

The Shehnai of Bismila Khan.

Thinking about the text

III Answer these questions in 30-40 words.

1. Ans. Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi because it had a shrill and unpleasant sound.

2. Ans. A shehnai is a pipe with a natural hollow that is longer and broader than a pungi. It has seven holes on the body of the pipe.

3. Ans. The Shehnai was played traditionally in the temple at the royal courts and on the occasion of weddings. The credit must go to Bismila Khan to take this instrument onto the classical stage.

4. Ans. Bismila Khan got his big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938.

5. Ans. Bismila Khan played the Shehnai on 15 August 1947 at the Red Fort. He was the first Indian to greet the nation with his musical instrument. This event was historic because we got independence on that day. He poured his heart out in the presence of a large no. of people including Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

6. Ans. He refused to start a Shehnai school in the USA because he never wanted to leave India. He loved India so much and he did not want to settle anywhere except India. That is why whenever he was in foreign country, he kept yearning to see Hindustan.

7. Ans. Bismila Khan loves India and Banaras the sound of music from the bottom of his heart. He says that he misses the holy Ganga and India when he goes abroad. While in

Mumbai, he thinks of only Banaras and the holy river. And when he is in Benaras, he remembers the unique mattha of Dumraon.

Thinking About Language

1. Complete the following sentences with a to-verb.

1. The school sports team hopes to win.

2. We all want to succeed.

3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to take her to a specialist.

4. The authorities permitted us to play.

5. A musician decided to play a new Raga.

I Find the words/Phrases

1. the home of royal people - Royal Residence
2. the state of being alone - Solitude
3. A part which is absolutely necessary - an indispensable component
4. to do something not done before - improvise
5. without much effort - effortlessly
6. quickly and in large quantities - thick and fast

II Tick the right answer.

1. When something is revived, it (remains dead / lives again)
2. when a govt. bans something, it wants it (stopped / started)
3. when something is considered

auspicious, (welcome it / avoid it)

4. When we take to something, we find it (boring / interesting)

5. When you appreciate something, you (find it good and useful / find it of no use).

6. When you replicate something, you do it (for the first time / for the second time)

7. When we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting / no longer upsetting).