



## Sattriya Dance

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### Why in News

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Dance historian Dr. Sunil Kothari has recently been bestowed with the Madhabdev Award by the Government of Assam for popularising Sattriya dance.

Sattriya



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- **Origin**

Sattriya originated in **Sattra, monastery**, as a part of **neo-Vaishnavite movement** started by **Srimanta Sankardev in Assam**, in the **15<sup>th</sup> Century**. He propagated the “ek sharan naama dharma” (chanting the name of one God devotedly).

- **Classical Dance:** Sattriya was given the status of a classical dance in the year **2000 by the Sangeet Natak Akademi**. Other classical dances of India are : Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu), Kathakali (Kerala), Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh), Kathak (North India), Mohiniyattam (Kerala), Manipuri (Manipur) and Odissi (Odisha).

- **Features**

- Sattriya dances differ from other dance forms in **its basic stance**. For male it is known as **Purush Pak** while for female, **Prakriti Pak**. The dance is based on **mythological themes**.
- They have special mnemonic bols, typical **Assamese music known as Borgeet**, musical instruments like large cymbals, drums, colourful costumes, besides complicated choreographic patterns using various talas for each stanza sung by the vocalist.
- Corpus of Sattriya dances consists of ankiya **bhaona** and also Ojapali dances in which the main singer sings and enacts abhinaya, telling stories and a group of dancers dance as back up dancers playing small cymbals.

- **Two Separate Streams**

- One, the **Bhaona-related repertoire** starting from the Gayan-Bhayanar Nach to the Kharmanar Nach.
- Second, the dance numbers which are independent, such as Chali, Rajagharia Chali, Jhumura, Nadu Bhangi etc.

- **Popular Artists**

Guru Jatin Goswami and Sharodi Saikia among others.

**Source: TH**