

# Classical and Folk dances of India

India is known for its rich cultural legacy and has an unparalleled antiquity of dance traditions. There are several dances like tribal, folk, village and classical dances in each region of India. The origin of dances in India goes back into the ancient times of Indus valley civilization. Most of dance styles are based on the Natyashastram written by ancient scholar Bharatha. The Indian classical dances have two basic aspects – Thandava (Movement and Rhythm) and Lasya (Grace, Bhava and Rasa)

## Plan

Description	Page No
1. Thandava nruthya	2
2. Classical dances of India	3
3. Bharathanatyam	4
4. Odissi	5
5. Kathakali	6
6. Kuchupudi	7
7. Manipuri	8
8. Kathak	9
9. Tribal dances	10
<b>Folk dances</b>	
10. Yakshagana	11
11. Lamabadi	12
12. Veeranatyam	13
13. Kokittam	14
14. Proponents & Indian dances	15
15. Proponents & Indian dances	16

## Classical and folk dances of India

### 1. Tandava Nritya

Tandava Nritya is a divine dance performed by the Hindu god Shiva. Shiva's Tandava is described as a vigorous dance that is the source of the cycle of creation, preservation and dissolution. While the Rudra Tandava depicts his violent nature, first as the creator and later as the destroyer of the universe, even of death itself; the Ananda Tandava depicts him as joyful. In Shaiva Siddhanta tradition, Shiva as Nataraja is considered the supreme lord of dance.



ब्रिटेन में भारतीय समारोह  
*Festival of India, in U. K.*



प्राचीन भारतीय शिल्पकला  
*Ancient Indian Sculpture*



Another significant dance related to Hinduism is the **Kalinga Mardhana** performed by Lord Krishna to defeat the dreaded "Kalinga Serpent"



## Classical and Folk Dances of India

### 2. Classical Dances of India

Indian classical dance, or Shastriya Nritya, is an umbrella term for various performance arts rooted in religious Hindu musical theatre styles, whose theory and practice can be traced to the Sanskrit text Natya Shastra. The classical dance forms recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi and the Ministry of Culture are - Bharatanatyam, from Tamil Nadu, Kathak, from Uttar Pradesh, Kathakali, from Kerala, Kuchipudi, from Andhra Pradesh, Odissi, from Odisha, Sattriya, from Assam, Manipuri, from Manipur, Mohiniyattam, from Kerala.

These dances are traditionally regional, all of them include music and recitation in local language or Sanskrit, and they represent a unity of core ideas in a diversity of styles, costumes and expression.

भारतीय नृत्यो पर डाक-टिकट  
STAMPS ON INDIAN DANCES  
प्रथम दिवस आवरण FIRST DAY COVER



FDC of the set of 6 stamps issued by Dept. of Posts on classical dance forms.

## Classical and folk dances of India

### 2. Classical Dances

#### 2.1. Bharata Natyam

Bharata Natyam has developed in South India in its present form, while its poses are reminiscent of sculpture of the 10th century A.D. onwards, the thematic and musical content was given to it by musicians of the Tanjore courts of the 18th - 19th centuries. It is essentially a solo dance and has close affinities with the traditional dance-drama form called Bhagvata Mela. It is characterized by straight lines, diagonals, triangles which are basic motifs for executing movements, as also patterns of floor choreography.



Commercially used Picture post card depicting Bharathanatyam



## Classical and folk dances of India

### 2. Classical Dances

#### 2.2. Odissi

Odissi is a close parallel of Bharata Natyam. It is developed from the musical play (sangita-nataka) and the dances of gymnasiums known as the akharas. Sculptural evidence relating to the dance goes back to 2nd century B.C. from the 12th century onwards there are inscriptions, manuscripts and other records which speak of the prevalence of Orissi dance styles of ritual dances of temples and entertainments of the village squares.



Picture post card depicting Odissi

## Classical and folk dances of India

### 2. Classical Dances

#### 2.3. Kathakali

Is a classical dance drama. It is a different form, unlike the others. It is dramatic rather than narrative in character. Different roles are taken by different characters, the dancers are all men, till recently. It takes epic mythological themes as its content and portrays them through an elaborate dramatic spectacle which is characterised by another worldly quality, a supernatural grandeur, a stylised over-size costume to give the impression of enlarging human proportions and a mask like make-up on the face which is governed by a complex symbolism of colour, line and design.



Kathakali Dancer



## Classical and folk dances of India

### 2. Classical Dances

#### 2.4. Kuchipudi

It is closely related to Bharata Natyam in the dance style which is prevalent in Andhra Pradesh. It is sometimes called Kuchipudi, after the name of the village, or Bhama Kalapam (the story of Bhama, a consort of Krishna). In this style there is a thin line of demarcation between dance-drama traditions of Bhama Kalapam and the solo-Kuchipudi. While the basic stance, the foot contacts and the general pattern of treating the human form are very close to Bharata Natyam, the style is freer and to that extent less austere than Bharata Natyam.



विशेष आवरण  
SPECIAL COVER

*International Dance Day*



कूचिपूड़ी

**KUCHIPUDI**

*Dance Genres of Andhra Pradesh*





## Classical and folk dances of India

### 2. Classical Dances

#### 2.5. Manipuri

It is a lyrical dance form from the eastern region of India. Although many forms of ritual, magical, community and religious dances were known to Manipur before the advent of Vaishnava faith in the 18th century, the dances today known as Manipuri and specially its Rasa evolved as a result of the interaction of the Vaishnava cult and the several highly developed forms of ritual and religious dances which were prevalent in the area from times immemorial.



प्रथम दिवस आवरण FIRST DAY COVER



भारत-आर्मेनिया : संयुक्त डाक टिकट INDIA-ARMENIA : JOINT ISSUE



## Classical and Folk Dances of India

### 2. Classical Dances of India

#### 2.6. Kathak

प्रथम दिवस आवरण  
FIRST DAY COVER

5-5-1973

भारतीय  
लघु चित्रण कला

INDIAN  
MINIATURE  
PAINTINGS

भारतीय डाक-तार विभाग INDIAN POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

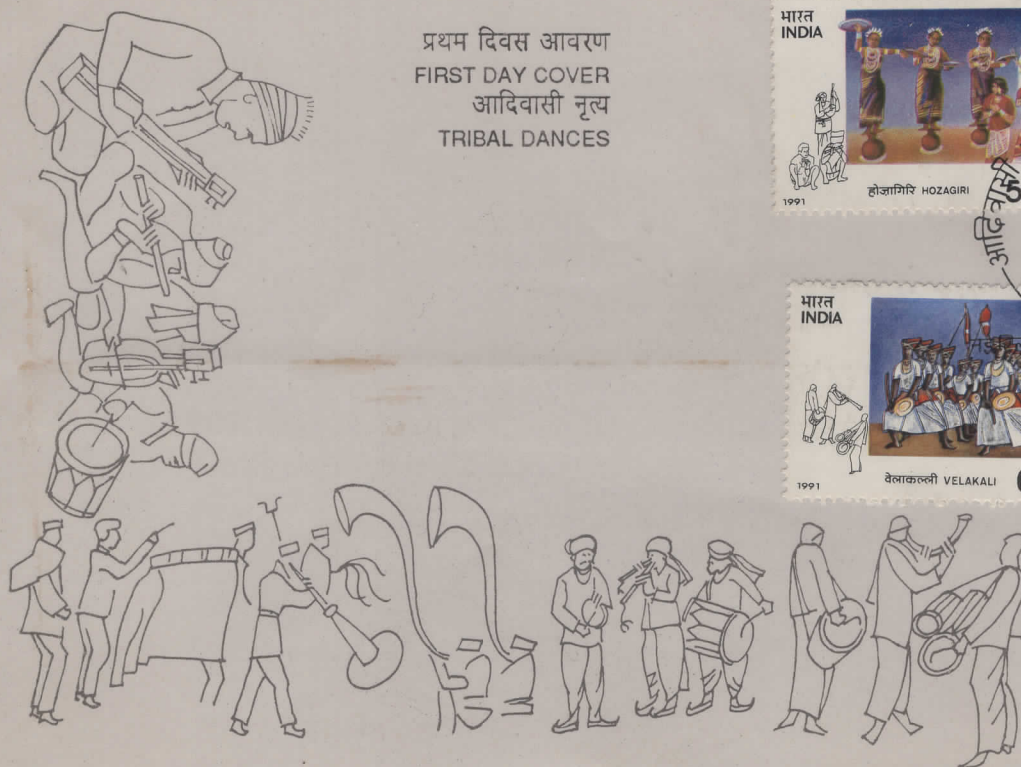


The art of Miniature paintings developed mainly because of the royal and the religious patronages. Under the Mughals, a beautiful blend of Persian craftsmanship with Indian ethnicity infused some realism into the miniatures. However, Aurangzeb did not patronize art and the Mughal school of miniatures saw a set back during his reign. This painting on 50 Paise stamp issued in 1973, depicting a dancing couple is one such uncommon Mughal Miniatures from Aurangzeb's period. FDC of the same stamp is shown above.

## Classical and folk dances of India

### 3. Tribal Dances

India is inhabited by various tribes. These tribes have traditions of centuries behind them and have made rich contributions to the country's history and culture. Despite the onset of civilisation and the pressure of modernisation, the tribals have, to a large extent, maintained their distinct identity, customs and mores. Their characteristic dances form an important and colourful part of their traditions and customs.



प्रथम दिवस आवरण  
FIRST DAY COVER  
आदिवासी नृत्य  
TRIBAL DANCES





## Classical and folk dances of India

### 4. Folk Dances

#### 4.1. Yakshagana

ಮಹಾತ್ಮಾ ಜವಹರಲಾಲ್ ನೆಹರೂ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆವರಣ Special Cover



Inclusive, Accessible & Ethical Elections

ಪ್ರತಿಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆ ಮತದಾನ, ಇದುವೇ ನಮ್ಮ ವಾಗ್ದಾನ

ಮತದಾನ ದಿನ

ಮೇ 12, 2018



ಮುಖ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಚನ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ  
Chief Electoral Officer - Karnataka

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 560 001 Bengaluru  
07.05.2018

ಒಳಗೊಳ್ಳುವ, ಸುಗಮ ಮತ್ತು ನೈತಿಕ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಸಮಾವೇಶಿ, ಸುಲಭ और नैतिक चुनाव



**INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE & ETHICAL ELECTIONS**

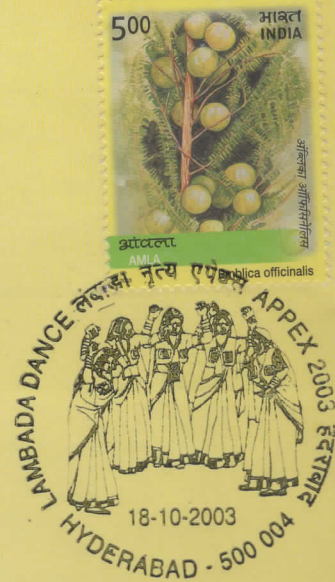
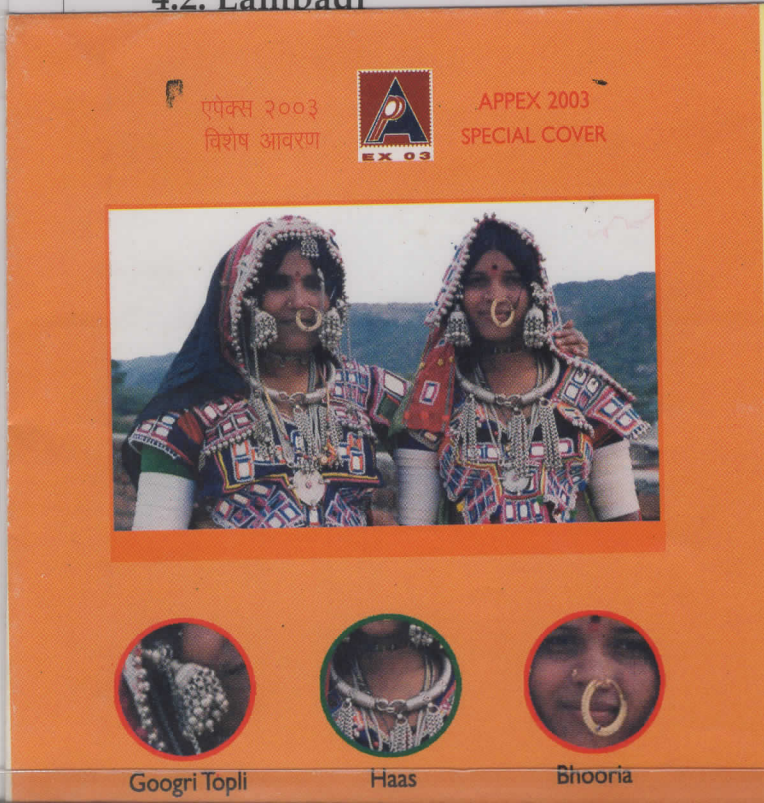
Yakshagana in 'Mystamp' on Special Cover



## Classical and folk dances of India

### 4. Folk Dances

#### 4.2. Lambadi



विशेष आवरण  
SPECIAL COVER

International Dance Day



लेंबडी

LAMBAADI

Dance Genres of Andhra Pradesh



Lambaadi Dance Special Cover issued on International Dance Day 2019



## Classical and folk dances of India

### 4. Folk Dances

#### 4.3 Veeranatyam

Veeranatyam initially started as a ritual that was performed at all Lord Shiva or Shivite temples in honour of Lord Shiva. This Dance form has a furious tempo and dancers expressing high degree of emotions. The Veerabhadra Dancer holds the veerakhadgamand, other dancers beating the veerabhadrapallem simultaneously, which is similar to a war cry or challenge to the opponents.

विशेष आवरण  
SPECIAL COVER

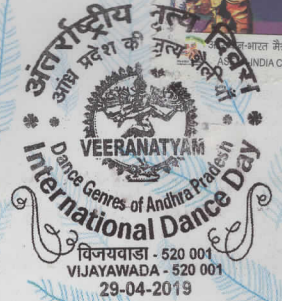
*International Dance Day*



वीरनाट्यम

**VEERANATYAM**

*Dance Genres of Andhra Pradesh*



Veeranatyam Dance form depicted on Special Cover issued on the occasion of International Dance.



## Classical and Folk Dances of India

### 4. Folk Dances of India

#### 4.4 Kolattam

Kolattam is performed in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and other parts of South India. It is also known as stick dance involves group of dancers forming two circles. While the inner circle receives a strike on their sticks, the dancers forming the outer circle deliver the strike.



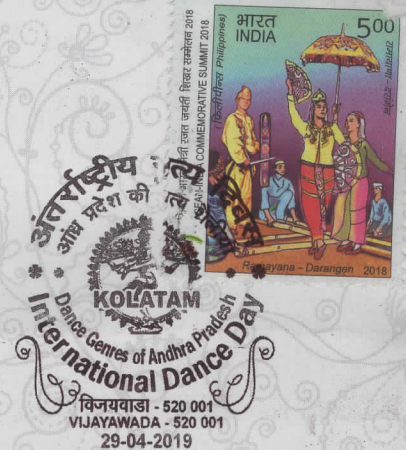
विशेष आवरण  
SPECIAL COVER

*International Dance Day*



**कोलाटं**  
**KOLATAM**

*Dance Genres of Andhra Pradesh*





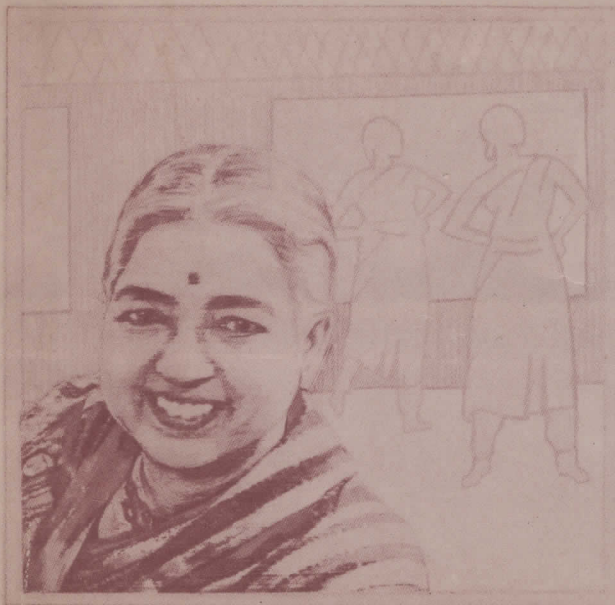
## Classical and Folk Dances of India

### 5. Proponents of Indian dances



Vallathol Narayana Menon is credited with the revival of Kathakali dance in Kerala. He was instrumental in setting up the Kerala Kalamandalam and during his travel abroad he took the Kathakali dance form to international forum.

प्रथम दिवस आवरण FIRST DAY COVER



रुक्मिणी देवी RUKMINI DEVI



Rukmini Devi Arundale was a theosophist, dancer and choreographer of classical dance form of Bharatanatyam. She was nominated to the Rajya Sabha. She revived the Indian classical dance form of Bharatanatyam from its original sadhir style (temple dancers). She was awarded Padma Bhushan, & Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship.

## Classical and Folk Dances of India

### 5. Proponents of Indian dances



प्रथम दिवस आवरण FIRST DAY COVER

*Dental / MCH Q. M.S.*



उदय शंकर UDAY SHANKAR



*209*  
*Mr. C. D. Singh IAS*

*Room no. 317,*

*Hotel Deccan  
Continental*

*Minister Road*

*Secunderabad*

*500003*

Commercially used FDC with "Postage Due - Underpaid" marking of stamp issued honouring 'Uday Shankar', renowned dancer and choreographer, best known for creating a fusion style of dance, adapting European theatrical techniques to Indian classical dance, imbued with elements of Indian classical, folk, and tribal dance, which he later popularised in India, and abroad. He was a pioneer of modern dance