



## Aarti Shankar



**AARTI SHANKAR** • Senior disciple of Guru Rajendra Gangani • Diploma in Kathak (Hons) from Kathak Kendra, New Delhi & Kathak Visharad from Rajasthan Sangeeth and Gandharva Mahavidyalaya • Participated in several national festivals such as Nritya Utsav 2010, Nrityanjali 2009, Samanvaya Dance program 2008, Commonwealth games, 2010; and international festivals such as World Performing Arts Festival, Pakistan 2007; ICCR tour in Germany, 2004, Dubai, Sharjah, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain 2003 • Founder of Nritya Kunj, a school of dance established in 2011, dedicated to preserving and spreading the richness of traditions of Kathak (Jaipur Gharana) in Hyderabad

**KATHAK** • Kathak is one of the 8 forms of Indian classical dance. It traces its origins to the nomadic bards of ancient northern India, known as Kathaakaars or storytellers. The name Kathak is derived from the Sanskrit word katha, which mean story and kathaakaar in Sanskrit means one who tells stories • 'Kathaa kahe so kathak' is a saying many teachers pass on to their pupils, which is translated as "she/he who tells a story, is Kathak" and it can also be translated as "that which tells a story, is kathak" • The form today contains traces of temple and ritual dances, and the influence of the Bhakti movement. From the 16th century onwards, it absorbed certain features of Persian dance and central Asian dance which were performed in the royal courts during the Mughal era.