



## Nritya Kalanidhi Award

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### Why in News

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Recently, **Bharatnatyam dancer Priyadarshini Govind** has been conferred with **Nritya Kalanidhi Award**.

The award has been presented by the **Madras Music Academy** for her performance and efforts to propagate the art form.



Bharatnatyam

- It is one among the **eight classical dances of India**.
- It was **conventionally** performed by **Devadasis** (girls offered to God in the temple) in Hindu Temples of South India. Thus, it is also known as '**Dasiattam**'.

- It was developed in **Tanjore** and other regions of South India **prominently Tamil Nadu**, and could possibly be the oldest classical dance form of India (around 2000 years old).
- The **Abhinaya Darpana** by **Nandikesvara** is one of the **main sources of textual material** for the study of the technique and grammar of body movement in Bharatnatyam Dance.
- Bharatnatyam dance is known to be **ekaharya**, where **one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance**.
- The dance involves transitional movements of the leg, hip and arm. **Expressive eye movements** and **hand gestures** are used to **convey emotions**. It encompasses of **Bhav, Rag, Ras and Taal**.
- The accompanying orchestra consists of a vocalist, a mridangam player, violinist or veena player, a flautist and a cymbal player. The person who conducts the dance recitation is the **Nattuvanar**.
- In its usual form, the dance is generally broken into **seven** main parts – Alarippu, Jatiswaran, Shabda, Varna, Pada, Thillana and Sloka.
- Bharatnatyam poses are depicted on the **gopurams of the Chidambaram temple (Tamil Nadu)**.
- **E. Krishna Iyer** and **Rukmini Devi Arundale** had played a significant role in helping the dance regain its lost popularity and position.