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# CLASS – 9

# ENGLISH

## Beehive

## CH-2 : The Sound of Music

Part – 5
The Shehnai of
Bismillah Khan

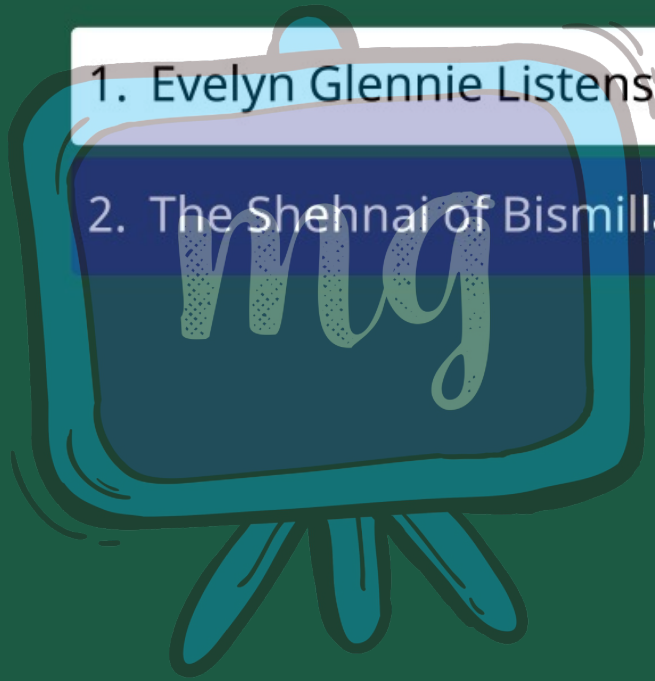
ARPITA SHARMA

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# OVERVIEW

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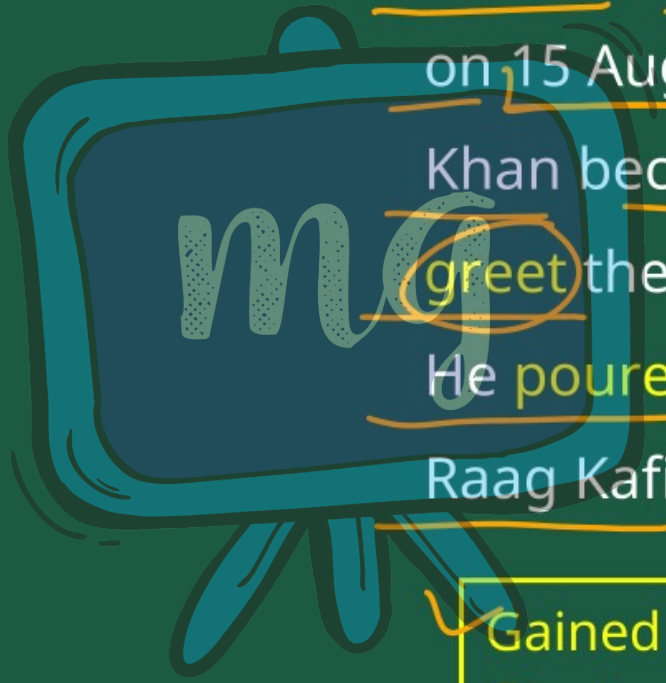
1. Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound without Hearing It
2. The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan



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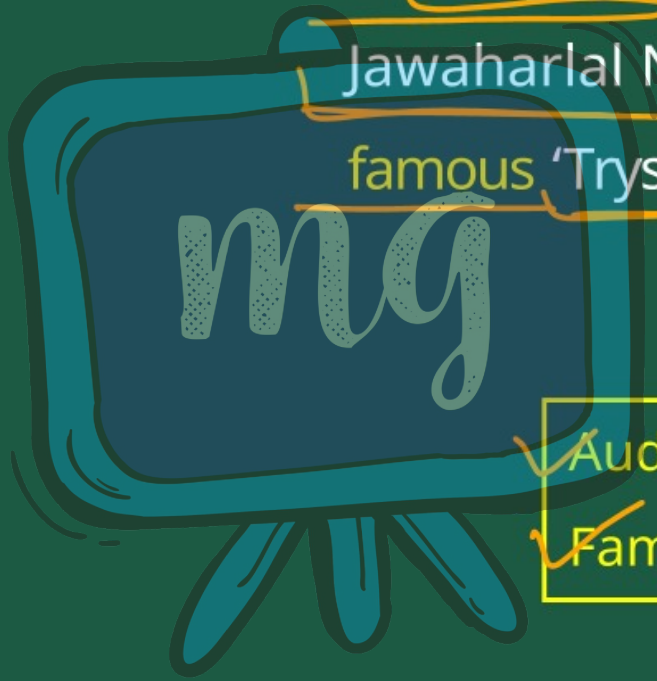
7. When India gained independence on 15 August 1947, Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai. He poured his heart out into Raag Kafi from the Red Fort to



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| Gained | : | प्राप्त की |
| Greet | : | अभिवादन करना |
| Poured out | : | उड़ेल दिया |

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an audience which included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who later gave his famous 'Tryst with Destiny' speech.



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| Audience | : | दर्शक |
| Famous | : | मशहूर |

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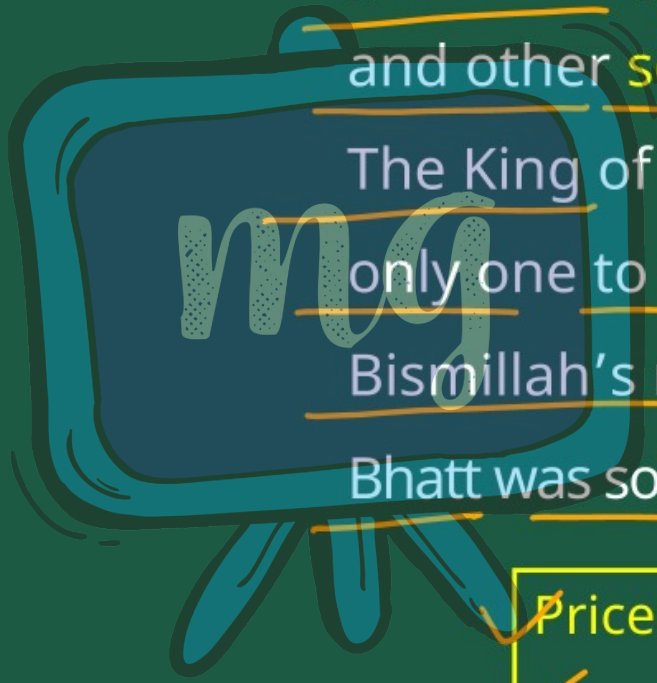
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8. Bismillah Khan has given many memorable performances both in India and abroad. His first trip abroad was to Afghanistan where King Zahir Shah was so taken in by the maestro that he

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| Memorable | : | यादगार |
| Performances | : | प्रदर्शन |
| Taken in by | : | से मंत्रमुग्ध/आकर्षित |
| Maestro | : | कलाकार/उस्ताद |

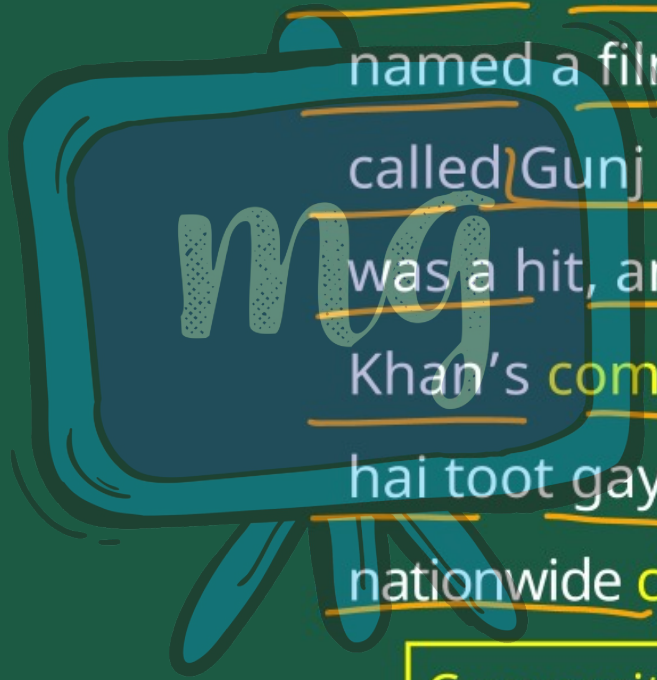
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gifted him priceless Persian carpets and other souvenirs. The King of Afghanistan was not the only one to be fascinated with Bismillah's music. Film director Vijay Bhatt was so impressed after hearing



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| Priceless | : | कीमती |
| Souvenirs | : | स्मृति चिह्न |

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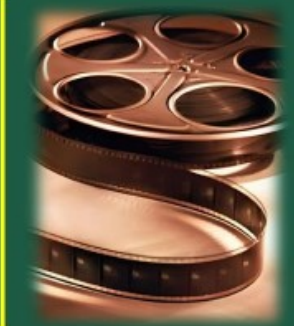
Bismillah play at a festival that he named a film after the instrument called Gunj Uthi Shehnai. The film was a hit, and one of Bismillah Khan's compositions, "Dil ka khilona hai toot gaya...," turned out to be a nationwide chartbuster!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Compositions | : | गीत रचना |
| Chartbuster | : | सर्वाधिक बिकने वाला |

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Despite this huge success in the celluloid world, Bismillah Khan's ventures in film music were limited to two:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Despite | : | के बावजूद |
| Huge | : | बहुत बड़ी |
| Ventures | : | जोखिम भरा काम |
| Limited | : | सीमित |



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Vijay Bhatt's Gunj Uthi Shehnai and Vikram Srinivas's Kannada venture, Sanadhi Apanna.

"I just can't come to terms with the artificiality and glamour of the film world," he says with emphasis.

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|---|---|---|
| Artificiality | : | कृत्रिमता |
| Glamour | : | माया |
| Emphasis | : | जोर देना |

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9. Awards and recognition came thick and fast. Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Recognition | : | मान्यता/पहचान |
| Thick and Fast | : | बड़े पैमाने पर तेजी से |
| Prestigious | : | प्रतिष्ठित |

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He also took part in the World Exposition in Montreal, in the Cannes Art Festival and in the Osaka Trade Fair. So well known did he become internationally that an auditorium in Teheran was named after him — Tahar Mosiquee Ustaad Bismillah Khan.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Internationally | : | अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर |
| Auditorium | : | सभागार |

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10. National awards like the Padmashri, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan were conferred on him.



Conferred : प्रदान किया गया

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11. 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 glinting with rare happiness he said,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Coveted | : | बहुत इच्छित |
| Glinting | : | चमकना |
| Rare | : | दुर्लभ |

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"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."



Richest : बहुमूल्य

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12. In spite of having travelled all over the world - Khansaab as he is fondly called - is exceedingly fond of Benaras and Dumraon and they remain for him the most wonderful towns of the world.

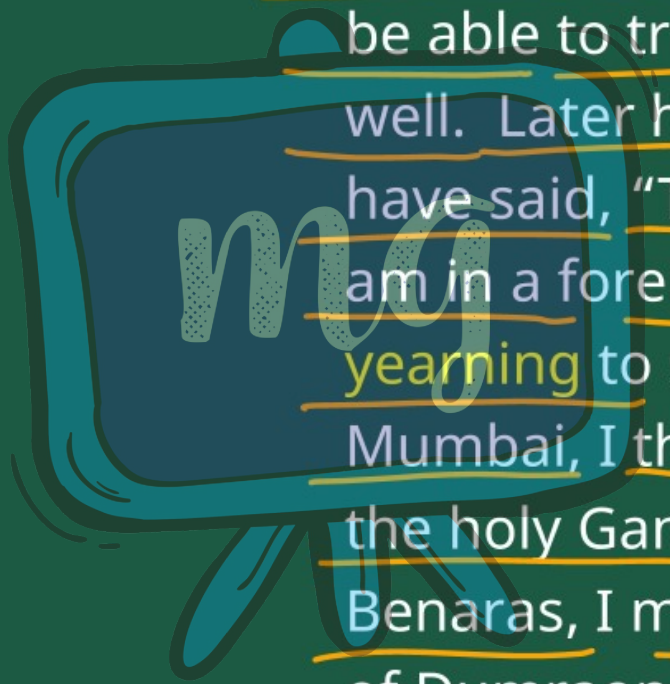
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In spite | : | के बावजूद |
| Fondly | : | प्रेमपूर्वक |
| Exceedingly | : | अत्यधिक |

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A student of his once wanted him to head a shehnai school in the U.S.A., and the student promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating the temples there.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Recreate | : | फिर बनाना |
| Atmosphere | : | माहौल/वातावरण |
| Replicating | : | प्रतिकृति बनाना |

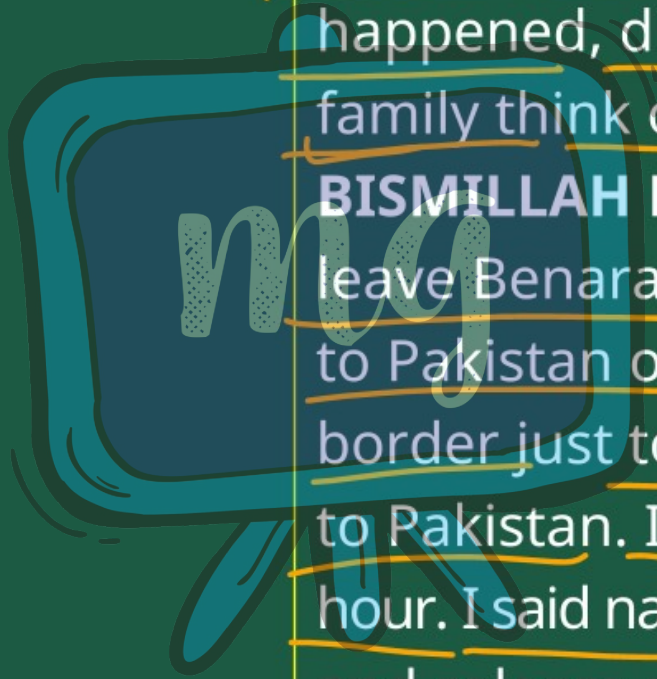
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But Khansaab asked him if he would be able to transport River Ganga as well. Later he is remembered to have said, "That is why whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan. While in Mumbai, I think of only Benaras and the holy Ganga. And while in Benaras, I miss the unique mattha of Dumraon."

Yearning : इच्छा/तड़प

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**SHEKHAR GUPTA:** When Partition happened, didn't you and your family think of moving to Pakistan?

**BISMILLAH KHAN:** God forbid! Me, leave Benaras? Never! I went to Pakistan once—I crossed the border just to say I have been to Pakistan. I was there for about an hour. I said namaskar to the Pakistanis and salaam alaikum to the Indians! I had a good laugh. (Readers' Digest, October 2005)

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13. Ustad Bismillah Khan's life is a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India, one that effortlessly accepts that a devout Muslim like him can very naturally play the shehnai every morning at the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cultural Heritage | : | सांस्कृतिक विरासत |
| Effortlessly | : | बिना कठिनाई के |
| Devout | : | अत्यधिक धर्मनिष्ठ |

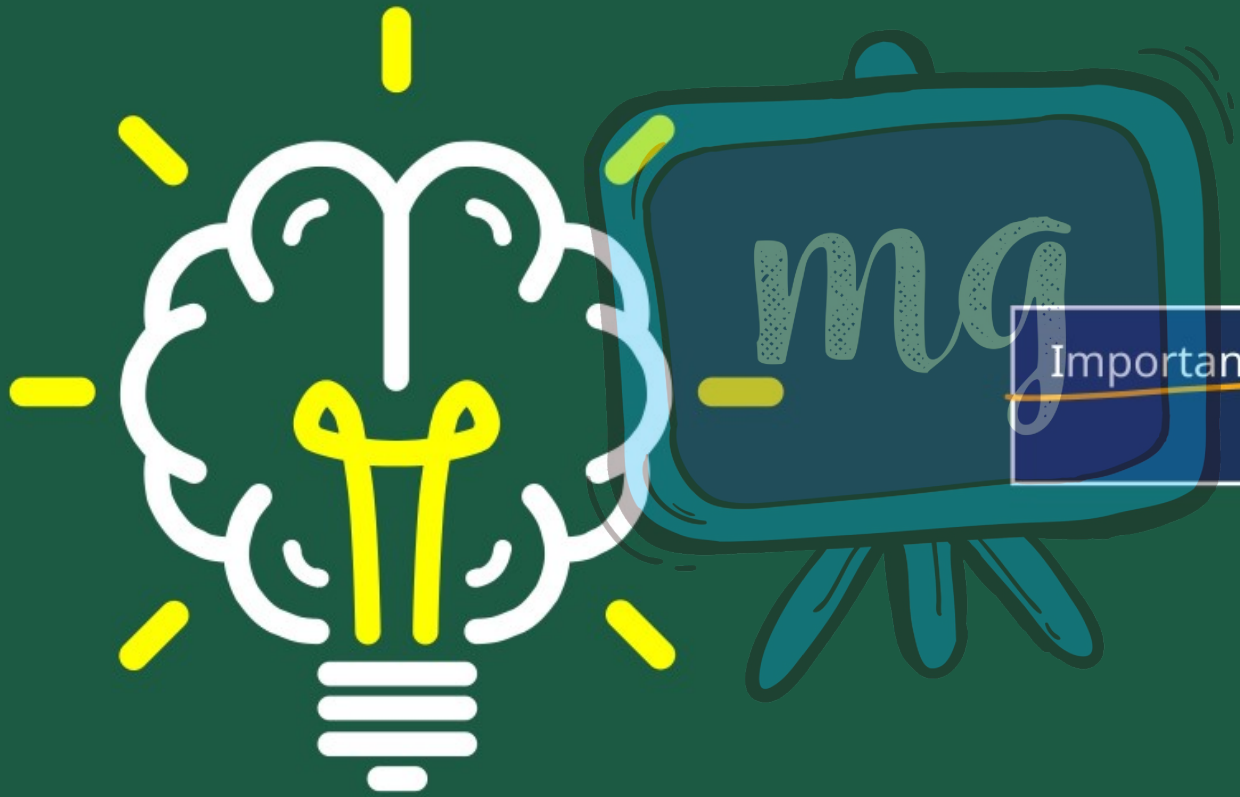
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[Ustad Bismillah Khan passed away on 21 August 2006 at the age of ninety after a prolonged illness. He was given a state funeral and the Government of India declared one day of national mourning.]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Prolonged Illness | : | लम्बी बीमारी |
| Mourning | : | शोक |

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# LEARNING OUTCOME



Importance of Preserving Music and Culture

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# ASSESSMENT



1 Who was the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai on Independence Day, 1947?

A Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

B Bismillah Khan

C King Zahir Shah

D Vijay Bhatt

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# ASSESSMENT

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2 What was the name of the film inspired by Bismillah Khan's music?

A "Tryst with Destiny"

B "Gunj Uthi Shehnai"

C "Sanadhi Apanna"

D "Dil ka khilona hai toot gaya ..."