



GS ASSIGNMENTS FOR SSC AND PUNJAB
STATE LEVEL EXAMINATION

SUFI AND BHAKTI MOVEMENT

SUFI MOVEMENT

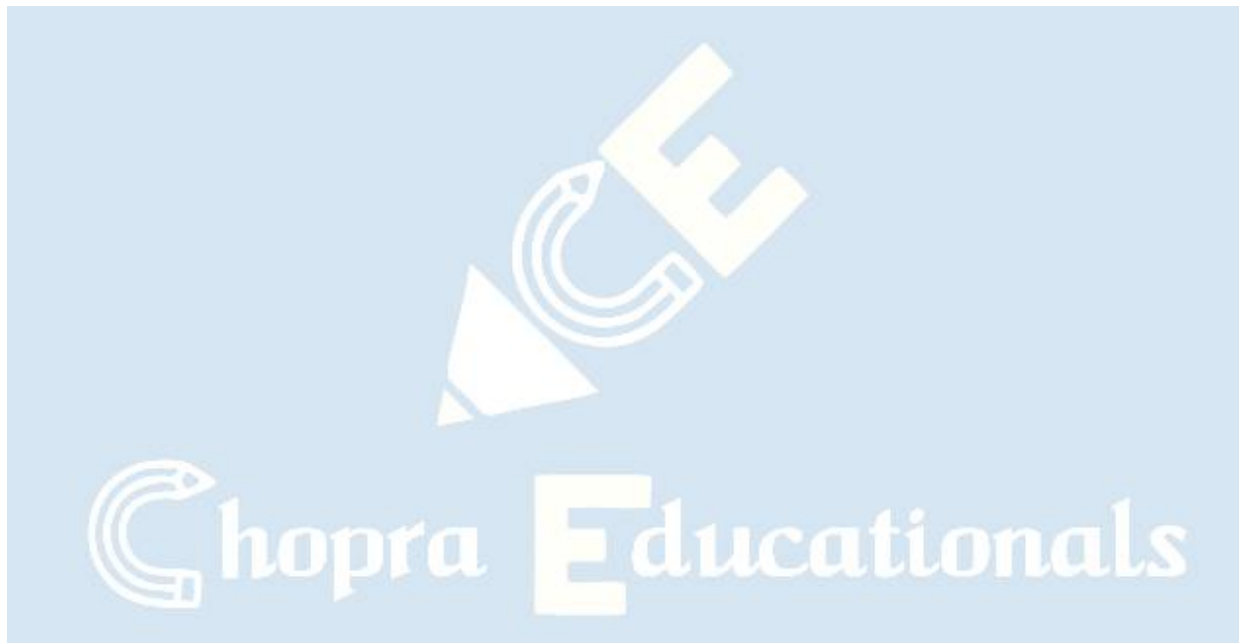
Sufi or Sufism is derived from Suf which means un-dyed garments of wool worn as a mark of personal penitence and poverty.

The Sufis originally drew their ideas from certain verses of the Quran and Hadith i.e. traditions of the prophet. Their difference with orthodox Muslims lay in the fact that while the latter interpreted the Quran and Hadith in a literal way, the Sufis gave a mystic interpretation to them

Sufism flourished in Persia where from the Sufi saints had fled to Kabul due to Safavi persecution. .

Sufism believed in communion between man and God through loving devotion. It is somewhat akin to Bhakti cult. Sufism had its own practices and did not always conform to the rituals of orthodox Islam. For instance singing, dancing etc. not permitted by the Muslim Ulamas were considered by the Sufis as methods of reaching an ecstatic stage which would bring them nearer to God

Sufism found its way into India during the eleventh and twelfth centuries when many Sufi



saints came to India particularly in Multan and Lahore of the Punjab. The most celebrated of these Sufi saints was Khwaja Muinuddin Chisti who came to Lahore from Ghazni in 1161 and settled in Ajmer.

Muinuddin Chisti is the greatest Sufi and holds the highest position of honour in the history of Sufism. Muinuddin Chisti founded the Chisti order of the Sufis in India. Shaikh Farid Shakarganj (1175-1265) belonged to the Chisti order of the Sufis, Shaikh Farid was one of the earliest contributors to Punjabi language and his writings are regarded as the earliest specimens of Punjabi.

Some of his contributions were incorporated in the Adi Granth by Guru Arjan and Shaikh Farid is known in Sikh tradition as Baba Farid. Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya (1238-1325) settled near Delhi where his tomb is also a shrine and centre of devotion and proselytism.

Apart from the Chisti order another Sufi order that dominated the Muslim thought during the thirteenth and early years of the fourteenth centuries was Suhrawardy order founded by Shaikh Bahauddin Zakariya.

Besides the Chisti and Suhrawardy orders two more Sufi orders were founded, namely the Qadivis by Sayyid Ghaus Wala Pir and the Shattaris by Shaikh Abdul Shattari in the fifteenth century. In the sixteenth century Khwaja Baqi Billa founded the Naqsbandi order.

During the sixteenth and earlier part of the eighteenth the Sufi poets made great contribution to Punjabi literature. Among the Sufis of this period the names of Hafiz Barkhudar Vajid, Ali Haidar, Sultan Bahu, Shah Hussain and Bulhe Shah deserve mention.

Bulhe Shah was, however, the prince of the Sufi poets. Some sects were founded in the seventeenth century which emphasised the unity of religions between the Hindus and the Muslims. The name of Dadu (1544- 1603) stands foremost among the founders of such sects. Dadu founded the Parabrahma Sampradaya with a view to uniting different faiths in one bond of love and comradeship.

A few other sects apart from Parabrahma Sampradaya were those of Qalandar and Jangam. The followers of the latter were fakirs who like

Hindu Sannyasis kept long matted hair and wandered about.

Lastly, it may be pointed out that Sufis helped the spread of Islam in India by emphasising social equality of all men.

Thus sufism **Synthesises variety of ideas and practices** from Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism.

- It aimed at service of mankind through spiritual self development
- Eager for Hindu-Muslim **unity and cultural synthesis**
- Opposed to orthodoxy preached faith and devotion to the God.
- Opposes the materialistic life but not in favour of complete renunciation.
- Organised in different **orders** (Silsilas)
- The Sufi orders were divided into two: **Ba-shara** those who followed the Islamic law; and **Be-shara** those who were not bound by Islamic law.

Order	Founder	Principle
Chisti	Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti	Keep aloof from royal court. Popularised music recitations

		called Sama (Mehboob-i-ilahi)
Suhrawardi	Sheikh Shihabuddin Suhrawardi	Accepted royal Service
Qadri	Sheikh Nizamat Ullah	Relies strongly upon adherence to the fundamentals of Islam.
Naqshbandi	Khwaja Pir Mohammad	Orthodox Sect. Mujaddid opposed Shia, philosophy of Wahadat-ul-Shahdud , wrote 'Red-i-Khafid' arrested by Jhangir
Firdausi	Sheikh Sarfudin Yahya	Branch of Suhrawardi
Rashaniya (Akbar's reign)	Miyan Bayazid Ansari (Pir Roshan)	Wrote the book Khai-ul-Byan
Mahadawi	Mullah Mohammad Mahdi	Opposed orthodox muslims

Risi	Nuruddin Noorani (Wali)	Oposed orthodox muslims
Qalandaria	Abu Wali Qalander	Wandering monks were called Darveshes
Shattari	Abdullah Shattari	Claimed direct contact with God

Term relate to the Sufism

Sufi Word	Meaning
Tasawwuf	Sufism
Sheikh/Pir/Murshid	Spiritual leader
Murid	Disciple
Khalifah	Successor
Khanqah	The Hospice (especially one kept by a monastic order)
Sama	Musical Recital
Raksa	Dance
Fana	Self Annihilation

Bhakti Movement:

Bhakti is intense devotion' to God conceived as personal, a Saviour worthy of trust and ready to be gracious, it is an important element of Vaishnavism and Saivism as expounded in the Gita and Svetasvatara Upanishad.

Followers of Bhakti cult preached the fundamental equality of all religions and the unity of Godhead, and held that dignity of man depended on his actions and not on his birth, protested against too much ritualism and formalities in matters of religion as also the domination of the priesthood. They emphasised simple devotion and faith as a means of salvation for one and all. Substance of Bhakti cult lies in loving devotion to the supreme Deity variously named Krishna, Vishnu, Narayana etc. and communion with Him.

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During the Mughal period a considerable Bhakti literature grew up in Hindi, Bengali, Oriya, Gujarati and Assamese languages..

Ramananda served as “the bridge between the Bhakti movement of the South and the North.” He preached in the language of the common people, i.e. Hindi. He rejected castes and admitted men of all classes as his disciples, among whom were a cobbler, a barber and a Muhammadan weaver, namely Kabir. Ramananda was a worshipper of

Rama and his followers are still numerous in the Gangetic plain.

Mira Bai, a Rajput princess renounced the palace life of Chitor and became a disciple of the follower of Ramananda. Ramananda's doctrines were embodied by her in Hindi and Gujarati devotional verses of high quality. Some of Ramananda's hymns have been included in the Adi Granth by Guru Arjan.

Ramananda is supposed to have been connected with the great Vaishnava Ramanuja. But Ramananda substituted Ram and Sita for Vishnu and Lakshmi of Ramanuja sect as objects of devotion. Ramananda propagated his Bhakti cult in Hindi and not in Sanskrit as did Ramanuja sect, and thus his appeal to common people was great as they understood his language.

Ramananda raised his movement above caste prejudices, unlike Ramanuja sect, allowing people of all castes high or low to eat and drink together, thus get emancipated from the restrictions of caste prejudices. The followers of Ramananda were therefore, known as Abhadhuts, i.e. emancipated.

The Bhakti Movement was thus the outcome of rigidity in religion and the objects of worship. The Bhakti Movement Saints and teachers belonged to various backgrounds, but mainly from the lower castes. They strongly preach the need for tolerance among humans and religions. It became popular just because this movement challenged the caste system and superiority of Brahmanas.

List of Saints and Teachers of the Bhakti Movement

Saints and teachers of the Bhakti Movement	Contribution
Shankara (788 - 820 AD)	1. Integrated the essence of Buddhism in Hindu thought and interpreted the ancient Vedic religion 2. Consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta
Ramanuja (1017-1137 A.D)	1. Exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism 2. Literary works: Traditionally 9 Sanskrit texts, including

	<p>Vedartha Sangraham, Sri Bhashyam, Gita Bhashyam</p> <p>3. Propagator of Vishishtadvaita Vedanta or qualified monism</p>
Basava (12th Century)	<p>1. Founder of the Lingayats</p> <p>2. Literary works: Vachana Sahitya in Kannada Language</p> <p>3. Propagator of shakthi Visishtadvaita</p>
Madhva (1238-1319 AD)	<p>1. Broke away from the doctrine of unity of God and the human soul prevalent at the time</p> <p>2. He preached "Dvaita" or dualism, where the divinity was separate from the human conscience</p>
Ramanada (15th century)	<p>1. Founder of Sant-parampara (literally, the tradition of bhakti saints) in north India</p> <p>2. Disciple(s): 2 poetess-saints and 10 poet-saints</p>

	<p>including Kabir, Ravidas, Bhagat Pipa, Sukhanand</p> <p>3. Literary works: Gyanlila and Yog-cintamani (Hindi), Vaisnava Mata Bhajabhaskara and Ramarcana paddhati (Sanskrit)</p>
<p>sKabir (1440-1510 AD)</p>	<p>1. Disciple of Ramananda</p> <p>2. He believed in formless God.</p> <p>3. He was the first to reconcile Hinduism and Islam.</p>
<p>Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1538 AD)</p>	<p>1. Founder of Sikhism religion</p> <p>2. Opposes idol worship and caste system, and taught worship of one God through prayer and meditation.</p>
<p>Purandara (15th century)</p>	<p>1. One of the chief founding-proponents of the South Indian classical music (Carnatic Music).</p> <p>2. He is often quoted as Karnataka Sangeeta Pitamaha</p>

Dadu Dayal (1544-1603 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disciple of Kabir 2. He was a supporter of Hindu-Muslim unity 3. His followers were called Dadu Panthis
Chaitanya (1468-1533 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Founder of modern Vaishnavism in Bengal 2. Popularized Kirtan
Shankaradeva (1499-1569 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spread the Bhakti cult in Assam
Vallabhacharya (1479-1531 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exponent of Krishna cult 2. He worshipped Krishna under the title "Srinathji"
Surdas (1483- 1563 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disciple of Vallabhacharya 2. Showed intense devotion to Radha and Krishna 3. Regarded as the outstanding devotional poet in Brajbhasha
Mirabai (1498- 1563 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staunch devotee of Lord Krishna

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Composed number of songs and poems in honour of Krishna.
Haridas (1478-1573 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A great musician saint who sang the glories of Lord Vishnu
Tulasidas (1532-1623 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Depicted Rama as the incarnation 2. Wrote Ramcharitmanas
Namdeva (1270-1309 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disciple of Vishoba Khechar 2. He was a devotee of Vittoba (Vishnu)
Jnanesvar (1275-1296 AD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrote "Jnaneswari", a commentary on the Bhagavad-Gita
Ekknath	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrote commentary on verses of the Bhagavad-Gita 2. Devotee of Vithoba
Tukaram	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contemporary of Maratha king Shivaji 2. Devotee of Vithal 3. He founded the Varkaris sect