

CLASSICAL DANCE



Indian Dance Forms

Two types:

1. Classical Dance Forms: have particular steps that needs to be performed in particular events (mostly performed in temples)
2. Folk Dance Forms: no particular steps defined, they are performed in particular rituals

Classical Dance

For exam purpose

- **Total: 8** → recognised by Sangeet Natak Academy
- Somewhere mentioned as 9 → By Ministry of Culture

8 + Chhau

• **Nritta**: pure dance

• **Nritya**: expressive dance (pure dance + expression)

- **Origin** → Natya Shastra written by Bharat Muni

It is called as 5th Veda

- **Abhinaya Darpan** → Dances madras, movements, expressions

Written by Nandikeshvara

*Bharatnatyam also known as:
Dasiattam and Sadir attam

Symbolises Fire

→ Classical dance of Tamil Nadu

1. Bharatnatyam

Earlier, was performed by Devadasis in

Origin

Made from three words: Bhav, Raag and Taal

temples

• Last Devadasi: Shrimati Muthukannammal

- It is the oldest classical dance of India
- Performed solo (single person) → Known as "Ekaharya"
- Old names of Bharatnatyam: Sadir, Thevarattam, Parathaiyar Attam
- E Krishna Iyer and Rukmini Devi Arundale → Pushed for name Bharatnatyam
- **Forms of dance:**

Revived by E. Krishna Iyer

1. Shaivite (majorly) → Shiva (Masculine)

2. Vaishnavite → Vishnu (Feminine)

Description in → Silappathikaram (by: Ilango Adigal)

• In 1910, was banned by Britishers

• Found in Natya Shastra

• Associated with Kalakshetra style

Love story between Kovalan and Kannagi and Madhavi

Composed during 2nd Sangam

Manimekalai (Story of daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi)



Exponents of Bharatnatyam

• Tamil text composed during 2nd sangam: Tolkappiyam

TRICK 1

Performed in Carnatic music

भरत की अलार्म बजी और उसने उठते ही अपनी माता

रुक्मिणी देवी के पदम छुए और अपनी सुंदर दोस्त मीनीक्षी

और अपने सारे भाइयों को लेकर बालकृष्ण लीला देखने

चला गया और धन लाकर सो गया।

भरत	_____	Bharatnatyam	
अलार्म	_____	Alarmel Velli → Odissi	
रुक्मिणी देवी	_____	Rukmini Devi Arundale	→ Leading figure in Bharatnatyam
पदम	_____	Padma Subramanyam	
सुंदर दोस्त मीनीक्षी	_____	Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai	→ Also, Kuchipudi
सारे भाइयों	_____	Mirnalini Sarabhai, Mallika Sarabhai	
बाल	_____	Bala Saraswati → Kathakali	
कृष्ण	_____	Yamini Krishnamurthi → Kuchipudi	
लीला	_____	Leela Samson	
धन	_____	Shanta Dhananjayan/VP Dhananjayan	
सो गया	_____	Sonal Mansingh → Odissi	

- Padma Bhushan—1956
- 1st women to be nominated in Rajya Sabha
- Founder of Kalakshetra Dance School

- Sonal Mansingh: youngest recipient of Padma Vibhushan

Some other exponents:

- Rama Vaidyanathan
- Meenakshi Chittaranjan
- Narthaki Nataraj
- Urmila Satyanarayanan

→ Some Brahman families perform this ancient dance since ages

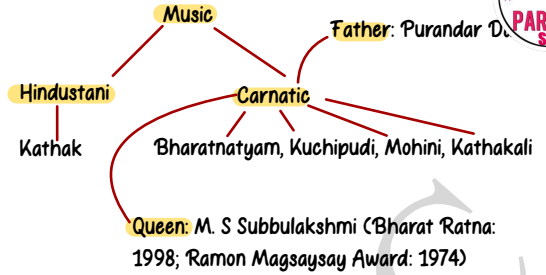
↳ Tanjore → Nattuvanars (families)

Style:

- Pandanallur
- Vazhuvoor
- Kalakshetra
- Melattur
- Tanjore

Movements/Stages of dance:

- Alarippu
- Jatiswaram
Shabdham
- Varnam
- Padam
- Tillana
- Mangalam



Symbolises Earth

Carnatic music

Yakshagana was performed here in earlier times

2. Kuchipudi

- Classical Dance of Andhra Pradesh (Krishna District)
- Known as Bhagavata Mela Dance in Tanjore, Tamil Nadu
- Modern form: Tirtha Narayanayati

Disciple: Sidhyendra Yogi (Vaishnavite)

Exponents of Kuchipudi

Developed dance drama **Bhama Kalapam** (story of Satyabhama, the charming jealous wife of Lord Krishna)

TRICK

जिसके सरनेम में भी **Reddy** दिख जाए वो कुचिपुड़ी से

Related होगा

Exponents:

- Raja Reddy
- Radha Reddy
- Padmaja Reddy
- Bhavana Reddy
- Yamini Reddy
- Yamini Krishnamurthy → Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee
- Mallika Sarabhai

Elements

- Ganesha Vandana
- Jatiswaram
- Shabdham
- Kalapam
- Padam
- Tarangam (the dancer dances on a rim of a brass plate)



Revived by: Balasaraswati and Ragini Devi

} — Kuchipudi + Bharatnatyam

Exponents of Kuchipudi

TRICK 2

सत्यम और सतीश लक्ष्मी जी की सत्यनारायण कथा में गए

जहां उन्होंने एक सुंदर लड़की शोभा के साथ कच्ची पुड़ी

खाई।

सत्यम	—————	Vempata Chinna Satyam
सतीश	—————	Aparna Satisham
लक्ष्मी	—————	Lakshmi Narayan Shastri
सत्यनारायण	—————	Vendantam Satyanarayan → Padma Shri awardee
सुंदर	—————	Swapna Sundari
शोभा	—————	Shobha Naidu
कच्ची पुड़ी	—————	Kuchipudi Halim Khan

3. Odissi Symbolises Water

- Classical dance of Odisha

Exponents of Odissi

TRICK 1

अगर नाम में MOHAPATRA और MOHANTY दिख जाए

तो ODISSI से ही Related होंगे।



Exponents:

- Kelucharan Mohapatra
- Sujata Mohapatra
- Leela Mohanty
- Niharika Mohanty

2007: Padma Vibhushan

or Pankaj Charan Das

Modern form of Odissi

Father of Odissi

Exponents of Odissi

TRICK 2

भूटान के प्रधान माधवी से मिलने उड़ीसा आए और यह बात
विजय ने संजू और साहू को बता दी।

भूटान	—	Shagun Bhutani
प्रधान	—	Gangadhar Pradhan
माधवी	—	Madhabi Mudgal
उड़ीसा	—	Oddisi
विजय	—	Bijayni Satpathy
संजू	—	Sanjukta Panigrahi
साहू	—	Sudhakar Sahu Sutapa Talukdar

Elements

- Mangalacharan
- Batu Nritya
- Pallavi
- Tharjham
- Moksha

4. Kathak

- Classical dance of Uttar Pradesh
- Name originated from "katha" meaning "story"
- Only classical dance to feature Persian elements
- Performed in Thumri music



- performed in Urdu ghazals
- Mughals patronised this dance

Gharanas:

3 gharanas

- Lucknow: Wajid Ali Shah
 - Jaipur: Bhanuji
 - Banaras Janaki Prasad
- } — Founders

Last Nawab of Awadh



- Elements: Amad, Thaata, Tukra, Paran, Jugalbandhi, Tarana, Kramalaya Ghat, Bhaav

Exponents of Kathak

TRICK

अरे **महारज नारायण** और **देवी** में **आस्था** रखो, उनका **प्रसाद**

खाओ **विद्या** मिलेगी, **लखपति** बनोगे और सब **मंगल** होगा।

		Kalka Bindadin Gharana (Lucknow)
		Padma Vibhushan, 1986
महारज	————	Birju Maharaj, Lacchu Maharaj, Achhan Maharaj
नारायण	————	Shovna Narayan → Dance school: Kalashram, 1998
देवी	————	Sitara Devi
आस्था	————	Kamini Asthana, Nalini Asthana
प्रसाद	————	Narayan Prasad, Kalka Prasad, Ishwari Prasad
विद्या	————	Vidhya Gauri Akhbar
लखपति	————	Kumudni Lakhia
मंगल	————	Aditi Mangal Das Kumkum Dhar Roshan Kumar

5. Mohiniyattam

Symbolises Air
associated with Lord Vishnu

- Dance form of Kerala Associated with term "Mohini"
- Solo dance form performed by a female
- References seen in ancient text: Vyavaharmala

Written by: Mazhamangalam
Narayanan Namputiri

Forms:

- Tevitchyattam
- Nangai Natukam

No abrupt jerks and dance performance is very smooth

24 hand gestures



Elements

- Cholkettu
- Jatiswaram
- Padavarnam
- Padam
- Tillana
- Slokam
- Saptam

Exponents of Mohiniyattam

TRICK

Mohini Gopi K Kan Me Suna Jay Radha Krishna Ki

Amma

Mohini	—————	Mohiniyattam
Gopi	—————	Gopika Verma
Kan	—————	Kanak Rele
Suna	—————	Sunanda Nair
Jay	—————	Jayaprabha Menon
Radha	—————	Radha Dutta
Krishna	—————	Pallavi Krishnan
Amma	—————	Kalyanikutty Amma

· VN Menon → Revived the dance form

Revival of the dance form

→ Founder of Keral Kalyanam, 1952

VN Menon: Revived the dance form

Shows: win of good over evil

6. Kathakali

Classical Dance of Kerala

- Performed by a Male
- It is based on the epics of Ramayan and Mahabharata

Forms

1. Natyam
2. Nritham
3. Nrithyam
4. Sangeetam
5. Vadya

Elements

- Kelikottu
- Thodayam
- Purappadu
- Tiranokku
- Ilakiyattam
- Kalasam

Kalaripayattu:
martial dance



Face is green coloured:
green represents strength

24 hand gestures

Meaning
Katha (story), Kali
(performance)

This dance form
represents win of
God over evil

- Use of facial expressions and colours

Exponents of Kathakali

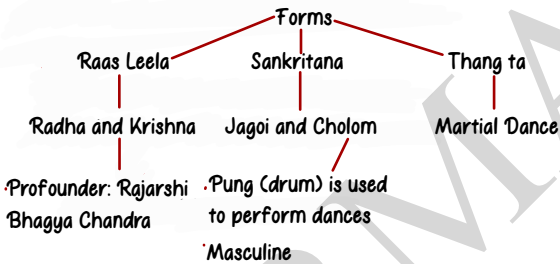
- Milena Salvini
- P.V. Balkrishna
- Kunchu Kurup
- Gopi Nath
- Kottakal Nandakumaran Nair
- Mrinali Sarabhai

TRICK

Bal Milena na mile Kuch Gopi ki Kali mil jaye

7. Manipuri

- Dance form of Manipur → Introvert type of dance form
- Based on Vaishnavism — Vaishnavite form of dance



Exponents of Manipuri

- Jhaveri sisters
- Bimbavati Devi
- Nirmala Mehta
- Guru Bipin Singh → Title given: Hanjaba → By Manipur King
- Charu Mathur
- Devyani Chalia
- Aluna Kabuini

8. Sattriya

- Dance form of Assam → Vaishnavite form
- Included in year 2000
- Father: Srimanta Shankaradeva (Vaishnava)
- Themes are related to Lord Krishna
- Assam's music → Borgeet
- Ankiya Naat dance → Bhaona (Presentation of Ankiya Naat)

Modified version
↓
Sattriya

Dance numbers: Chali, Jhumura, Nadu Bhangi

No theatre components



Exponents of Sattriya

- Jatin Goswami
- Bhupen Hazarika → awarded Bharat Ratna in 2019
- Guru Ghanakanta Bora
- Indira Bora
- Monogram Dutta

highest Civilian Award

- Dance form to be refashioned as a theatre art and to be exhibited widely both at home and abroad: Bharatnatyam
- Yamini Krishnamurthy: Resident dancer of Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam
- Guru Sashadhar Acharapakkam awarded Padma Shri in 2010 for his contribution in Chhau Dance
- KADAMB Centre for Dance in 1964 founded by Kumudini Lakhia



- National Nritya Shiromani Award 2022 awarded to Aparna Satheesan for Kuchipudi
- Famous personality of Bharatnatyam: Padma Subramanyam

PARMAR SSC