

# HYDERABAD FOLK DANCE REHEARSAL

DATE MAILED



A Siddia dance by the Hyderabad contingent at the rehearsal on Thursday of folk dancing to be held in connexion with the Republic Day celebrations in Delhi.—States man.  
(See also back page)

## STATE CONTINGENTS IN NEW DELHI

### Preparations For Folk Dance Festival

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Beating drums, tribal chants and the wail of strange instruments were heard in New Delhi on Thursday as State contingents camping in Talkatora Gardens, rehearsed for the folk dance festival at the National Stadium on January 27 and 28.

Some of the dancers had travelled by train for the first time to bring the most remote tribal dances to Delhi for the Republic Day celebrations.

Each contingent had a unique appeal with completely individual forms of dress, styles of dancing and musical accompaniments. Items ranged from the savage rhythmic war-dance of the Mao Nagas of Manipur to the intricate musical pattern-dancing of the Saurashtra contingent.

A glimpse of Africa was provided by painted warriors in straw skirts from Hyderabad. They are descended from East Africans imported by the Nizam in the twelfth century to form his bodyguard.

In complete contrast were the slow, stately movements of the Paddi dancers from Himachal Pradesh with their elaborate head-dresses and white woollen gowns.

Horned Eya drummers from Orissa circled round their chanting women, to be followed by another mixed, but more sophisticated group from Bombay doing the Ras dance.

No less fascinating were dances from Punjab, West Bengal, Bihar, PEPSU, Rajasthan and Assam—altogether a spectacular and colourful picture of lesser-known aspects of India's variegated culture.

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