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