

DEPARTMENT OF SANSKRIT

Dr. K. I. Treesa
Asst. Professor In Sanskrit

PERFORMING ARTS

- KOODIYATTAM
- CHAKYAR KOOTHU
- NANGIAR KOOTHU
- KRISHNANATTAM

KOODIYATTAM



Koodiyattam, also transliterated as Kutiyattam, is a traditional performing artform in the state of Kerala, India. It is a combination of ancient Sanskrit theatre with elements of Koothu, a Malayalam performing art which is as old as Sangam era. It is officially recognised by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Koodiyattam (Kutiyattam), meaning "combined acting" in [Malayalam](#), combines Sanskrit theatre performance with elements of traditional Koothu. It is traditionally performed in temple theatres known as *Koothambalams*. It is the only surviving art form that uses drama from ancient Sanskrit theatre. It has a documented history of a thousand years in Kerala, but its origins are unknown. Koodiyattam and Chakyar Koothu were among the dramatized dance worship services in the temples of ancient India, particularly Kerala.

Both Koodiyattam and Chakyar Koothu originated from ancient south Indian artform Koothu which is mentioned several times in ancient Sangam literature, and the epigraphs of the subsequent Pallava, [Pandiyan](#), Chera, and [Chola](#) periods. Inscriptions related to Koothu can be seen in temples at [Tanjore](#), Tiruvidaimaruthur, Vedaranyam, [Tiruvarur](#), and Omampuliyur. They were treated as an integral part of worship services, alongside the singing of Tevaram and Prabandam hymns.



MIZHAVU

Traditionally, the main musical instruments used in Koodi yattam are [mizhavu](#), [kuzhitalam](#), [edakka](#), [k urumkuzhal](#), and [sankhu](#). Mizhavu, the most prominent of these is a percussion instrument that is played by a person of the Ambalavas [Nambiar caste](#), accompanied by Nangyaramma playing the kuzhithalam (a type of cymbal).

CHAKYAR KOOTHU



Koothu is an art form in which the stories of Hindu mythology and epics are orally rendered primarily with the support of acting and hand gestures. In the olden days, it was confined to temple premises. Only the members of the Chakyar community performed this art form and hence the name Chakyar Koothu. This was performed in temple theatres called *Koothambalam*.

NANGIAR KOOOTHU



Nangyarkoothu, a classical art form of Kerala, is a popular temple art form of Kerala. The art form was performed by Nangyars, the female members of the Nambiar community and hence this name. This art form evolved from *Kutiyattam*, is performed by females only and the very same facial make up and costumes of the female characters of *Kutiyattam* are used for this too.

KRISHNANATTAM



The art form Krishnanattam (literally known as Dance of Krishna) was composed by King Manavedan of Kozhikode. King Manavedan wrote *Krishnageethi* based on the renowned poet Jayadeva's *Gitagovinda*. This work in Sanskrit presents the story of Lord Krishna and the art form Krishnanattam originated from this.

Krishnanattam combines artistic elements of *Ashtapadiyattam*, a dance form evolved in Kerala based on Jayadeva's *Gitagovinda*. (However, *Ashtapadiyattam* ceased to exist almost a century ago.)

In Krishnanattam the story of Krishna right from his birth to his ascent to heaven is presented in eight parts. In the olden days, it was performed in eight days. There is no dialogue. The actors render in accordance with the songs from background. Chengila, maddalam and Elathalam are the accompanying musical instruments. The make up and costumes are colourful and vibrant.



THANK YOU