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.