



Pandit Jasraj

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Why in News

Recently **Pandit Jasraj**, one of the world's most prominent **Indian classical** vocalists, passed away.



Key Points

- Pandit Jasraj was associated with **Mewati gharana** of music.
- He is known for his unconventional mixing of **khayal** with elements of **bhakti rasa**, employing *harkats* and *murkis* that were traditionally used in light classical music.
Khayal is a **musical** form based on the elaboration of a Raga with lyrical composition consisting of two stanzas.
- He also performed semi-classical old musical forms such as the **Haveli sangeet**.
Haveli Sangeet are performances are held in temples and the compositions are sung in praise of **Lord Krishna**.
- He created a unique form of jugalbandi called **Jasrangi**, in which a male and a female singer sing different ragas in their respective scales to merge their individual displays into one unified performance.
- He is the recipient of numerous awards, honours, and titles, including the prestigious **Padma Vibhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**.
- Recently, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) **named an asteroid after him**, formally known as **2006 VP32**, as **Panditjasraj**.
He was the **first Indian musician** to receive this honour.

Gharana

- Gharana in **Hindustani music of India**, is a community of performers who share a **distinctive musical style** that traces to a **particular instructor or region or ancestry**.
- It includes not only peculiarities of **performance** and **repertoire** but also a broader **ideology of music, aesthetics, and pedagogy**.
- The style must be passed down through **at least three generations** before it and its practitioners may be considered a *gharana*.
- *Gharanas exist* for both **vocal** and **instrumental** traditions as well as for **dance**.
- The gharana concept gained currency only in the nineteenth century when the **royal patronage** enjoyed by performers **weakened**. Performers were then compelled to move to urban centres. To retain their respective identities, they associated themselves with the names of the regions they hailed from.
- Some of the gharanas well known for **singing are** : Agra, Gwalior, Mewati, Bhendibazar, Jaipur (*Khyal* Singing); Mathura, Rampur, Darbhanga (***Dhrupad*** Singing); Banaras, Lucknow, Patiala (*Thumri* Singing).

Source: TH