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Who is Ustad Bismillah Khan & Why is He on Today's Google Doodle?

To honor one of the greatest shehnai player of his time, Google India has payed tribute to Qamaruddin Khan, popularly known as Ustad Bismillah Khan, by creating Google Doodle on 21st March 2018. Ustad Bismillah Khan is mainly known for his contribution in Indian Music through his shehnai. Google often releases image of various personalities in gif or an interactive animation, which is known as 'Google Doodles', to pay them homage. These Google Doodles are designed by the various artists to acquaint/familiarize you with the life of important personalities. This knowledge will help you in the preparation of General Awareness & General Knowledge section for various Government exams like IBPS Clerk, SSC CHSL, SSC CGL, etc. So here's all you need to know about Kamala Das to score in your exam!

Ustad Bismillah Khan - An Introduction

Bismillah Khan, who is popularly known as Ustad, was born on 21st March 1916. Today, i.e. 21st March 2018 marks his 102nd Birth Anniversary. A perfect occasion for a Google Doodle. When Ustad was born, he was named as Qamaruddin Khan, but his Grandfather exclaimed by saying, "Bismillah!", therefore, he was called Bismillah all his life.

Personal Life of Ustad Bismillah Khan

- Ustad Bismillah Khan comes from a family of musicians.
- He was born in Dumrao, Bihar, where his father was a shehnai player at the court of the King of Dumrao.





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- When Bismillah Khan turned six, the family moved to Varanasi where Khan now took training under his Uncle, Ali Baksh 'Vilayatu'.
- Khan was a pious Muslim, though all his life he remained as a peaceful symbol for communal harmony, playing shehnai at various temples as well as dargahs.

Excerpts of the Career of Ustad Bismillah Khan

- Ustad Bismillah Khan was the first one to bring the instrument 'shehnai' from the courts to the concerts.
- With his exceptional talent for shehnai, he had complete monopoly over the instrument.
- He began his concerting journey from his concert in the Calcutta All India Music Conference in 1937.
- He also had this rare opportunity of playing the shehnai while India got its Independence on 15th August 1947.
- Ustad also played his shehnai on the Red Fort during India's Republic Day, when the Prime Minister gives his speech.
- This tradition was started from the time of Nehru, until Khan's death.
- Apart from the concerts in India, Ustad Bismillah Khan also performed at various International events.
- He also called his shehai "Begum", wife in Urdu!

Ustad Bismillah Khan - Awards

- He was awarded with the Sangeet Natak Academy award in 1956.
- Followed by the Padma Shri in 1961, Padma Bhushan in 1968 & Padma Vibushan in 1980.
- He was awarded with Talar Mausique from Republic of Iran in the year 1992.



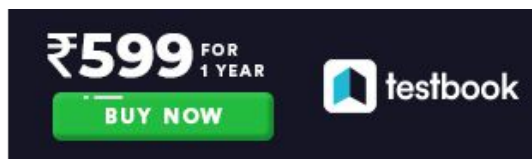
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- Finally, he was honoured with the Bharat Ratna in the year 2001.

Ustad Bismillah Khan died due to a cardiac arrest on 21st August 2006. He loved his shehnai so much that after he died, his shehnai was buried with him. Such was the passion for the instrument.

This Google Doodle on Ustad Bismillah Khan is illustrated by - Chennai-based illustrator Vijay Krish.

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