



**RANJANA GAUHAR**  
**Akademi Award: Odissi**

*Born in 1949 in Delhi, Shrimati Ranjana Gauhar initially trained as a painter at the Delhi's College of Art. Subsequently, she was introduced to Odissi dance and was trained in the art under Shrimati Aloka Paniker and Guru Mayadhar Rout at Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra in the city. Shrimati Gauhar also learned Manipuri dance from Shri Singhjit Singh and Kathak from Shrimati Maya Rao. She was also associated with the theatre group Abhiyan and acted in lead roles in several productions of the company.*

*Over the years, Shrimati Ranjana Gauhar has established herself as a leading performer of Odissi dance and has presented recitals in major dance festivals both in India and abroad. She has authored books including Odissi: the Dance Divine, which explores the evolution and aesthetics of Odissi dance. She has also produced documentary films on the subject.*

*Shrimati Gauhar is the recipient of many awards including the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award, the Mahari Award of Orissa (2007), and the Padma Shri (2003). She has established the dance institution Utsav, Ranjana's Dance Academy, where she is imparting training to young dancers.*

*Shrimati Ranjana Gauhar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Odissi dance.*