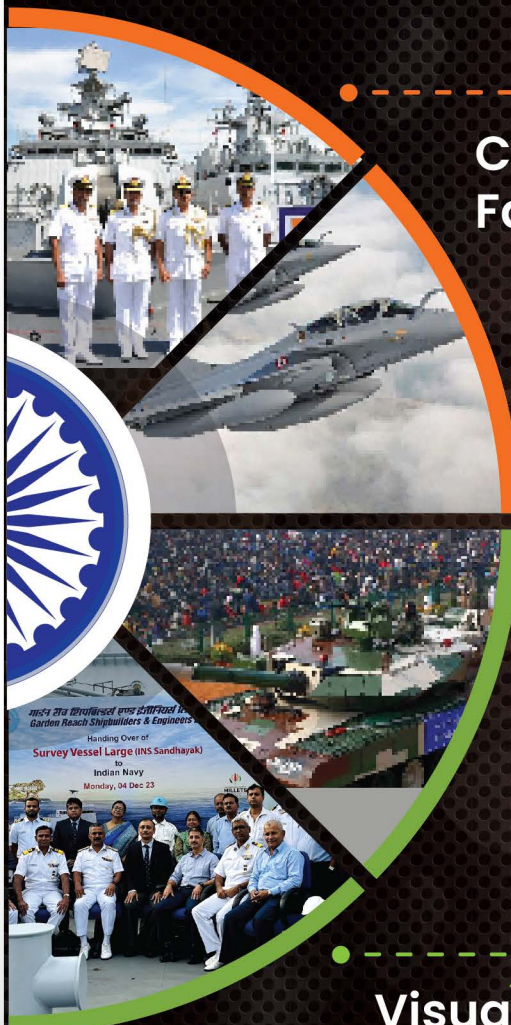


Defence Note



Important Dances and Personalities



Comprehensive Coverage: Essential Concepts, Facts, Formulas & Theories.

Nuggets of Knowledge: Small, Impactful Pieces of Information.

Exam Oriented: Concepts & Facts Targetting all Defence Exams.

Visual Aids for Memorization: Graphics & Diagrams to Aid Memory Retention.

Important Dances and Personalities

India is known for its rich and diverse dance traditions, each with its unique styles and cultural significance.

Dance Forms in India:

There are two major forms of dance in India and they are as follows:

1. Classical dance
2. Folk dance
 - Main difference between these two dances is their origin.

1. Classical Dance:

Classical dance forms in India are highly structured and have a long history. They are typically based on ancient texts and have a well-defined set of rules, techniques, and gestures. The Natya Shastra, attributed to the ancient sage Bharata Muni, is a fundamental treatise that provides the foundation for classical Indian dance. It outlines the principles of classical dance, including the mudras (hand gestures), footwork, facial expressions, and the use of rhythm and music. Classical dances are often associated with specific regions or states in India and have distinct features. Some of the major classical dance forms in India include Bharatanatyam (Tamil Nadu), Kathak (North India), Kathakali (Kerala), Odissi (Odisha), Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh), and Manipuri (Manipur), among others.

- There are 8 classical dance forms in India and The Cultural Ministry of India has included **Chhau** into the list of classical dances that makes a total of 9 classical dance forms. These classical dances are as follows:

List of Classical dances in India	State of Origin
Bharatnatyam	Tamil Nadu
Kathak	Uttar Pradesh
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
Odissi	Odisha
Kathakali	Kerala
Sattriya	Assam
Manipuri	Manipur
Mohiniyattam	Kerala

1. **Bharatanatyam** is a classical dance form rooted in the Natyashastra. It features a diverse repertoire of songs in Telugu, Tamil, and Sanskrit, covering themes of human and divine love, categorized as shringara (romantic love) and Bhakti (devotion). Its music is integral to the Carnatic music system of southern India.

2. **Kathak** is the primary dance of northern India, closely linked to Kathakaras or storytellers who have imparted scriptures, epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, and puranic literature for centuries. It is widely practiced in regions including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and parts of western and eastern India.
3. **Kuchipudi**, a prominent Indian dance form, traces its roots to Andhra Pradesh and was significantly influenced by the 7th-century Bhakti movement. It combines Nritya (pure dance), Nritya (expressive dance with Sabdams), and Natya (drama with Mudras). The dance-drama includes teermanams, jatis, and emotive acting to complement the songs.
4. **Odissi** dance, which originates from Odisha, India's easternmost state, initially had a temple connection with performances by female temple employees known as 'maharis.' In the mid-20th century, it was redefined as a theatrical art form, drawing inspiration not only from traditional dance but also from medieval sculpture, painting, and literature in Odisha.
5. **Kathakali**, meaning 'story play,' originated in 17th-century Kerala, southern India, with the patronage of a Karnataka prince. It features plays based on the epic Ramayana in Malayalam, the local language. The majority of Kathakali performances for over three centuries have been centered on narratives from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
6. **Sattriya** dance originated in Assam during the 16th century within the sattras or monasteries, influenced by the spread of the Vaishnava faith, led by the saint and reformer Shankaradeva. It is a distinct genre of classical Indian dance, featuring an advanced vocabulary of hand gestures (hasta), footwork (pada karma), movement, and emotions (Nritya and Abhinaya). The repertoire of Sattriya dance is centered around devotion to Lord Krishna.
7. **Manipuri** dance, originating in Manipur in northeastern India, is deeply rooted in the Vaishnava beliefs of the Meiteis, the people of Manipur valley. The dance is divided into two sections: Jagoi and Cholom, which correspond to the Lasya and Tandava aspects mentioned in Sanskrit literature. These two streams are distinct, and artists can dedicate their lives to perfecting any form within this spectrum.
8. **Mohiniattam**, originating in Kerala, southern India, is named after the mythical enchantress Mohini. It is a dance known for its feminine grace and has its roots in temple performances in Kerala. Mohiniattam incorporates rhythms specific to Kerala, with rhythmic syllables derived from the Maddalam, a drum used in female character portrayals in Kathakali theater. The Edakka is the primary percussion instrument in Mohiniattam performances.



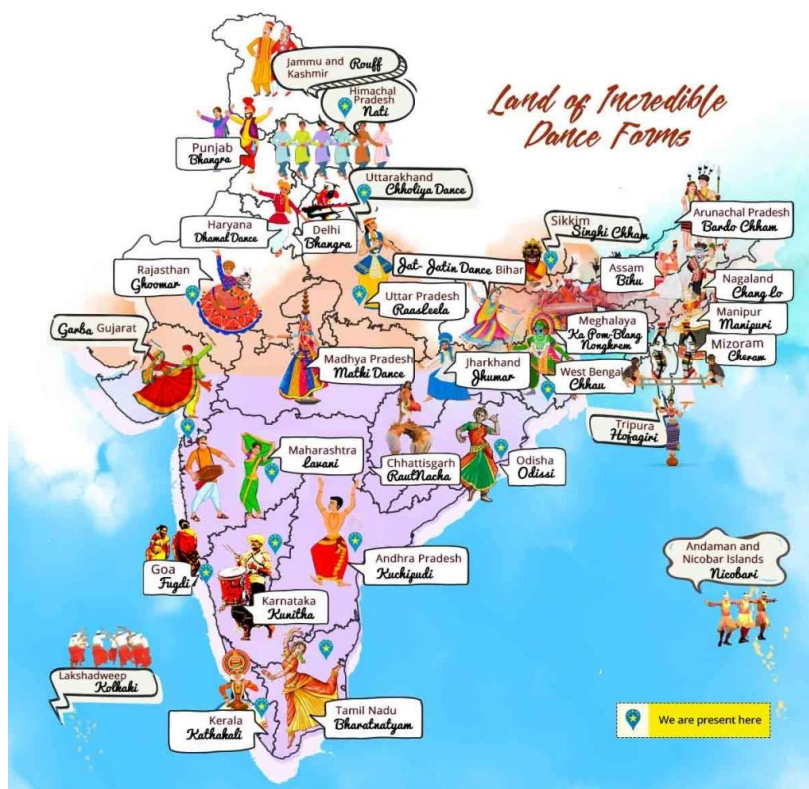
2. Folk Dance:

Folk dances, on the other hand, are rooted in the local traditions, customs, and cultures of different regions in India. They are not as rigidly structured as classical dances and tend to be more spontaneous and free-form. Folk dances are often performed on various occasions such as festivals, harvest celebrations, weddings, and other community events. They reflect the diverse cultural heritage of India and vary significantly from one region to another. Folk dances are characterized by their simplicity and reliance on traditional music and rhythms. Examples of Indian folk dances include Bhangra (Punjab), Garba (Gujarat), Dandiya Raas (Gujarat), and Chhau (Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha), among many others.

- **List of Folk Dances in India is given below:**

State of Origin	List of Folk Dances in India
Andhra Pradesh	Vilasini Natyam, Bhamakalpam, Veeranatyam, Dappu, Tappeta Gullu, Lambadi, Dhimsa, Kolattam.
Arunachal Pradesh	Buiya, Chalo, Wancho, Pasi Kongki, Ponung, Popir
Assam	Bihu, Bichhua, Natpuja, Maharas, Kaligopal, Bagurumba, Naga dance, Khel Gopal.
Bihar	Jata-Jatin, Bakho-Bakhain, Panwariya
Chhattisgarh	Gaur Maria, Panthi, Raut Nacha, Pandwani, Vedamati, Kapalik
Gujarat	Garba, Dandiya Raas, Tippani Juriun, Bhavai
Goa	Tarangamel, Koli, Dekhni, Fugdi, Shigmo, Ghode, Modni, Samayi nrutya, Jagar, Ranmale
Haryana	Jhumar, Phag, Daph, Dhamal, Loor, Gugga, Khor.
Himachal Pradesh	Jhora, Jhali, Chhathi, Dhaman, Chhapeli, Mahasu
Jammu & Kashmir	Rauf, Hikar, Mandjas, Kud Dandi Nach
Jharkhand	Alkap, Karma Munda, Agni, Jhumar, Janani Jhumar, Mardana Jhumar, Paika, Phagua
Karnataka	Yakshagana, Huttari, Suggi, Kunitha, Karga
Kerala	OttamThullal, Kaikottikali
Maharashtra	Lavani, Nakata, Koli, Lezim, Gafa, Dahikala Dasavtar
Madhya Pradesh	Jawara, Matki, Aada, Khada Nach, Phulpati, Grida Dance, Selalarki, Selabhadoni

Manipur	Dol Cholam, Thang Ta, Lai Haraoba, Pung Cholom
Meghalaya	Ka Shad Suk Mynsiem, Nongkrem, Laho
Mizoram	Cheraw Dance, Khuallam, Chailam, Sawlakin, Chawnglaizawn, Zangtalam
Nagaland	Rangma, Zeliang, Nsuirolians, Gethinglim
Odisha	Savari, Ghumara, Painka, Munari
Punjab	Bhangra, Giddha, Daff, Dhaman, Bhand
Rajasthan	Ghumar, Chakri, Ganagor, Jhulan Leela, Jhuma, Suisini, Ghapal
Sikkim	Chu Faat, Sikmari, Singhi Chaam or the Snow Lion, Yak Chaam, Denzong Gnenha, Tashi Yangku
Tamil Nadu	Kumi, Kolattam, Kavadi
Tripura	Hojagiri
Uttar Pradesh	Nautanki, Raslila, Kajri, Jhora, Chappeli
Uttarakhand	Garhwali, Kumayuni, Kajari, Jhora, Raslila



❖ **Persons Associated with Various Dance Forms:**

<u>Performing Art/Dance Form</u>	<u>Persons Associated</u>
Kathak	Birju Maharaj, Gopi Krishan, Shambu Maharaj, Sitara Devi, Prerna Shrimali, Ms. Sunayana Hazarilal, Kumudini Lakhia, Shovana Narayan
Bharat Natyam	T. Balasaraswati, Rukmini Devi Arundale, Yamini Krishnamurti, Vijayantimala, Ananda Shankar Jayant, C.V. Chandrasekhar, Guru (Ms.) M.K. Saroja, Shanta and VP Dhananjayan Manipuri Amubi Singh, Bino Devi, Rajkumar Singhajit Singh
Manipuri	Amubi Singh, Bino Devi, Rajkumar Singhajit Singh
Mohini Attam	Smt. Kalamandalam Kshemavathy Pavithran, Dr. (Smt) Kanak Rele
Chhau	Makar Dhawaja Darogha, Pt Gopal Prasad Dubey
Odissi	Kelucharan Mahapatra, Sonal Mansingh, Geeta Mahalik, Dr. Minati Mishra
Kathakali	PK Kunju Kurup, Kalamandalam Rajan, Madavur Vasudevan Nair, Kalamandalam Gopi, Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair
Kuchipudi	Raja Reddy, Radha Reddy, Vyjayanti Kashi, Vempati Chinna Satyam
Yakshagana	Ramachandra Subraya Hegde Chittani
Sattriya	Ghanakanta Bora Barbayan
Koodiyattam	Ammannur Madhava Chakyar
Pandavani	Teejan Bai
Kalbelia	Gulabo Sopera
Creative Dance/Choreography	Uday Shankar