

Pandit Chatur Lal

Prelims - Current events of national importance

Mains - Indian culture | Indian Music Heritage

Why in News?

The Department of Posts, Government of India, will release a commemorative stamp to honour Pandit Chatur Lal in his centenary year celebrations.

- He was the **1st Indian percussionist to introduce tabla to the West** in the 1950s.
- **Born in** - Udaipur.
- Chatur Lal came from a family of court musicians and farmers.
- **Musical Career** - He learned tabla under the aegis of Ustad Abdul Hafiz Ahmed Khan, who trained from Jehangir Khan, the court musician of Indore who had trained in the **Farukhabad and Lucknow styles**.
- He played a crucial role in connecting Indian classical rhythms with Western music, paving the way for subsequent **Indo-jazz ensembles such as Shakti**.
- In 1952, Menuhin (American-born British violinist) visited India experienced a private concert featuring Shankar and Chatur Lal, which profoundly impacted him.
- **Awards** - He was the first Indian percussionist to be nominated at the Oscars in 1957 for his work in the Canadian short film **A Chairy Tale**.
- He was honoured with a **Special BAFTA Award**.
- **Passed away in** - 1965.

Reference

[The Indian Express | Pandit Chatur Lal](#)