



Kuchipudi

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Kuchipudi, one of the oldest dance forms of India, is now becoming obsolete among the younger generation. **Kuchipudi** is a **village** in the Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh.

- Kuchipudi is a **dance-drama performance**, which used to be confined to men in the olden days. It plays stories of **Hindu mythologies** and spreads its message among the people. **Kuchipudi is one of the 8 [classical dance](#) forms of India.**
- People learned this classical dance from generations through the **Guru-Shishya Parampara** tradition.
- Currently, this art form is in a declining-phase due to a **lack of patronage** from the government, also it **lost six gurus** in the pandemic years and **lack of future** for youths.
- Between 2014-18, the [Sangeet Natak Akademi](#) in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh State government has archived the audio, video and photos of **Kuchipudi Yakshaganam.**
- **Guru Pasumarthy Rattaiah Sarma**, a doyen of Yakshaganas, is the oldest Guru living in the Kuchipudi village.

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Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)

Origin

Originated in a village named **Krishna district** in Andhra Pradesh. **Siddhendra Yogi** systematized the **modern version in 17th century**. Lakshminarayan Shastri, in early 20th century, **brought in new practices** such as solo recitals and female participation. Predominance of **Shringaara ras**.
Theme: Secular

Instruments

- Mridangam



- Cymbal



- Violin or veena



Solo Performance

Manduka Shabdham: Story of frog maiden.
Tarangam: The dancer performs with his/her feet on the edges of a brass plate and balancing a pot of water on the head or a set of diyas.
Jala Chitra Nritya: Dancer draws pictures on the floor with his or her toes while dancing.

Group Performance

Involves **Nritta, Natya and Nritya**.
Kavutvams: Nritya (extensive acrobatics) and Nritta (pure dance)
Sollakath or Patakshara : Nritta part
Central Theme: Stories of **Bhagavat Purana**.
Dancers are known as **Bhagavathalus**. Both **Lasya and Tandava** elements are important.

Famous Proponents

- Radha Reddy
- Raja Reddy
- Yamini
- Krishnamurthy
- Indrani Rehman



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