

Thinking about the tests

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II) Why did Aurangzeb ban pungi?

A) Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi because of the shrill unpleasant sound of the instrument.

2) How is a shehnai different from a pungi?

A) Shehnai's stem is hollow, longer and broader than that of a pungi. Shehnai has holes in its body.

3) Where was the Shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

A) Traditionally, Shehnai was a part of the nautah or traditional ensemble of nine instruments found at royal courts. It was played in temple and at marriages. Bismillah Khan took it onto the stage.

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

A) Bismillah Khan got his break with the opening of all India Radio in Lucknow in 1938. He became an often heard shehnai player on radio.

5) Where did Bismillah Khan play shehnai on 15 Aug 1947? Why was the event historical?

A) Bismillah Khan played the shehnai from the red fort on 15th Aug 1947. He was the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai. The event was historical because that is the day when India got independence. Bismillah Khan played Raag Hafiz to an audience that include paradi Jee arhal rehru.

6) Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the USA?

A) Bismillah Khan refused to start a shehnai school in the USA because he didn't want to leave his country. He felt an unbreakable bond with his town's Dargah and Benaras, and with river Ganga.

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

A) Two instances in the text which tell us that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras are:

2) He says that whenever he is in a foreign

Country, he weeps, yearning
to see Hindustan.

While also says that when
it is in my opinion he thinks
of only Bharat and
the holy Ganga.