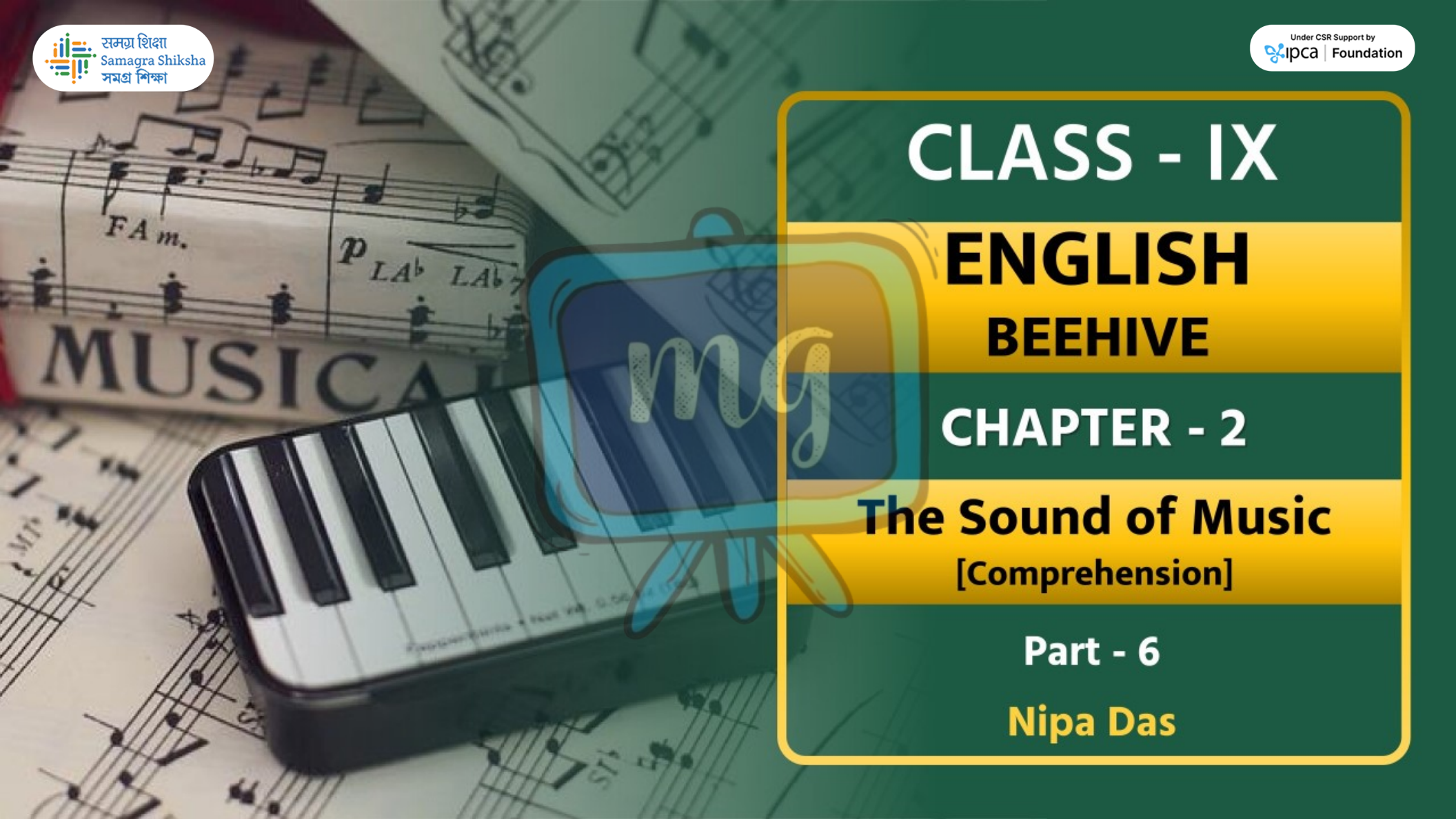

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CLASS - IX
ENGLISH
BEEHIVE
CHAPTER - 2
The Sound of Music
[Comprehension]
Part - 6
Nipa Das

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COMPREHENSION CHECK

I. Tick the right answer.

Q.1 The (shehnai, pungi) was a 'reeded noisemaker.'

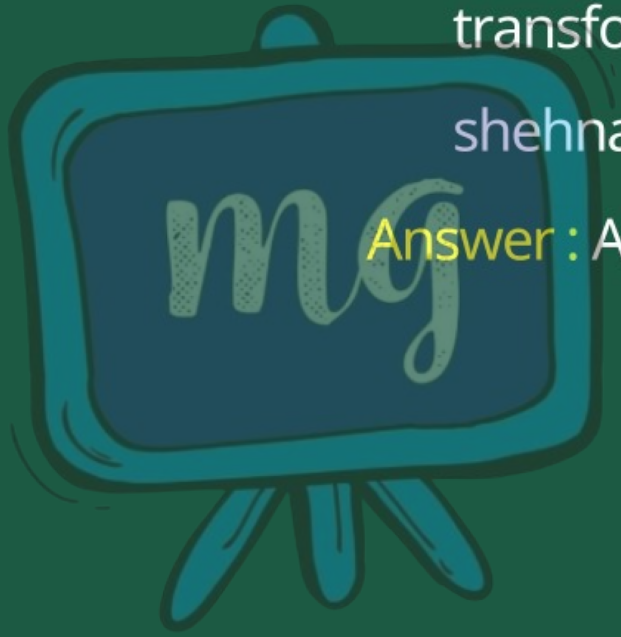
Answer : Pungi

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Q.2 (Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai.

Answer : A barber

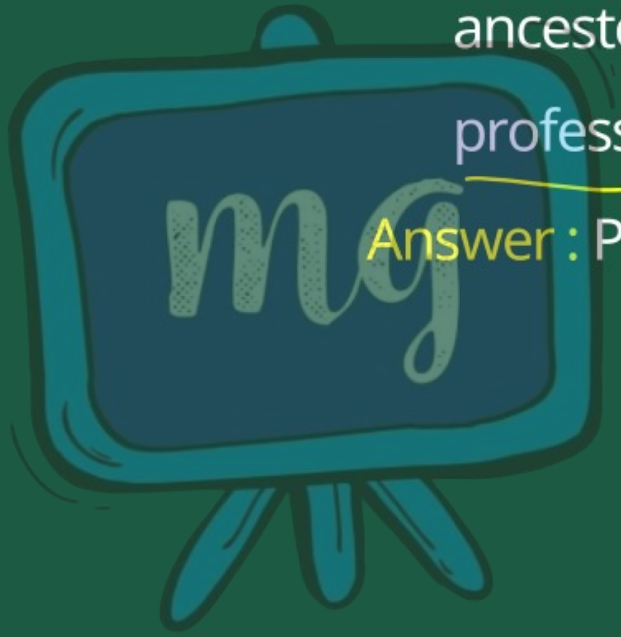


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Q.3 Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).

Answer : Professional musicians

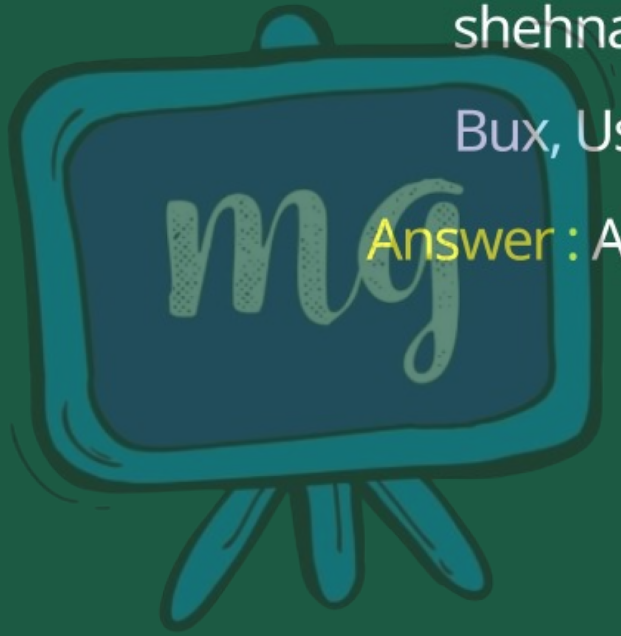


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Q.4 Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaaz Khan).

Answer : Ali Bux

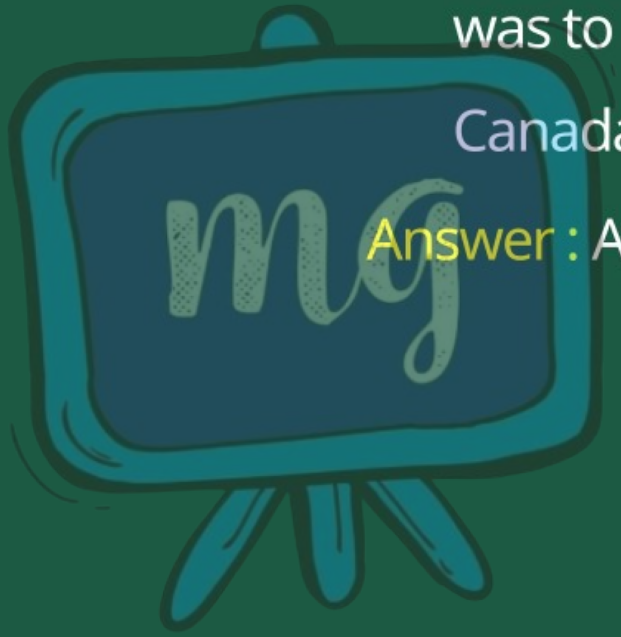


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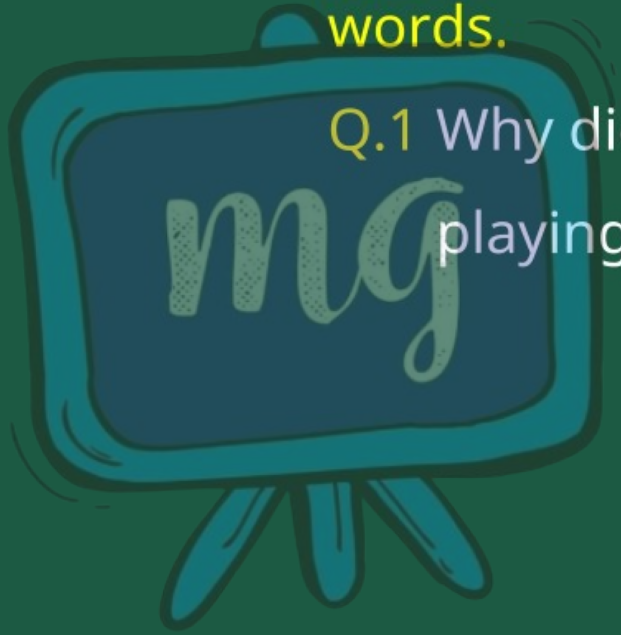
Q.5 Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, U.S.A., Canada).

Answer : Afghanistan



Answer these questions in 30–40 words.

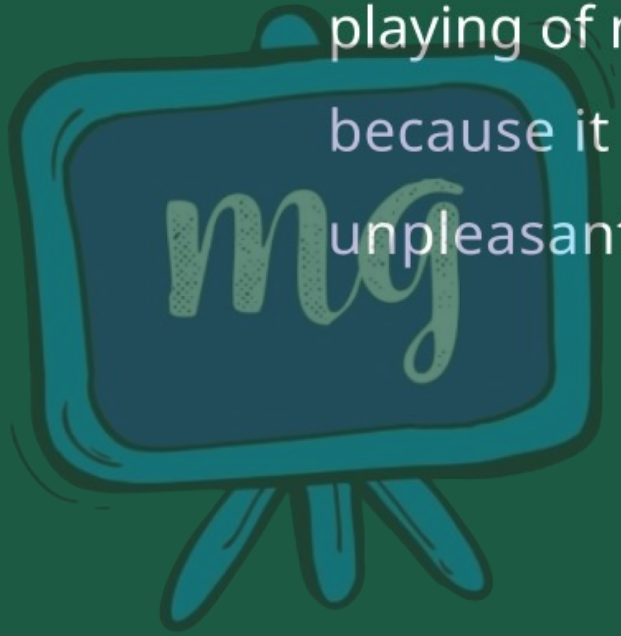
Q.1 Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?



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



Q.2 How is a shehnai different from a pungi?



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Answer : Shehnai has a better tonal quality than pungi. Its stem is hollow with holes on its body and is longer and broader than the pungi. Shehnai is, in a way, an improved form of the pungi.

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



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Answer : The shehnai was traditionally played in royal courts, temples and weddings. Ustaad Bismillah khan, an undisputed maestro of shehnai brought this instrument onto the classical stage.

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



Answer : Bismillah khan got his big break in 1938 with the opening of All India Radio in Lucknow.



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Q.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 at the Red Fort. The event was historical because it was on the occasion of India's Independence from British Rule.

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



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Answer : Bismillah Khan refused one of his student's request to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A. because he never wanted to live away from Hindustan, specifically, from Benaras, the River Ganga and Dumraon.

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



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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.