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III. Answer these questions in 30–40 words.

1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?

Answer:

Aurangzeb banned the playing of musical instrument pungi because it had a shrill, unpleasant sound.

2. How is a shehnai different from a pungi?

Answer:

Shehnai has a better tonal quality than pungi. It is a natural hollow stem pipe with holes on its body and is longer and broader than the pungi. Shehnai is, in a way, an improvement upon the pungi.

3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Answer:

The shehnai was traditionally played in royal courts, temples and weddings. Ustad Bismillah Khan, an undisputed monarch of shehnai brought this instrument onto the classical stage.

4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

Answer:

Bismillah Khan got his big break in 1938. The All India Radio opened in Lucknow and Bismillah Khan played shehnai on radio. He soon became an often heard player on radio. He became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai from the Red Fort on 15 August, 1947.

5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947?

Why was the event historic?

Answer:

On 15 August 1947, Bismillah Khan played the Raag Kaafi on his shehnai from the Red Fort. The event was historical because it was on the occasion of India's Independence from British Rule.

6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

Answer:

Bismillah Khan refused one of his student's request to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A. because he would not live away from Hindustan, specifically, from Benaras, the River Ganga and Dumraon.

7. Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Answer:

The first instance is when he turned down his student's offer to start a shehnai school in U.S.A. The second instance is when Khansaab was asked by Shekhar Gupta about moving to Pakistan during the partition, he said that he would never leave Benaras.

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