

PERFORMING ARTS DANCES

*Ranganathan SVN KONDALA
UPSC - ART & CULTURE*

Ranganathan SVN KONDALA

telegram @ UPSCGS1 (<https://t.me/plusstudents>)



HINDU
MUSICAL
THEATRE
STYLES

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NATYA SHASTRA



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NATYA SHASTRA

A man in a white dhoti and a woman in a red sari are performing a dance in a studio. The man is standing in the center, and the woman is sitting on the floor to his right. The background features a large window with brown curtains. The floor is light-colored and reflective. The text 'NATYA SHASTRA' is overlaid in the center of the image.

1) In your opinion, what are the traits of Indian culture? Do you think Indian culture is under threat today? If yes, critically comment on the forces that are threatening it. (200 Words)

- Culture and Definition
- Pros
 - Athiti Devo Bhava , Eko Deva Sarva bhooteshu
 - Truth and Non violence - Assimilating
 - Tolerance, Peaceful coexistence, Pluralism
- Challenges
 - Fundamentalism and Intolerance in certain cases
 - Politicalisation of Culture
 - Societal Division - Both Class and Caste
 - External Influence - Melting pot Phenomenon in the 21 century

History

- Abhinaya Darpana by Nandikeshwara
 - Abhinava Bharati by Abhinavagupta,
 - Natya Darpana by Ramachandra and Guna Chandra
 - 4 Pravrittis (Regional Sources / Variations)
 - Avanti (Ujjain, central)
 - Dakshinatya (south)
 - Panchali (north, west)
 - Odra-Magadhi (Odisha-Bihar-Bengal, east)
-

Classical Dance

- Myths and legends also support the view that dance had a significant place in the religious and social life of the Indian people.
 - Shastriya Nritya
 - Brahma the creator of Universe created Drama – Natya Shastra
 - Pathya (Words) –
 - Abhinaya (Gesture) –
 - Geeta (Music and Chants) –
 - Rasa (Sentiment and Emotional element)
-

Abhinaya - ELEMENTS

- Angika
- Vachika
- Aharya
- Sattvika

Elements

- Angika - Physical
 - Vachikabhinaya - Verbal
 - Aharyabhinaya -
Expression
 - Satvikabhinaya -
Psychological
-



Tandava (The Masculine) - emphasis is on the rhythm and movement aspect of the dance. Tāṇḍava nṛtya



Lasya (The Feminine) - extremely soft in movements and shringarik in expressions and this is performed more effectively by female dancers



Nritta - 'Bhaavabhinayahe enam tu nrittmitiyabhdheeyate'
dance which does not relate to any Psychological State



Natya - Natya or Nataka which has some traditional story for its theme is an adorable (art)



Nritya – Nrtiyam it vaachikaabhinayam



- Entertainment is a desired effect of performance arts but not the primary goal, and that the primary goal is to transport the individual in the audience into another parallel reality
- According to rasasutra *Rasa* is produced from a combination of Determinants (*vibhava*), Consequents (*anubhava*) and Transitory States (*vyabhicaribhava*)

Rasa

Shringara Related to love, eros (Śṛngāra, शृङ्गार)

Hasya Humorous, comic (Hāsyā, हास्य)

Bibhatsya Pathetic, disgust (Bībhatsa, बीभत्स)

Raudra Fury, anger (Raudra, रौद्र)

Karuna Compassion, sympathy (Kāruṇya, कारुण्य)

Veera Heroic (Vīra, वीर)

Bhayanaka Terrible, horrifying (Bhayānaka, भयानक)

Adbutha Marvellous, amazing (Adbhuta, अद्भुत)

Shantha Peace , Tranquility (Shanta, शांत)



Bhayānakam
Fear



Bibhatsam
Disgust



Hāsyam
Laughter



Kāruṇyam
Compassion



Śāntam
Peace

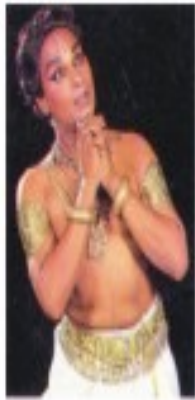


Vīram
Heroic





Shringara-rasa



Adbhuta-rasa



Haasya-rasa



Veera-rasa



Roudra-rasa



Bhayanak-rasa



Bibhatsa-rasa



Karuna-rasa



Shaanta-rasa

MUDRA

- Speaking in dance via gestures - visually convey outer events or things, as well as inner feelings.
- Dancer should sing the song by the throat, express the meaning of the song through hand gestures, show the state of feelings in the song by eyes, and express the rhythm with his or her feet.
- Types
 - Asamyukta Hasta (Single Hand Gestures)
 - Samyukta Hasta (Double Hand Gestures)

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Sangeet Natak Akademi

- Yato hastastato drishtihi
 - Yato drishtistato manaha
 - Yato manastato bhavaha
 - Yato bhavastato rasaha
 - There are approximately fifty-five root mudras - **thirty-two require only one hand**, and are classified as 'Asamyukta Hasta', along with **twenty-three other primary mudras which require both hands** and are classified as 'Samyukta Hasta.
-

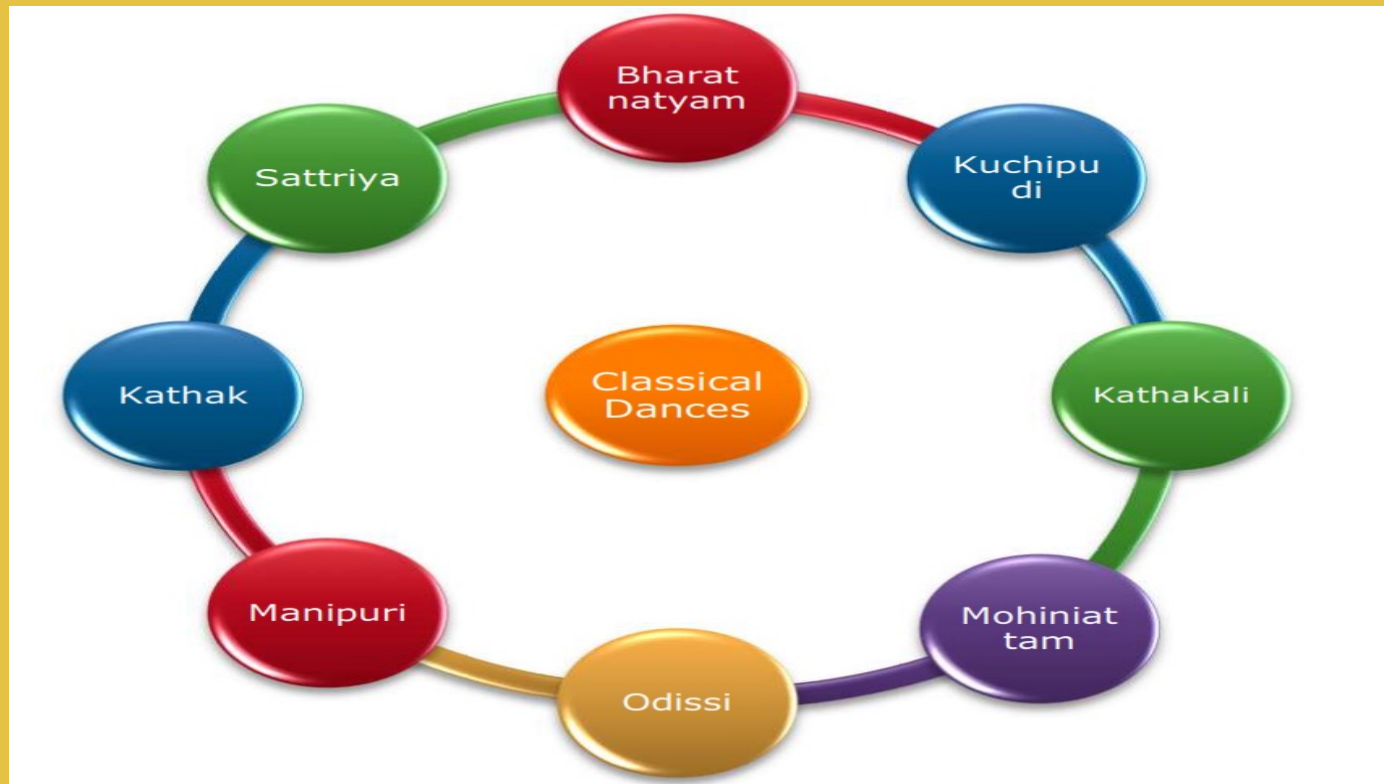
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Eight forms of Classical Dances







BHARATNATYAM

Types of Classical Dances

- Bharatanatyam
- Kathak
- Kathakali
- Odissi
- Kuchipudi
- Manipuri
- Mohiniattam
- Sattriya

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A photograph of three dancers performing on a stage. The dancers are wearing traditional Indian attire, including black and maroon tops and black pants. The central dancer is wearing a yellow shawl. They are in a dynamic pose with arms raised. The background is dark, and the stage floor is wooden. The text '2,000 YEARS OLD' is overlaid in the center of the image.

2,000 YEARS
OLD

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POPULAR IN SOUTH INDIAN STATES OF
TAMIL NADU AND KARNATAKA

A photograph of three dancers in traditional Indian attire performing a dance. The dancers are wearing purple and gold sarees. The background is dark. The text 'POPULAR IN SOUTH INDIAN STATES OF TAMIL NADU AND KARNATAKA' is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

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POPULAR IN SOUTH INDIAN STATES OF
TAMIL NADU AND KARNATAKA



Flame

Bharatanatyam

Comes from the words

- Bhava (expression), Raga (music), Tala (rhythm) and Natya (classical theater)

Originates in South India . E Krishna Iyer revived the Dance Form - Sadir Nattam

Performance

- Consists of multiple items
- Nritya- pure dance movements
- Abhinaya- dramatic art of storytelling
- Nritya- combination of nritya & abhinaya

Music- Carnatic music

Hand Movements

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Stages


- Alarippu – Invocation
- Jatiswaram-Nritta (Adavus, Korvai)
- Shabdham – abhinaya
- Varnam – combination
- Padam – abhinaya
- Jawwali – fast tempo
- Thillana - nritta



Triangles



Ekaharya



Kathhaka
mukha H
astha

Bharatan atyam

- Contains Both Tandava and Lasya aspects
- Knees are mostly bent in this dance form
- Padma Subramanyam, Yamini Krishnamurthy, Mrinalini Sarabhai, Mallika Sarabhai etc..

Bharatanatyam

- Costume
 - Made of silk saris with gold embroidery
 - Costume has a lot of pleats

Parani

- Jewelry
 - Necklace, Bangles and head ornaments
 - Bells mounted on woven pads are worn on the feet
-

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Mridangam

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**FAMOUS
DANCERS**

Rukmini Devi





FAMOUS
DANCERS

Padma
Subramanyam



FAMOUS
DANCERS

Alarmel Valli



FAMOUS
DANCERS

Yamini
Krishnamurthy



FAMOUS
DANCERS

Anita
Ratnam



FAMOUS
DANCERS

Mallika
Sarabhai



FAMOUS
DANCERS

Mrinalini
Sarabhai

FAMOUS
DANCERS

Meenakshi
Sundaram
Pillai



FAMOUS
DANCERS

Meenakshi
Sundaram
Pillai



Bharatanatyam Famous Exponents



Rukmini Devi

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Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai

In News

- Actress Ananya Panday has drawn criticism online for her Bharatanatyam fusion dance sequence in the romantic drama *Chand Mera Dil*. A clip of her performance from the film went viral on social media following the film's release on May 22.
 - Saanika Shah, a 21-year-old mountaineer who famously performed a 'Bharatnatyam' recital at the base camp, successfully summited Mount Everest. – may 2026
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Press to exit full screen

KUCHIPUDI



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KUCHIPUDI VILLAGE
ANDHRA PRADESH



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A woman in traditional Indian attire, including a red sari with gold borders, a gold necklace, and a crown, is performing a dance. She is smiling and has her hands in a specific pose. The background is a dark, textured wall.

HINDU EPICS,
LEGENDS
AND
MYTHOLOGICAL TALES

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◀ PURE DANCE, MIME AND HISTRIONICS ▶

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Kuchipudi



Secular



Tarangam



Jala Chitra
Natyam

- Originates from Andhra Pradesh state in South India - Kusilava-puram, which means "the village of actors"
- Shares many common elements with Bharatanatyam
- Unique Kuchipudi dance-
 - **Tarangam**- dancer dances on plate with diyas in the hands and vessel of water on the head
- Music- Carnatic music
- **Siddhendra Yogi - Tirtha Narayana Yati**
- Stories of Bhagawata Purana - Bhagvatulus in Andhra region and Bhagvatars in Tamil region of south India



◀ PURE DANCE, MIME AND HISTRIONICS ▶

Kuchipudi

- **Balasaraswati and Ragini Devi** Revived the Dance form
- Secular Theme with Sringara Rasa Dominating the scene
- Both **Lasya and Tandava** are present in this dance form
- Manifestation of Earthly Elements



Stages

- **Melavimpu** – indra Staff
- Ganesha Vandana.
- **praveshadaaru** - Resin burnt per character
- jatiswaram
- shabdam - Dashaavataara.
- Kalaapam - natya
- padam, jaavli, shlokam
- Tarangam - Krishna
- drishya-kavita - Form

- Gollakalapam - Hasyagadu
- Hair Style - **tribhuvana**

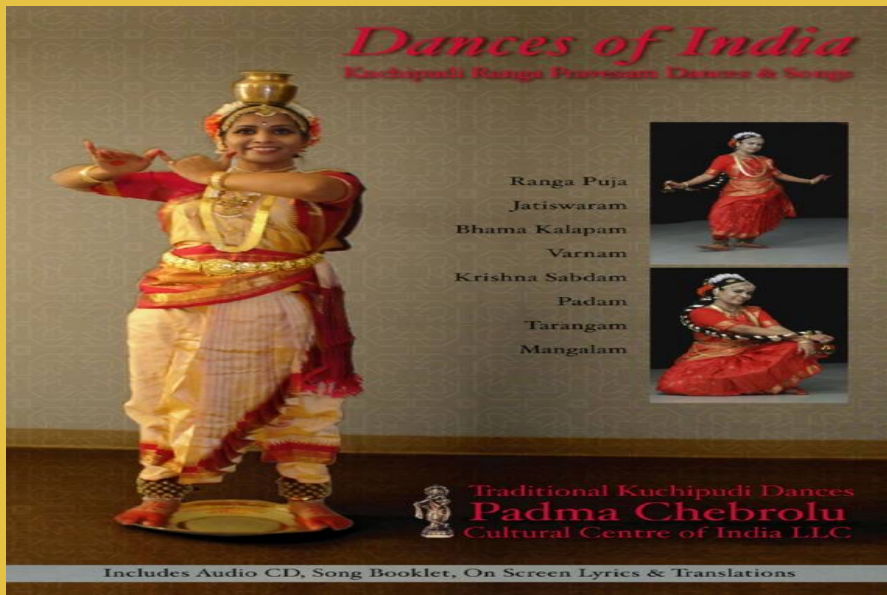


- **Sollakath or Patakshara** : the Nritta art, where movement of the body is made.
- **Kavutvams** : The Nritya part which involves extensive acrobatics. It may also be performed as Nritta(pure dance)

- Male - **Angivastra**, also known as

- **Bagalbandi** - dhoti (a single pleated piece of cloth hanging down from the waist)

- Female - Saree **pleated** fan stitched in front to help highlight the exacting footwork





Kuchipudi

boorugu

- Costume

Similar to Bharatanatyam

'Katcham' (long fold) at the back of the costume

Sutradhara or *Nattuvanar*

Titti (a wind instrument)

- Jewelry

Female characters wear ornaments and jewelry

- Angivasthra / Bagalbandi



FAMOUS
DANCERS

Raja and Radha Reddy

FAMOUS
DANCERS

Kaushalya
Reddy





FAMOUS
DANCERS

Yamini
Reddy



FAMOUS
DANCERS

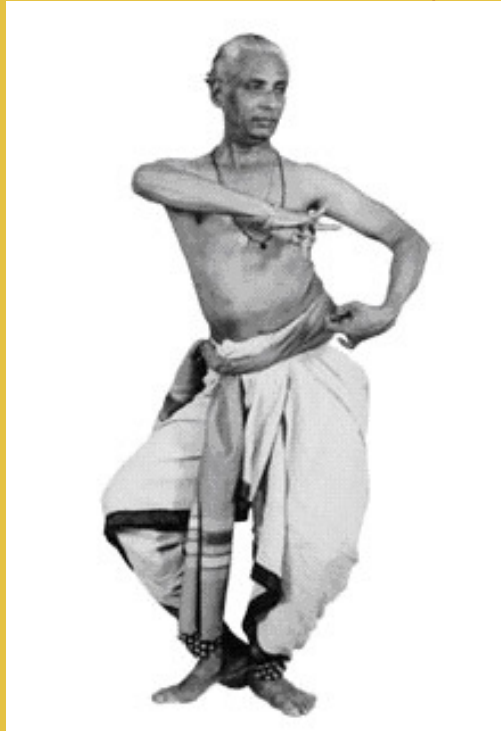
Bhavana
Reddy



FAMOUS
DANCERS

Bhavana
Reddy

Kuchipudi *(Famous Exponents)*



Dr. Vempatti Chinna Satyam

In News

- Kuchipudi Show: Guinness Record With 5K Performers - The Bharath Arts Academy on Saturday achieved the Guinness World Record for the largest Kuchipudi dance lesson, with around 5,000 performers from across the world participating at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium, Gachibowli. – DEC 2025
 - Arunima Kumar, a UK-based Kuchipudi dancer and BEM awardee, is redefining classical art for the global Indian diaspora. From London studios to Tihar Jail, she uses dance as a tool for identity, healing, and connection. Her work now spans 50 countries, building one of the world's largest Kuchipudi communities.
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