**Kuchipudi**

Around the third decade of the 20th century, it emerged from an exquisite dance-drama of the same name. It gets its name from Kuchia/ Kuchiyaparam or Kuchiparamba village of Andhra.

**EVOLUTION**

Kuchipudi, a group of noble actors, initially performed it.

When "Dharmasangi" dance it began to be performed at temples as it was monopolised by rich families.

Later, it got popularised among female devadasis as well.

Vijayanagar and Golconda rulers patronised it.

Prior to being revived by Balakrishanan and Rajagopalan in the 20th century it was only available to devadasis.

**ELEMENTS**

- **Mandavi Shodhanam:** A song's story.
- **Partho Chitra Natya:** while dancing, actors are shown with feet on the floor.
- **Tiranagam:** Feet are balanced on the edge of a brass plate with a wet napkin balanced on the head.

**IMPORTANT FEATURES**

Stories of Bhagavataram became central theme of natyas, and the dancers came to be known as Bhagavatanas.

In this dance form, Sringara Rasas plays a predominant role.

Each character introduces itself with a "Srawa", which is a small composition of dance and song, for the revelation of each character.

The earthly elements in the human body are represented in Kuchipudi.

A Dance Drama performance, where both longing and desiring is done by a performer, may also be done.

Kama and Tendava are equally important.

Comedic music using Veena and Mridangam is played.

**FAMOUS PROONENTS**

- Rukmini Devi
- Latha Arun
- Ramkumar

*Visionias*