



Tabla Maestro Zakir Hussain

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Why in News?

Recently, **Zakir Hussain**, the legendary **tabla maestro**, passed away due to complications from **Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)**.

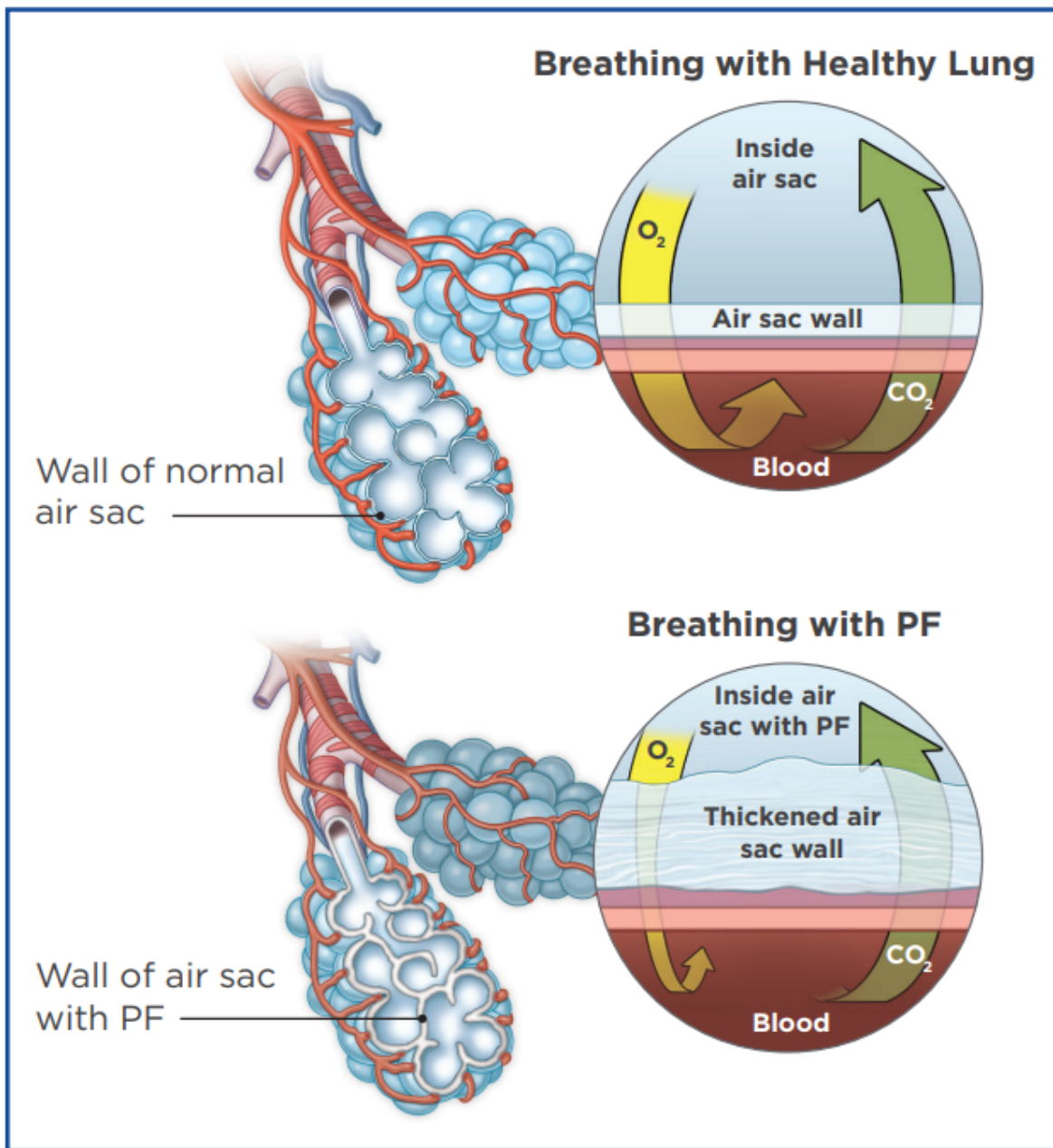
What are Key Points about Zakir Hussain?

- **Early Life:** Zakir Hussain, born on **9th March 1951**, was the son of the legendary tabla maestro **Ustad Alla Rakha**.
 - He began his tabla training at the **age of seven**.
- **Contributions:** His collaboration with Western musicians, especially the **1973 project** with **English guitarist John McLaughlin, violinist L. Shankar, and percussionist T.H. 'Vikku' Vinayakram**, brought Indian classical music to the global stage.
- **Awards:** He won **four Grammy Awards**, including three at the **66th Grammy Awards in 2024**. He also received **Padma Shri (1988), Padma Bhushan (2002), and Padma Vibhushan (2023)**.

What is Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)?

- **About:** IPF is a **chronic lung disease** which causes the **air sacs** in the lungs to become **scarred and fibrous**, disrupting their ability to exchange oxygen efficiently.
 - The **tissues around alveoli** in the lungs become **thick and stiff**.
 - Alveoli are **small air sacs** at the end of **bronchioles** that **exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide** with the bloodstream.
- **Cause:** The exact cause of IPF is **unknown**, hence the term "idiopathic" which means **unexplained**.
- **Risk Factors:** IPF is more **common in males** and in **current or former smokers**. It most commonly affects **adults over the age of 50**.
 - Other risk factors include **genetic factors**, exposures such as cigarette smoking, and viral infections.

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Tabla

- **About:** The **Tabla** is a pair of **vertical drums** used in **Hindustani classical music**, consisting of two vertical drums: the **Tabla** (right) and the **Bayan** or **Dagga** (left).
 - Tabla is a **percussion instrument** called **awanad/avanaddha vadya**.
 - **Amir Khusrau** is believed to have **invented Tabla**.
- **Making of Tabla:** The **Tabla** has a **wooden body** covered with **animal skin**.
 - The center of the Tabla's skin is covered with **syahi paste**, which helps in tuning the drum.
 - The **Bayan** has a **clay or metal body** and is also covered with **animal skin with syahi paste**.
- **Musical Role:** The Tabla is primarily used as an **accompaniment** to **vocal** and **instrumental Hindustani music** as well as various **dance forms** in northern India.
- **Prominent Musicians:** Famous tabla players include **Ustad Alla Rakha Khan**, his son **Zakir Hussain**, **Shafat Ahmed**, and **Samta Prasad**.

Prelims

Q. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements: (2017)

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

Ans: (b)

Q. A community of people called Manganiyars is well known for their (2014)

- (a) martial arts in North-East India
(b) musical tradition in North-West India
(c) classical vocal music in South India
(d) pietra dura tradition in Central India

Ans: (b)