



He was a rare phenomenon in an art which prides itself on being deep and dense — an aam admi's classical singer. Even those who did not understand the masterly sweep of his Miyan ki Malhar knew Pandit Bhimsen Joshi (Feb 4, 1922-Jan 24, 2011) and his awesome voice. For many, he was Hindustani classical music. Panditji (seen here performing at The Times of India's sesquicentennial celebrations in 1988) ruled the concert stage for six decades. In the words of Pandit Jasraj, he was a *chamukha gayak*: a man who revelled in a bhajan or a khayal with equal verve and joy. Few

anthems have the pulling power of his Mile Sur Mera Tumhara. He passed away on Monday in Pune, the last colossus of the Kirana gharana **AN APPRECIATION** Pandit Jasraj, Ustad Rashid Khan & others pay tribute