

# UNIT - III

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# PERFORMING ARTS

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- **Performing arts** refers to forms of art in which artists use their voices, bodies or inanimate objects to convey artistic expression. It is different from visual arts, which is when artists use paint, canvas or various materials to create physical or static art objects.
- Performing arts include a range of disciplines which are performed in front of a live audience, including theatre, music, and dance



# INDIAN MUSIC

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- Owing to India's vastness and diversity, Indian Music encompass numerous genres, multiple varieties and forms which include classical music, folk music, filmi, rock, and pop. It has a history spanning several millennia and developed over several geo-locations spanning the sub-continent.

- **Hindustani Classical Music:** Indian classical music found throughout North India. The style is sometimes called North Indian classical music or Shāstriya Sangīt. It is a tradition that originated in Vedic ritual chants and has been evolving since the 12th century CE, in North India and to some extent in Nepal and Afghanistan.



- **Carnatic music (Karnataka Sangita):** A system of music commonly associated with the southern part of the Indian subcontinent, with its area roughly ~~confined to four modern states of India:~~ Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- It is one of two main sub-genres of Indian classical music that evolved from ancient Hindu traditions; the other sub-genre being Hindustani music, which emerged as a distinct form because of Persian and Islamic influences in North India.



# FOLK MUSIC IN INDIA

## Introduction

The music of common people, farmers, village occupational, masses adorned with beautiful simple lyrics and rhythms, interesting poetry depicting nature and human mind.

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- Rich tradition of folk music is very much alive in not just **rural india**, but also in some **metros**
  - Folk music is very different from classical music as well
  - Folk music is more like a daily ritual without affecting the daily lives of people



- Most of the songs are sung in small village functions like weddings, births, etc.
  - Folk music also uses a number of instruments
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# TYPES

- **Rabindra Sangeet (Music of Bengal)**

Rabindra Sangeet *Robindro shonggit*, Bengali pronunciation: , also known as **Tagore songs**, are songs written and composed by Rabindranath Tagore. They have distinctive characteristics in the music of Bengal, popular in India and Bangladesh.

- **Bihu of Assam**

Bihu songs accompanied by traditional drums and wind instruments are essential part of Bihu (Assam's New Year) festival. Bihu songs are energetic and with beats to welcome the festive spring. Assamese **drums** (dhol), **Pepa** (horn usually made from buffalo horn), **gogona** are major instruments used.

- **Dandiya**

Dandiya or Raas is a form of Gujarati cultural dance with music that is performed with sticks.. It is practiced in (mainly) the state of Gujarat. There is also another type of dance and music associated with Dandiya/Raas called Garba.





- **Lavani**

- This is one of the most popular forms of dance and music that is practiced all over Maharashtra.
- Traditionally, the songs are sung by female artistes.
- Lavani is a combination of traditional song and dance, which particularly performed to the enchanting beats of '**Dholaki**', a drum-like instrument

- **Bhangra**

- Bhangra is a form of dance oriented music form of Punjab. Bhangra begun as folk dance and music conducted by farmers to celebrate the coming of Springs or **Vaisakhi**. Strings instruments used in Bhangra are Tumbi, sarangi, sapera, suppa and chimta. Drum instruments-**dhad, dafli, dholki and damru.**



# KOLI – MAHARASHTRA

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- This is the song of the fishermen. The songs talk about their life at sea, fishing. Koli music is dance based and hence, the music is essentially associated with their distinctive dance form. They're mostly loud, lively and fast paced.
- As the music is generally accompanied by dance, the moves often include the sway of hands as if rowing with an oar, signifying their life as fishermen.



# NAATUPURA PAADALGAL

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- Naatupura Paadalgal is an ancient musical form of Tamil Nadu. Though folk music is fast disappearing in the state of Tamil Nadu due to the prominence given to Carnatic music, Naatupura Paadalgal remains quite important in the state
- Like many folk songs of India, this folk music too was used by the aboriginal people during the farming and harvesting season. Hence Naatupura Paadalgal eventually became a way of life to many living in the state.

# KUMMI PAATU

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- Kummi Paatu is yet another folk music form from Tamil Nadu. These folk songs are usually accompanied by a folk dance form known as Kummi or Kummi Aattam. It is often performed throughout Tamil Nadu during festivals and rituals.

# MUSICOFINDIA

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- Includes multiple varieties of folk, popular, pop, classical music and R&B. India's classical music tradition, including **Carnatic** and **Hindustani** music, has a history spanning millennia and developed over several eras. It remains fundamental to the lives of Indians today as sources of spiritual inspiration, cultural expression and pure entertainment.

# ELEMENTS OF INDIAN MUSIC

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- Melody (raga)
- Harmony (drone)
- Rhythm (tala)



# TRADITIONAL MUSIC OF INDIA



- **Hindustani** means classical music of North India
- **Carnatic** means classical music of South India



# HINDUSTANIMUSIC

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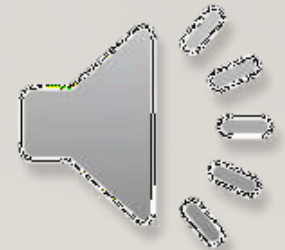
- ❖ An Indian classical music tradition that goes back to Vedic times around 1000 BC.
- ❖ It further developed on the 13th and 14th centuries AD with Persian influences and from existing religious and folk music.



# CARNATICMUSIC

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- It is based on historical developments that can be traced to the 15th - 16th centuries AD and thereafter.
- However, the form itself is reputed to have been one of the gifts bestowed on man by the gods of Hindu mythology.
- It is one of the oldest musical forms that continue to survive today.



# BHANGRAMUSIC

- ~~Lively form of music that originated in the~~ Punjab region to celebrate Vaisakhi.
- During the last thirty years, it has enjoyed a surge in popularity worldwide, both in traditional form and as a fusion with genres such as hip-hop, and in such forms it has become a pop sensation in the United Kingdom and North America.

# UTTARAKHANDI MUSIC

- ~~This pure and blessed music have the feel and the touch, related to nature.~~
- Related to the various festivals, religious traditions, folk stories and simple life of the people of Uttarakhand.
- True reflection of the Cultural Heritage and the way people live their lives in the Himalayas.



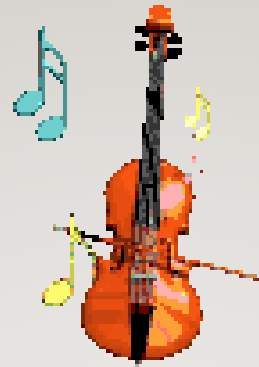
# LAVANIMUSIC

- It comes from the word “Lavanya” which means beauty.
- The most popular forms of music that is practiced all over Maharashtra.
- Songs are sung by female artists
- Male artists may occasionally sing Lavanis.

# RAJASTHAN MUSIC

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- It has a very diverse cultural collection of musician castes, including Langas, Saperas, Bhopas, Jogi and Manganiyars.
- A soulful, full-throated music with Harmonious diversity.
- Its haunting melody evokes from a variety of delightfully primitive looking instruments.



# *Indian Musical Instruments*









# TABLA



- A pair of drum most common and popular in Northern India.
- It is made of wood and has a head made of stretched animal skin.



# MRDANGAM



- The classical drum of Southern India.
- Made of clay.
- It is a double-headed drum.
- It is played between the thighs of the drum player.

# TAMBURA



- A drone instrument that is made of jack wood.
- It has a long unfretted neck which has four to six tuning pegs inserted into the upper end of the resonator.
- It is placed on the lap of the instrumentalist.
- Played mostly on concerts.

# SITAR



- ~~The most popular stringed instrument in Northern India.~~
- It is made of teakwood and seasoned gourd.
- It has a long neck with twenty metal frets and six to seven main strings.



# VEENA



- The most distinctive instrument in Southern India.
- Four strings are used to play the melody while the remaining three strings are used to play the drone.



# SARANGI



- It is a common representative of vitat class of musical instruments.
- It has no frets or fingerboard
- It has been traditionally associated with the kathak dance and the vocal styles of thumri, dadra and kheyal.

# BANS

## MURI

The Indian Bamboo Flute also known as bansuri or murali is one of the oldest musical instruments of India, developed independently of the Western flute.

- The flutes made in India are of different kinds and their lengths and number of holes varies.





# SHENAI



- A double-reed conical oboe of North India.
- It is made of wood, except for a flaring metal bell attached to the bottom of the instrument.
- It is difficult to play, as the musician must master a wide range of finely nuanced embouchure and fingering techniques.

# JALTARANG



- Also known as "waves in the water"
- a water xylophone.

# SAROD



- another popular stringed instrument played by striking with a plectrum made of a coconut shell.

# TANPURA

- a four or five stringed instrument which gives the essential drone to all Indian music.

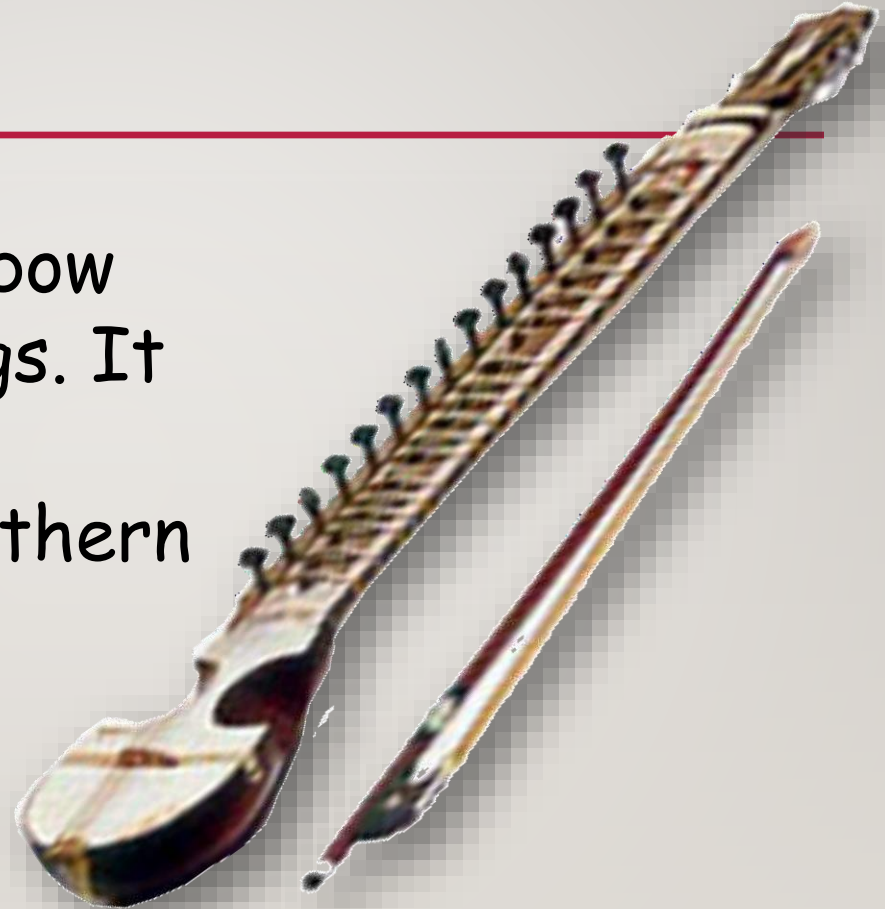






# ESRAJ

- It is played with a bow and has many strings. It is one of the major instruments of Northern India.



# SANTOOR

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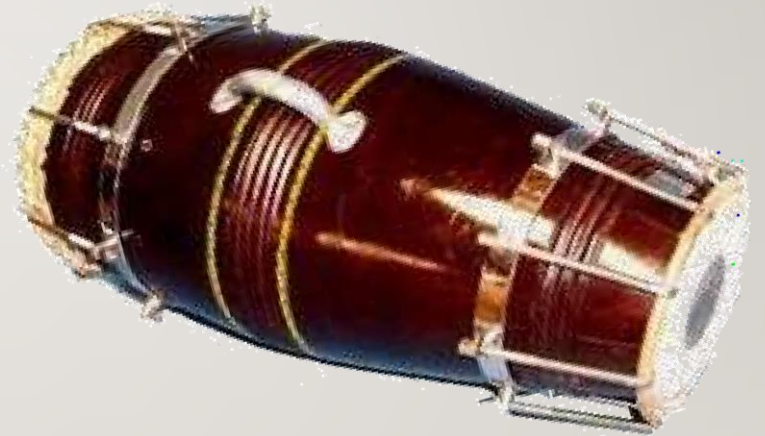
- It is a Northern Indian instrument originating from Kashmir. It has more than a hundred strings.



# SANTOOR

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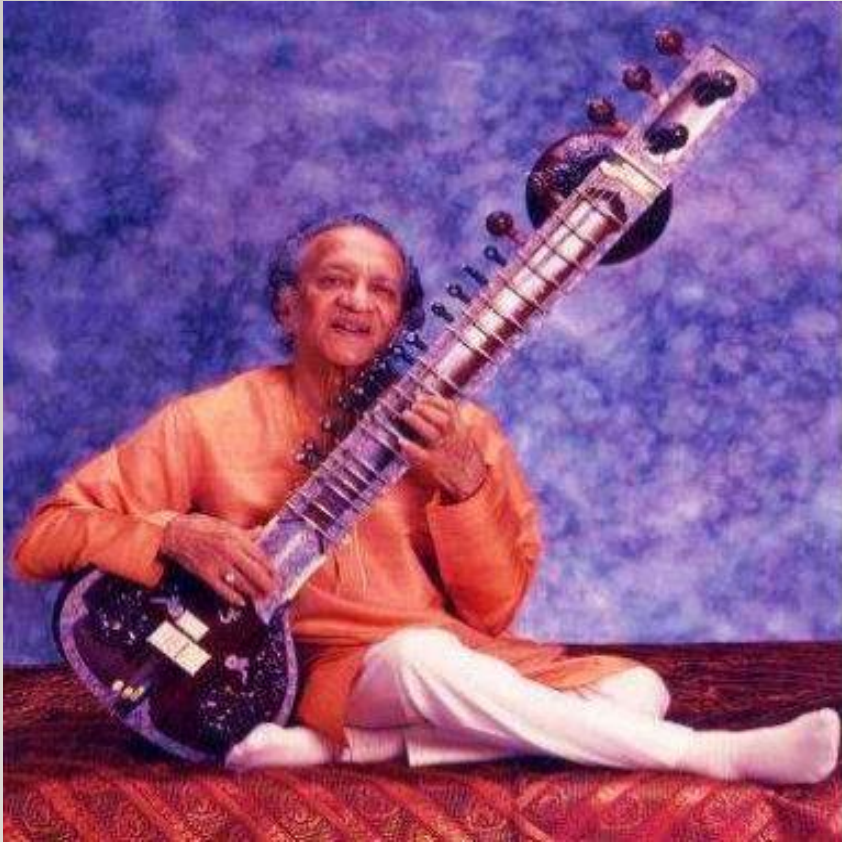
- A side drum, cylindrical in shape use to accompany folk music of Northern India.



# Famous Indian musicians



# RAVISHANKAR



# INDIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

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- Thyagaraja Music Festival (Folk & Indian Classical)
- This festival is held in the memory of a saint cum musician, Thyagaraja.
- He spent the majority of his life in Thiruvaiyaru, Tamilnadu and this is the setting where this music festival is facilitated each year.
- The principle fascination of this festival is the gathering execution by incredible musicians of the Pancharathna Krithis.
- **This festival is regarded as one of the best folk and classical music festivals in Southern India.**

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# ITC SANGEET SAMMELAN

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- ITC Sangeet Sammelan is another exceptionally well known musical occasion being facilitated in India. It is held each year in different parts of India.
- As the name recommends, it is organized by ITC. It had begun in the year 1971 in Delhi.
- With time it has turned out to be a standout amongst the most esteemed occasions of traditional and classical music festivals in India.
- Furthermore, it also stands out as **one of the most popular cultural music festivals in the country.**

# SANKAT MOCHAN SANGEET SAMAROH

- The Sankat Mochan Sangeet Samaroh is a **yearly music celebration** held in Varanasi in lieu of Hanuman Jayanti. Being **held for 70 years now**, it has turned into a vital occasion among folk music festivals in India as the best musicians of the nation take a huge interest in this astounding festival.
- **Held on the eve of Hanuman Jayanti**, the celebration witnesses to a great degree some astounding and vibrant vibe loaded with classical music making the event a dreamlike encounter.
- This yearly celebration holds an extraordinary place in the hearts of the groups of pilgrims and travelers who visit Varanasi every year. This **6-day long celebration is a tribute and a “haazari” to Lord Hanuman** and the musicians feel regarded to be a piece of this superb felicitation.







# Dances in India

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# Introduction

- Dance in India comprises the varied styles of dances and as with other aspects of Indian culture
- Different forms of dances originated in different parts of India
- Developed according to the local traditions and also imbibed elements from other parts of the country.
- These dance forms emerged from Indian traditions, epics and historical-mythology.

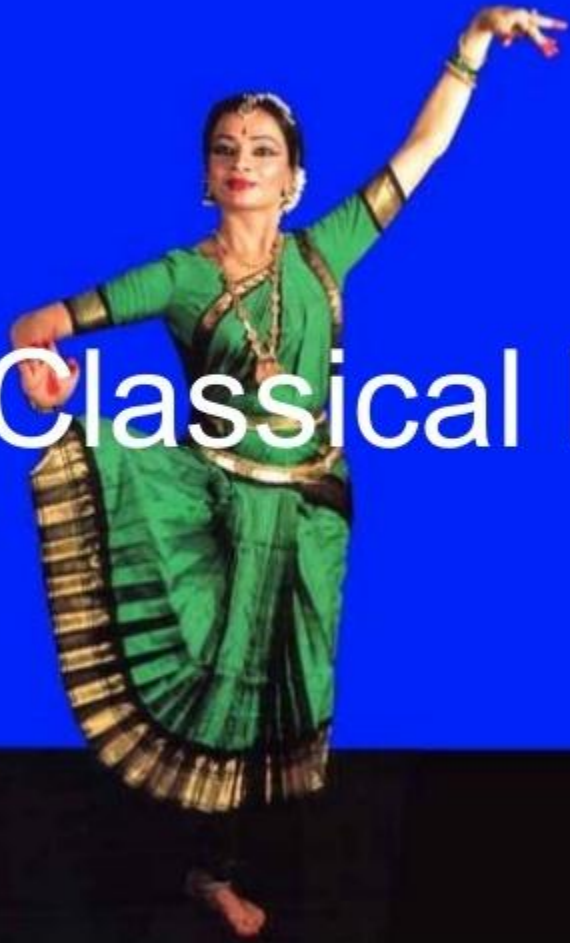
# HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY

- In India all forms of art have a sacred origin and the inner experience of the soul finds its highest expression in music and dance.
- Lord Shiva as Nataraja is its manifesting principle.
- Shiva manifests Tandava (masculine form)
- Parvati manifests Lasya (feminine form).
- Natya Shastra and Abhinaya Darpana tells us that Lord Brahma created dance upon request of the Gods and it became known as the fifth Veda, open to all, irrespective of caste and creed

# CREATION OF NATYA VEDA

- Prior to the creation of the Natya Veda, Brahma entered a Yogic trance and..
- He drew literature from the Rig Veda,
- Song from the Sama Veda,
- Abhinaya or expression from the Yajur Veda and
- Rasa or aesthetic experience from Atharva Veda.
- These aspects are the four main constituents of the Natya Veda.

# Classical Dances of India



# INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCES

- Sangeet Natak Akademi, recognizes EIGHT distinctive traditional dances as Indian Classical Dances. These are:
  - Bharatanatyam- TN                      Kathak- UP
  - Kathakali- Kerala                      Kuchipudi- AP
  - Manipuri-Manipur                      Sattriya –Assam
  - Mohiniyattam – Kerala                      Odissi –Odisha

# History

- Performed inside the sanctum of the temple according to the rituals called Agama Nartanam
- The term "classical" (Sanskrit: "Shastriya") was introduced by Sangeet Natak Akademi to denote the Natya Shastra-based performing art styles.
- Usually feature a story about good and evil

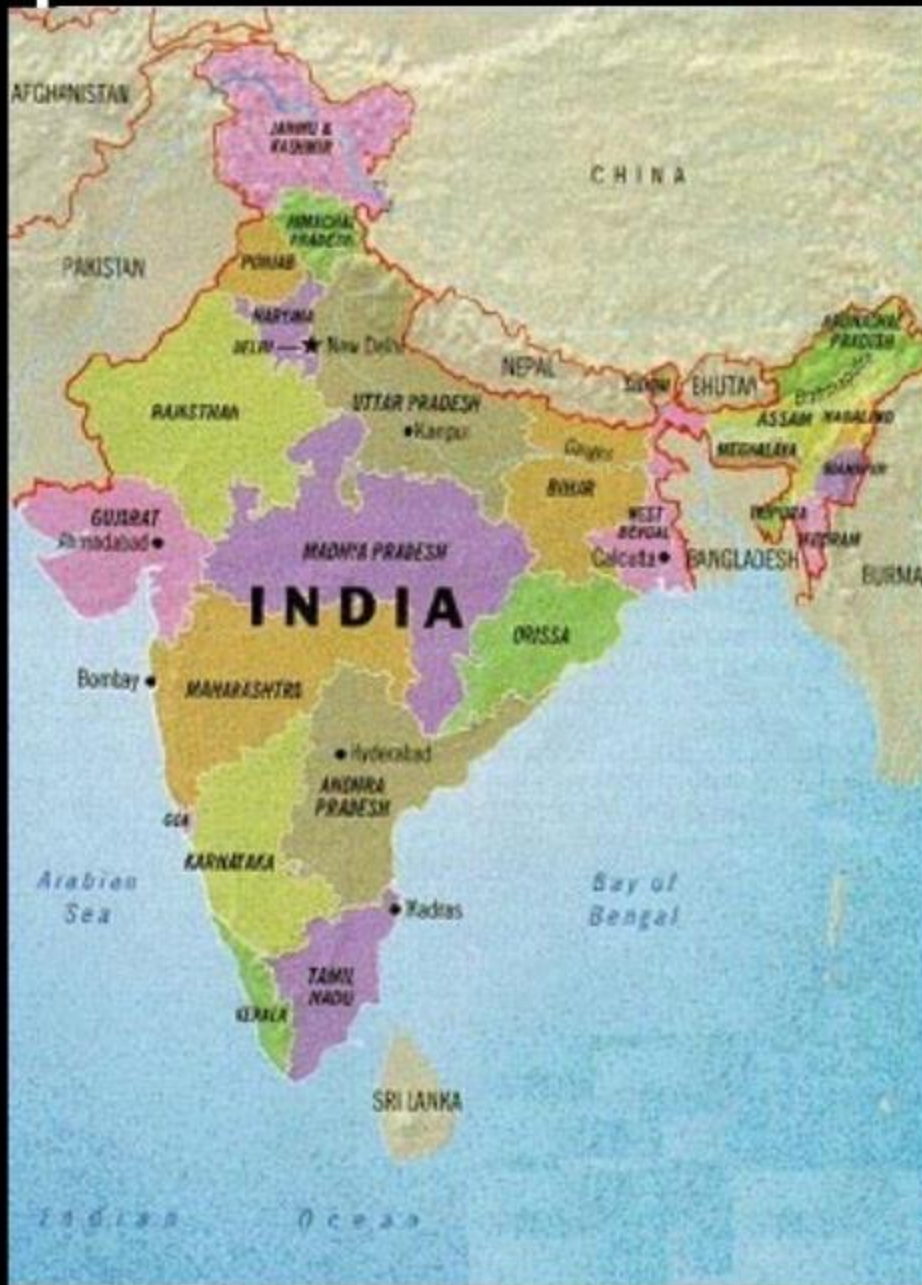
- The dance is traditionally presented in a dramatic manner called nritta, which uses "clean" facial expressions and mudrā, or hand gestures, to narrate the story and to demonstrate concepts such as particular objects, weather, aspects of nature and emotions.
- Classical Indian dance is also known as Natya. Natya includes singing and abhinaya (mime acting). These features are common to all Indian classical styles of dance.



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- A dance style is classical to the extent that it incorporates Natya Shastra techniques.

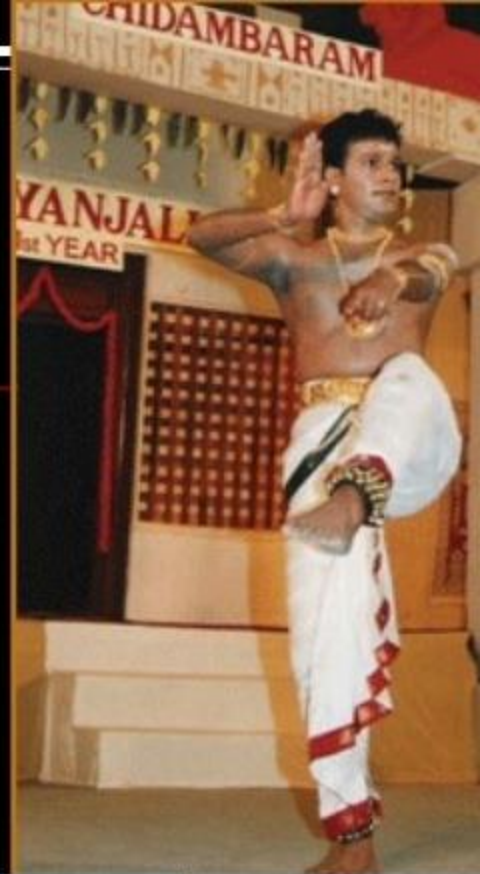
# Bharatanatyam

South Indian Classical  
dance and music



## BHARAT NATYAM'S GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The dance is  
inspired from  
the sculptures of  
the ancient  
temple of  
**Chidambaram.**



# Origin of the word Bharatanatyam



Bharatanatyam, is the combination of: BHA-Bhava (Expression) RA-Raga (Music, melody) and TA - Tala (Rhythm).

It is a traditional dance-form known for its grace, purity, tenderness, and



# *A short history of Bharatanatyam*



*Bharat Natyam* was developed by mixing elements from the earlier forms of dance: ***Dassi Attam*** and ***Sadr***.

*Dassi Attam* was a dance form of the *Devadasis* or temple dancing girls while *Sadr* was a form found in the palaces of southern India.

The music of Bharatanatyam is based on Indian classical music called Carnatic. Its main emphasis is on vocal music.

Tyagaraja was one of the greatest composers of Carnatic music or classical South Indian music.



Most compositions are written to be sung, and even when played on instruments, they are meant to be performed in *nāyaki* (singing) style.

# Musical instruments for Bharatanatyam

The instruments used are the veena, bansuri or venu, mridangam, violin, manjira or thalaam, tambura and the kanjira.



Kanjira



Violin



Venu



Tambura



Mridangam



Surpet



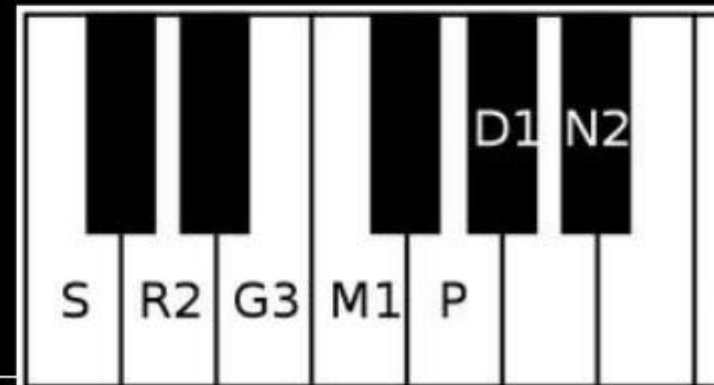


- The dance direction is done by ‘the Nattuvanar’
- One or two vocalists normally accompany the Nattuvanar.





■ The Nattuvanar is the person who directs a bharatanatyam performance by reciting rhythmical syllables and playing manjiras, The texts are based on South **Indian** rhythm.



# KATHAKALI



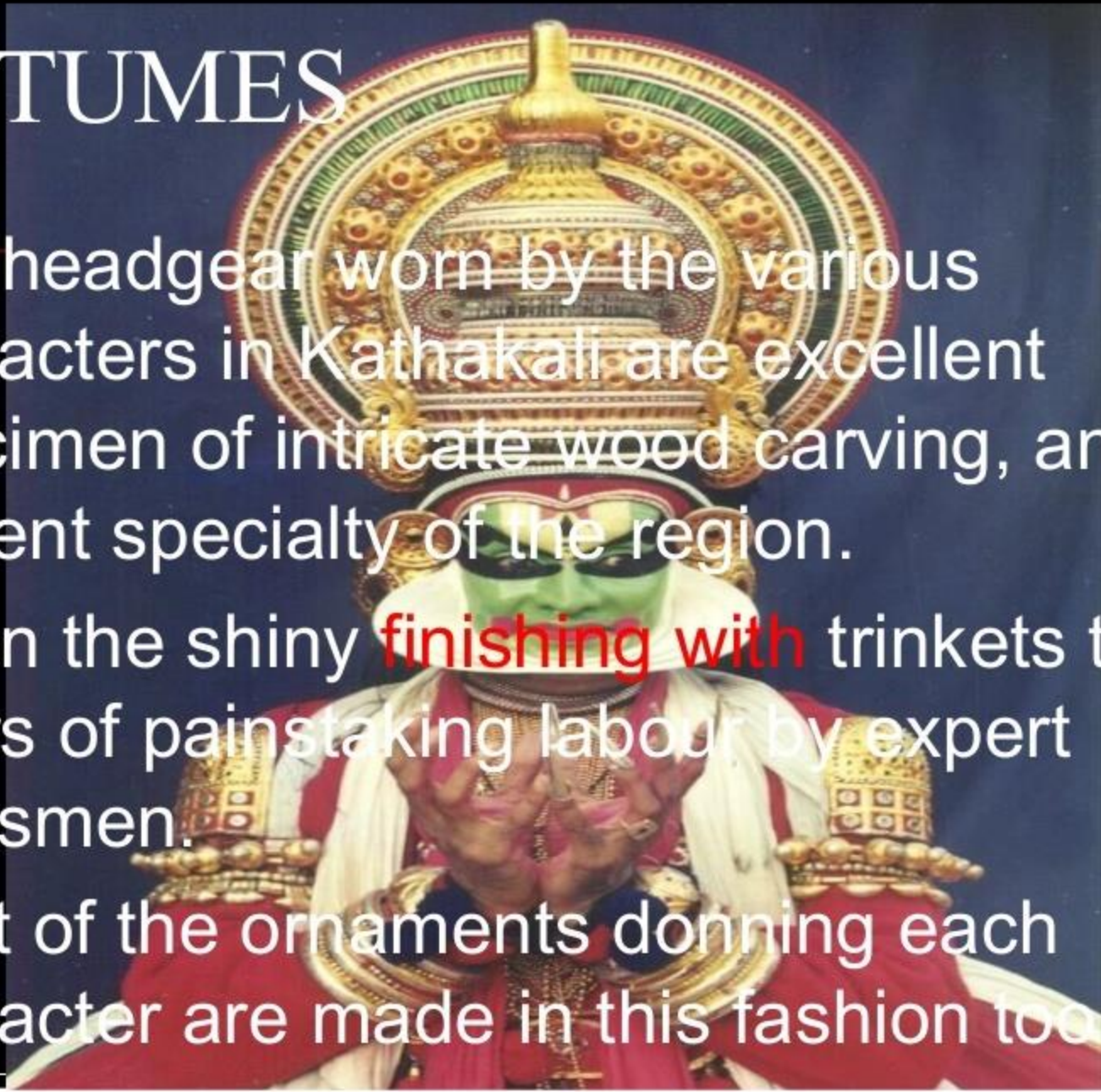
[www.cyberkerala.com](http://www.cyberkerala.com)

- Kathakali is the classical dance form of Kerala.
- The word Kathakali literally means "Story-Play".
- Kathakali is known for its heavy, elaborate makeup and costumes.
- In fact, the colorful and fascinating costumes of Kathakali have become the most recognized icon of Kerala.

- Kathakali is considered as one of the most magnificent theatres of imagination and creativity.
- Kathakali dance presents themes derived from the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and other Hindu epics, mythologies and legends.

# COSTUMES

- The headgear worn by the various characters in Kathakali are excellent specimen of intricate wood carving, an ancient specialty of the region.
- Even the shiny **finishing with** trinkets take hours of painstaking labour by expert craftsmen.
- Most of the ornaments donning each character are made in this fashion too.



# MAKE- UP

- The make-up, called Chutty in the bibliography of Kathakali, is also an art form in itself.
- The colourful faces are the results of hours of painstaking handiwork by expert artists. Their work is, by no means subordinate to portrait painting.
- The basic materials used for the make up are very crude items like raw amorphous Sulphur, Indigo, Rice paste, Lime, Coconut oil etc.

- The main facial expressions of a Kathakali artist are the 'navarasams' ( 'Navarasas' in anglicised form ) (Nine Tastes, but more loosely translated as nine feelings or expressions) which are Sringaaram (amour), Haasyam (ridicule, humour), Bhayam (fear), Karunam (pathos), Rowdram (anger, wrath), Veeram (valour), Beebhatsam (disgust), Adbhutham (wonder, amazement), Saantham (tranquility, peace)



*Shringara-rasa*



*Veera-rasa*



*Bibhatsa-rasa*



*Adbhuta-rasa*



*Roudra-rasa*



*Karuna-rasa*



*Haasya-rasa*



*Bhayanak-rasa*



*Shaanta-rasa*







# MOHINIYATTAM

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- Mohiniyattam: a dance form from Kerala is closely related to Bharathanatyam of Tamil Nadu, which was originally called 'Dasiyattam'.
- Originated as the temple dance performed by Devadasis, it portrays feminine love in its myriad forms - carnal, devotional and maternal- with accent more on Lasya and Bhava.

- The renowned Malayalam poet Vallathol revived it and gave it a status in modern times through Kerala Kalamandalam which is presently doing its best for the development and popularity of Mohiniyattam.
- Most of the component items of Mohiniyattam are similar to Bharatnatyam and Kuchipudi, though subtle differences of style is obvious.

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- The accompaniments for Mohiniyattam are Vocal, Veena, Venu, Maddalam and Idakka. Other instruments are also not unusual.
  - Compared to most other dance forms, Mohiniyattam gives more importance to gestural and facial acting. The Mudras (hand gestures) are almost always same as those employed in Kathakali. The artists try to enact the lyrics almost in its entirety, like in Kathakali



# KUCHIPUDI

- Kuchipudi is pronounced as Koochipoodi is a Classical Indian dance originated in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- Origin of the name Kuchipudi is taken from name of a village in the Divi Tehsil of Krishna district that borders the Bay of Bengal.
- The resident Brahmins were practicing this traditional dance form, and it acquired the present name.
- According to facts Siddhendra Yogi first developed a unique and particular style of kuchipudi based on the Natya Shastra.

- Kuchipudi dance style, like many other classical dance forms, was initially presented at temples and was performed by the Brahmin men.
- The first documented evidence of Kuchipudi male dancers' performance was recorded in 1502 A.D. where they performed in front of Veeranarasimha Rayalu of Vijayanagara Empire and depicted the misdeeds and corrupt rule of Sammeta Guravaraju, Siddavatam ruler.





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- Looking at the type of dance movements, costumes, and physically the location of its origin one can say that Kuchipudi is a blend of Odisi (a dance form of Orissa) and Bharatnatyam (a dance form of Tamil Nadu).
  - Kuchipudi is famous for its extremely elegant movements and its very strong descriptive and dramatic character narration.

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- These dance dramas were mostly performed as an offering to lord Krishna mostly.
  - All these dances were performed by men who could play the roles of both men and women as performers.
  - Initially, it was performed for lord Krishna, but with passage of time the dance form was even performed for Lord Shiva. This started happening by the end of the 18th century.

# KATHAK



# History

- This dance form traces its origin to the nomadic bards of ancient northern India, known as Kathakars or story tellers.
- Its form today contains traces of temple and ritual dances, and the influence of the bhakti movement.
- From the Sanskrit word *katha* meaning "story", and *katthaka* in Sanskrit means "he who tells a story", or "to do with stories".

- The story of Kathak begins in ancient times with the performances of professional story-tellers called *kathakas* who recited or sang stories from epics and mythology with some elements of dance.
- The traditions of the *kathakas* were hereditary, and dances passed from generation to generation. There are literary references from the 3rd and 4th centuries BCE which refer to these *kathakas*.
- The structure of a conventional kathak performance tends to follow a progression in tempo from slow to fast, ending with a dramatic climax.

- Today, Kathak has regained its popularity after the period of decline during the rule of the British Empire and it is now one of the eight officially sanctioned classical dance forms of India.
- Kathak's current form is a synthesis of all the input it has had in the past: court and romantic aspects sit comfortably side-by-side with the temple and mythological/religious.

# MANIPURI DANCE



# Introduction

- *Manipuri* dance is one of the eight classical dance forms of India .It belongs to the north East Indian state of Manipur. Its themes are devotional and are performed on religious occasions and in temples throughout the area. It is even often referred to as "*sankirtan*".
- The term *Manipuri* actually covers a number of dance forms from the region. The most important being the *Ras Lila* and the *Pung Cholom*.



# Characteristics of Manipuri Dance

The traditional Manipuri dance style embodies delicate, lyrical and graceful movements. Rounded movements and avoid any jerks, sharp edges or straight lines. undulating and soft appearance. The foot movements are viewed as part of a composite movement of the whole body. The dancer puts his or her feet down, even during vigorous steps, with the balls of the feet touching the ground first. The ankle and knee joints are effectively used as shock absorbers. The dancer's feet are neither put down nor lifted up at the precise rhythmic points of the music but rather slightly earlier or later to express the same rhythmic points most effectively.



# Odissi

- Odissi is one of the famous classical Indian dances from Orissa state.
- The history of Odissi dance is almost two thousand years old.
- Odissi is a highly inspired, passionate, ecstatic and sensuous form of dance.
- Like most of the South Indian classical dances of India Odissi too had its origin in the Devadasi tradition.

- Odissi is considered a dance of love, joy and intense passion, pure, divine and human.
- Over a period of time three schools of Odissi dance developed, they are- Mahari, Nartaki, and Gotipau.
- The Mahari system traces its roots in the Devadasi tradition.
- The dance form of Odissi that developed in royal courts is called the Nartaki tradition.
- In the Gotipau tradition of Odissi dance young boys dress up in female attires and enact female roles.

- One of the most distinguishing features of Odissi dance is the Tribhangi.
- The notion of Tribhang divides the body into three parts, head, bust and torso. The postures dealing with these three elements are called Tribhangi.
- This concept has created the very characteristic poses which are more twisted than found in other classical Indian dances.
- Mudra is also an important component of Odissi dance.
- Odissi themes are almost religious in nature and mostly revolve around Krishna.

- The rhythm, Bhangis and Mudras used in Odissi dance have a distinct style of its own.
- The dance is performed mainly with the theme of Infinite love of Lord Krishna and Radha.
- Odissi includes both Tandava and Lasya elements. It has Navatala system.
- But the element that distinguishes Odissi from other dance forms is the grace. In Odissi, the torso movement is considered very important which is soft, lyrical and graceful.

# *Sattriya*

- Recognized in 2000 as a classical dance by Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Sattriya is the most recent entrant in this list.
- *Sattriya* has remained a living tradition since its creation by the medieval polymath Srimanta Sankardev in 15th century Assam.
- These were usually performed in the sattras (monasteries) associated with the Ekasarana dharma.



# Indian Folk Dance



...at a glance.



Gangau, Folk Dance



# Introduction

DANCE IS A SYMBOL OF COMMUNICATION WHICH BRINGS OUT THE INNERMOST FEELINGS. IT DEPICTS THE CULTURAL ASPECTS OF A CIVILIZATION.

INDIA IS HAVING A TREASURE OF A VARIETY OF FOLK DANCES.

THE ORIGIN OF INDIAN FOLK DANCES FORMS CAN BE TRACED TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

EACH FORM OF DANCE REPRESENTS THE CULTURE AND ETHOS OF A PARTICULAR REGION OR A GROUP OF PEOPLE. MOST OF THE INDIAN DANCES DESCRIBE & EXPLAIN THE INDIAN ART OF LIVING.



# Bidesia – (Bihar)



Bidesia is a popular form of folk dance of Bihar. In this dances are dealt with many social issues, contradictory topics & conflict between the traditional and the modern, the urban and rural, and the rich and the poor. It's main theme is to end discrimination.

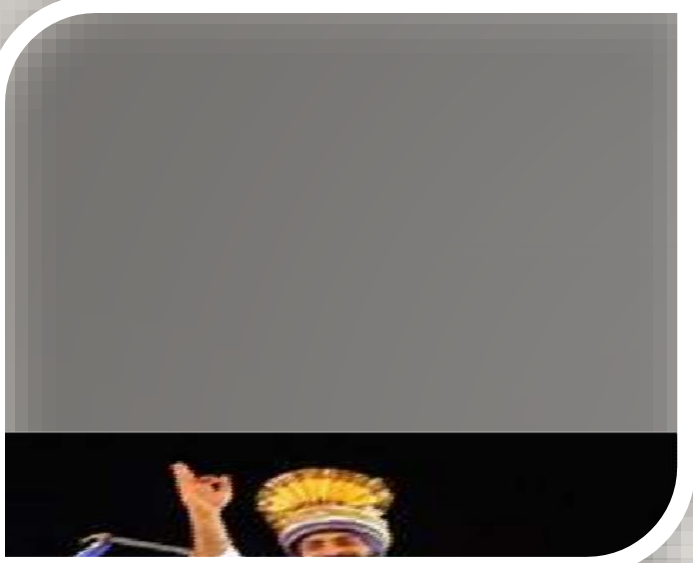
# Chhau – (Jharkhand, & WB)



**Chhau dance** is a genre of Indian tribal dance which is popular in the Indian states of Jharkhand and West Bengal. In this dance the dancer wear the costume of god or devil and there is a fight between them. The episodes of Mahabharata and Ramayana are often depicted through this dance.



# Bhangra – (Punjab)



Bhangra, a folk dance form, is performed with zest, enthusiasm and energy in Punjab.

In this, Men perform Bhangra, while the ladies perform their own fierce, elegant, dance called Giddha.

Bhangra dance is also an important part in the Harvesting festival Baisakh.

# Rouf – (J & K)



The most well liked folk dance of Kashmir state is Rouf. The dance is performed on all festival, especially in Id and Ramzan days.

This Rouf dance involves easy movements.

This welcoming dance form is basically carried out by Kashmiri women in order to welcome the spring season.



Cultural Dance - Srinagar

# Gotipua – (Orissa)



Gotipua is a traditional dance form in the state of Orissa.

It has been performed in Orissa for centuries by young boys, who dress as women to praise Jagannath and Krishna.

In this Dance, the young boys perform acrobats depicting the life of Radha & Krishna.



# Dandiya – (Gujrat)



Dandiya is the famous folk dance of Gujrat. It is the featured dances of Navratri evenings in Gujarat.

The sticks of the dance represent the sword of Durga.

The main difference between Garba & Dandiya is that Garba is performed before 'Aarti' while Dandiya is performed after it.

# Bihu – (Assam)



The Bihu dance is a folk dance from the Indian state of Assam related to the festival of Bihu.

This joyous dance is performed by both young men and women, and is characterized by brisk dance steps, rapid hand movement.

This dance form is especially played in the harvesting season.

# Snapshots of Folk dances in India



Bhangra



Karakattam



Gotipua



Rouf



Dappu Kali



Chhau



Bihu



# INDIAN PAINTINGS

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- **Prehistoric Cave Paintings**
- Painted rock shelters by prehistoric cave dwellers
- Notable example → Bhimbetka caves in the Kaimur Range, MP (biggest prehistoric art depository in India)

# GENRES OF INDIAN PAINTING

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- Indian paintings can be broadly classified as murals and miniatures.
- Murals are large works executed on the walls of solid structures directly, as in the Ajanta Caves & Kailash temple (Ellora)
- Miniature paintings are executed on a very small scale for books or albums on perishable material such as paper and cloth.

# MURAL PAINTINGS

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- Mural is the only form of painting that is truly three-dimensional, since it modifies and partakes of a given space.
- Mural paintings are applied on dry wall with the major use of egg, yolk, oil, etc

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- Notable examples → Ajanta Caves, Bagh Caves, Sittanavasal Caves, Armamalai Cave (Tamil Nadu), Kailasa temple (Ellora Caves)
  - Murals from this period depict mainly religious themes of Buddhist, Jain and Hindu
  - Depict a large number of incidents from the life of the Buddha (Jataka Tales)
  - Exclusively Buddhist, excepting decorative patterns on the ceilings and the pillars.

# MINIATURE PAINTINGS

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- The Palas of Bengal were the pioneers of miniature painting in India.
- The art of miniature painting reached its glory during the Mughal period.

# Miniature Paintings

Miniature painting (in India) is a painting style and the main subjects include portraits, court scenes, flora and fauna.



Modern



Easy



Peacock



Persian



# MUGHAL PAINTINGS (16<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)

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- Mainly confined to miniature illustrations on the books or as single works to be kept in an album
- Mughal paintings were a unique blend of Indian, Persian (Safavi) and Islamic styles
- Marked by supple naturalism → Primarily aristocratic and secular
- Tried to paint the classical ragas and Seasons or baramasa
- *Tuti-nama* – first art work of the Mughal School.
- Akbar's reign (1556–1605) ushered a new era in Indian miniature painting.
- At Zenith under Jahangir who himself was a famous painter
- Jahangir encouraged artists to paint portraits and durbar scenes.
- Shah Jahan (1627–1658) continued the patronage of painting.
- Aurangzeb had no taste for fine arts.

# RAJPUT PAINTING (16<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)

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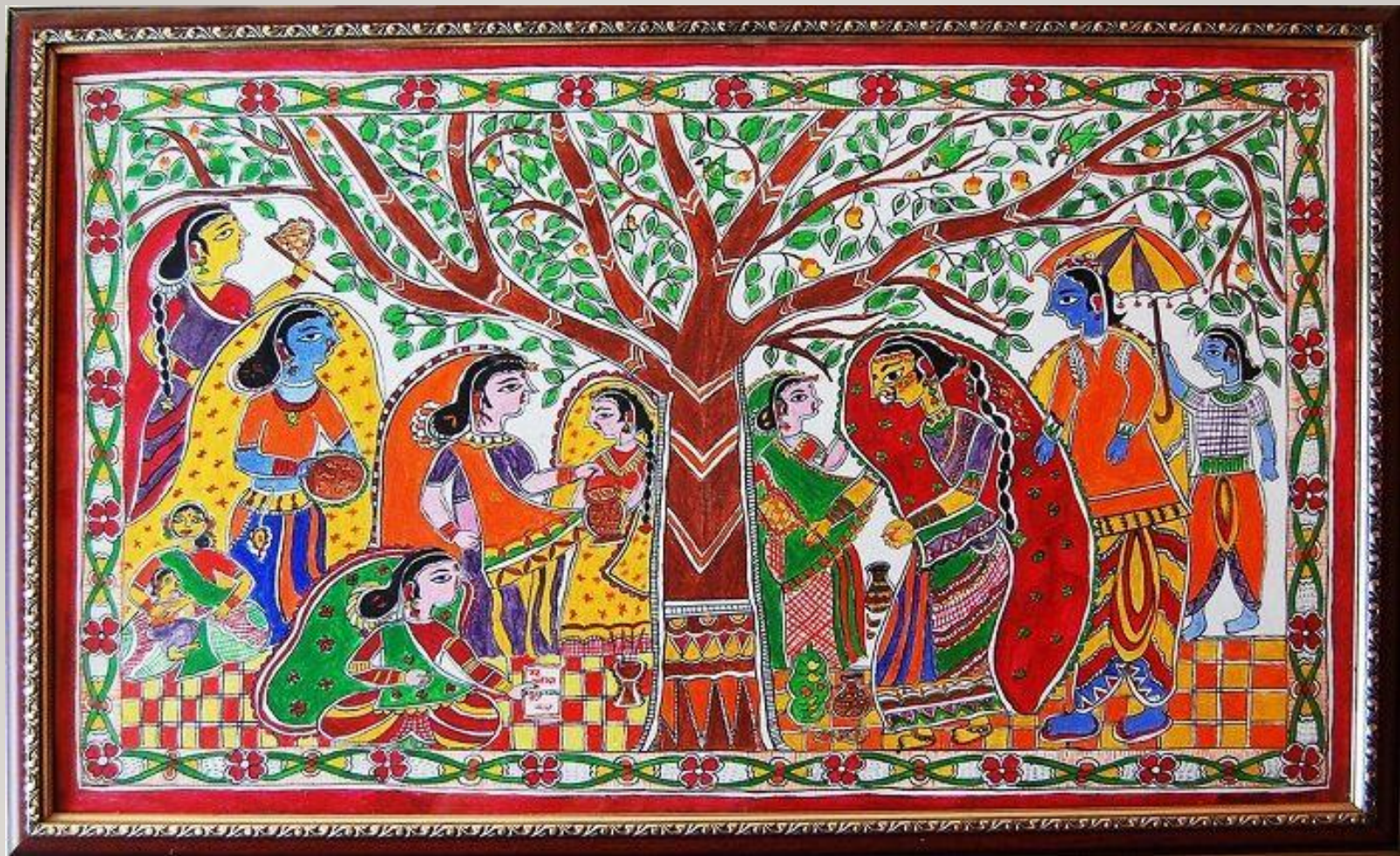
- the art of the independent Hindu feudal states in India
- Unlike Mughal paintings which were contemporary in style, Rajput paintings were traditional & romantic
- Rajput painting is further divided into Rajasthani painting and Pahari painting (art of the Himalayan kingdoms)



# MADHUBANI PAINTINGS (MITHILA – BIHAR)

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- Colorful auspicious images on the interior walls of homes on the occasion of rituals & festivity → painted by women
- This ancient tradition, especially elaborated for marriages, continues today.
- Used to paint the walls of room, known as KOHBAR GHAR in which the newly wedded couple meets for the first time
- Very conceptual, first, the painter thinks & then “draws her thought”



# KALAMKARI PAINTINGS (ANDHRA PRADESH)

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- Literal meaning is painting done by kalam (pen) , Mainly in Andhra Pradesh (developed under Vijaynagar rulers)
- Stories from the epics Ramayana, Mahabharata and the Puranas are painted as continuous narratives
- Mainly to decorate temple interiors with painted cloth panels scene after scene; Every scene is surrounded by floral decorative patterns



# WARLI PAINTING

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- Practiced in tribal regions of Maharashtra with subjects, predominantly religious
- decorative paintings on floors & walls of 'gond' and 'kol' tribes homes and places of worship
- made in a geometric patterns like squares, triangles, and circles
- Unlike other tribal art forms, Warli paintings do not employ religious iconography and is a more secular art form.

