



# SAARTHI - सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल · Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

## नर्तक

A Dancer is a professional performing artist who uses body movement, posture, expression (bhava) and rhythm to convey stories, emotions and ideas to an audience. India offers many streams — classical forms like Kathak and...



### Scan for everything on this career

Salary, exams, colleges, the routes in and the steps after — all on the portal.

[career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/dancer](https://career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/dancer)

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Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jethantri · ब्लॉक समदड़ी · बालोतरा (Block Samdari · Balotra)

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#### सुशील कुमार शर्मा

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Principal, GSSS Jethantri · Master Trainer



#### श्री चेनाराम चौधरी

प्रधानाचार्य, डाइट बाड़मेर  
Principal, DIET Barmer



#### श्रीमती संघमित्रा

वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता, डाइट बाड़मेर (सहयोग)  
Sr. Lecturer, DIET Barmer (Support)



#### भरत चौधरी

अभिकल्पना व विकास · व्याख्याता (इतिहास)  
Designed & developed · Lecturer (History)

### विशेष धन्यवाद · SPECIAL THANKS



#### सुरेन्द्र सिंह राठौड़

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. कानाना



#### सुरेश कुमार सैन

व्याख्याता (भूगोल) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



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व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



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व्याख्याता (राजनीति विज्ञान) · रा.उ.मा.वि. टापरा

करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित  
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। · An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

## 1 About this career

A Dancer is a professional performing artist who uses body movement, posture, expression (bhava) and rhythm to convey stories, emotions and ideas to an audience. India offers many streams — classical forms like Kathak and Bharatanatyam, contemporary dance, Rajasthani folk traditions like Ghoomar and Kalbeliya, and film and stage dance. A dancer trains for years under a guru, then performs in stage recitals, dance dramas, festivals, films and cultural events, and often teaches the next generation. It is a career of discipline, dedication and love for art that brings recognition and self-expression.

## 2 At a glance

|                       |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minimum qualification | No formal degree mandatory; sustained training under a guru; a diploma/degree helps |
| Training duration     | 5–8+ years of intense practice (classical); lifelong practice                       |
| Starting salary       | ₹8,000–20,000/month (variable, per shows/classes)                                   |
| Work mode             | Freelance performing + teaching; some salaried academy/repertory posts              |

## 3 What you need

### INTERESTS

- Interest in expressing oneself through music, rhythm and movement
- Love for Indian classical and folk culture and tradition
- Enthusiasm for stage performance and connecting with an audience

### ABILITIES

- Physical flexibility, balance, stamina and good fitness
- A strong sense of rhythm, taal and musicality

- Expressiveness, memory and the capacity for disciplined practice

**KEY SKILLS**

- Mastery of technique and footwork in a form (Kathak, Bharatanatyam, contemporary or folk)
- Timing and coordination with taal, laya and music
- Stage presence, confidence and audience connect
- Self-promotion and branding via social media and video
- Abhinaya and bhava — conveying emotion through facial expression
- Learning, memorising and performing choreography
- Dance teaching and class-management skills

**4 How to get there**

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- 1 Choose a form early and begin regular training under a qualified guru or dance school.
- 2 Practise for years in the guru-shishya tradition; gain stage experience through your debut (arangetram/rang praves) and small events.
- 3 Optionally earn formal certification via a diploma/degree from Kathak Kendra, a university or academy.
- 4 Build recognition by performing at festivals, dance conclaves, cultural troupes and competitions.
- 5 Build a portfolio and social media, teach classes, and secure independent performances/assignments.
- 6 With experience, join a repertory/dance company, take a salaried academy post, or open your own dance school.

**MAIN EXAMS**

- Entrance and diploma exams of Kathak Kendra / national dance institutes (optional)

**5 Where to study**

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**GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES**

- जवाहर कला केंद्र (JKK), जयपुर — कथक व अन्य नृत्य कक्षाएँ — Jaipur, Rajasthan  
(<https://jkk.artandculture.rajasthan.gov.in/content/ArtandCulture/en/jawahar-kala-kendra.html>)

- राजस्थान संगीत नाटक अकादमी — Jodhpur, Rajasthan (<https://artandculture.rajasthan.gov.in/content/raj/art-and-culture/rajasthan-sangeet-natak-akadamy/en/home.html>)
- कथक केंद्र (राष्ट्रीय कथक नृत्य संस्थान), संगीत नाटक अकादमी — New Delhi (<https://www.kathakkendra.in/admission>)
- संगीत नाटक अकादमी (राष्ट्रीय संगीत, नृत्य व नाट्य अकादमी) — New Delhi / All-India (<https://www.sangeetnatak.gov.in/>)
- कलाक्षेत्र फ़ाउंडेशन (भरतनाट्यम व शास्त्रीय नृत्य) — Chennai (<https://kalakshetra.in/>)

#### PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- जयपुर संगीत महाविद्यालय — शास्त्रीय नृत्य कक्षाएँ — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.jaipursangeetmv.com/indian-classical-dance-classes-in-jaipur.html>)
- श्रीराम भारतीय कला केंद्र (SBKK) — New Delhi

#### ONLINE

- संगीत नाटक अकादमी — डिजिटल संसाधन व अभिलेखागार — Online (<https://www.sangeetnatak.gov.in/>)
- इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र (IGNCA) — नृत्य संसाधन — Online (<https://ignca.gov.in/>)

#### FEES

Local dance classes typically cost ₹500–3,000/month. Government institutes like Kathak Kendra charge very little (often a few hundred rupees a month) and offer scholarships to talented students. Reputed private academies and university degree/diploma programmes can cost ₹15,000–1,00,000 a year.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

- CCRT — युवा कलाकारों को छात्रवृत्ति (सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र) (<https://ccrtindia.gov.in/scholarship-fellowship/scheme-for-scholarships-to-young-artistes/>)
- संस्कृति मंत्रालय — विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्रों में युवा कलाकारों को छात्रवृत्ति (<https://www.indiaculture.gov.in/award-scholarships-young-artists-different-cultural-fields>)
- MyScheme — युवा कलाकार छात्रवृत्ति (ASYADCF) (<https://www.myscheme.gov.in/schemes/asyadcf>)
- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)

## 6 What the work is like

#### WHERE YOU WORK

Stages and auditoriums, dance festivals, film and TV sets, hotel and cultural-tourism shows, dance academies and schools, repertories and dance companies, and overseas tours.

**WORK CULTURE**

Hours are irregular — riyaaz/practice by day and performances in the evening/night. Income depends on shows, season and festivals, so many dancers balance it with teaching. Travel, hard physical discipline and constant practice are part of the profession.

**WHO HIRES**

- Dance academies, gurukuls and schools/colleges (as dance teachers)
- Film, TV, web and advertising industry (background and feature dancers)
- Event and wedding companies, dance festival and conclave organisers
- Government cultural bodies — Sangeet Natak Akademi, Kathak Kendra and state academy repertoires
- Hotels, resorts, cruises and cultural-tourism troupes (Ghoomar/Kalbeliya folk in Rajasthan)
- Independent dance companies and one's own dance school (self-employment)

**DEMAND (2026)**

India's rich classical and folk dance heritage, growing cultural tourism, film/TV/digital content and social media keep demand steady for skilled dancers and teachers. In Rajasthan, traditions like Ghoomar, Kalbeliya and Kathak provide ongoing opportunities in tourism and cultural events. However competition is high, and steady income usually means pairing performance with teaching.

## 7 Career growth

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- 1 Student / trainee dancer (under a guru)
- 2 Performing artist / repertory or group dancer
- 3 Solo artist and dance teacher
- 4 Senior guru / choreographer / founder of one's own dance school or company

**EARNINGS**

|              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Starting     | ₹8,000–20,000/माह     |
| Mid level    | ₹25,000–50,000/माह    |
| Senior level | ₹60,000–1,50,000+/माह |

Per Indeed, a dancer in India earns on average about ₹31,000/month, varying by city and experience (higher in Delhi). Income is highly variable and performance-based — modest at the start, but established soloists, renowned gurus and film/event dancers can earn much more. Most dancers stabilise income by combining performance with teaching.

## 8 The good parts · The challenges

### The good parts

- Self-expression and recognition through one's art and creativity
- Connection to a rich cultural heritage, plus travel and the joy of the stage
- Multiple income streams possible by combining performance with teaching

### The challenges

- Uncertain income dependent on shows/season; a struggle early on
- Demanding physical training; injury risk and a limited performing lifespan
- High competition and years of dedication needed to succeed

## 9 Real-life journeys

### Rajendra Gangani

**Eminent Jaipur gharana Kathak dancer and guru; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award winner**

Rooted in Rajasthan's Kathak tradition, Pandit Rajendra Gangani began training at just four years of age under his father and guru Pandit Kundanlal Gangani, and completed his training at Kathak Kendra, New Delhi. Celebrated for the crisp footwork and technical brilliance of the Jaipur gharana, he received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2003 from President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. He has choreographed many dance dramas and performed across India and abroad. His life shows how years of practice in the guru-shishya tradition can carry a humble start to national recognition and the top of classical dance.

Sangeet Natak Akademi · [https://sangeetnatak.gov.in/public/uploads/awardees/docs/R\\_K\\_Gangani.pdf](https://sangeetnatak.gov.in/public/uploads/awardees/docs/R_K_Gangani.pdf)

### Prerana Shrimali

**Senior Jaipur gharana Kathak dancer and guru; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award winner**

Born in Banswara, Rajasthan, Prerana Shrimali was initiated into Kathak by Guru Kundanlal Gangani in Jaipur and completed her education at Kathak Kendra, New Delhi, where she later served as a senior guru (2012–2017). A senior dancer of the Jaipur gharana, she was honoured with the central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2009 and the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1993. She founded her institute 'Kalaavart' in Jaipur and trained many disciples. Her journey inspires girls who wish to build a dedicated career in classical dance.

Sangeet Natak Akademi / Wikipedia · [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prerana\\_Shrimali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prerana_Shrimali)

## 10 If this route does not work out

One exam or one attempt does not close the door. The same subjects also open these routes — entry is usually easier, and you can return to this field later.

- Actor
- Singer
- Photographer

## 11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance — Dancer — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%a8%e0%a4%b0%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%a4%e0%a4%95-dancer/>
2. Sangeet Natak Akademi — national academy of music, dance & drama — <https://www.sangeetnatak.gov.in/>
3. Kathak Kendra (National Institute of Kathak Dance) — Admission — <https://www.kathakkendra.in/admission>
4. CCRT — Scheme for Scholarships to Young Artistes — <https://ccrtindia.gov.in/scholarship-fellowship/scheme-for-scholarships-to-young-artistes/>
5. Indeed — Dancer salary in India — <https://in.indeed.com/career/dancer/salaries>



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[career.gsssjethantri.in](https://career.gsssjethantri.in)