1. PRELIMS CURRENT AFFAIRS 2018

GIRIJA DEVI AND THUMRI

The eminent classical singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Girija Devi passed away recently. She is considered as the queen of Thumri and fondly called Appa-ji, Girija Devi a legendary singer of the Banaras gharana, Girija Devi was awarded the Padma Shri in 1972, Padma Bhushan in 1989 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2016.

- Indian Hindustani Classical Music has various divisions like Khyaal, Thumri, Tappa, Tarana, etc.
- The thumri is based on the romantic-devotional literature inspired by the bhakti movement. The text is usually derived from the Radha-Krishna theme and is of primary importance.
- The semi-classical music form “thumri” is known to have derived its name from thumakna. Loosely translated the word means, “dance-like movements”.
- Thumri was about mild eroticism and dramatic gestures and was the invention of courtesans.
- Girija Devi was amongst those who brought this music form to the mainstream from the courts.
- These are considered as light classical as their melodies do not strictly adhere to the raga structure and are based on less-weighty or mixed ragas.
- The text is romantic and devotional in nature, and usually revolves around a girl's love for Krishna. The language is a dialect of Hindi called Brij bhasha.
- This style is characterized by a greater flexibility with the rag. It arose in popularity during the 19th century.
1. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements: (2017)
1. It is a song and dance performance
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3  (b) 1 and 3 only  (c) 2 and 3 only  (d) 1 only

2. With reference to the semi-classical music form Thumri, consider the following statements:
1. The thumri music is spiritual. It does not seek to entertain, but to induce feelings of peace and spirituality in the listener.
2. It’s composition is romantic and devotional in nature
3. Its language is a dialect of Hindi called Brij bhasha
4. This style is characterized by greater adherence with the raga structure
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
(a) 1, 2, 3 and 4  (b) 2 and 3 only  (c) 3 and 4 only  (d) 1 and 4 only