

WANDERING MISTRELS

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF WANDERING MISTRELS

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This is a old heritage culture where by the story is conveyed in a musical form , various anectodes, meaningful stories, melodius narratives and words of wisdom are conveyed in the rural areas by these wandering musicians with their traditional instruments.

This form of art is slowly dying down and India Post has relived through its stamps the rich heritage of the country.

The musical instruments are Surando a bow with a Gaz. It has six strings of steel and one of copper with specific names assigned to each. Made of teak wood in peacock shape with brass at the bottom and coated with mercury or zinc for appeal.

Algoza is a paired woodwind instrument one for melody and the other for drone. A continuous blow of air is necessary by the player for this instrument to produce the melody.

Ektara is used as a traditional musical instrument in Maharashtra. It is a one string instrument that creates various melodies and its body is made from the shell of bottle gourd, wood apple etc. It has one string made of steel and fixed to the other end of the knob called the khan or ear.

Burrakatha Dakki is a percussion instrument made of brass, parchment, cotton and iron.

Kamaicha is an instrument made of metal, steel, parchment, gut, sheesham, and horse hair. It can have upto 17 strings and the important part of this instrument is the resonator.

Ravanahatha is made of bamboo, parchment, coconut, steel and horse hair. It is basically for vocal accomplishment. They are used in Gujarat, Rajasthan and mostly rural areas.

The stamps were released in the year 2020. The Exhibit shows block of four of these se-tenant stamps of value Rs.10 each per setenant.

