Tala Maddale, Tulu Yakshagana in Udupi

- Tala-Maddale is an **ancient form** of performance **dialogue or debate** performance in Southern India in the Karavali and Malnad regions of Karnataka and Kerala.
- The **plot and content of the conversation** is drawn from **popular mythology** but the performance mainly consists of an **impromptu debate** between characters involving sarcasm, puns, philosophy positions and **humour**.
- The **main plot** is sung from the same **oral texts used for the Yakshgana form of dance-drama**.
- Performers claim that this was a more intellectual rendition of the dance during the **monsoon season**.
- The art form is popular in Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Shimoga districts of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala.
- It is a **derived form** of Yakshagana—a classical dance or musical form of art from the same region.
- A typical Tala-Maddale show consists of veteran artists sitting in a circular fashion along with a **Bhagavata** (the **singer**, with "Tala" or **pair of small hand cymbals**) and a "**Maddale"** (a **type of drum**) player.
- Artists play the **roles of characters in stories**, typically, from **Ramayana, Mahabharata, and other puranas**.
- Some consider them as a **good presentation of oratorial skills**.
- Artists are normally well versed with the **Hindu epics and puranas**.
- **Kannada language** is the normal medium of communication.
- Tala-Maddale performances are mostly held during the **night**, the traditional reason being that in ancient times, people **finished their work by this time** and assembled in temples to watch Tala Maddale.
- It is organized by either hobbyists who are interested in the art at their houses or as a **public event in villages and towns**.