

Composite Culture (Bhakti and Sufi Movements)

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

Key Concept

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

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

Saints and poets like Kabir and Guru Nanak blended ideas from different religions, promoting unity, tolerance, and social equality.

These movements significantly influenced Indian music, poetry, and spiritual traditions, contributing to a shared composite culture across religious lines.

Quick Revision Notes

- Bhakti movement is within Hinduism.
- It emphasised personal devotion over complex rituals.
- Sufi movement is within Islam.
- It emphasised personal connection through love and poetry.
- Kabir and Guru Nanak were influential figures.
- They blended ideas from different religions.
- These movements promoted unity and tolerance.
- They contributed to India's composite culture.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the Bhakti movement.
- 2 Research the Sufi 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.