



# Khajuraho Dance Festival Completes 50 Years

## Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated the **golden jubilee (50<sup>th</sup> edition)** event of [Khajuraho Dance Festival](#).

- On this occasion **1484 artists** set a new world record for **largest Kathak dance** performance with the most number of performers.

## Key Points

- The record setting (world record) performance of **'Kathak Kumbh'** at the famous world heritage site is the 3<sup>rd</sup> successive one after the Ujjain and Gwalior events, also recorded and recognised by the **Guinness World Record**.
  - In Ujjain 11 lakh 71 thousand and 78 diyas were lit.
  - While in Gwalior's Tansen Samaroh, a total number of 1600 tabla artists played in tandem during the Taal Darbar in [Gwalior Fort](#).
- The CM announced the setting up of the **country's first Gurukul for training tribal and folk arts in Khajuraho**
- The Khajuraho Dance Festival (KDF) is being **organized by the Cultural and Tourism Department** under the guidance of Principal Secretary Sheo Shekhar Shukla.
- KDF has chosen to dedicate the event to [Lord Natraj Mahadev](#), often referred to as the 'God of Dance'. This particular **Shiva avatar represents how dance is a sacred medium of direct contact with God**.
  - In the choreography of famous dance guru Rajendra Gangani, the artists from different cities of the state presented a mesmerizing performance in **Raag Basant**.
- All facilities will be made for aspirants training in traditional arts of tribal and rural communities with courses on teaching **specialised crafts, leadership, singing, music, painting, regional literature** with the help of senior experts and 'gurus' at the Gurukul.

## Khajuraho Dance Festival

- It was **started in 1975** and since then it has been successfully organised by Ustad **Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy under the Department of Culture**, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Since then, this dance ceremony has been held in the courtyard of well-known temples of Khajuraho.
- So far, young and senior artists of all the major classical dance styles of India like **Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Kathak, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Yakshagana, Manipuri etc.** have spread their aura in the Khajuraho Dance Festival.
- Through the festival, efforts have been made to innovate while maintaining the dignity of classical dance.

# Kathak (North India)

Derived from the word 'Kathika' (Story)

## Origins

- Ras Leela of Brajbhoomi
- Combined music, dance and the narrative
- Temple or village performance

The **Radha-Krishna theme** is immensely popular in Kathak

- Classical Dance: North India (Primarily Uttar Pradesh).
- The classical style of Kathak was revived by Lady Leela Sokhey in the twentieth century.
- Only style of classical dance associated with Hindustani or North Indian music.

## Performance

Recites verses from the epics, with gestures and music

The focus is more on footwork and movement of the legs. It puts more importance on expression and grace

Usually solo performances

## Elements of a Kathak recital

— Ananda	— Introductory item
— Thaata	— Soft and varied movements.
— Todas and Tukdas	— Small pieces of fast rhythm.
— Jugalbandi	— Competitive play between the dancer and the table player.
— Padhant	— Dancer recites complicated bols and demonstrates them.
— Tarana	— Pure rhythmic movements before the end.
— Kramalaya	— Concluding piece comprising of intricate
— Gat bhaav	— Dance without any music or chanting.

## Famous Proponents

Birju Maharaj

Lacchu Maharaj

Sitara Devi

Damayanti Joshi

## Instruments

- Tabla
- Pakhawaj
- Sarangi
- Sitar



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