



26

USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN

Have you ever heard a *shehnai* being played – at a marriage ceremony, during a religious procession, or maybe on television? The *shehnai* is a classical musical instrument and Ustad Bismillah Khan was a great exponent of the same. He was one of the finest Indian classical musicians that India ever produced. He played the *shehnai* for more than eight decades, and received national and international acclaim for his performances. This great man spread peace and love through music. Let's read about him.



OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson you will be able to:

- read and enjoy a biographical text;
- infer that hard work is the key to success;
- recognise that music has no caste or boundaries;
- identify some Indian musical instruments;
- use affirmative and negative sentences in the simple present tense;
- use prepositions;
- use phrasal verbs;
- write a report for a newspaper;
- write a biographical sketch;
- improve your communication through spelling and pronunciation practice, and
- enhance your vocabulary.



Notes

undoubtedly: without doubt

maestro: a great musician, especially of classical music

civilian: relating to a person not belonging to the armed forces (army, navy, air force) or police

recipient: one who receives/gets

ancestors: those from whom one's father or mother has descended (come)

uttered: spoke

attained: reached/accomplished

tutelage: guidance

religiously: with enthusiasm

inspire: to cause fine thoughts and feelings to grow in the mind

improvise: create and/or perform without preparation

raga: a series of five or more musical notes upon which a melody is made. (Indian classical music is always set in a raga)

single-handedly: without help from anyone else

mainstream: belonging to current trend

limelight: focus of public attention

accumulated: gathered/acquired

material possessions: property or belongings



26.1 LET US READ THE TEXT

Ustad Bismillah Khan was undoubtedly a gem that India is proud of. This *shehnai* maestro of India received the Bharat Ratna in 2001. He had earlier been awarded the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan. He was thus the recipient of all the top-four civilian awards.

Born on March 21, 1916 in Dumraon, Bihar, he was the second son of Paigambar Khan and Mitthan. His family had a musical background; his ancestors were musicians in the court of the princely state of Bhojpur (now in Bihar).

Bismillah Khan was named Qamaruddin to sound like his elder brother's name – Shamsuddin. However, when his grandfather Rasool Baksh Khan saw him as a baby, he uttered the word 'Bismillah', and hence he came to be known as Bismillah Khan. His father was a musician in the court of Maharaja Keshav Prasad Singh of Dumraon.

At the age of six, Bismillah Khan moved to Varanasi (earlier known as Banaras), where his maternal uncle, Ali Baksh 'Vilayatu' was the official *shehnai* player at the famous Vishwanath Temple. Ali Baksh noticed that Bismillah was a keen music learner, so he took him under his tutelage. Thus, Bismillah Khan started learning to play the *shehnai* from his uncle. Ali Baksh played *shehnai* at the Vishwanath Temple and practised in one of the temple rooms at Balaji Ghat. Bismillah Khan's routine was to follow his uncle the whole day to both the temples, and practise for hours together – without any play time, school and sometimes even regular meals.

Bismillah Khan religiously practised the *shehnai* and attained perfection in a very short time. The flowing waters of the River Ganga inspired him to improvise and invent 'ragas' that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of *shehnai*. He often played the *shehnai* at the Vishwanath Temple on the banks of River Ganga. He was also a devotee of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of wisdom and arts.

Ustad Bismillah Khan was perhaps single-handedly responsible for making the *shehnai* a famous and popular musical instrument and bringing it into the mainstream Indian classical music. His concert at the All India Music Conference (1937) in Calcutta brought *shehnai* into the limelight, and was hugely appreciated by music lovers.

Despite the fame that he got, Bismillah Khan always remained simple. He never accumulated wealth and other material possessions. He lived in humble surroundings in the holy city of



Fig. 26.1

Ustad Bismillah Khan

Varanasi. His favourite mode of transport was the cycle rickshaw. Such was his love for his city and motherland that he declined an offer of permanent citizenship for settling in the United States of America.

He monopolised *shehnai* recitals in the post-independence era and through them, kept the legacy of classical music alive. Ustad Bismillah Khan always believed that music would survive even if the world perished. He also believed in Hindu-Muslim unity and spread the message of brotherhood through his music. He often said, “Music has no caste.”

Bismillah Khan had the rare honour of playing the *shehnai* on the eve of India's independence in the year 1947. He performed at the Red Fort in Delhi and since that year, always played on 15th August, right after the Prime Minister's speech. Bismillah Khan played in many countries and has a huge fan following. He had performed in Afghanistan, USA, Canada, Bangladesh, Europe, Iran, Iraq, West Africa, Japan and Hong Kong. He shared a special bond with his *shehnai* and called it 'begum' after his wife died.

After a cardiac arrest on 21st August 2006, at the age of ninety, Bismillah Khan breathed his last. In honour of this great musician, the Government of India declared a one-day national mourning on his death. He was buried along with his *shehnai* in Varanasi under a neem tree with a 21-gun salute from the Indian Army.

26.2 LET US UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

26.2.1 PART 1

Ustad Bismillah Khan was undoubtedly..... a devotee of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of wisdom and arts.

If you ask a few people to say the first word that comes to their mind after hearing the name 'Bismillah Khan', I'm sure most of them will say 'shehnai'. Bismillah Khan's name is so deeply associated with 'shehnai' that if you think of one, the other automatically comes to mind. In fact, the name Bismillah Khan and the word 'shehnai' are almost like synonyms.

Ustad Bismillah Khan was an outstanding *shehnai* player, and for his contribution to Indian music, he received several awards.

Bismillah Khan was born in a small village in Bihar. His father was a *shehnai* player. When he was six, Bismillah Khan moved to Varanasi. He started learning to play the *shehnai* from his maternal uncle, Ali Baksh. He had talent and was a keen learner. But for talent to shine, one has to work hard. Bismillah Khan worked very, very hard. He practised till he attained perfection. He was inspired by the flowing waters of the River Ganga.



Notes

era: long and distinct (clear) period of history
to monopolise: to dominate/to be the only one to be doing something
perished: got destroyed (finished)
fan following: admirers
breathed his last: died



INTEXT QUESTIONS 26.1

Answer the following questions.

1. Tick the correct option.
 - a. Ustad Bismillah Khan was born in:

(i) Varanasi	(ii) Kolkata
(iii) Delhi	(iv) Dumraon
 - b. Ustad Bismillah Khan's father's name was:

(i) Paigambar Khan	(ii) Ali Baksh
(iii) Rasool Baksh Khan	(iv) Sajid Khan
 - c. Ustad Bismillah Khan's maternal uncle's name was:

(i) Paigambar Khan	(ii) Qamaruddin
(iii) Shamsuddin	(iv) Ali Baksh
 - d. Bismillah Khan moved to Varanasi at the age of:

(i) 18	(ii) 6	(iii) 10	(iv) 22
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 - e. Which musical instrument did Ustad Bismillah Khan play?

(i) flute	(ii) sitar	(iii) shehnai	(iv) veena
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2. Read the statements given below. Write T for the true statements and F for the false ones. Also, correct the incorrect statements and rewrite them in the space provided.
 - a. Ustad Bismillah Khan received the Bharat Ratna in 2001. ____

 - b. Ustad Bismillah Khan was the third son of Paigambar Khan and Mitthan. ____

 - c. Ustad Bismillah Khan often played the *shehnai* at the Vishwanath Temple located in Varanasi. ____

 - d. Ustad Bismillah Khan's father was a soldier in the army of Maharaja Keshav Prasad Singh of Dumraon. ____

 - e. Ustad Bismillah Khan was a devotee of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of wisdom and arts.



3. What was Bismillah Khan named earlier? Why was his name changed?
4. Who was Ali Baksh 'Vilayatu'? What role did he play in Bismillah Khan's life?
5. How did the flowing waters of the River Ganga inspire Bismillah Khan?
6. What were the top four civilian awards that Bismillah Khan received?
7. Have you heard the adage: 'Practice makes a man perfect'? Does it hold true for Bismillah Khan? Do you think one can achieve success in life without working hard? Justify your answer giving an example from your life.



DO YOU KNOW

Bharat Ratna (which means 'jewel of India') is the highest civilian honour, given for exceptional service towards advancement of Art, Literature and Science, and in recognition of Public Service of the highest order.

The award was established by the first President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad, on January 2, 1954. The actual award is designed in the shape of a peepal leaf and carries the words 'Bharat Ratna', inscribed in Devanagari script. The reverse side of the medal carries the state emblem and motto.



The President of India presents the award in a special ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



LET US DO 26.1

You read in Unit I that Ustad Bismillah Khan lived in Varanasi. Varanasi was earlier known as Banaras. Over a period of time, the names of many cities in India have changed.

Draw lines to match the name of the city with its old name.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Chennai | a) Bombay |
| 2. Thiruvananthapuram | b) Bangalore |
| 3. Kochi | c) Calcutta |
| 4. Mumbai | d) Madras |
| 5. Kolkata | e) Trivandrum |
| 6. Bengaluru | f) Cochin |



Notes



LET US TALK 26.1

Do you know anyone in your neighbourhood who plays a musical instrument?

Approach that person and greet him/her politely.

Request him/ her to spare some time for you and ask the following questions.

- 1) At what age did you start learning to play this instrument?
- 2) Why did you select this particular musical instrument?
- 3) How much practice do you put in every day/every week?
- 4) How many performances have you given and where?
- 5) Do you teach? If yes, for how long have you been teaching?
- 6) The *shehnai* maestro Bismillah Khan said, "Music has no caste." Do you agree? If yes, please express your views.

Thank the person you interviewed.



LET US DO 26.2

- a) Ustad Bismillah Khan's life was devoted to music. To truly understand this great man, listen to his music on a cassette or a CD.
- b) Find pictures of Indian musical instruments in old magazines or newspapers (at least ten). Paste them in a scrap book. Below each picture, write its name.

26.2.2 PART 2

Ustad Bismillah Khan salute from the Indian Army.

Did you know that it was through Bismillah Khan's efforts that the *shehnai* was recognised as a classical music instrument?

We all have some quality or the other. Bismillah Khan had many. This portion of Bismillah Khan's biographical sketch mentions some of those qualities. It also highlights his love for his city and country.

We know that there are many ways to spread peace. Bismillah Khan tried to spread peace and brotherhood through his music. He firmly believed in Hindu-Muslim unity.

In 1947, when India became independent, Bismillah Khan was invited to play the *shehnai* at the Red Fort. What an honour! And do you know how old he was that time? Bismillah Khan was only 31!

Bismillah Khan performed not just in India but also in many countries around the world. After all, music has no boundaries. He had a special relationship with his *shehnai*, and when he died in 2006, it was buried with him.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 26.2

Answer the following questions.

1. Tick the correct option.

- a. Ustad Bismillah Khan's favourite mode of transport was:
 - (i) car
 - (ii) motorcycle
 - (iii) cycle rickshaw
 - (iv) aeroplane
- b. On the eve of India's independence in 1947, Ustad Bismillah Khan performed at the:
 - (i) Qutub Minar
 - (ii) Taj Mahal
 - (iii) Gateway of India
 - (iv) Red Fort
- c. He was buried under a _____ tree.
 - (i) peepal
 - (ii) neem
 - (iii) gulmohar
 - (iv) banyan

2. Select words from the box and fill in the blanks to complete the paragraph.

caste, perished, brotherhood, survive, Hindu-Muslim

Ustad Bismillah Khan always believed that music would (a) _____ even if the world (b) _____. He also believed in (c) _____ unity and spread the message of (d) _____ through his music. He often said, "Music has no (e) _____".

3. After which concert did the *shehnai* come into the limelight and find appreciation among music lovers?
4. How can we say that Bismillah Khan had a special bond with his *shehnai*?
5. Bismillah Khan was a simple man but had strong beliefs. What did he believe in?
6. Where was Bismillah Khan buried? How was he honoured at the time of his death?
7. From Japan to Europe to USA, Ustad Bismillah Khan played in many countries of the world. Why do you think his music was enjoyed by people in different countries?



LET US DO 26.3

Look carefully at the three columns given below. Column 1 has pictures of some Indian musical instruments. Column 2 has the names of some Indian musical instruments. Column 3 has the names and pictures of some famous Indian musicians.

Draw lines to match the picture (Column A) to its name (Column 2) and the musician who plays/played it (Column 3). One example has been done for you.



Notes

Column 1

1)



2)



3)



4)

5)



6)



7)



Column 2

a) violin

b) tabla

c) shehnai

d) santoor

e) flute

f) sitar

g) sarod

Column 3

i)



Pandit Ravi Shankar

ii)



Amjad Ali Khan

iii)



L. Subramaniam

iv)



Hari Prasad Chaurasia

v)



Ustad Bismillah Khan

vi)

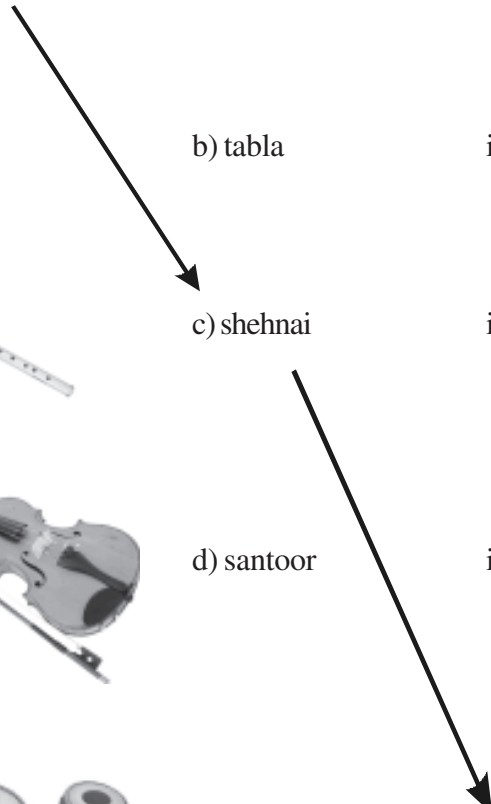


Zakir Hussain

vii)



Shiv Kumar Sharma





Notes



DO YOU KNOW

The *shehnai* is a double-reed instrument of the wind category. It is one of the most ancient instruments used in India. The *shehnai* is mainly an outdoor instrument played particularly on occasions considered auspicious such as processions and weddings.



This tube-like instrument gradually widens towards the lower end. It usually has eight or nine holes. The instrument is made of dark, close-grained black wood and has a metal bell fixed to the border end. The length of the instrument is one-and-a-half to two feet. The reed* is fixed at the narrow blowing end. The reeds used in *shehnai* are made of 'pala' grass. Spare reeds and an ivory needle with which the reeds are adjusted are attached to the mouth piece.

The *shehnai* is believed to have originated in the Kashmir Valley. Its name is derived from *sheh* (breath) and *nai* (reed/ flute).

* reed: grasses that grow in shallow water and have hollow, jointed stalks



LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 26.1

Select words from the passage that are the opposites of the given words. Write them in the space provided

- a. dishonour _____
- b. temporary _____
- c. proud _____
- d. never _____
- e. before _____

Fill in the blanks with the given words.

1. Raja's parents are very _____ of him because he has successfully completed the Secondary Certificate Course from NIOS.
2. Wash your hands _____ you eat your food.
3. We should be careful not to bring _____ to the family.
4. Keep trying, _____ give up.
5. Till my results are announced, I have taken up a _____ job as a waiter in a hotel.



26.3 LET US LEARN GRAMMAR

A. Affirmative and Negative Statements in the Simple Present Tense

An **affirmative statement** states that something is true or valid. In an affirmative statement, the verb follows the subject. Example:



Notes

- a. Vikram plays. The verb 'plays' follows the subject 'Vikram'.
- b. Boys play. The verb 'play' follows the subject 'Boys'.

To make a **negative statement**, we normally use **do not** (don't) or **does not** (doesn't) with all verbs, except 'be' and where modals are used. When the verb is 'be' or modals are being used, then **not** is used to make the sentence negative. Example:

- a. Affirmative: You speak German.
Negative: You **do not** speak German.
- b. Affirmative: She likes chocolates.
Negative: She **does not** like chocolates.
- c. Affirmative: Aman is a singer. (In this sentence, the verb is 'is')
Negative: Aman is **not** a singer.
- d. Affirmative: I can drive.
Negative: I can **not** drive. ('can' is a modal)

(**Note:** To know more about modals, see the lesson 'The Parrot Who Wouldn't Talk')

Exercise

1. Change the following sentences into their negative form.
 - a. Radha goes for a walk every evening.
 - b. I brush my teeth twice a day.
 - c. The train leaves at 7 pm.
 - d. Raju sings when he is taking a bath.
 - e. Afzal goes to the library to study.
2. Change the following sentences into the affirmative form.
 - a. I do not like sugar in my tea.
 - b. My sister does not play the harmonium.
 - c. Mona does not eat guavas.
 - d. This shop does not sell musical instruments.
 - e. Amit does not study every day.

B. Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word in a sentence that tells us about place, position, time or method. Prepositions are usually put before nouns or pronouns. A preposition shows in what relation the person or thing stands in regard to something else.



Some commonly used prepositions are:

for, in, into, at, on, of, by, to, off, with, over, from, through, above, behind, near, beside, under, below, beyond, between, among, till/ until, since, before, after, during

The sentences given below are taken from the text you have just read. Read them carefully. The words underlined are prepositions.

1. Bismillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916.
2. Bismillah Khan's father was a *shehnai* player in the court of Maharaja Keshav Prasad Singh of Dumraon.
3. At the age of six, Bismillah Khan moved to Varanasi.
4. Ali Baksh took him under his tutelage.
5. Bismillah Khan practised for hours together.

Exercise

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition from those given in brackets.
 - a. The train arrived ___ time. (after, on, at)
 - b. There is a bridge _____ Hooghly River. (below, over, in)
 - c. Indian classical music is always set _____ a raga. (in, of, by)
 - d. In India, all children between the ages of 6 and 14 have a Right ____ Education. (for, to, in)
 - e. *Abhigyan Shakuntalam* was written _____ Kalidasa. (from, by, after)
2. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions.
 - a. Smoking is injurious _____ health.
 - b. Akash took the book _____ the shelf and put it _____ his bag.
 - c. Gopal has eaten nothing _____ yesterday.
 - d. Always keep _____ the left on a road.
 - e. She waited _____ the bus stop _____ half an hour.

C. Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are very common in spoken and written English. To be able to speak and write English well, you must understand them properly.

Phrasal verbs consist of a verb and another word or phrase, usually a preposition. Although they consist of two or more words, they act as if they are one word. A phrasal verb often has a meaning which is different from the original verb.



Notes

Example

1. I ran into my school friend at the party last night.
run + into = meet
2. He ran away from home when he was twelve years old.
run + away = leave home

Phrasal verbs can be separable (*I will **set** a meeting **up** for you tomorrow.*) or inseparable (*I have to **look after** my ailing grandmother.*)

Exercise

1. Fill in the correct word from the bracket to form phrasal verbs.
 - a. What will your mother say when she finds ___? (over, in, out)
 - b. Radha got ___ the bus at the traffic light. (on, of, off)
 - c. Ashish put ___ a lot of hard work and came first in class. (on, after, in)
 - d. Look ___ a dictionary to find the meaning of the word. (from, at, up)
 - e. If Rakesh doesn't get the job, he can always fall ___ on his family business. (down, back, to)
2. Read the sentences aloud. Now, underline the phrasal verbs.
 - a. They tortured the spy to give away all the secrets.
 - b. Do you get along with your parents?
 - c. Anurag is saving up to buy a new car.
 - d. Do you think the petrol prices will come down?
 - e. He put across his point very strongly at the meeting.
 - f. I am looking forward to life after retirement.
 - g. I came across a very interesting book and bought it immediately.
 - h. Winter has set in early this year.
 - i. Fasten your seat belts. The plane is about to take off.
 - j. The thieves broke out of the prison.

**26.4 LET US WRITE****A. Report Writing for a Newspaper**

Newspapers carry reports of all kinds of events – visits by heads of state, robberies, accidents, scams, matches, exhibitions. Have you ever wondered how newspaper reports are prepared?



A newspaper report is an account of an important or interesting event. It usually answers questions like:

- What happened?
- How did it happen?
- When did it happen?
- Where did it take place?
- Who all were involved?
- What was the impact of the event?

How to write a good report:

1. A report can be divided into sections: the headline, a sub headline, opening paragraph, details, followed by a conclusion or closing remark.
2. The headline in a newspaper report is very important. It grabs the interest of the readers and makes them want to read more. It summarises in one phrase the central theme of the report. Headlines need not be complete sentences. The language of headlines does not appear grammatically correct. For example, definite and indefinite articles, and conjunctions are often missed out; punctuation marks are not used; and short forms are always used in order to save space and to say a lot in just a few words. Headlines are often written in the simple present tense.

Examples

- a. 3 children die after falling in drain
- b. IPS men unite, raise funds to defend officer

If the above headlines were written in sentences, they would appear as:

- a. Three children died after falling in a drain.
 - b. The men of the Indian Police Service united and raised funds to defend a fellow officer.
3. If the article is big, then a short headline is followed by a sub-headline.

Example

Capital punishment gets severe

BITING COLD: Maximum temp dips to 12.4 degrees Celcius, nine degrees below normal for this time of the year

(source: The *Hindustan Times*)



Notes

Example

Fire at night shelter kills 10-year-old

Many Homeless Lose Their Money And Belongings In Early-Morning Blaze

(source: The *Times of India*)

4. The heading and sub-heading are followed by the name of the person writing the article.
5. The opening paragraph is an expansion of the headline. It mentions what happened, where it happened and any other important detail.
6. The following paragraphs give details of the event that took place. Sometimes eye-witness accounts of what happened are also included.
7. A concluding remark is desirable but not necessary. It should mention the consequences or impact of what happened.
8. An accompanying photograph creates an impact and catches the attention of the reader.

Read this newspaper report carefully.

Railways win inaugural hockey event

HT Correspondent

New Delhi: Star-studded Railways were crowned champions in the inaugural edition of the Senior National women hockey championship that concluded at Sonapat on Sunday. They beat Haryana 7-1.

Railways, who had been dominating the domestic tournaments, were never challenged by the hosts. The half-time score was enough indication of the Railways' domination in the encounter.

Skipper Saba Anjum set the ball rolling for the Railways when she deflected a penalty corner in the opening two minutes. Ten minutes later, the Railways scored again through Rani.

Another three goals by Asunta Lakra, Deepika Thakur and Jasjeet Kaur Handa in the later part of the first session, completely shut the door for Haryana who were playing without their star player Mamta Kharab. She had to sit out due to an injury. Haryana did however manage to pull one back just before the break.

After change of ends the Railways managed to slot in two more goals through Rani and Joydeep Kaur to complete the tally.

(Source: The *Hindustan Times*)



The headline tells about the central theme of the article. The opening paragraph is an expansion of the headline and describes what happened, where it happened and what the score was. The following paragraphs mention details like the name of the captain, half-time score, who scored the goals, possible reasons for dismal performance of the losing team, etc.

Exercise 1

Suppose you are the Staff Correspondent of a newspaper. You have been asked to cover a music festival. Prepare a report with the help of the given information.

Name of the festival: Jashn-e-Sangeet	
Organisers: Indian Music Society	
Venue: Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi	
Programme:	
24 August	i) Malashri Prasad (light classical) ii) Shubhendra Rao (sitar)
25 August	i) Ustad Ghulam Sadiq Khan & Ghulam Abbas Khan (Hindustani vocal) ii) Ustad Kamal Sabri (sarangi)
Timings:	6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

How to organise your report:

- Write a suitable headline for the report.
- Write Paragraph 1 (introductory paragraph). Include the following details – name of the festival, name of the organisers, venue, date, time, who inaugurated it, theme of the festival (if any), objective of holding the festival (for example – promoting young talent, showcasing different music forms, integrating popular musical forms/instruments with lesser-known ones, etc.)
- Write a paragraph each about the four performances:
A brief introduction of the performer, type of music/musical instrument, accompanying instruments, type of the piece played (raga, thumri, classical, semi classical, folk, etc.), length of pieces played (many short pieces or a few long ones), response of audience, anything unusual or striking about the setting or stage arrangement.
- In the last paragraph, write about the overall impression/impact of the programme. You may choose to add depth and detail to your report by adding the response of a few members from the audience.



Notes

Exercise 2

Read the headlines given below. Write the opening paragraph for a newspaper report for each of them.

- a) Police arrests two burglars in Model Town
- b) Spaceship spotted in Dehradun

B. Biographical Sketch

You have just read a biographical sketch of Ustad Bismillah Khan.

A **biographical sketch** is a short description of a person's life, works, achievements and qualities. It highlights why that person is special and what outstanding contributions he/ she has made. The aim is to write something informative that others will enjoy reading.

Before writing a biographical sketch (bio-sketch) of a person, sort out the details of his/ her life, such as:

- birth and death
- family background
- profession
- education
- achievements
- awards received

Points to be kept in mind while writing a bio-sketch:

- It should begin with a clear and engaging opening paragraph.
- Use facts from reliable sources.
- Write clearly with proper use of grammar.
- Put in quotes wherever possible.
- Add surprising titbits to make the bio-sketch interesting. (For example: Why Ustad Bismillah Khan's name was changed, his favourite mode of transport was cycle rickshaw)

Exercise

In the box is some information about a well-known Indian sportsperson. Read it carefully and do the exercises given below it.



Name: Major Dhyan Chand Singh

Birth: August 29, 1905 in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Death: December 3, 1979 in New Delhi

Family Background: Father, Sameshwar Dutt Singh was in the Indian Army and played hockey

Profession: Indian field hockey player, regarded as the greatest hockey player of all times, legendary centre-forward

Career: 1922 – joined Indian Army

1922 to 1926 – exclusively played army hockey tournaments

1928 – played first civilian match

1928 – played in the Amsterdam Summer Olympics

1932 – played in the Los Angeles Summer Olympics

1936 – played in the Berlin Olympics (Captain of Indian hockey team)

Achievements: Won 3 Olympic gold medals, scored more than 1000 goals

Mentor: Subedar Major Bale Tiwari

Awards: Padma Bhushan (1956)

Special Honour:

August 29 – National Sports Day in India – President of India gives national sports awards

2002 – The Dhyan Chand Award initiated for lifetime achievements in sports and games

Title of Autobiography: *Goal*

- Interesting titbits: 1) Once Major Dhyan Chand was not able to strike the ball into the goalpost even though he tried several times. He asked the referee to measure the goalpost. The size of the goalpost was incorrect!
- 2) After seeing him play at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Adolf Hitler offered Dhyan Chand German citizenship. Dhyan Chand, of course, refused the offer.

- a) Now find out some more information about Dhyan Chand and **write a biographical sketch**.
- b) After you have written the bio-sketch, **read it aloud** to a friend.



LET US DO 26.4

Pronunciation

You may have some brilliant ideas but if you are not able to put them across properly to share them with others, they are of no use. **Effective communication** is very important to succeed in life. Nobody is born with this skill; it is acquired with practice.

If your **pronunciation** is correct, it will add to your confidence level. People will understand you easily and be willing to listen to you! To be a good speaker, you have to be a good listener. Make a habit of listening to the news in English – on radio and/ or television. Pay special attention to the pronunciation.

Here are some words from the text. Try pronouncing them correctly.

undoubtedly: un-daoo-ted-lee

maestro: my-s-tro

ancestor: an-ses-tur

musician: mew-zi-shn (mew to rhyme with chew/ few)

tutelage: tyoo-ti-lij

routine: roo-teen

honour: aw-nur (-aw to rhyme with paw)

mourning: more-ning

"Practice, Practice, Practice." Your vocabulary will improve and so will your communication skills.

Whenever you come across a new word whose meaning or pronunciation you don't know, write it down in a small notebook. In your spare time, consult the dictionary. Most dictionaries also mention how to pronounce each word properly. Try and learn one new word every day.

Spelling

Knowing the correct spellings and pronunciation of words are two essential aspects of effective communication.

If your **spellings** are accurate, your written communication will look impressive. Always keep a good dictionary handy. Look it up whenever you are in doubt.

An easy way to improve your spellings is to take dictation on a regular basis. You could form a '**buddy group**' (maybe with other friends who are also doing this course) and meet once a week. One person can speak aloud any twenty words that have been glossed in the margin of any chapter in this textbook, and the others could write them down in their notebooks. Now compare the words you write down with the same words in the text. Practise the words that you spelt wrongly. Write them in your notebook, five times each.



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

Through hard work and dedication, one can reach the height of success. The lesson highlights the many qualities of Ustad Bismillah Khan, and inspires the reader to imbibe them. In a society that's becoming more and more money-minded, his belief of 'simple living and high thinking' is an example for all of us.



TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Who was Bismillah Khan? Why was he famous?
2. *"Such was his love for his city and motherland that he declined an offer of permanent citizenship for settling in the United States of America."*

Read this line carefully and answer the following questions.

- a. Which city is being referred to here?
 - b. Look up a dictionary and find the meaning of the word 'motherland'.
 - c. Bismillah Khan loved the city he lived in. What do you like most about your city/town/village? (write down at least three points).
3. What did Bismillah Khan mean when he said, "Music has no caste"?
 4. What qualities did Bismillah Khan have? Which two qualities do you appreciate the most and why?



ANSWERS

26.2.1 PART 1

INTEXT QUESTIONS 26.1

1. a. (iv) b. (i) c. (iv) d. (ii) e. (iii)

2. a. T

b. F

Ustad Bismillah Khan was the second son of Paigambar Khan and Mitthan.

c. T

d. F

Ustad Bismillah Khan's father was a musician in the court of Maharaja Keshav Prasad Singh of Dumraon.



Notes

e. T

3. Bismillah Khan was earlier named Qamaruddin. However, when his grandfather Rasool Baksh Khan saw him as a baby, he uttered the word 'Bismillah', and hence he came to be known as Bismillah Khan.
4. Ali Baksh 'Vilayatu' was Bismillah Khan's maternal uncle. He was the official *shehnai* player at the famous Vishwanath Temple.

Ali Baksh noticed Bismillah Khan's interest in the *shehnai*, so he started teaching him. Bismillah Khan accompanied his uncle to the Vishwanath Temple where he was the official *shehnai* player and then to the temple rooms at Balaji Ghats where he practised. Under Ali Baksh's guidance, Bismillah Khan learnt to play the instrument for which he earned many laurels later.

Thus, as a mentor and guide to Bismillah Khan, Ali Baksh played a very important role in his life.

5. The flowing water of the River Ganga inspired Bismillah Khan to improvise and invent 'ragas' that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the *shehnai*.
6. The top-four civilian awards that Bismillah Khan received were: Bharat Ratna, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.
7. Individual responses

Suggested response:

Yes, the adage 'practice makes a man perfect' holds true for Bismillah Khan. Ustad Bismillah Khan practised and practised playing the *shehnai* till he became perfect. He was just a young boy when he started playing the *shehnai*, but for hours together, he practised. He was so committed that many times, he even went without play and regular food. His aim was clear – play till you are perfect.

In any field in life, success can be achieved only through hard work. Hard work is the key to success. Bismillah Khan worked hard to learn how to play the *shehnai*. Similarly, if any student worked hard, he or she would definitely do very well in exams.

Individual responses. Accept all responses for examples from personal life.

LET US DO 26.1

1. d 2. e 3. f 4. a 5. c 6. b

26.2.2 PART 2

INTEXT QUESTIONS 26.2

1. a. (iii) b. (iv) c. (ii)
2. a) survive b) perished c) Hindu-Muslim d) brotherhood e) caste

Ustad Bismillah Khan



Notes

- Ustad Bismillah Khan's concert at the All India Music Conference (1937) in Calcutta (now Kolkata) brought the *shehnai* into the limelight, and was hugely appreciated by music lovers.
- The *shehnai* was Ustad Bismillah Khan's constant companion. We can say that he shared a special bond with it because he called it 'begum' after his wife died. (The Urdu word 'begum' means 'wife' in English.) When Ustad Bismillah Khan died, his *shehnai* was buried with him.
- Ustad Bismillah Khan believed that music would survive even if the world perished.
 - He also believed in Hindu-Muslim unity. He said that music had no caste.
- Bismillah Khan was buried in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) under a neem tree. In honour of this great musician, the Government of India declared a one-day national mourning on his death. He was given a 21-gun salute by the Indian Army as he was being buried.
- Individual responses

Suggested response:

Ustad Bismillah Khan played the *shehnai* really well, and hence was appreciated the world over. Moreover, music transcends (crosses) all boundaries, especially political boundaries, such as those between different states or countries. For example, 'Rabindra sangeet' from west India, 'Carnatic music' from south India, folk songs of various regions, are liked by people in all states of India. Similarly, music of the Western countries (Western music) is very popular in India, especially with youngsters.

LET US DO 26.3

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
1)	c)	v)
2)	g)	ii)
3)	e)	iv)
4)	a)	iii)
5)	b)	vi)
6)	d)	vii)
7)	f)	i)

LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 26.1

a. honour b. permanent c. humble d. always e. after



Notes

1. proud 2. before 3. dishonour 4. never 5. temporary

26.3 LET US LEARN GRAMMAR

A. Affirmative and negative statements in the simple present tense

1.
 - a. Radha does not go for a walk every evening.
 - b. I do not brush my teeth twice a day.
 - c. The train does not leave at 7 pm.
 - d. Raju does not sing when he is taking a bath.
 - e. Afzal does not go to the library to study.
2.
 - a. I like sugar in my tea.
 - b. My sister plays the harmonium.
 - c. Mona eats guavas.
 - d. This shop sells musical instruments.
 - e. Amit studies every day.

B. Prepositions

1. a. on b. over c. in d. to e. by
2. a. to b. from, in c. since d. to e. at, for

C. Phrasal Verbs

1. a. out b. off c. in d. up e. back
2. a. give away b. get along c. saving up d. come down
- e. put across f. looking forward to g. came across h. set in
- i. take off j. broke out

26.4 LET US WRITE

A. Individual Responses

B. Individual Responses

TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Ustad Bismillah Khan was one of India's finest Indian classical musicians. He attained mastery over the *shehnai* and became famous the world over. He was often called the *shehnai* maestro. He's also famous because he had the rare honour of being awarded all the top-four civilian awards, including the Bharat Ratna.



2. a. The city of Varanasi is being referred to here.
b. motherland: a person's native country
c. Individual responses. Accept all responses.
3. Individual responses

Suggested response: When Ustad Bismillah Khan said that 'music has no caste', he meant that in music there are no barriers of caste, creed or religion. Music is universal. One does not think of the caste or religion of the musician when one is enjoying his/her music. For example, 'Sufi music' and 'Bhakti sangeet' is sung and enjoyed by people of all religions.

4. Ustad Bismillah Khan had many qualities. He was hardworking, innovative and dedicated to his art form. He was very passionate about his music. Due to his efforts, *shehnai* was recognised as a classical music instrument. He gained national and international recognition. He won many awards.

Ustad Bismillah Khan was simple and humble. He remained unaffected by success. He never accumulated wealth and other material possessions.

He was patriotic, and loved his city and motherland. He even declined an offer of permanent citizenship of the United States of America.

Ustad Bismillah Khan believed in Hindu-Muslim unity. He often played the *shehnai* at the Vishwanath Temple on the banks of River Ganga. He was also a devotee of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of wisdom and arts. He spread the message of brotherhood through his music.