

# KATHAK

## Syllabus for Kathak

Kathak is one of the main genres of ancient Indian classical dance and is traditionally regarded to have originated from the travelling bards of North India referred as Kathakars or storytellers. These Kathakars wandered around and communicated legendary stories via music, dance and songs quite like the early Greek theatre. The Kathakars communicate stories through rhythmic foot movements, hand gestures, facial expressions and eye work. This performing art that incorporates legends from ancient mythology and great Indian epics, especially from the life of Lord Krishna became quite popular in the courts of North Indian kingdoms. Kathak, is characterized by fast rhythmic footwork in complex time cycles. Movements include numerous pirouettes executed at different speeds and ending in statuesque poses. Although the interpretative portion derives its content from Hindu mythology but is also greatly influenced by Mughal period. There are three Gharanas (schools) of Kathak namely, the Jaipur Gharana, the Banaras Gharana and the Lucknow Gharana.

### Level 1

**Duration – 1 Year**

#### **Practical (Taal : Teen Taal – 16 Beats)**

- Tatkar- the basic footwork (Barabar, Dugun, Chaugun)
- Tatkaar Palta (4)
- Simple Tihayis with footwork (2)
- Using Hastas with Tatkar
- Sada Tukda (6)
- Rang Manch Pranaam
- Chakkardar Toda (2)
- Simple Aamad (1)
- One simple Thaot
- Kavitta (1)
- Simple Gat Nikas

- Asamyukta Hasta Mudras (32)
- Guru Vandana (1)
- Daily exercises compulsory

### Theory

- Kathak Nritya – An Introduction
- Names of the Classical Dances of India
- Difference between Classical & Folk Dance
- Definition of Matra, Laya, Sam, Khaali, Taali, Vibhaag, Aavartan
- Theka of Teen Taal
- Padhant (recitation) of all Bols

## Junior Diploma

### II Year : Practical & Theory

Revision of first year Course.

Daily Exercises.

Two Thaats.

Two Vandanas-One Ganapathi Vandana and One Saraswati Sloka

One Amad.

One Tatkar ki bol bani

Three Thihayi.

Two Natawari Tukdas and Two Sangeeth Tukdas

Four Gath Nikas and Gath Bhav; Bansuri ki Gath and Mukut ki Gath.

Parant showing rhythmic patterns-

- Origin of Dance.
- Types of Indian Classical Dance.
- The four Abhinayas
- Angika, Vachika, Aharya and Sathvika.
- Acquaintance with broad outline of the development of Kathak.

### II Year : Practical & Theory

1. Revision of First & second Year courses.

2. Daily exercises.

3. Tatkar ki bani-more complex ones

4. Chakkardar Tihayi

5. Four Paramelus and four Adilaya ki Tukdas.

6. Two Parans.

7. Gath Bhav-Ghungar, Matka and Savan.

8. Sangeeth Nritya and one Thumri.

9. Tarana in Teen Taal.

10. Knowledge of Taali, Khali, Sam, Palta and Chakkar.

11. Lives of eminent Kathak Gurus of Lucknow and Jaipur Gharanas.

12. Navaras theory of Bharathamuni

13. Hastas as in Kathak and Abhinaya Darpan of Nandikeshwara.

14. Glances, neck, foot and eyebrow movements.
15. The difference between Nritya, Nrithya and Abhinaya.

## Senior Diploma

### I Year : Practical & Theory

1. Revision of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year courses.
2. One simple Vandana.
3. One Thaata (Andaz).
4. Four Tukdas with Chakkars.
5. Two Sangeeth ka Tukdas.
6. Two Parans and Two Paramelus.
7. One Gath Bhav, Pangat and Krishna Maakhan Chori for boys.
8. Rudimentary idea about elaboration of Thaata.
9. Jhap Taal and Ek Taal.
10. Parahant of all the three Taals.
11. One Bhajan.

### Theory

1. Continuation of the use of Hastaas as prescribed in Abhinaya. Darpana and their distinctive use in Kathak.
2. Names and life sketches of eminent Kathak Gurus.

### II Year: Practical & Theory

1. Revision of first year courses.
2. Understanding of Jhap Taal/Dhamar and a few rhythmic patterns in these taals.
3. Tatkari ki ladi
4. Practice of a few different rhythmic patterns in footwork.
5. Parahant of all the Toda Tukdas learnt with Khali Theka.
6. Prabhand, Chaturang and Taalmala.
7. Recapitulation of the development of Kathak.
8. Broad outline of the development of Kathak.
9. Definition of the following:  
*Laya, Matra, Taal, Sam, Taali, Khali, Avartan, Tarkari and Palta*
10. Brief life sketches of Maharaj Bindadin, Kalka Prasad Maharaj, Achhan Maharaj, Lacchu Maharaj, Shambu Maharaj, Narain Prasad, Sunder Prasad, Kundalal Gangani, and Pandit Jailal, Briju Maharaj and Rajendra Gangani.