



RAJKUMAR SINGHAJIT SINGH
Fellowship of Sangeet Natak Akademi

Born on 3 November 1932 in Imphal into a family of dancers and musicians, Rajkumar Singhajit Singh was initiated into the traditional arts of Manipur first as a student of Pung, the Manipuri Mridanga, under Ojha Hanglem Iboton Singh. He went on to specialize in Manipuri dance under the renowned guru Amubi Singh, and also obtained proficiency in Kartal Cholom under Guru Thanjam Chaoba Singh.

Shri Singhajit Singh moved to Delhi in the 1960s, teaching Manipuri dance at the Triveni Kala Sangam and leading its dance repertory. In 1998, he established his own institution in the Capital, the Manipuri Nrityashram, where he continues to impart training in Manipuri dance. Several of his students have made a name for themselves at the national and international level.

Shri Singhajit Singh has distinguished himself both as an outstanding performer and choreographer. His work over the years bears witness to his creativity within the framework of traditional Manipuri dance. His choreography has been enriched by elements incorporated from various forms of performance of Manipur such as Thang-ta, Nata-sankirtana, Lai-haraoba and Rasleela. Shri Singhajit Singh has performed around the world, participating in national and international festivals together with his wife Shrimati Charu Sija Mathur, herself an Award-winner of Sangeet Natak Akademi. He has also conducted lecture-demonstrations to promote appreciation of Manipuri dance and authored an introductory book on the subject.

For his service to Manipuri dance, Shri Singhajit Singh has been honoured with the Manipuri Sahitya Parishad Award (1975), the Sahitya Kala Parishad Samman (1975), the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1984), the Padma Shri (1986), the Fellowship of the Manipur State Kala Akademi (1995), and the Kalidas Samman (2004).

Rajkumar Singhajit Singh is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to Indian dance.