

Where did shehnai get its due place and why?

Ans. Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of a musical instrument called pungi because of its shrill unpleasant sound. A member of a family of professional musicians decided to improve its tonal quality. He chose a natural hollow stem that was long and broad and made seven holes on the body of the pipe.

When he played on it, closing and opening some of these holes, soft and melodious sounds were produced. He played

the instrument before royalty and everyone was impressed. The ~~first~~ instrument was named as shehnai, as it was played in the shahi chambers and played by a na.

2. Despite being successful why did Bismillah Khan not take to the celluloid world?

Ans. Film director Vijay Bhatt named a film ^(Guru) ~~with~~ ^{after} the name of the instrument and it was a hit and one of Bismillah Khan's composition, "Di ku khilana hai toot gaya...", turned out to be a chartbuster. Despite this huge success Bismillah Khan didn't take to the celluloid world because he said he was unable to come to terms with the artificiality and glamour of the film world. Secondly he believed in simplicity and had ~~higher~~ higher level of thought.

3. What was the reaction of the Ustad after getting the Bharat Ratna award?

Ans. In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded India's highest civilian award the Bharat Ratna. With the coveted award resting on his chest and his eyes glistening with sheer happiness he said "All I would like to say is: Teach your children music, this is Hindustan's richest tradition; even the West is now coming to learn our music."

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7. Why and how Bismillah, a perfect example of India's cultural heritage?

Ans. Bismillah Khan is a perfect example of the rich cultural heritage of India one that effort lessely accept that a devout Muslim like him can play the shehnai every morning at Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

Value Based Question: (1)

1. Naming of the shehnai has a story behind it. What values are associated with the meaning?

Ans. Every object or thing has some significance and a story. The shehnai has a story associated to its origin of its name. The emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of a musical instrument called pungi in the royal residence because it had a shrill and unpleasant sound. It became the generic name for needed noise makers. A barber of a family of professional musicians decided to improve the tonal quality of the pungi. He chose a pipe with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the pungi and made seven holes on the body of the pipe. When he played on it closing and opening some of these holes, soft and melodious sounds were produced. He played the instrument before royalty and everyone was impressed. The instrument so different from the pungi had to be given a new name. Since it was first played in the shah's chambers and was played by a nai (barber) the instrument was named as shehnai.

2. Justify Bismillah Khan as a true Indian.

Ans. Despite being a staunch muslim Mr. Khan used to play shehnai in temples. Out of his immense love for his country he was very popular and fondly called Khan Shāheb and he received the highest civilian award i.e. the Bharat Ratna in 2001. Although being a muslim he is considered to be a perfect example of the rich cultural heritage of India. He was a true Indian and a shehnai maestro.

For Khan Shāheb, Benaras and Dumraon remain the most wonderful towns of the world. A student of his wanted to start a shehnai school in USA and also insisted to ~~create~~ recreate the atmosphere of a sacred temple. But Khan Shāheb didn't go rather he asked him if he could transport river ganga as well. He just ~~yearns~~ yearns to see India while in a foreign country.

and the holy ganga while in Benaras. While in Mumbai, he yearns to see Benaras, he misses the unique Matha of dumraon. These various qualities of Bismillah Khan describe him as a true Indian. His philosophy that simplicity is upstome of Indian civilisation is apt and authentic to a great extent.