

Kathak Terminology and Definitions

Barabar

Single beat of time cycle contains single Bol of music or rhythm. There is one to one mapping.

Baant

It means sub division or distribution. For example, in Trital the Beat or Matra can be distributed and sub grouped into 3, 3, 2 or 2,3,3.

Bol

Words or syllables.

Chaugun

Four times the original tempo.

Dugun

Twice the original tempo.

Athgun

Eight times the original tempo.

Drut Laya

Fast tempo. Word fast is relative. It is double speed of Madhya Laya. Ginti is counting. In Tihai instead of Bol numbers are used.

Gat Nikas

A small dance piece danced to only basic Theka and Lahera without any dance Bols. Gat Nikas focuses on various types of Gaits.

Khali

Beats or the beginning of the subdivision of Tal is shown by waving of the palm.

Laya

Tempo. Pulse. Pace or duration between two beats determines Laya. It is also rate of speed of work (rhythm or music) in relation to underlying Taal. So, it is both – Tempo of Taal and rate of flow of the phrases.

Lahera

A melodic pattern played on an instrument representic Taal cycle as an accompaniment.

Lasya

Soft, graceful, feminine dance. It is dance of Goddess Parvati
Madhya Laya: Medium tempo.

Matra

Beat. A basic unit of time measure. To measure Taal cycle.

Mudra or Hastas

hand gestures.

Sam

The first beat of a Taal cycle.

Tandava

Dance of Shiva, a forceful, vigorous dance.

Tihai

A rhythmic phrase repeated three times succession and ends on Sam.

Tali

Beats or the beginning of subdivisions of Taal shown with clap.

Theka

It is basic execution of any Taal on drum.

Tatkar

Footwork. Rhythmic interplay.

Toda, Tukra

A small technical dance composition which ends on Sam. It can be in any Taal.

Toda is used as a general term for variety of special compositions like Paran, Amad etc.

Vibhag

A group of Matra-s subdividing Taal cycle.

Vilambit Laya

Slow tempo.