

HARMONY HERALD

Tune in into the melodies of musical instruments

India has a rich and diverse tradition of musical instruments that play a crucial role in its classical, folk, and devotional music.

It has the most ancient and evolved music system in the world, with earliest evidence of music activity found on the walls of cave paintings at Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh, dating back to approximately 10,000 years ago. The later excavations of the Harappan Civilisation showed evidence of music and dance.



The Natya Shastra is an ancient Indian treatise on performing arts, attributed to the sage Bharata Muni. It is one of the earliest and most comprehensive works on dramaturgy, encompassing various aspects of music, dance, and drama. The Natya Shastra is considered a foundational text in Indian classical performing arts and has had a profound influence on the development of theater, dance, and music in the Indian subcontinent.

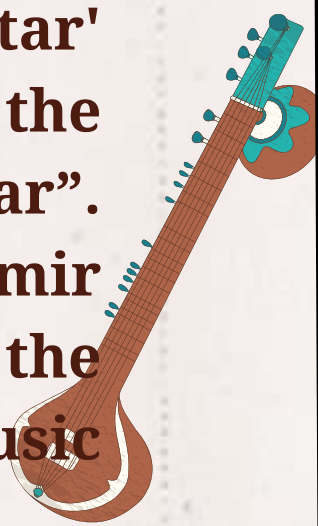
The Natya Shastra, classified instruments into four groups: tat vadya (stringed instrument), sushir vadya (wind instrument), avanaddha vadya (percussion instrument), or ghan vadya (solid instrument). Every one of the myriad instruments invented since then fits into one of these four timeless categories.

SOME OF THE NOTABLE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ARE-

Tat Vadya (String Instruments) are instruments in which sound is produced by the vibrations in stretched metal wires. Here are some examples-

SITAR

A plucked string instrument with a long neck and a resonating gourd body. It is commonly used in Hindustani classical music. The word 'Sitar' originated from the Persian word "Sehtar". Sitar was created by Amir Khusro based on the traditional Indian music instrument, the Veena.



SARANGI



The Sarangi, known as "a hundred colors" for its rich and varied tones, is a profoundly expressive instrument in Indian classical music. This instrument is distinguished by its three gut melody strings and an array of up to 40 sympathetic metal strings.

SANTOOR

The Indian Santoor is a trapezoid-shaped hammered dulcimer, deriving its name from ancient texts where it's referred to as "Shata Tantri Vina," meaning "the Vina with a hundred strings." It shares its roots with the Iranian Santur. Playing the Santoor involves using a pair of light wooden mallets, held with both hands.



VEENA

A plucked string musical instrument, Veena is one of the most ancient Indian musical instruments mentioned in Rigveda, Samveda, and other Vedic literature. There are 3 types of Veenas.

Rudra Veena- a fretted instrument with two equal-sized resonators called Tumba.

Saraswati Veena- is also a fretted veena that has two resonators of different sizes.

Vichitra Veena- a non-fretted. Vichitra veena is played with a piece of round glass. It sounds very close to the humming sound of a human voice.

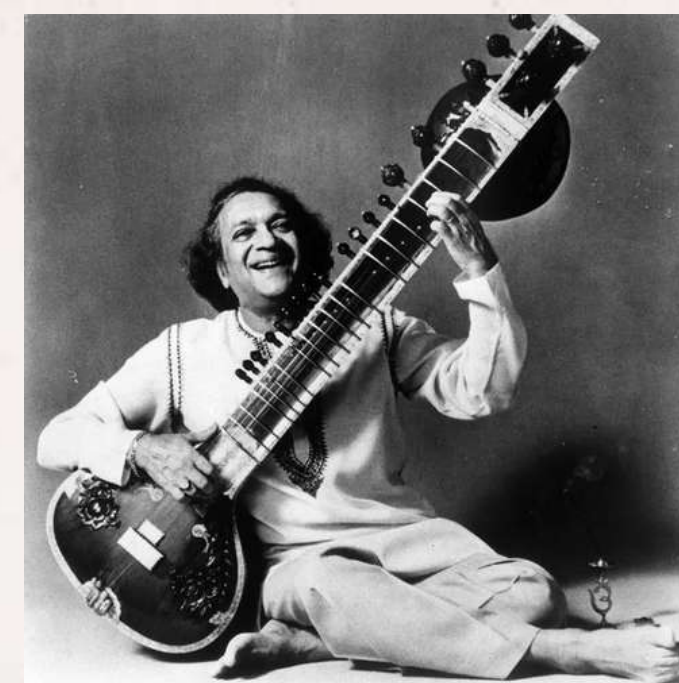


SAROD



The term "Sarod" originates from the Persian "Sarood," translating to "melody." It boasts four primary melody strings, alongside two drone strings, two chikari strings, and 15 sympathetic strings. Renowned for its deep, resonant timbre, the Sarod's sympathetic strings contribute a reverberating quality to its sound.

IDENTIFY THIS FAMOUS MUSICIAN AND WRITE IN BRIEF ABOUT HIM



SOME OF THE NOTABLE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ARE-

Avanaddha Vadya are percussion instruments, known as membranophones, create sound by vibrating a stretched membrane when struck, plucked, or stroked. They typically consist of a hollow vessel covered with a membrane that produces beats upon impact. These instruments can be categorized based on their method of playing:

1. Hand-played, such as the mridangam.
2. Stick-played, like the nagara.
3. Played using a combination of hands and sticks, exemplified by the tavil.
4. Self-struck instruments, such as the damaru.
5. Instruments struck on one side and stroked on the other, like the perumal madu drum.

TABLA

A percussion instrument which consists of a pair of single headed drums, with a profile of two truncated cones that bulge at the center. The higher-pitched of the two drums is played with the right hand and is also referred to as the tabla or the daya, which means "right".



PAKHAWAJ

Derived from the Mridangam, the Pakhawaj is primarily employed to accompany the Dhrupad form of Hindustani classical music. Renowned for its rich, deep, and mellow resonance, this instrument features a barrel-shaped body with goatskin stretched over two side openings.

The two heads vary in size, with the larger one producing bass tones and the smaller one emitting treble tones. To enhance the bass sound, freshly made wheat flour batter is applied to the face of the drum.



Kutiyattam, a Sanskrit theatre practised in the province of Kerala. It is one of India's oldest living theatrical traditions. Kutiyattam is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in Hindu temples. It has been Inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2001). Can you name the instruments used in the performance?

CHANGU



Changu is a percussion instrument and is made of wood and parchment. It is a folk instrument and is found in Orissa. Majorly used in folk and traditional music among 'Jaungs'.

NEWS Narendra Modi Plays Traditional Khasi Drum In Meghalaya

Before his visit to Mawphlang village, adjacent to the sacred groves, the prime minister also visited the Elephant Falls, one of the major tourist destinations in Shillong.

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By Indo-Asian News Service



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SOME OF THE NOTABLE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS WERE

Sushir Vadya are wind instruments, that utilize air as their primary vibrating medium to generate sound. These instruments feature a resonating tube, where a column of air is manipulated to vibrate, serving as the resonator. The player typically blows into a mouthpiece situated at or near the end of the resonator to produce sound. In certain instruments, air can also be mechanically pumped to create vibrations.

FLUTE

The flute has been an integral part of Indian culture since the Vedic era and is famously associated with Lord Krishna. Known by various names such as Venu, Bansuri, Murali, and Vansi, among others, it is crafted from bamboo. The flute features a cylindrical tube-like body with a consistent bore and is sealed at one end. Flute lengths and the number of holes can vary, with longer flutes producing rich, deep tones, and shorter ones yielding higher-pitched sounds.



SHEHNAI

The Shehnai is a traditional Indian instrument commonly heard during auspicious occasions like weddings. It is a quadruple reed instrument featuring a wooden tube-shaped body that tapers at one end and widens at the other. Played by blowing air through a reed mouthpiece, it is capable of producing continuous notes.



HARMONIUM

The harmonium is a keyboard instrument that operates by pushing air through reeds, each tuned to a different pitch, generating musical notes. Inside its box-like structure, a metal reed board is arranged according to the seventh diatonic scale of notes. The keyboard features white and black keys, with the former producing natural notes and the latter producing flats.

In India, a hand-pumped harmonium is commonly used, requiring the player to push and pull a handle connected to the bellows that supply air. This setup enables the harmonium player to use one hand for operating the bellows and the other for playing the keys.



Location-
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SOME OF THE NOTABLE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS WERE

Ghan Vadya are solid instruments. These instruments are sturdy and create sound by vibrating when struck, shaken, or scraped, like bells, gongs, or rattles. Known as idiophonic instruments or self-vibrators, they are made of solid materials that produce their own resonance when activated by hitting, plucking, or friction. Typically played with a striker or hammer, they lack the ability to produce precise pitches necessary for melody, restricting their use in classical music.

MANJIRA

Derived from the Sanskrit term "Tālā," signifying rhythm, the Taal, also known as Kartaal or Manjira, consists of a pair of clash cymbals crafted from materials like bronze, brass, copper, or zinc.



Held in both hands, these cymbals are interconnected by a cord passing through a central aperture. Traditionally used to accompany devotional music such as Bhajan and Kirtan, Taals vary in size, and their pitch is determined by factors like size, weight, and the material employed in their construction.

GHUNGROO

They are musical anklets worn by classical Indian dancers that are made of several small metallic bells strung together on a thick cloth to make Ghungroo. Ghungroo is used in dance forms, folk music, and devotional music to complement the rhythm.



MORCHANG

It is a solid instrument made of metal. This Jew's Harp is a folk instrument found in Rajasthan, majorly used as an accompaniment in music and dance performances. The instrument is held between the thumb and the forefinger of the left hand. A portion of Lamella is pressed firmly between the teeth and the free tongue is struck in a to and fro movement by the right-hand forefinger. The mouth of the player acts as a resonator.



THE RAJASTHAN INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL IS AN ANNUAL MUSIC AND ART FESTIVAL ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE TRADITIONAL FOLK MUSIC.

WHERE IS IT HELD?

Identify the picture and write down the name of the band and where they are from? What is instrument they are holding?

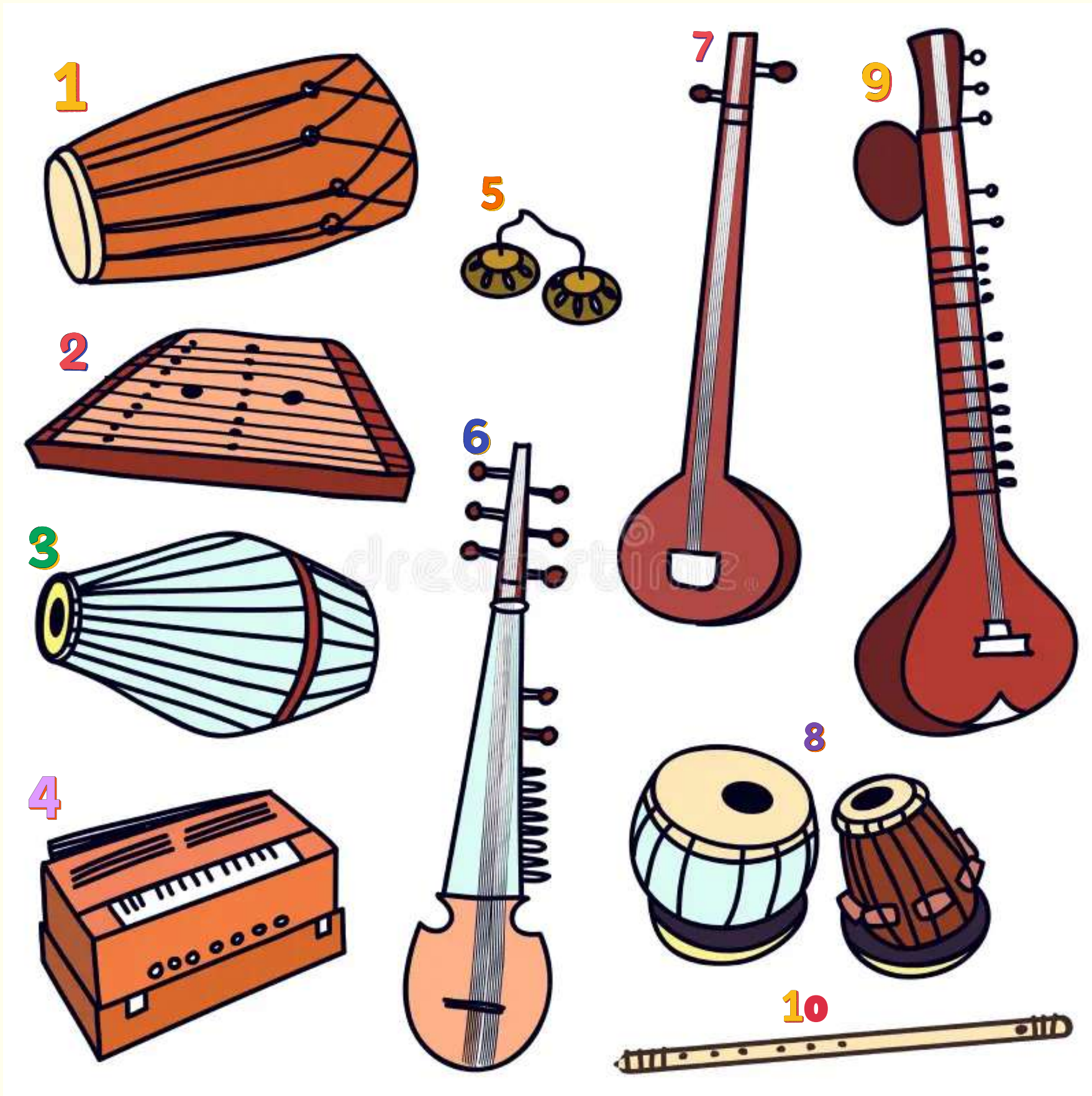


FUN ✨ ✨

ZONE!



IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND NAME THEM



SHARE WITH US DETAILS ABOUT A DISTINCTIVE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT FOUND IN YOUR LOCALITY. FEEL FREE TO CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW WITH A MUSICIAN WHO PLAYS THIS INSTRUMENT AND PROVIDE US WITH DOCUMENTATION. ADDITIONALLY, PLEASE INCLUDE A SKETCH OF THE INSTRUMENT.

Draw your favourite musical instrument



Reference-

- <https://indianculture.gov.in/musical-instruments-instruments/photostory/105010150.cms?picid=105010356>
- <https://www.slideshare.net/kimgravata/indian-musical-instruments-39041426>
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