

Composite Culture (Sufi and Bhakti Movements)

Chapter 10: Composite Culture (Sufi and Bhakti Movements) · Topic 1

Key Concept

The Sufi movement, within Islam, emphasised personal spiritual connection with God through love, music, and poetry, often welcoming people of all backgrounds.

The Bhakti movement, within Hinduism, similarly emphasised personal devotion to a chosen deity, often through simple worship rather than complex rituals.

Both movements had saints and poets, like Kabir and Guru Nanak, who blended ideas from different religions, promoting unity and tolerance.

These movements significantly influenced Indian culture, contributing to music, poetry, and a shared spiritual heritage that transcended religious boundaries.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Sufi movement is within Islam.
- It emphasised personal connection through love and poetry.
- The Bhakti movement is within Hinduism.
- It emphasised personal devotion over complex rituals.
- Kabir and Guru Nanak were influential figures.
- They blended ideas from different religions.
- Both movements promoted unity and tolerance.
- They influenced music, poetry and spiritual heritage.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the Sufi movement.
- 2 Research the Bhakti movement.
- 3 Research Kabir or Guru Nanak.
- 4 Discuss how these movements promoted unity.
- 5 Explain the connection between Sufism and Bhakti.
- 6 Find an example of Bhakti or Sufi poetry.