



KATHAK

Kathak is one of the eight classical dance forms of India and is a beautiful blend of storytelling, music, and dance. It originated in northern India, particularly in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan as a temple and village performance and evolved with the spread of the Bhakti movement.



► PERSIAN INFLUENCE



Folk plays known as rasleela combined the basic gestures of kathak storytelling with folk dance to portray the legends of Radha-Krishna, Epics of India and Puranas.

The dance form gained its present features and style in the Mughal court and became a major art form under the patronage of the last Nawab of Awadh, Wajid Ali Shah.



► PERCUSSIVE FOOTWORK (TATKAR)

Kathak dance is known for its intricate and fast footwork. The dancers use a variety of steps and rhythms to create a unique and beautiful dance form.

It uses a variety of percussion instruments, such as the tabla, pakhawaj, and manjira, to create complex rhythms.



The dancers wear ankle bells (ghungroos), which add to the rhythm of the dance.

► CHAKKAR

Kathak dance also includes fast and graceful spins, which are an essential element of the dance form.



The spins require a great deal of balance and control, and add to the beauty of the dance.

► STORY TELLING

The word "Kathak" is derived from the Sanskrit word "katha", which means story, and "kathaka", which means storyteller.



The dancers use facial expressions, hand gestures, and body movements to tell stories from Hindu mythology or depict scenes from everyday life.



► HAND GESTURES & FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

Kathak dance uses a lot of hand gestures or mudras to convey different emotions and meanings.



Along with hand gestures, Kathak dancers use facial expressions to convey emotions and expressions. This adds depth and meaning to the dance form.

► COSTUME

Kathak dancers wear traditional Indian attire, such as long flowing skirts (ghaghra), lehengacholi, or saris for women, and long kurtas and pyjamas for men.

The costumes are usually colorful and beautiful, adding to the visual appeal of the dance.



► MUSIC

Kathak dance is deeply rooted in Hindustani Music, and was initially influenced by Vedic Meter or "Chandas" and later evolved to adopt the medieval period's "Prabhand" music style.



During the early stages of evolution, Kathak also incorporated the singing styles of "Kirtanas" and "Drupad."

► **KATHAK CHRONICLES: UNVEILING TRIVIA**

There are three major styles of Kathak dance: the Lucknow style, the Jaipur style, and the Banaras style.

Famous Kathak dancers include Birju Maharaj, Shovana Narayan, and Pandit Chitresh Das.



In 2016, Kathak dance was added to the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.