

# **Classical Indian Dance**

Mou Chakraborty and Malini Sarma



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- India gained independence from the British empire on 15th August 1947 after 200 years.
- India is divided into 28 states, 8 Union Territories: each with its own culture, language, even food.

### Eight forms of Classical Dances

Bharatanatyam	Tamil Nadu
Odissi	Odisha(Orissa)
Kathak	Uttar Pradesh (North India)
Kathakali	Kerala
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
Mohiniattyam	Kerala
Manipuri	Manipur
Sattriya	Assam

### Bharatanatyam

- From Tamil Nadu, a state in south India
  - BHava (expression) + RAga (musical mode) + TAla (rhythm)
- NATYAM (dance) = BHARATA NATYAM
- Traditionally performed by Devdasis (temple dancers)

### Mudras (Hastas)

- Hand gesture that symbolizes something
- Asamyukta Mudra- single handed, 28
- Samyukta Mudra- both handed, 24





Each hand gesture has many applications which are described in Sanskrit Slokas of the Natyashastra.

For ex. Tripataka used to represent a crown, tree, thunder, applying Tilak etc.

The interpretation of the gesture is based on the context in which it is used.

## Asamyukta (Single handed Mudras Sample)

<b>Pataka</b>		<b>Mushti</b>	
<b>Tripataka</b>		<b>Shikharam</b>	
<b>Ardhapataka</b>		<b>Kapittham</b>	
<b>Kartarimukham</b>		<b>Katakamukham</b>	
<b>Mayuram</b>		<b>Chandrakala</b>	
<b>Ardhachandra</b>		<b>Sarpashirasa</b>	
<b>Aralam</b>		<b>Alapadmam</b>	

## Samyukta (Double handed Mudras Sample)

<b>Anjali</b>		<b>Pushpaputa</b>	
<b>Kapotam</b>		<b>Garuda</b>	
<b>Kataka</b>		<b>Matsya</b>	
<b>Dola</b>		<b>Shivalinga</b>	





For more information on classes and workshops for Bharatanatyam please visit

**[malinisarma.com](http://malinisarma.com)**



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