

# Indian classical dance

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## CLASSICAL DANCE FORMS OF INDIA

### Bharatanatyam

Bharatanatyam, formerly known as Sadir or Dasi Attam, is an art form that originated from temple-dedicated dance. It is the first of India's traditional dances to be reinterpreted as an art form for the stage. At least one vocalist, a Mridangam (drum) player, and a flutist, violinist, or Veena (lute) player round out the musicians.



### Kathakali

Under the patronage of the prince of Karnataka, Kathakali, or "story plays," were developed in Kerala in the southern part of India in the seventeenth century. The plays were based on the epic Ramayana in Malayalam and were intended for performance. The characters in Kathakali are categorized according to their nature, and they are given symbolic personalities through makeup and costumes.



### Manipuri

It originated in Manipur and is based on the Manipur valley's Vaishnava faith. In contrast to the majority of Indian dances, Manipuri dance is reserved and introverted; the performer never makes eye contact with the audience. The primary instruments used in Manipuri dance are the Pung, a drum, and a flute.



### Mohiniattam

Mohiniattam belongs to Kerala in southern India and takes its name from the mythic enchantress Mohini. It originated from performances associated with the temples of Kerala and is a dance of feminine grace. One of the principal creators of the dance in the nineteenth century was the prince of Travancore, Swati Tirunal. The Edakka is the primary percussion instrument used in the performance.



### Kathak

It is the most popular dance in northern India, and it is also popular in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and even parts of western and eastern India. It is thought to have something to do with the story-telling art of Kathakaras. The Thumri and other lyrical song forms comprise traditional Kathak's music, and the Tabla, Pakhawaj, and Sarangi are the primary musical instruments.



### Kuchipudi

It is named after the village of Kuchelapuram and comes from Andhra Pradesh, where it developed largely as a result of the Bhakti movement beginning in the 7th century AD. Today, kuchipudi is performed as a solo, duet, or group performance; however, in the past, it was performed as a dance drama with multiple dancers playing various roles.



### Odissi

It was carried out by "maharis," or female temple servants, as part of the service. Around the middle of the twentieth century, the traditional dance was transformed into a form of theater art. A singer, a drummer who plays the Pakhawaj, a flute, and a Sitar support the dancer.



### Chhau

The Chhau dance of Eastern India—Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal—combines temple rituals, martial arts, and local folk and popular performance. The melodies in Chhau are based on songs from the Jhumur folk repertoire, devotional Kirtan, classical Hindustani "ragas," and traditional Odia sources, although vocal music is not used. Chadchadi, Jhanj, Dhol, Dhumsa, Nagada, and Chhau dance are accompanied by these instruments.

