

## PART II: The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan.

Q. Why did Aurangzeb learn the playing of Pungi?

Ans:- Pungi was made of reed ~~and~~ and it was used as a musical instrument. Its music was not sweet. No doubt it produced harsh and unpleasant sound. King Aurangzeb avoided it. This was why he learned strictly. The king told the musicians not play in the court.

Q. How is a Shehnai different from a Pungi?

Ans:- As we find that Pungi and Shehnai are made from a hollow stem. But the major difference is that Shehnai is made from a broader and longer one. Shehnai has seven holes while Pungi has no seven holes. Pungi produces harsh music but Shehnai fascinates us ~~to listen~~ and we can say that its music is sweet and melodious.

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

Ans:- We often find that traditionally it is played in temples and at weddings because our ancestors considered it ~~a~~ holy instrument. Instead Bismillah Khan brought a magical change.

No doubt he produced new raagas

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

Ans:- No doubt Bismillah Khan got his 'big break' in 1938. When All India Radio was established in Lucknow he got a very good chance to play shehnai on radio. When people listened then they began to appreciate because he poured a sweet and melodious classical music. Resultly he got name and fame in the field of ~~shehnai~~ shehnai. He got a big position in the world and they began to recognise him as the <sup>best</sup> player of shehnai.