustani classical music. Traditionally used in temples, royal courts, and classical dance performances like Kathak, it symbolizes devotion, discipline, and rhythmic precision. Its deep, resonant tones and intricate patterns reflect India's rich musical heritage. Over centuries, the Pakhawaj influenced the development of the tabla and continues to play a vital role in both devotional and classical music traditions.

Performance: Taal Aaditaal Vistar, bandish Relā Chakradhar & Durga Stutiparan Vistar means expansion or elaboration. Bandish means a fixed composition or musical piece in Indian classical music. Relā = fast rhythmic composition. Chakradhar = played three times, ending on Sam. Devotional Paran dedicated to Goddess Durga.

Instruments used: Pakhwaj

Additional Information: A Pakhwaj Solo is a performance where the artist plays rhythmic compositions on the pakhwaj to express the beauty of tala and rhythm, often seen in Dhrupad music concerts, bhajan-kirtan, devotional music, and classical dance, reflecting India's rich musical heritage. Famous Pakhwaj Players: Pandit Ramakant Deshpande, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Pandit Kishan Maharaj (also played tabla and pakhwaj) Pandit Purushottam Das, Ustad Ayodhya Prasad

Photos:



Manipur

Name of Participant: Ngangom Amarjen Singh

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: Name of the art form is called Pung Cholom. Pung Cholom is a traditional dance form of Manipur, the North Easternmost state of India. It is a performing art form that combines elements of drumming, martial arts, and intricate body movements in a well designated rhythmic mode and is accompanied with Nata Sankritana. The term 'Pung' refers to the Manipuri drum and 'Cholom' means dance performance. It is an integral part of Manipuri cultural heritage.

Historical and Cultural Background: The origins of Pung Cholom traced back to Khooi Tompok, the ruler of Manipur between 154 and 264 AD. His reign marked the early development of this dance form, and today, Pung Cholom continues to thrive as a symbol of Manipuri heritage. Pung Cholom have been passed down through generations, preserving the region's cultural heritage. These art forms are deeply intertwined with the religious and social practices of Manipur, reflecting the community's values, beliefs, and traditions.

Performance: In this art form Pung Cholom, the performer shows an energetic and acrobatic dance form playing the pung (a traditional Manipuri drum) with a captivating aura. The performance is a spectacular spiritual and artistic display of rhythm and agility, combine drumming with intricate body movements simultaneously. The enchanting dance of drumbeats holds a special place in the hearts of the audiences and captivates them with its mesmerizing charm.

Instruments used: The only instrument used in pung cholom is the Pung. The Pung is a spindle shaped drum typically made of hollow wooden body with a rough or slightly smooth interior surface and both ends called pung maru and manao are covered with stretched animal skin (leather), often goat or cowhide. It is secured with a lacing system made of leather or synthetic cords.

Additional Information: In contemporary practices, Pung Cholom adapts to modern influences while retaining their traditional essence giving a momentous message to the youths to keep the legacy of preserving their own cultures and practices of music.

In recent years, Pung Cholom has made an active resurgence of its popularity. The cultural practitioners are actively involved in promoting and preserving these art form, organizing festivals, workshops, and performances to showcase the richness of Manipuri culture. The rise of global awareness about the world of music has also brought attention to Manipuri music, while the Pung gaining recognition at international festivals and other performances. The integration of traditional and modern elements in these art forms highlights the dynamic nature of Manipuri cultural identity to the world.

Photos:



Mizoram

Name of Participant: Vanlalmalsawmtluanga

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion:

Details of the Art Form: - Cultural events: The Darbu is an integral part of Mizo festivals, ceremonies, and celebrations, such as the Chapchar Kut harvest festival. - Traditional dances: The drumbeat accompanies traditional Mizo dances, adding rhythm and energy to the performances. - Storytelling: The Darbu is used to narrate stories, myths, and legends, passing down Mizo history and culture to younger generations. Importance: - Cultural identity: The Darbu is a symbol of Mizo cultural heritage and identity, reflecting the community's rich traditions and history. - Community bonding: The drum plays a role in bringing the community together, fostering social cohesion and unity during festivals and celebrations. - Artistic expression: The Darbu is an important medium for Mizo artists to express themselves, showcasing their creativity and musical skills. The Darbu holds a special place in Mizo society, representing the community's cultural richness and resilience.

Historical and Cultural Background: The Darbu (or Darbuu) is a traditional drum from Mizoram, India, with significant cultural and historical importance. Here's a brief overview:

Historical Background:

The Darbu is a traditional Mizo drum from Mizoram, India. With a rich history, it's an integral part of Mizo cultural heritage. The Darbu is a cylindrical gong, and is a set of three different sizes of brass gongs producing three different notes, the biggest gong denoting a 'Doh' (Western) or 'Sa' (Indian) note, the Mid sized Gong denoting a 'Re' (Western) or 'Re' (Indian) Note, and the smallest gong denoting a 'Mi' (Western) or 'Ga' (Indian) notes respectively. In Mizo society, the Darbu plays a significant role in traditional music, dance, and festivals like Chapchar Kut. Its rhythmic beats evoke a sense of community and celebration, symbolizing unity and cultural identity. The Darbu's historical and cultural significance is deeply rooted in Mizo traditions, making it an essential element of their cultural expression and heritage.

Performance: The following are the various traditional songs that will be played with the 'Darbu': NGUNTE THI: "Ngunte Thi" refers to a Mizo traditional song or ballad that was used to display one's wealth and power. Historically, performing the Ngunte Thi was a symbol of wealth and influence. CHAWNGVUNGI MAN TAM E: "Chawngvungi Man a tam e" is a phrase from a Mizo poem or song, likely from the Mizo folktale of Chawngvungi and Sawngkhara, which expresses lament for Chawngvungi, possibly meaning "Chawngvungi's price is too high." The song is often of a melancholic and heartfelt expression of love and loss, with "Chawngvungi man a tam e" serving as a poignant reminder of high cost of true love. IN A KAWNG A TLIAM E: "In a kawng a tliam e" is a traditional Mizo "Darbu song" which expresses the fall of authority. (The broken main beam of the great house) LIANDO TE UNAU: "Liandova te Unau" is the title of a Mizo popular folktale referring to two orphaned brothers- Liandova and Tuaisiala, who endure severe poverty and hardships eventually finding fortune through a twist of fate. The story serves as a perseverance, brotherhood and the importance of mutual support and assistance. KINGA LU THLE LEKAH: "Kinga lu thle lekah" is a traditional Mizo song and rhyme, most commonly known as a children's play song. KAL RAWH, KAL RAWH: "Kal rawh Kal rawh Sai kal rawh" depicts an imperative call for someone to advance or move forward, perhaps with the image of a

powerful elephant. The song is used to encourage someone to boldly proceed or to express excitement for their departure. KAN LAL LAI: “Kan Lal Lai” is a proud recollection of the Mizo ancestors’ golden age. It paints a picture of prowess and sovereignty, feasting and celebration, and ultimate victory.

Instruments used: Darbu (or Darbuu) is a traditional Mizo musical instrument from Mizoram, India. It's a type of drum that plays a significant role in Mizo culture and society. The Darbu is a cylindrical gongs, and is a set of three different sizes of brass gongs producing three different notes, the biggest gong denoting a ‘Doh’ (Western) or ‘Sa’ (Indian) note, the Mid sized Gong denoting a ‘Re’ (Western) or ‘Re” (Indian) Note, and the smallest gong denoting a ‘Mi’ (Western) or ‘Ga’ (Indian) notes respectively. Darbu is usually played by three experts. Some experts played individually by tying the two gongs, one on each sides of his body with rope and hung one gong by his left hand, produce three distinct rhythmic notes by simultaneous beating. Darbu is meaningfully used on Mizo traditional dances like Khuallam, Chawnglaizawn, Cheraw, Sarlamkai and other traditional group dances.

Additional Information: The Mizo traditional Darbu conveys messages of unity, hope, and prosperity through its rhythmic beats. In contemporary times, it remains relevant by:

- Preserving cultural heritage
- Fostering community bonding
- Symbolizing Mizo identity
- Adapting to modern contexts
- Enriching Mizo music and dance

The Darbu's significance extends beyond traditional settings, influencing contemporary Mizo art and culture. Its continued use ensures the preservation of Mizo traditions and cultural values, making it an integral part of the community's identity.

Photos:



Odisha

Name of Participant: Debaditya Pattanaik

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: Tabla is a North Indian classical percussion art form, originating in the 18th century in the Delhi-Awadh region. The Tabla is a pair of Indian hand drums used for solo and accompaniment performance. It consists of a smaller wooden right hand drum (the Dayan) & a large metal or clay left hand drum (the Bayan). The drums are played by skilled fingers & palm techniques to create a complex language of sounds & rhythms.

Historical and Cultural Background: The Tabla originated in India around the 18th century, believed to have evolved from older drums like the Pakhawaj. It became a key instrument in Hindustani classical music, accompanying vocal, instrumental, and dance performances. The Tabla holds deep cultural and spiritual significance, symbolizing rhythm and balance in life. Traditionally, it was played in royal courts and temples, later spreading to folk and contemporary music. The Tabla has several famous Gharanas that developed unique styles of playing over centuries. Each Gharana emphasizes different techniques, tones, and compositions. The main six traditional Gharanas of Tabla are: Delhi Gharana, Ajrada Gharana, Lucknow Gharana, Farrukhabad Gharana, Banaras Gharana and Punjab Gharana. Each Gharana developed unique playing styles, preserving regional traditions. Today, the Tabla remains an integral part of India's musical heritage, celebrated for its versatility and expressive power across cultures.

Performance: Trital also known as Teen Taal, is the most popular & common taal in Hindustani music. It is symmetrical and it presents a very simple rhythmic structure against which a performance can be laid. It is of sixteen beats with 4/4/4/4 pattern and four divisions. There are 3 Tali (claps) and 1 Khali (gap). Trital holds different types of Characteristics:

1. Matras (Beats) :16
2. Vibhags (Sections):4 equal divisions,4matras each (4-4-4-4).
3. Sam: The first matra of the cycle marked by a clap.
4. Talis: Claps that occur on the 5th & 13th matras.
5. Khali: An "empty" or wave beat on the 9th matra.
6. Theka (Bolt pattern): The specific sequence of sounds used to play Trital which is a characteristic pattern known to Tabla players.

My performance is based on the Delhi Gharana, Farrukhabaad Gharana, Ajarada Gharana. My recital will begin with the Uthan Paran, Peshkar, Chalan Kayeda, Rella, Rau, Tukuda, Paran and Chakradar Paran.

Instruments used: The Tabla consists of two drums — the Dayan (right-hand drum) made of neem wood, Seesham wood, Khair wood and the Bayan (left-hand drum) made of metal, usually brass, copper, or clay. Both have a leather drumhead with a black tuning paste called syahi at the center. It is played using fingers and palms, producing rich rhythmic tones. I will play Tabla accompanied with the Harmonium.

Additional Information: The Tabla, a classical Indian percussion instrument, conveys the message of rhythm, harmony, and discipline. It represents the heartbeat of Indian music, blending seamlessly with both classical, semi classical and modern styles. In contemporary

times, the Tabla remains highly relevant as it bridges traditional and global music, featuring in fusion, film, and digital performances. Its intricate beats symbolize unity in diversity, reflecting India's rich cultural depth while adapting to new genres. The Tabla continues to inspire young musicians worldwide, promoting cultural continuity, creativity, and universal rhythm in the modern era.

The rhythmic beats of the Tabla will echo India's cultural pride, unity in diversity, and artistic excellence—symbolizing a self-reliant, culturally strong, and spiritually enriched Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Photos:



Puducherry

Name of Participant: Sathish Kumar A

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Rhythmic Solo- Mirudangam

Details of the Art Form: The Mirudangam is an ancient percussion instrument originating from the Indian subcontinent. It is a traditional royal instrument originating in the south Indian state of Kerala and is widely used in south Indian classical music, called Carnatic music, especially in its sangeetha kacheres.

Historical and Cultural Background: It is the primary rhythmic accompaniment in a Carnatic music ensemble. In dhrupad, a modified version, the pakhawaj, is the primary percussion instrument. A related instrument is the kendang, played in the Maritime southeast Asia. It is a complex instrument to tune and involves a lot of mathematics to construct korvais.

Over the years, the Mirudangam evolved and was made from different kinds of wood for increased durability, and today its body is constructed from the wood of the jackfruit tree. It is widely believed that the tabla, the mirudangam's Hindustani musical counterpart, was constructed by splitting a Mirudangam in half. With the development of the Mirudangam came the tala(rhythm) system.

Performance: "Talam" –Rhythmic cycle edit tala or talam refers to the constant rhythmic cycle that series to maintain a consistent meter throughout a Carnatic performance. The choice of talam can vary widely depending on the vocalist's performance.

While some Talams are more commonly used than others, there are a total of 175 possible combinations, derived through mathematical calculations. These 175 talas are formed by combining three distinct yet essential aspects: Talas (different from those mentioned prior), Jathi and Gathi.

Instruments used: There are seven main talas,[12] known as the sapta talas □ Dhruva, matya, Roopaka, Jhumpa, Triputa, Ata, Eka. These talas are combined with one of the five jathis □ Tisra(3), chathusra(4), Khanda(5), Misra(7), Sankeerna(9), Lastly the talas and jathis are combined with one of the five Gathis[11], which share the same names and count as the jathis. The Mirudangam has a large role in Newa music. One of the earliest Nepal Bhasa manuscripts on music is a treatise on this instrument called Mirdanga anukaranam. The range of its use has changed over the years. In the old days, percussionists were only employed to accompany the lead player often the vocalist. Now its use is not restricted to accompaniment, and it is used for solo performances.

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Photos:



Punjab

Name of Participant: Nakul Kumar

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: Percussion Music (Tabla Solo) Tabla is a classical Indian percussion instrument and art form originating from the Indian subcontinent. It consists of two drums — the dayan (right) and bayan (left). Widely used in Hindustani classical music, it is prevalent across North India, and now recognized globally for its rhythmic complexity and versatility.

Historical and Cultural Background: Percussion art, one of the oldest musical forms, began with natural materials like stones, wood, and animal skins used for rituals and communication. In India, it holds deep cultural importance, with instruments such as the Mridangam, Tabla, and Dhol mentioned in the Natya Shastra and used in classical and devotional tabla.

Performance: A tabla performance is a rhythmic and expressive art form that displays the performer's command over tempo, clarity, and creativity. It generally includes the following sections: Uthaan – a lively opening phrase that builds energy and prepares for the main compositions Peshkar – the introductory part, played slowly to introduce the mood and style of the performance. Kaida – a structured composition developed through creative variations. Rela – a fast and intricate piece showing technical mastery. Gat – a melodious and stylistic composition. Phran and Tihai – concluding patterns that end the performance with balance and impact. Together, these elements make the tabla performance rich, dynamic, and artistically engaging.

Instruments used: In a tabla performance, instruments like tabla and harmonium are commonly used. The harmonium player performs a nagma (melodic tune) that sets the rhythm and mood. The tabla player listens carefully to this nagma and presents rhythmic patterns in coordination with its laya (tempo), creating a balanced and expressive musical dialogue.

Additional Information: The Tabla conveys the message of rhythm, balance, and harmony. It reflects India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. In contemporary times, the tabla remains relevant not only in classical and devotional music but also in fusion, film, and global performances, symbolizing the blend of tradition and modern creativity.

Photos:



Rajasthan

Name of Participant: Harsh Kumar Yogi

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical - तबला

Details of the Art Form: तबला भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत का एक प्रमुख ताल वाद्य है जो अपनी अद्वितीय ध्वनि और जटिल लय बद्ध पैटर्न के लिए जाना जाता है तबला दो ड्रमों से मिलकर बना होता है पहला बायां जिसे तबला भी कहते हैं दूसरा बायां जिसे डग्गा भी कहते हैं। इसकी ध्वनि और तकनीक इसे एक विशेष और आकर्षक वाद्य बनाती है जो संगीत प्रेमियों और शास्त्रीय संगीत के प्रशंसकों के लिए अनमोल अनुभव प्रदान करता है।

Historical and Cultural Background: छात्र हर्ष कुमार योगी का जन्म 15 जून 2010 को राजस्थान के खैरथल तिलारा जिले के छोटे से गांव पिपली में हुआ। इन्होंने अपना संगीत कैरियर 10 वर्ष की उम्र में आरंभ कर दिया था। छात्र की संगीत में रुचि देखते हुए परिजनों ने तबला दिलाया और उसे अभ्यास करवाया। छात्र हर्ष कुमार योगी राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय सियाखोह के कक्षा 10 का छात्र है। सियाखोह विद्यालय के प्रधानाचार्य जी के निर्देशन में कला उत्सव सांस्कृतिक प्रभारी श्री सलामुद्दीन जी ने छात्र की कला को निखारते हुए विभिन्न आयोजनों में संगति करवाकर कला उत्सव कार्यक्रम 2024 में सहभागिता की जिसमें राज्य पर द्वितीय स्थान प्राप्त किया एवं 2025 में राज्य स्तर पर प्रथम आने के बाद राष्ट्रीय स्तर के लिए चयन हुआ।

Performance: छात्र हर्ष कुमार योगी ने ब्लॉक, जिला एवं राज्य स्तर पर प्रस्तुति देकर अपनी कला का उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन किया। इसमें मुख्य रूप से रंगोत्सव में जालौर जिले पर अपने गुरुजी सलामुद्दीन के साथ संगत कर सबको मंत्र मुग्ध कर दिया। विद्यालय में प्रार्थना स्थलीय कार्यक्रम और अन्य अवसरों पर प्रस्तुति देकर विद्यालय का वातावरण संगीतमय बना रखा है।

Instruments used: तबले में दाएं को बनाने के लिए शीशम, टून, गुलाब आदि लकड़ी का प्रयोग एवं बायें में धातु का प्रयोग किया जाता है। साथ ही मुख पर चमड़ा लगाया जाता है, जो बकरे की खाल से बना होता है। तबले को कसने के लिए बंदी का प्रयोग किया जाता है जो तबले को कसने में काम ली जाती है और उन बंदी में गिट्टी होती है जिसे हथौड़ी से उपर-नीचे करने पर तबला मिलाया जाता है।

Additional Information: कला- रचनात्मक या कल्पनाशील प्रतिभा का उपयोग करके बनाई गई एक सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियां हैं। कला अनेक प्रकार की होती है जिनमें तबला बजाना भी एक कला है और इसके अंदर लय और ताल का बहुत महत्व माना जाता है क्योंकि लय और ताल के बिना संगीत अधूरा है। तबले में विभिन्न बोल बजाए जाते हैं और उन बोलों से ताले बनाई गई फिर उन तालों से कायदे, रत्ने, गत, टुकड़ा, परन आदी और फिर इनके पलट्टे बनाए तिहाईया बनाई गई।

Photos:



Sikkim

Name of Participant: Adroit Bhujel

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Indian classical, Instrumental Music, Solo, Rhythmic Music

Details of the Art Form: Tabla is a classical percussion art form originating in North India, especially prominent in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. It is widely practiced across the Indian subcontinent and has become an essential instrument in Hindustani classical music. Today, its presence extends globally through concerts, cultural festivals, and music education.

Historical and Cultural Background: Tabla has its origins in the Indian subcontinent, believed to have evolved around the 18th century from older drums like the pakhawaj. Over time, it became central to Hindustani classical music and developed distinct gharanas such as Delhi, Lucknow, and Banaras. Culturally, the tabla is deeply tied to devotional music, dance traditions like Kathak, and folk celebrations. It is also an integral part of India's musical heritage, symbolizing rhythm, discipline, and artistic expression across generations.

Performance: The performance is based on banaras gharana. The taal is teen taal, the performance begins with a theka followed by an uthaan explored in various layakari, followed by a tukra. After that I will present a kayda, showcasing its layakari in dugun, tigan and chaugun laya along with its paltas and end with a tihaai. Then the laya increases, I will transition to rela, showcasing some tikras and chakradhars, and finally ending with a tukra.

Instruments used: Tabla (dayam and bayam), and harmonium (for accompany)

Additional Information: In contemporary times, the tabla continues to convey a message of harmony, discipline, and cultural continuity. Its intricate rhythms symbolize the balance between tradition and creativity. Beyond classical music, the tabla is now widely used in fusion, film music, and global collaborations, making it relevant to modern audiences. As an art form, it inspires young musicians to appreciate India's rich musical heritage while exploring innovative expressions in today's evolving musical landscape.

Photos:



Telangana

Name of Participant: B. Sundar Raju

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Instrumental Music Solo (Rhythmic Instrument) (Percussive)

Details of the Art Form: Tabla is a classical Indian percussion instrument consisting of two drums, widely used in Hindustani music. It originated in North India and is now practiced across Telangana and India and globally. The instrument is central to classical, folk, devotional, and contemporary fusion music.

Historical and Cultural Background: The tabla, a classical Indian percussion instrument of two drums—dayan and bayan—originated in North India during the 18th century, evolving from the pakhawaj. Central to Hindustani music, it expresses rhythm and emotion through intricate beats. With various gharanas, the tabla symbolizes India's rich musical heritage and global cultural influence.

Performance: Master Sundar Raju has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing the State First Prize in Instrumental Music (Tabla). His exceptional rhythm, precision, and dedication to the art of percussion have earned him this prestigious recognition. My journey reflects consistent practice, passion for classical music, and a deep understanding of rhythm and expression. My achievement not only highlights the individual talent but also brings great pride to our Govt High School (Boys) institution and who have guided me throughout.

Instruments used: Tabla is made using wooden shells (usually teak or sheesham), animal skin/membrane for drum heads, leather straps for tuning, syahi (black tuning paste) at the center of the drum head, and metal rings or wooden dowels for tightening and sound adjustment.

Additional Information: Tabla promotes rhythm, concentration, and discipline. It connects today's learners with India's rich musical heritage and is widely used in classical, folk, devotional, and fusion music. The art form encourages creativity, teamwork, and cultural appreciation, making it highly relevant in modern musical education.

Photos:



Tripura

Name of Participant: Bhargab Kar

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical

Details of the Art Form: The tabla is a versatile percussion instrument central to the music of North India, featured in a wide array of art forms ranging from classical music and dance to contemporary folk, devotional, and fusion genres. It is used both as an accompaniment and a solo instrument, providing the fundamental rhythmic structure (taal) of a performance.

Historical and Cultural Background: The exact origins of the tabla are debated, but scholars agree it is a hybrid instrument with deep roots in the Indian subcontinent's ancient percussion traditions.

- Temple carvings as old as 500 BCE in the Bhaja Caves and 6th-7th century Muktesvara and Bhuvaneswara temples depict figures playing paired hand drums, suggesting early forms of the instrument. Ancient Sanskrit texts like the Natyashastra mention instruments like puskara and mridangam, which are considered precursors to the tabla and featured paste patches (syahi) similar to those found on a modern tabla.

Performance: In this recital, I present a Tabla solo rooted in the Farukhabad Gharana, performing in the rare and sophisticated Pancham Swari Taal of 15 matras, structured in 4 bibhag with 3 tali and 1 khali. The journey begins in Vilambitlaya with an Uthan, followed by two kayda with variations of palta and a concluding tihai. Transitioning into Drutlaya, the recital explores the brilliance of tukra, paran, and chakradartukra. Pancham Swari Taal, with its asymmetrical cycle, is celebrated for solo renditions, rhythmic explorations, and jugalbandi, offering immense scope for creativity and surprise.

Instruments used: Classical Indian music frequently features the combination of tabla and harmonium, where the harmonium provides the melody or drone while the tabla provides the rhythmic accompaniment. This pairing is common in Hindustani classical music, as well as in genres like ghazals and qawwali.

Additional Information: Tabla music, particularly in a solo context, is a sophisticated language of rhythm that communicates through intricate patterns and improvisation within specific cyclical frameworks called taals. In traditional settings, the tabla is deeply tied to spiritual experiences and devotion (bhakti). Its rhythms support chants, religious rituals, and traditional dance forms like Kathak, often telling stories or enhancing spiritual narratives that connect listeners to India's rich heritage and a sense of inner harmony. In an era of globalization, the tabla stands as a living symbol of Indian artistic and cultural heritage. Efforts to promote traditional craftsmanship and music education in schools help preserve this legacy for future generations, ensuring its continued relevance.

Photos:



Uttar Pradesh

Name of Participant: Gour Sundar

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Classical Tabla

Details of the Art Form: The art form's richness comes from its history in the Hindustani classical tradition, its nuanced playing technique and the distinct stylistic schools or gharanas.

Historical and Cultural Background: Historical background

- Ancient Indian origins: Theories suggest the tabla evolved from ancient drums like the puskara, seen in 6th-7th century temple carvings, and the pakhavaj, a barrel-shaped drum. The Sanskrit text Natyashastra (200 BCE–200 CE) also mentions percussion instruments that may be precursors.
- The 18th-century emergence: The modern tabla became established around the 18th century, with the development of different playing styles, or gharanas. This is considered the beginning of its prominent role in Hindustani classical music.
- Cultural background
- Integral to Hindustani music: The tabla is the primary percussion instrument in North Indian classical (Hindustani) music, used for both solo performances and accompaniment.
- Connection to dance: It is intrinsically linked to Indian classical dance forms, especially Kathak, where it provides the intricate rhythmic patterns (taals).

Performance: First of all I started with pashkar after that I play traditional kayada of Delhi gharana. after that I play some composition After that I play rela and laggi

Instruments used: Tabla

Additional Information: Tabla gharanas

Different schools of thought, or gharanas, developed specific playing styles known as baaj.

- Delhi Gharana: Considered the oldest, this school focuses on a band baaj or “closed” style, emphasizing clear, concise tones.
- Ajrara Gharana: An offshoot of the Delhi school, it is known for its energetic and complex rhythmic patterns.
- Lucknow Gharana: Known for its khula baaj or “open” style, it uses fuller, more resonant sounds and features a strong association with Kathak dance.
- Farrukhabad Gharana: This school is admired for its beautiful, flowing compositions and robust technique.
- Banaras Gharana: A powerful, resonant, and forceful style that incorporates influences from other percussion instruments.
- Punjab Gharana: An independent school known for its mathematical approach and use of powerful, complex compositions.
- Prominent tabla masters
- Ustad Allah Rakha: A pivotal figure in bringing the tabla to international audiences through his collaborations with sitar maestro Ravi Shankar.

- Ustad Zakir Hussain: Alla Rakha's son, a global icon known for his virtuosity, innovative collaborations, and popularizing the instrument around the world.
- Pandit Kishan Maharaj: A powerhouse of the Banaras Gharana known for his dynamic and powerful solo performances.
- Ustad Ahmed Jan Thirakwa: Considered one of the greatest tabla players of all time, known for his vast repertoire and mastery.

Photos:



Uttarakhand

Name of Participant: Raj Kumar

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Solo

Details of the Art Form: तीन ताल: संदेश और समकालीन प्रासंगिकता तीन ताल संतुलन, शांति, और भावपूर्णता का प्रतीक है। इसकी 16 मात्राएं शास्त्रीय संगीत को संरचना देती हैं। आज की प्रासंगिकता: - शास्त्रीय संगीत: ठुमरी, ध्रुपद, ख्याल में आधार। - नृत्य: कथक, भरतनाट्यम में तालबद्धता। - योग/मेडिटेशन: लायबद्ध श्वास-प्रश्वास। - सांस्कृतिक धरोहर: भारतीय संगीत की पहचान। भाव, लाय, और ताल का संगम।

Historical and Cultural Background: तीन ताल: ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक पृष्ठभूमि तीन ताल प्राचीन भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत की सबसे संतुलित और लोकप्रिय ताल है। इसका उद्गम पखावज (मृदंग) से हुआ, जिसे लखनऊ और फर्रुखाबाद घरानों ने विकसित किया। 16 मात्राओं (4 विभाग) का यह ताल ध्रुपद, ठुमरी, ख्याल, और नृत्य (कथक) में प्रयोग होता है। सांस्कृतिक महत्व: विवाह, त्योहार, और शाही दरबारों में गाया-बजाया जाता था। आज भी शास्त्रीय संगीत, फिल्म, और फ्यूजन में जीवंत है।

Performance: तीन ताल: प्रस्तुति विवरण छात्र लखनऊ घराने की शैली में प्रस्तुति देंगे: - एडवांस पेशकार: ताल की बुनियाद। - कायदा: लायकारी का सौंदर्य। - लखनऊ रौरेला (द्रुत): ऊर्जा और गति। - फर्रुखाबाद रौरेला: मोल-तोल का जादू। - गतपरन: समाप्ति में लायबद्ध शिखर। वाद्य: तबला, सितार, पखावज संग गायन।

Instruments used: तीन ताल: वाद्य/सामग्री - प्राथमिक वाद्य: तबला, पखावज (ताल संगत)। - मुख्य वाद्य: सितार, सरोद, वायलिन, हारमोनियम। - गायन: शास्त्रीय आवाज (ख्याल, ठुमरी)। - संगत: बांसुरी, संतूर। - लायकारी: हाथों की थाप, घुंघरू (नृत्य)

Additional Information: तीन ताल: संदेश और समकालीन प्रासंगिकता तीन ताल संतुलन, शांति, और भावपूर्णता का प्रतीक है। इसकी 16 मात्राएं शास्त्रीय संगीत को संरचना देती हैं।

आज की प्रासंगिकता:

- शास्त्रीय संगीत: ठुमरी, ध्रुपद, ख्याल में आधार।
- नृत्य: कथक, भरतनाट्यम में तालबद्धता।
- योग/मेडिटेशन: लायबद्ध श्वास-प्रश्वास।
- सांस्कृतिक धरोहर: भारतीय संगीत की पहचान।

भाव, लाय, और ताल का संगम।

Photos:



KVS

Name of Participant: Krishn Chandra Pandey

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Instrumental music solo (percussion) – tabla (classical)

Details of the Art Form: Art form - instrumental music (percussion-tabla) The tabla originated in North India, particularly in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. It is widely played across India with major gharanas in Delhi, Lucknow, Banaras, and Punjab. Today, its presence extends globally, featured in Indian classical, fusion, and world music across the USA, UK, Canada, and other countries.

Historical and Cultural Background: The tabla originated in North India during the 18th century, evolving from older drums like the pakhawaj. Believed to have developed in the Mughal era, it became central to Hindustani classical music.

The tabla is deeply rooted in Indian culture, used in classical music, dance, and religious rituals. It accompanies Kathak, Bhajans, and Ghazals, reflecting devotion and rhythm.

Performance: I will play teentaal Teentaal is a 16-beat rhythmic cycle in Hindustani music, divided into four sections of four beats each. Its full theka is: Dha Dhin Dhin Dha | Dha Dhin Dhin Dha | Dha Tin Tin Ta | Ta Dhin Dhin Dha | It's used in classical, instrumental, and dance performances. Starting with uthan and playing two kayda then one paran one pharad and end with tukda

Instruments used: The tabla consists of two drums: the dayan, made of hardwood like shisham, and the bayan, made of metal or clay. Both have goat or cow skin heads with a black syahi paste for tonal quality. Leather straps and wooden blocks (gattas) are used for tuning and tension adjustment.

Additional Information: The tabla is more than a musical instrument; it is a symbol of India's rhythmic and cultural identity. Traditionally central to Hindustani classical music, it conveys themes of balance, harmony, and devotion. In contemporary times, the tabla has transcended cultural boundaries, finding a place in fusion, jazz, electronic, and film music worldwide. Its complex rhythms and expressive tones continue to inspire global artists, bridging ancient traditions with modern innovation. The tabla's presence in international collaborations showcases India's musical excellence, promoting cultural exchange and unity through rhythm. It remains a timeless art form connecting heritage, spirituality, and creativity.

Photos:



NVS

Name of Participant: Shubham Asari

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Tabla Classical

Details of the Art Form: The performance is blend of traditional compositions in Teental like Uthan, Peshkar, Kayda, Tukda, Chakradhar, Tisra Jati Composition, Parans like Meend ki Paran, Tirkit Paran, Tripalli etc.

Historical and Cultural Background: This performance explores the rich rhythmic heritage of Hindustani classical music through compositions like Tritaal Peshkar, Trippali Paran and Teesrajati Chakradaar. Each piece highlights the depth and beauty of tabla rhythms, demonstrating both technical prowess and creative expression.

Performance: This solo tabla performance will feature a carefully selected set of compositions of Teentaal in three different speeds, showcasing a blend of traditional and complex rhythmic structures.

Instruments used: Tabla and Harmonium

Additional Information: Traditional Tabla solo in Teental conveys discipline, devotion, and mastery through structured compositions and improvisation. It reflects India's rich cultural heritage and performer's emotional expression. In contemporary times, it remains relevant by inspiring creativity, promoting mindfulness, preserving classical values, and connecting new audiences with timeless traditions across evolving musical landscapes.

Photos:



EMRS

Name of Participant: Aayush Chauhan

Sub-category of Instrumental Music Percussion: Instrumental Music Percussion

Details of the Art Form: Tabla is one of India's most celebrated percussion instruments, known for its rich tonal range, intricate finger techniques, and rhythmic versatility. Widely practiced across North India, the tabla forms the rhythmic foundation of Hindustani classical music, semi-classical forms, bhajans, folk music, and contemporary compositions.

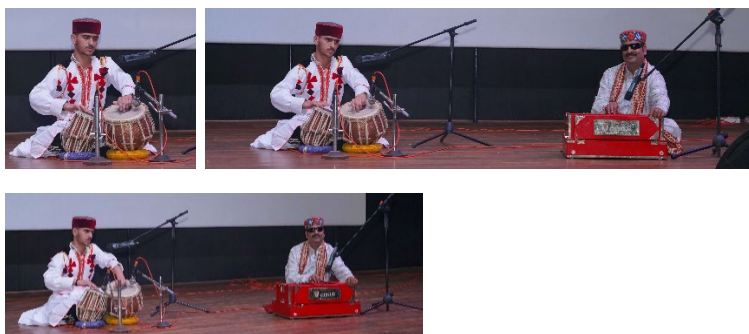
Historical and Cultural Background: Rooted in the Hindustani classical tradition, tabla evolved from ancient percussion instruments and became a central component of North Indian rhythm systems. Over centuries, various gharanas developed distinctive styles, techniques, and compositions that enriched tabla playing. It is revered not only as an accompaniment but also as a solo instrument capable of complex improvisation and expressive rhythmic dialogue. Through bols, kaidas, relas, parans, and tihais, tabla showcases India's rhythmic depth, precision, and artistic heritage.

Performance: The solo performance features three major taals—Dadra (6 beats), Kaherwa (8 beats), and Teentaal (16 beats). Each rhythmic cycle is explored through expressive bols, variations, and improvisations. The progression from gentle phrases to complex traditional compositions demonstrates the performer's clarity, control, and mastery over tempo, rhythm, and laya.

Instruments used: The performance uses the traditional tabla pair—the dayan (right-hand treble drum) and bayan (left-hand bass drum). The instrument is crafted from wood and metal, with a stretched goatskin membrane that produces distinct tonal qualities. The performer uses finger strokes, palm glides, and controlled pressure to create a wide range of rhythmic sounds.

Additional Information: In Dadra, the artiste presents delicate patterns such as dha-dhin-na and tirkita-dhin-na, highlighting soft, flowing improvisation. Kaherwa introduces lively bols like dha-ga, tirkita, taka, dhun-na, bringing a folk-inspired rhythmic character. Teentaal forms the climax, featuring kaida, rela, paran, laggis, palte, and powerful tihais, reflecting technical depth and imaginative expression. This presentation captures the richness of the tabla tradition, blending creativity with disciplined practice and showcasing the profound beauty of Indian percussive art.

Photos:



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