



On the eve of India@70 Embassy of India in Denmark along with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India is proud to invite an 8 member Kathak Dance Group to Denmark from 17th to 20 August 2017. There shall be two performances on 18th August at the National Museum in Copenhagen and on 19th August at Aarhus.





Kathak is a classical dance form that prevails in the North of India. The word Kathak is derived from katha meaning "storytelling". Kathak means telling of a story in a dance form with song. The movements of hands (mudra) and body along with facial expressions (abhinaya) are used to tell a story with song and music. The Kathakars' knowledge - compositions and choreography - are passed on from generation to generation through oral tradition.

Between the 12th and the 18th century, Kathak was practised in the magnificent palaces of the Mughal emperors and even earlier in those of Hindu rulers. After being a totally devotional temple art, it had also become a court dance, intended to entertain those powerful rulers. It enriched itself by borrowing from Persian cultural elements and as such, the aesthetics of the dance evolved in accordance with the aesthetics of the Muslim culture too.

The current form of Kathak is linked to the Mughal era. During that period the facial expressions and gestures gained in subtlety. The artist was indeed able to express a theme in many different ways with a wide range of nuances. The aspect of pure dance (nritya) gained in sophistication and speed. The rhythm, movements and pirouettes became more complex. Kathak also became permeated with elegant Urdu poetry along with the poems in Braj. (One of the last Mughal emperors, Wajid Ali Shah himself composed songs on Krishna in Braj.)

Nowadays, Kathak is the only Indian classical dance form that presents a strong symbiosis of the Hindu and Muslim cultures. AV Dance Company Kathak Resonance is established by a well-known Kathak exponent Smt. Vidha Lal. Based in New Delhi, the dance company's main objective is to promote and propagate Indian classical dance forms and music by creating opportunities for the dedicated young and established artists to exhibit their art on national and international platforms, thus reaching out to larger



audiences. The company also has on its agenda holding seminars, lec-dems, dance festivals, producing films and documentaries etc. AV Dance Company Kathak Resonance has its own dance repertory that has been performing on many prestigious platforms around the globe. [Some videos](#), [videos 2](#)