



Tomb of Tansen

Why in News?

The **Madhya Pradesh High Court** dismissed a plea to allow religious and cultural activities at **Hazrat Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus's tomb in Gwalior**, stressing the need to protect the monument.

- The **grave of Tansen**, the legendary musician of Emperor Akbar's court, **is located on the premises of the monument**.

Key Points

- **High Court's Observation:**
 - The Madhya Pradesh High Court reaffirmed that the **tomb housing both Tansen and Hazrat Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus (a revered Sufi saint)**, is a protected monument of national importance under the [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958](#).
 - The court stressed that the [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) and district administration are responsible for maintaining the site's integrity.
- **About the Tomb:**
 - The tomb was **constructed after the death of Sufi saint Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus** and stands as one of the most remarkable monuments from Emperor Akbar's reign (1556-1605).
 - The tomb anticipates several features that later became common in **Mughal architecture**, particularly in eastern India.



- The tomb has a square layout with a large, squat dome and flanking chhatris, giving it a layered, multi-tiered look.
- A veranda surrounds the central chamber, adorned with finely carved stone jalis (screens), reflecting the architectural influence of Gujarat.
- The design elements of this tomb influenced later Mughal-era structures, including the renowned tomb of [Shaikh Salim Chishti at Fatehpur Sikri](#).
- **About Tansen:**
 - Tansen was **born around 1500 CE, in Gwalior**, Madhya Pradesh. He later became one of the **most influential figures in North Indian classical music**.
 - Sufi tradition describes Tansen as a **disciple of Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus**.
 - He earned fame for his **dhrupad compositions** and **mastery over ragas**, which are melodic frameworks designed to evoke specific moods or elements of nature.
 - Legends claim his singing could perform miracles—such as calming wild animals, mimicking natural sounds like birds and lions, and even altering the time of day.
 - Tansen **joined the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar**, who deeply valued artistic talent and patronised many great minds of the era.
 - He was among the **celebrated navratnas or “nine gems” of Akbar’s court**, a group of distinguished scholars and artists.
 - In recognition of his exceptional musical talent, Akbar bestowed upon him the **title Mian, meaning “Master.”**
 - Tansen **died around 1586 or 1589 and was buried in Gwalior**.

Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958

- The aim of the act is to protect and preserve ancient monuments for future generations.
 - It applies to **monuments over 100 years old in public or private ownership**.
- **Prohibits construction or alteration around ancient monuments** without National Monuments Authority (NMA) approval.
 - **NMA established in accordance with the AMASR Act** is responsible for the conservation and preservation of monuments and sites (and banned/restricted areas surrounding centrally designated monuments).
 - NMA is responsible for implementing the AMASR Act and granting permission for construction or developmental activity within protected and regulated areas.
- The **protected area is a 100-metre radius around the monument**, with a regulated area extending up to 200 metres beyond that.
 - Current restrictions prohibit construction within 100-metre radius of protected monuments and have strict regulations for permits in an additional 200-metre radius.

