

CLASSICAL DANCES IN INDIA



IMPORTANT MCQs

Which of the following is not recognized by Sangeet Natak Akademi as a Classical Dance?

- a) Kuchipudi
- b) Odissi
- c) **Chhau**
- d) Sattriya

Sangeet Natak Akademi has recognised 8 classical dance forms :

- Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Mohiniattam, Odissi, Manipuri, Kathak and Sattriya.

The Ministry of Culture has recognised 9 classical dance forms :

- Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Mohiniattam, Odissi, Manipuri, Kathak, Sattriya and **Chhau**.

Sattriya dance, which is one of the eight principal classical Indian dance traditions, is from which of the following states?

- a) Manipur
- b) West Bengal
- c) Mizoram
- d) **Assam**

- Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu)
- Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)
- Kathakali (Kerala)
- Mohiniattam (Kerala)
- Odissi (Odisha)
- Manipuri (Manipur)
- Kathak (North India)
- Sattriya (Assam)
- Chhau (Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal)

Which of the following dance is in the UNESCO Intangible Heritage list ?

- a) Kathak
- b) **Chhau**
- c) Odissi
- d) Mohiniattam

- Chhau is with **martial**, tribal and **folk** traditions
- Originates from **Chhaya** meaning shadow.
- 3 main styles:
 - [Mayurbhanj Chhau – Odisha \(mask not used\)](#)
 - [Saraikella Chhau – Jharkhand](#)
 - [Purulia Chhau – West Bengal](#)
- **Got inscribed in UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010**

What is meaning of Mohiniyattam ?

a) **Beautiful woman dance**

b) Story Teller

c) Beautiful dance

d) None of the Above

- 'Mohini' meaning beautiful woman and 'attam' means dance.
- It combines the grace and elegance of Bharatnatyam with the vigour of Kathakali.
- Costume is of special importance in Mohiniattam, with white and off-white being the principal colours and presence of gold coloured brocade designs.
- The element of air is symbolised through a Mohiniattam performance.

Lasya is/are symbolic to the.....?

a) **Feminine**

b) Masculine

c) Both (a) and (b)

d) Neither (a) nor (b)

As per Natya Shastra, there are two basic aspects of Indian classical dance : Tandava and Lasya

1. Tandava (movement & rhythm) : This is symbolic to the male aspects of dance.
2. Lasya (grace, bhava, rasa & abhinaya) : It is symbolic to the feminine features of dance.

Jugalbandi, a competitive and playful recital between dancer and table player, is found in which dance form?

a) Bharatnatyam

b) **Kathak**

c) Sattriya

d) Odissi

- Lucknow : Reached its peak under the reign of Nawab Wajid Ali Khan. It puts more importance on expression and grace.
- Jaipur : Initiated by Bhanuji, it emphasised fluency, speed and long rhythmic patterns.
- Raigarh : It developed under the patronage of Raja Chakradhar Singh. It is unique in its emphasis on percussion music.
- Banaras : It developed under Janakiprasad. It sees a greater use of floorwork and lays special emphasis on symmetry.

The dance encouraged and performed from the temples of Tanjore was?

a) Kathak

b) Odissi

c) **Bharatanatyam**

d) Kathakali

considered as the oldest classical dance form.

Bharatnatyam is often referred to as the 'fire dance', as it is the manifestation of fire in the human body.

▪Origin - temple dancers or 'devadasis' in Tamil Nadu.

▪Hence it was also referred to as 'Dashiattam'.

- In the early nineteenth century, four dance teachers of Thanjavur, known as the '**Tanjor quartet**' defined the elements of a Bharatnatyam recital.
- Under them, Bharatnatyam also came to be known as **Tanjore natyam**.

Which of the following is not among the nine rasas?

- a) Adbhuta
- b) Roudra
- c) **Lavanya**
- d) Bibhatsa

शृंगार रस, रौद्र रस, वीर रस, वीभत्स रस,
हास्य रस, करुण रस, अद्भुत रस,
भयानक रस, शांत रस

**The nine rasas are : Love, Anger,
Heroism, Disgust, Comedy, Compassion,
Wonder, Horror and Tranquility.**



Sitara Devi is associated with which classical dance form?

- a) Bharatnatyam
- b) Manipuri
- c) **Kathak**
- d) Odissi



**Pandit Birju Maharaj
Lachu Maharaj
Shambu Maharaj
Shovna Narayan
Sunanya Hazarilal Agarwal
Pandit Durgalal
Prerana Shrimala
Rani Karna**

In which of the following states is Chhau not practiced?

- a) Odisha
- b) Jharkhand
- c) West Bengal
- d) **Maharashtra**

In Nandikeshwara's Abhinaya Darpana, what is the meaning of Nritya?

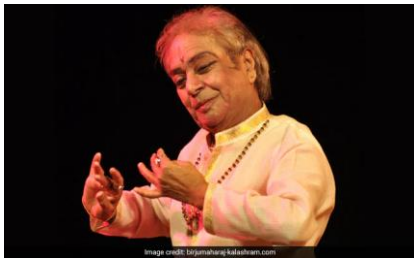
- a) Dramatic representation
- b) Emotions evoked through dance
- c) **Dance steps, devoid of emotions**
- d) None of the above

As per "Abhinaya Darpan", dance has been broken into three basic elements :

- **Nritya** : basic dance steps, performed rhythmically but devoid of any expression or mood.
- **Natya** : dramatic representations and refers to the story that is elaborated through the dance recital.
- **Nritya** : It refers to the sentiment and the emotions evoked through dance. It includes the mime and the different methods of expression including mudras in the dance.

Pandit Birju Maharaj belonged to which Gharana of Kathak?

- **Lucknow**
- Jaipur
- Banaras
- Raigarh



Brijmohan Mishra popularly known as 'Pandit Birju Maharaj' was one of the most prominent exponents of Lucknow 'Kalka Bindadin' Gharana of Kathak dance in India.

Born in 1937, he was a descendant of the Maharaj family of Kathak dancers, including both his uncles 'Shambu Maharaj' and 'Lachhu Maharaj', and his guru and father, 'Acchan Maharaj'.

Ileana Citaristi, the first classical dancer of foreign origin who was conferred with Padma Shree, was associated with?

- Kathak
- **Odissi**
- Bharatnatyam
- Kuchipudi



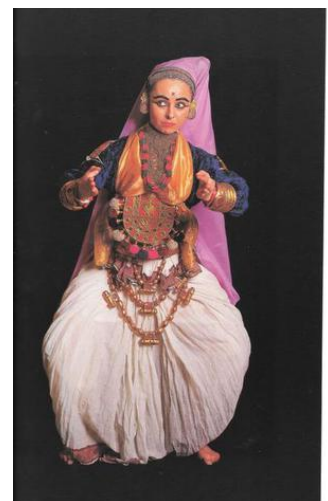
Ileana Citaristi is an Italian-born Odissi and Chhau dancer, and dance instructor based in Bhubaneswar

Milena Salvini, Padma Shri awardee, was associated with which dance form?

- Bharatnatyam
- **Kathakali**
- Kathak
- Odissi

The Italian-born French art researcher was an ambassador of Kathakali and other Indian classical art forms in France.

The country honoured her with Padma Shri, recognising her contributions to the field of Kathakali in 2019.

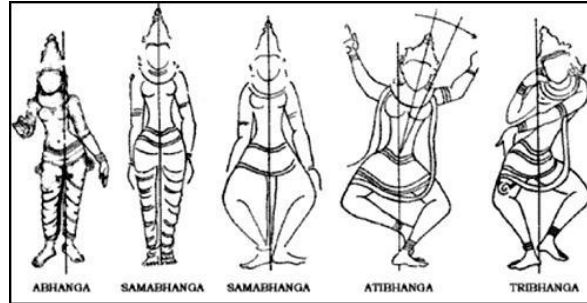


Tribhangi and Samabhangi are the postures involved in which Indian classical dance form?

- Kuchipudi
- Manipuri
- **Odissi**
- Kathakali

The dancers create intricate geometrical shapes and patterns with her body. Hence, it is known as 'mobile sculpture'.

The dance form symbolises the element of water.



Which of the following dance forms is known to have originated from the Kuchelapuram village of Andhra Pradesh?

- **Kuchipudi**
- Kathakali
- Bharatnatyam
- Mohiniattam

Which of the following dance forms is known as Ballad of the East?

- Sattriya
 - Manipuri
 - Bharatnatyam
 - **Kathakali**
- 'Katha' meaning story and 'Kali' meaning drama.
 - It was revived in the 1930s by the famous Malayali poet V. N. Menon under the patronage of Mukunda Raja.
 - It draws its themes from the stories narrated in the epics and the puranas. It is also called as the 'ballad of the east'.

Which of the following is considered as the oldest among all classical dance forms?

- Kathakali
- Kuchipudi
- **Bharatnatyam**
- Odissi

The caves of Udayagiri and Khandagiri have images of which classical dance form?

- Kathak
- **Odissi**
- Kathakali
- Sattriya

Vaishnav Saint Shankaradeva is known to have introduced the modern form of which classical dance?

- **Sattriya**
- Manipuri
- Chhau
- Kathakali

- “Sattriya” is derived from the Vaishnava monasteries known as “Sattras”, where it was primarily practised.
- The songs composition of Shankaradeva are known as ‘Borgeets’.
- It is inspired from Bhakti Movement.

As per Natya Shastra, the two basic aspects of Indian Classical Dance are?

- Natya and Nritya
- Nayaka and Nayika
- **Lasya and Tandava**
- Ras and Mudra

Rukmini Devi Arundale was associated with which of the following forms of classical dances?

- Kathak
- Odissi
- Kuchipudi
- **Bharatnatyam**



the efforts of **E. Krishna Iyer**, a prominent freedom fighter, revived this dance form.

Rukmini Devi Arundale, another famous proponent of Bharatnatyam, is remembered for giving global recognition to the dance.

Sonal Mansingh is associated with which classical dance form?

- Kuchipudi
- **Odissi**
- Manipuri
- Kathak



Who became the first transgender woman to be awarded with Padma Shri?

- a) **Narthaki Nataraj**
- b) Manjamma Jogathi
- c) Prithika Yashini
- d) Sathyashri Sharmila

Narthaki Nataraj is a Bharatanatyam dancer, born in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

In 2019, she was awarded the Padma Shri

Sathyashri Sharmila – first transgender lawyer in India

Prithika Yashini – first transgender police officer in india

Ankia Naat is a type of which classical dance form?

- Manipuri
 - **Sattriya**
 - Kuchipudi
 - Kathakali
- It is type of Sattriya.
 - It involves play or musical-drama.
 - It is also called 'Bhaona'.
 - It involves stories of Lord Krishna.