



**JITENDRA MAHARAJ**  
Akademi Award: Kathak Dance

Born on 9 September 1945, at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Jitendra Maharaj received his training in Kathak dance under Shri Krishna Kumar Maharaj of Varanasi gharana.

Shri Jitendra Maharaj has distinguished himself both as a Kathak dancer and teacher. He has won particular acclaim for his choreographic work on the mythological stories in collaboration with Dhrupad compositions. He has performed extensively at various festivals and has also conducted workshops and lecture demonstrations in India and abroad including the Kailash Mansarovar in 2003 setting the world record dancing at 18,000 feet altitude. He is a Visiting Professor in the University of Europe and Maharishi

Centers. Shri Jitendra Maharaj also has worked on fitness, yoga and music-dance therapy; and authored books on spiritualism in dance and relation of dance with yoga.

He has assisted his guru for choreography in the film "Prem Rog" produced by Raj Kapoor. He established the Sangeetika, an institute for Kathak Dance in Delhi in 1970 and trained many young dancers.

For his service to dance, Shri Jitendra Maharaj has been honoured with the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1996), the Indira Priyadarshini Award (1998) and the Nadbrahma Shiromani (2005).

Shri Jitendra Maharaj receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Kathak dance.