Indian classical dance, or Shastriya Nritya, is an umbrella term for various performance arts rooted in religious Hindu musical theatre styles, whose theory and practice can be traced to the Sanskrit text Natya Shastra.The number of recognized classical dances range from eight to more, depending on the source and scholar.The Sangeet Natak Akademi recognizes eight – Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Kathakali, Sattriya, Manipuri and Mohiniyattam.[8] Scholars such as Drid Williams add Chhau, Yakshagana and Bhagavata Mela to the list.The Culture Ministry of the Government of India includes Chhau in its classical list. These dances are traditionally regional, all of them include music and recitation in local language or Sanskrit, and they represent a unity of core ideas in a diversity of styles, costumes and expression. Indian classical dance is made from India and classical dance is played by various actors.

Famous Classical Dances of India
State Uttar Pradesh

Dance Form : Kathak
About Kathak: The word Kathak is originated from the word Katha which means storytelling. Traditionally this dance was more religious in nature, typically narrating the stories of Radha and Krishna. The dancers dance to the rhythm of table or pakhawaj.

Image Source : Cultural India

Famous Classical Dances of India
State Odisha
Dance Form : Odissi
About Odissi: Performed by 'Maharis' or female temple servants, this dance form have a close association with the temples and temple sculptures. Odissi stands out from other forms of dances because of its Tribhangi posture, dealing with three body parts, i.e. head, bust, and torso.

Famous Classical Dances of India

State: Manipur

Dance Form : Manipuri

About Manipuri: Manipuri dance is one of the famous **dances of India**. The main characteristics of this dance are colorful decoration and costumes, charming music, gentle and swaying petal-soft foot movements and delicacy of performance. This traditional dance is mainly inspired by the rich culture of Manipur. For all the religious and other socio-cultural ceremonies, this dance is a must.

Famous Classical Dances of India

State : Assam

Dance Form : Sattriya

About Sattriya: When you are on your Assam tour, make it a point to watch this **traditional Indian dance**. It is an art which represents dance-drama performances with a unique combination of hand gestures, footwork, expressions, and body movements. Most of the themes of dance relate to Ram and Sita or Krishna and Radha. The main characteristics of Sattriya dances are rich and varied melodies, lyrics and rhythm.

Famous Classical Dances of India

Dance Form : Bharatnatyam

State: Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

About Bharatnatyam: This **Indian classical dance** tops the list of famous **dances of India**. The centuries old dance teachers and temple dancers hand over this beautiful dance form to us. It is a delightful combination of four elements i.e. expression, music, beats, and dance. The accompanying music in Bharatnatyam is classical Carnatic. The costumes are similar to Indian sarees with vibrant colours and made of Kanchipuram silk and Banaras silk.

Famous Classical Dances of India
Dance form Kathakali
State : Kerala
About Kathakali: Kathakali is another popular **Indian dance form**. Kathakali means story play; hence the stories of Ramayana and Mahabharata act as a source for a lot of performances. This form of dance is known for its heavy, intense makeup and costumes. The kind of character represents the facial makeup of dancers, like green color makeup is used for kings, heroes, and divinities; while black color is used for evil.

Famous Classical Dances of India
Dance form : Mohiniattam
State : Kerala
About Mohiniyattam: The word Mohiniattam derives its meaning from the word Mohini, which means beautiful women and attam which means dance. Thus this form of dance represents a beautiful feminine grace. These dances are based on love and emotion themes. The costume is off-white colour saree with rich gold borders. The musical instruments used are mridanga, veena, flute, etc

Famous Classical Dances of India
Dance form : Kuchipudi
State : Andhra Pradesh & Telengana
About Kuchipudi: This **traditional dances of India**, is a combination of speech, Abhinaya (mime) and pure dance. Kuchipudi performance is more like a dance drama where dancers play different roles based on the drama content. Carnatic music and vocalists accompany this **dance of Indian** culture.