

Globalization and Culture
Prof. Anjali Gera Roy
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Lecture – 14
Is Chutney the New Rage

If bhangra could invite the global popular universe could chutney could Bhojpuri we for behind after all it is the prestige of up and Bihar at state, if second generation British agency or British Punjabis could transform their rustic music from the villages of Punjab to global dance music; and all the diaspora descendents of an older diaspora from UP and Bihar who are taken as indentured workers to the plantations in the 19th Century.

But used a new form of music based on the music they carried to the plantations from their home lands and UP and Bihar to produce a new form of music called Chutney. Unlike bhangra chutney included all the generals' not just folk, but also devotional bhajans and so on.

Let us look at the reinvention of traditional and traditional music from the regions of UP and Bihar in the British a plantation economies of West Indies by the descendents of indentured workers to these plantations which is now called chutney. And chutney promises to be the new rage in the global popular scale.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:03)



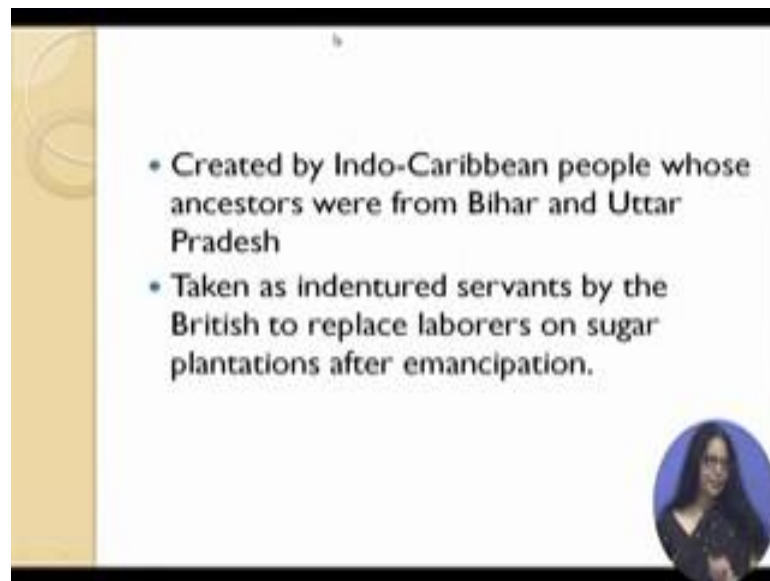
Chutney Music

- A form indigenous to the southern Caribbean,
- Popular in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica, and the rest of the Caribbean,
- Mixture of Bhojpuri music (Indian folk music/Indian classical music/, Bhajan, Qawwali), Western music and local music.
- Increasingly popular in Fiji, South Africa, Mauritius, Canada, the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, New Zealand, India



Chutney music is a form indigenous to the Southern Caribbean popular in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean. And chutney music is a mix of Bhojpuri music, Indian folk music, Bhojpuri classical music, Bhajan, Qawwali with Western music and local music. And it is increasingly becoming popular in Fiji South Africa, Mauritius, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and New Zealand and India.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:39)



And this music has been created by indo Caribbean people whose ancestors were from Bihar and UP. And it was over taken as indentured workers by the British to replace laborers on sugar plantations after emancipation.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:57)



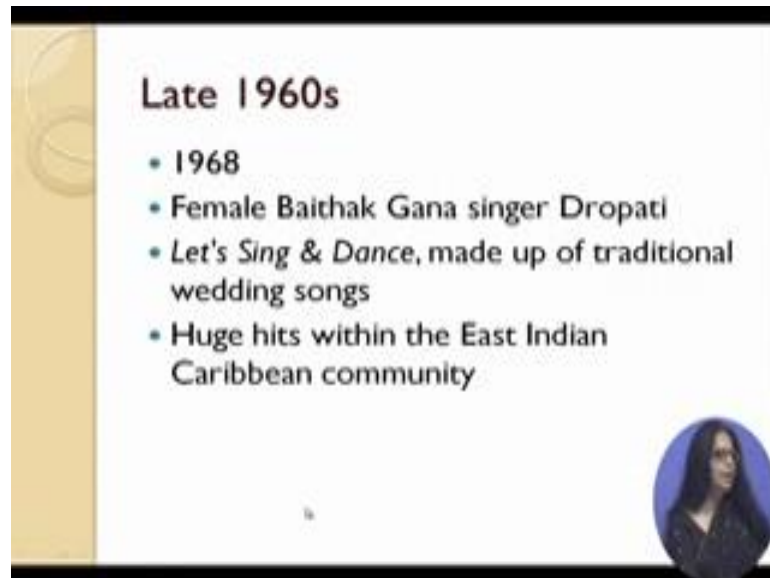
Origins Late 1950s

- Established in the late 1950s within temples, wedding houses, and cane fields of the Indo-Caribbean.
- No recordings until 1968, when
- Ramdev Chaitoe Suriname
- King of Suriname
- Recorded an early rendition of Baithak Gana,
- Became a household name with East Indians not just in Suriname but throughout the Caribbean
- All of the songs were religious in nature,
- But they had throughout each track danceable tunes
- For the first time Indo-Caribbeans had music that spoke to them and was not European/American in style.
- This was a breakthrough for East Indian Caribbean the fame was short lived

Now, this music it was established in the late 50's within temples, wedding houses and cane fields of the Indo-Caribbean. And there were no recordings of the music until 1968 when Ramdev Chaitoe from Suriname, recorded an early rendition of Baithak Gana call King of Suriname. And this recording made hen household name with East Indians not just in Suriname, but throughout the Caribbean. All the songs were religious in nature, but they had throughout a dance track with danceable tunes. And for the first time like meditations indo Caribbean's had music that spoke to them which was not European or American in style. And this was a nature break through for East Indian Caribbean's even though fame was short lived.

Let us listen to a Baithak Gana by Ramdev Chaitoe. This is (Refer Time: 04:08) it is very hummable and very dance folk. So, this was Ramdev Chaitoe whose Baithak Gana was the predecessors of chutney music.

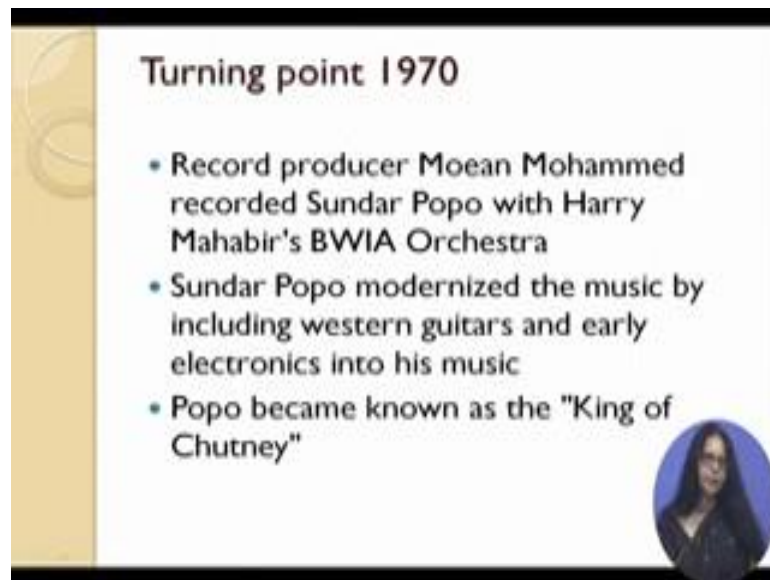
(Refer Slide Time: 05:16)



Let us move on from there to the 60's from the 50's we gone to the 60's. In 1968 we have female Baithak Gana singer called Dropati whose album let us sing and dance made up of traditional wedding songs may became huge hits within the East Indian Caribbean community.


Let us now listen to Dropati and her Baithak Gana which is very different from that of Ramdev let us listen to her gana now. Is bhajan about Bharath meeting Ram in the forest and it is still very hummable very catchy. So, we could Dropti the four mother of chutney music who became extremely popular and her songs where huge hits within the East Indian Caribbean community.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:30)



Turning point 1970

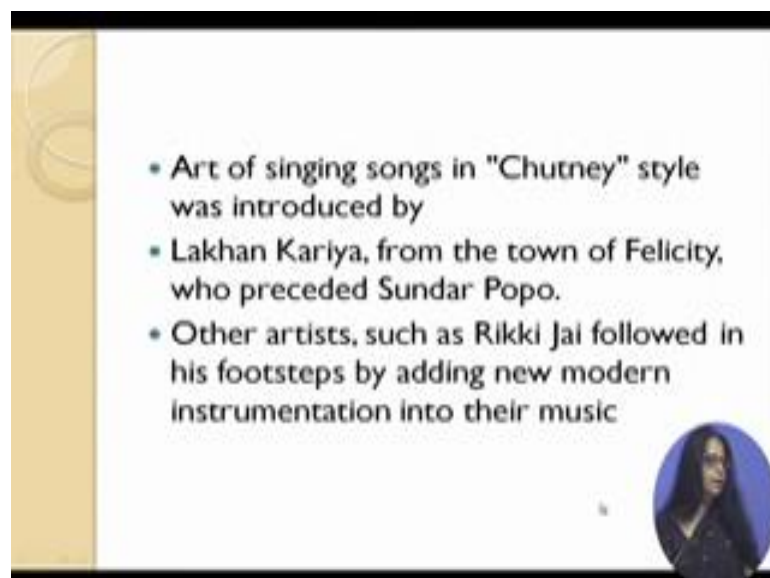
- Record producer Moean Mohammed recorded Sundar Popo with Harry Mahabir's BWIA Orchestra
- Sundar Popo modernized the music by including western guitars and early electronics into his music
- Popo became known as the "King of Chutney"




The turning point for chutney music came in 1970 when the record pro producer Moean Mohammed recorded Sundar Popo with Harry Mahabir's BWIA Orchestra. Now Sundar Popo modernized the music by including Western guitars and early electronics into his music. And Popo became known as the king of chutney. Let us listen to one of his most popular numbers [FL] now and you tell us what you think about it.

So therefore in Sundar Popo, but all those Sundar Popo has been name the "King of Chutney".

(Refer Slide Time: 09:37)



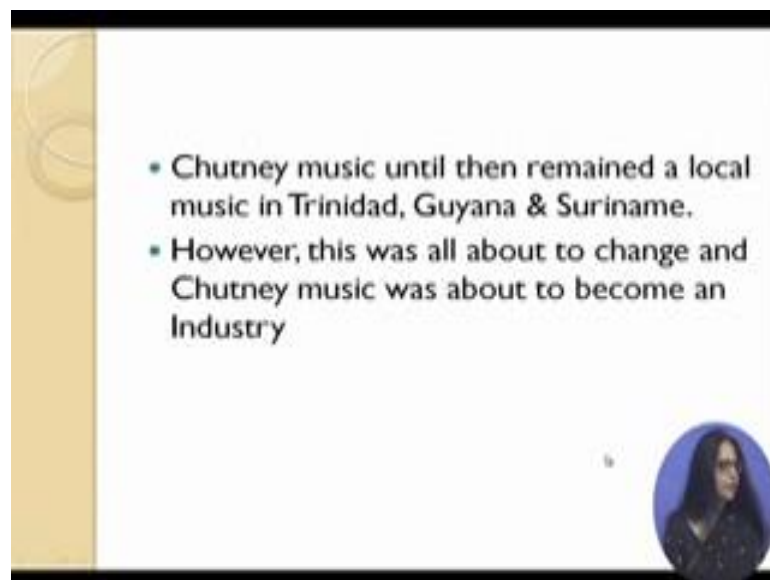
- Art of singing songs in "Chutney" style was introduced by
- Lakhan Kariya, from the town of Felicity, who preceded Sundar Popo.
- Other artists, such as Rikki Jai followed in his footsteps by adding new modern instrumentation into their music



It was another singer and earlier signer called the art of singing songs in the chutney style was really introduced by singer called Lakhan Kariya from the town of felicity who preceded Sundar Popo.

Other artists such as Rikki Jai followed in his footsteps by adding new instrumentation in to their music. Now let us listen to Lakhan Kariya and see how his singing proceeded is anticipated Sundar Poppo's success. And let us we are listening to [FL] which began the great grandfather and mother are very popular with that research [FL] and [FL] by Lakhan Kariya.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:56)



And we move on to the next chutney music till the end remained local music in Trinidad Guyana and Suriname. However, this was all about to change and chutney music was about to become an industry.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:07)

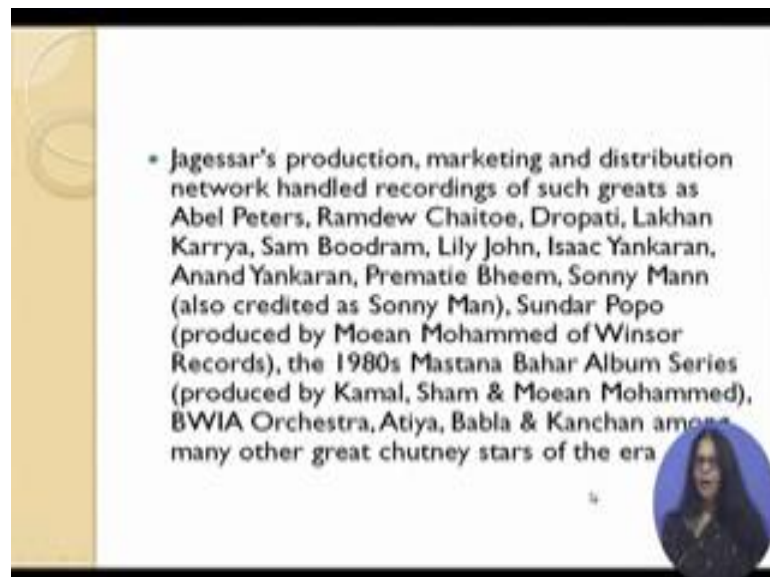


1970s


- Produced, marketed and distributed fell into the hands of a 17-year-old record producer and distributor name Rohit Jagessar
- Jagessar set a higher standard for chutney music and took it world wide by expanding the "old markets" and opening up newer international markets for this most beloved musical genre.

In the 70's produced and marketed by and distribution of chutney music fell into the hands of a 17 year old record producer and distributor name Rohit Jagessar. Jagessar set a higher standard for chutney music and took it worldwide by expanding the old markets and opening up newer international markets for the most beloved genre.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:39)



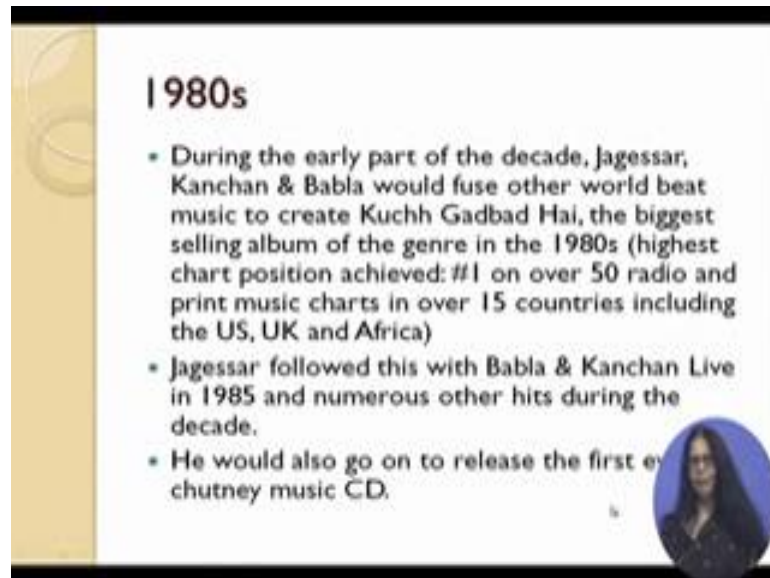
- Jagessar's production, marketing and distribution network handled recordings of such greats as Abel Peters, Ramdew Chaitoe, Dropati, Lakhan Karrya, Sam Boodram, Lily John, Isaac Yankaran, Anand Yankaran, Prematie Bheem, Sonny Mann (also credited as Sonny Man), Sundar Popo (produced by Moean Mohammed of Winsor Records), the 1980s Mastana Bahar Album Series (produced by Kamal, Sham & Moean Mohammed), BWIA Orchestra, Atiya, Babla & Kanchan among many other great chutney stars of the era



Jagessar's production marketing and distribution networks handled recordings of such greats as Abel Peters, Ramdew Chaitoe, Dropati, Lakhan Karrya, Sam Boodram, Lily John - Isaac Yankaran, Anand Yankaran, Prematie Bheem, Sonny Man, Sundar Popo the

aith and the 80's [FL] album series BWIA Orchestra Atiya Babla and Kanchan among other great chutney stars of the era.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:16)



Now, during the early part of the decade Jagessar, Kanchan and Babla some of you have might have heard Kanchan and Babla because their music was also very popular in India in the (Refer Time: 13:32). Kanchan and Babla would fuse other world beat music to create [FL] the biggest selling album of the genre in 1980's. Highest chart position achieved on over 50 radio and print music charts in over 15 countries including the US UK and Africa.

Jagessar followed this with Babla and Kanchan live in 1985 and numerous other hits during the decade. He would also go on to release the first ever chutney music CD. Let us listen to [FL].


So, that was in Babla who created a sensation with day number [FL]. And from Kanchan and Babla let us move ahead.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:33)



1990s

- Jagessar went on to produce ten of the most memorable chutney hits with Kanchan
- Classic album "Leggo Me Na Raja, the biggest selling album in the history of the chutney music genre
- Jagessar recorded the album in the summer of 1991 at Weston Outdoor Studios in Mumbai, India on 8mm film, making this the first chutney album recorded digitally.



A Jagessar followed this I explained with live performances. And represent in 90's that Jagessar went on to produce ten of the most memorable chutney hits with Kanchan their classic album [FL] the biggest selling album in the history of the chutney music genre. And he recorded the album in the summer of 1991 at Weston Outdoor Studios in Mumbai India on 80mm film making this the first chutney album recorded digitally.

Let us let us listen to this number by Kanchan (Refer Time: 16:15). Babla and Kanchan singing [FL]; Jagessar as we saw made this first chutney album.

(Refer Slide Time: 17:55)



1985

- Chutney Music also got its first big impact commercially in live concert performances during the 1980's when Jagessar took the music into large stadiums and cricket fields in selected countries around the world
- The 1985 revenue from these concerts surpassed US\$1 million for the first time in the history of the genre and Jagessar signed Kanchan to a contract with Johnson & Johnson to produce and promote the popular brand in a most memorable television commercial that very same



And 85 also chutney music also got its first big impact commercially. So, since to coincide with them urgency of (Refer Time: 18:06) and UK when chutney music also got it first big impact commercially in live concert performances during the 80s instead of parties its concept performances during 1980's when Jagessar took the music into large stadiums and cricket fields in selected countries all over the world.

The 1985 revenue from these concerts surpassed US 1 million dollars for the first time in the history of the genre. And Jagessar signed Kanchan to a contract with Johnson and Johnson to produce and promote the popular brand in a most memorable television commercial that very same year.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:53)



After the success of Jagessars [FL] other chutney artists began to fuse calypso soca and American rhythm and blues naming their music Indian soca, and the most important of this artist who emerged in this year's. Now this is in the irakh globalization that chutney acquires the new dimension and new avatar it emerges in Indian soca. And the person who (Refer Time: 19:27) revolution is a young female artist named Drupatee Ramgoonai from trained emerged on this new scene.

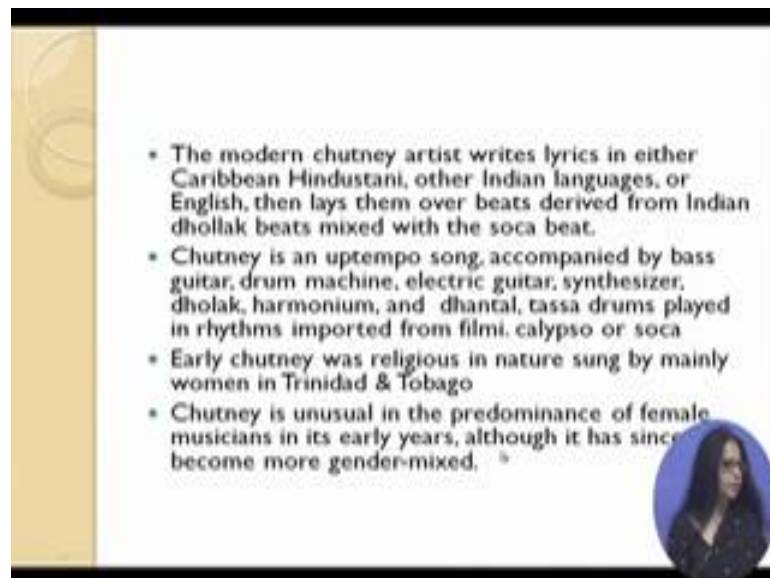
Now, when she initially she was criticized for being "dutty" rude or crude in creole because she wrote about sex and alcohol. This was nothing new as she was following in the footsteps of other calypsonians who they sing about issues in their life or what is happening within the community. Drupatee was later given the title queen of chutney. By

the end of the 80's chutney music was also being introduced in Indian films and in the Netherlands a new artist name Atiya explored on the chutney scene on Rohit records.

Now, let us listen to Dropatee, sorry let us go back to Dropatee; yes, let us listen to Dropatee now one of his one of our popular numbers. So, here is Dropatee performing at chutney vibrations in 2015 and you can see the kind 1915 and the following that to pretty us cross the world to kind of (Refer Time: 20:54) she is greater than at chutney vibrations 2015.

One of the pretty is very popular album sets called daru by Dropatee. So, that daru recorded album and or what happens to chutney today.

(Refer Slide Time: 23:44)



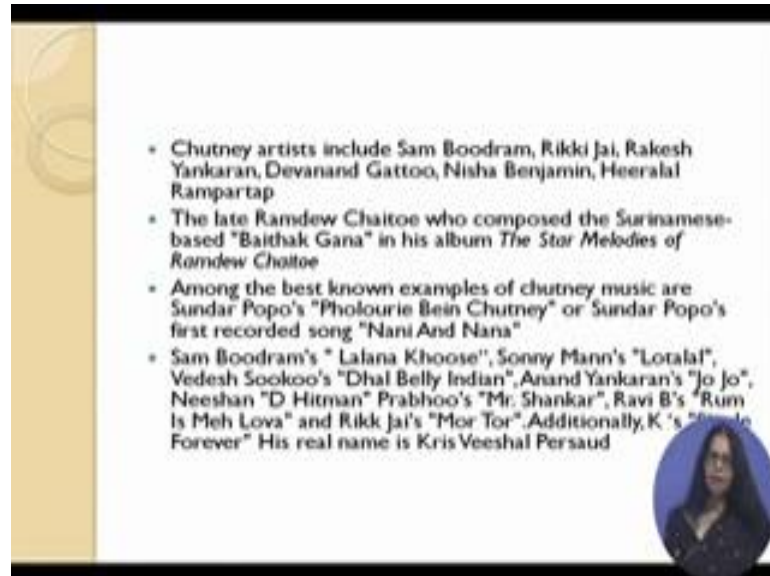
What is chutney the modern chutney artist writes lyrics either in Caribbean Hindustani, other Indian languages or English then lays them over beats derived from Indian dhollak beats mixed with the soca beat.

Chutney is an uptempo song accompanied by bass guitar, drum machine, electric guitar, synthesizer dholak, harmonium and dhantal, tassa drums played in rhythms imported from filmi, calypso or soca.

Early chutney was religious in nature sung by mainly women in Trinidad and Tobago and is very unusual in the predominance of female musicians in its early years although it is more gender mixed now. So, an (Refer Time: 24:39) chutney is in other folk derived

music which has been reinvented and it is dominated by female singers rather than male singers.

(Refer Slide Time: 24:51)



And who are the major chutney artist let us look at them; Sam Boodram, Rikki Jai, Rakesh Yankaran, Devanand Gattoo, Nisha Benjamin, Heeralal rampartap. The late Ramdew Chaitoe who composed the Surinamese based Baithak Gana in this album the star melodies of Ramdew chaitoe. And the best known at examples of chutney music are Sundar Popo's "Pholourie Bein Chutney" or Sundar Popo's first recorded song "Nani And Nana". Sam Boodrams, "Lalana Khoose", Sonny Mann's "Lotalal Vedesh Sookoo's" "Dhal Belly Indian", Anand Yankaran's "Jo Jo", Neeshan "D Hitman" Prabhoo's "Mr Shankar Ravi B's Rum Is Meh Lova" and Rikk Jai's "Mor Tor", Additionality, K S albums.

(Refer Slide Time: 25:50)



So, this is the chutney seen and this is how it looks like today. The chutney common are performing in (Refer Time: 25:57) and self contender on 15 February 2014 which had 20 of the biggest chutney soca artist is in the world and in East Indian music in the West Indies we have a book (Refer Time: 26:11) peter manual we talks about East Indian music in the West Indies. I can clear by finding out if there were any collaborations with traditional Bhojpuri singers with chutney musician. And I found that many of the Bhojpuri singers hard indeed collaborated with chutney performers.

Let us look at some of the chutney song from between Bhojpuri singers, Bhojpuri wedding song and this is let us listen to the Bhojpuri song not a Bhojpuri singer that to talk to work on my hunch that Sundar Popo and many of the earlier singers do sing with sing Bhojpuri songs. Let us listen to Bhojpuri song by Sundar Popo.

So that was Bhojpuri singers like Manoj Thiwari and I am not able to find the recordings. But what has happen because of the popularity of Bhojpuri music globally the Indian base signers like Manoj Thiwari and several others pure Bhojpuri singers have found a new following universally because of the popularity of chutney music the traditional Bhojpuri was also received new film on not only a among the dance for has, but among that people in the world. And these Bhojpuri performers are regularly invited to go and perform not only in West Indies, but in other parts of the world.

So, here we have a Bhojpuri that is song means song sung in that chutney so far by Satrohan Maharaj. This is like bhangra in the case of chutney also the hybrid chutney productions by descendants of Indian workers who migrated to West Indies and the 19th Century. They have also created account or an entrance in the pure Bhojpuri music which is being produced in India and has led to the globalization and increasing visibility of performers from India, some of whom have also collaborated with performers from West Indies.

Let us look at the filmy version of the chutney music and how like everything else Hindi films tend to cannibalize anything that is popular in the world and chutney music finds itself in Hindi films.

So, this is chutney music needs Bollywood films chutney needs Bollywood. Bollywood songs in a chutney style crushing in on the popularity of chutney music world point Bollywood, whatever has been very quick in cannibalizing this music by incorporating in the Bollywood song in dance sequence. So, we have chutney song featuring in the [FL] which is our main chutney into Indian pop has entered the Indian popular musical a landscape as well.

So, has hybridize of chutney music of Bhojpuri music in the dance for us or destroyed the original Bhojpuri music listen look like it is seem like given at a new lease of life. And let us listen to some pure Bhojpuri music from one of the most popular Bhojpuri singers Manoj Tiwari. Let us listen to is one of the popular Bhojpuri songs.

So, chutney has in really signal the death of pure Bhojpuri songs it seems to have created new market for pure Bhojpuri songs not only in India, but across the world due to the popularity of our chutney pure Bhojpuri has also found new audience across the world.

So, let us look at people done sing a chutney global his special on chutney and the chutney party in people dancing where to see how chutney is going to on the weight becoming the new rage in the popular cultural (Refer Time: 36:51).

Like we have chutney is also played and most clubs in global cities across the world showing that, perhaps and expecting in popular music is chutney.