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MANIPURI DANCE(MANIPUR)

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MANIPUR (BASANTI) RAAS LEELA

The *Manipuri Dance*, also referred to as the *Manipuri Raas Leela*, is one of the eight major <u>Indian classical dance</u> forms, originating in the state of <u>Manipur</u>. The dance form is is exclusively attached to the worship of Radha Krishna. It is a portrayal of the dance of divine love of Lord Krishna with Radha and the cowherd damsels of Vrindavan, famously known as the Raas Leela.

Music and instruments

The musical accompaniment for Manipuri dance comes from a percussion instrument called the PUNG (a barrel drum), a singer, small KARTALS (Cymbals), SEMBONG, harmonium, and wind instrument such as a flute.

COSTUMES

Female garments include

- CHOLI A velvet blouse adorns the upper part of the body. The choli is embellished with zari, silk or gota embroidery.
- GOPIS are dressed in red blouses, while Radha stands out in green. For PANGALS, the sleeves were extended to cover the arms.

They all wear anklets and foot ornaments that flow with the dress symmetry. The face is decorated with the sacred

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Gaudiya Vaishnava **TILAK** on the forehead and **GOPI DOTS** made of sandalwood above the eyebrows.

Male

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Characters dress in a **DHOTI** (also called *dhotra* or *dhora*) – a brilliantly coloured broadcloth pleated, wrapped and tied at waist and allowing complete freedom of movement for the legs.

Dancers wear a bright yellow-orange dhoti while playing Lord Krishna and a green/blue dhoti while playing Balaram.

A crown decorated with peacock feather adorns the dancer's head, who portrays Lord Krishna.

For Pangal dancers, the sleeves covered their arms.

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