Notes

Bhakti Movement in South

The Bhakti Movement originated in the seventh-century in Tamil, South India (now parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala), and spread northwards. It swept over east and north India from the 15th century onwards, reached its peak between the 15th and 17th century CE.

The Alwars and Nayanmars of Tamil Nadu

- The Alvars and Nayanars led some of the earliest bhakti movements (c. sixth century).
- Alvars – those who are “immersed” in devotion to Vishnu and embraced vaisnavism.
- Nayanars – leaders who were devotees of Shiva
- They travelled from place to place singing hymns in Tamil praising their gods.
- The Alvars and Nayanars initiated a movement of protest against the caste system and the dominance of Brahmanas or at least attempted to reform the system. This is supported by the fact that bhaktas or disciples hailed from
diverse social backgrounds ranging from Brahmanas to artisans and cultivators and even from castes considered “untouchable”

- The Nalayira Divyaprabandham (“Four Thousand Sacred Compositions”) – one of the major anthologies of compositions of the 12 Alvars compiled by Nadamuni in the 10\textsuperscript{th} Century

- It was frequently described as the Tamil Veda, thus claiming that the text was as significant as the four Vedas in Sanskrit that were cherished by the Brahmanas.

- From a composition of an Alvar named Tondaradippodi a Brahmana mentions Chaturvedins – Are strangers and without faithfulness to your service.

- Tevaram – a collection of compiled and classified in the 10\textsuperscript{th} century on the basis of the music of the songs of Appar (Thirunavukkarasar), Sambandar, and Sundarar.

- Appar has composed 49,000 hymns (pathigams) and only 311 hymns are available.

- Sambandhar has sung 16000 devotional hymns and only 384 are available.

- Sundaramoorthy Nayanar has composed 38000 hymns and only 100 were available.
The most popular works of this period are Sekhizhar’s Periyapuranam (Biographies of Nayanmars), Devaram (a collection of hymns) and Thiruvasagam.

**Women Devotees**

**Andal**

- A woman Alvar the compositions of Andal were widely sung (and continue to be sung to date).
- Andal saw herself as the beloved of Vishnu; her verses express her love for the deity.

**Karaikkal Ammaiyar**

- Another woman, Karaikkal Ammaiyar, a devotee of Shiva, adopted the path of extreme asceticism in order to attain her goal.

**Sankaracharya**

- Sankara started a Hindu restoration movement giving a new placement to Hinduism and started bakthi movement in india.
- He was born in Kaladi in Kerala.
- His doctrine of Advaita or Monoism was too abstract to appeal to the common man.
- Brahma or supreme spirit is alone real.
The Advaita Concept of Nirgunabrahman (God without attributes) received contradictory reaction with the emergence of the idea of Sagunabrahman (God with attributes).

**Ramanuja**

- He was born at Sriperumbudur near modern Chennai.
- He preached Visishtadvaita in the 12th century.
- According to him God is Sagunabrahman.
- He encouraged Prabattimarga or path of self-surrender to God.
- He invited the downtrodden to Vaishnavism.

**Madhava**

- Madhava is from Kannada region whose preaching prevailed in the 13th century.
- He spread Deviator dualism of Jivatma and Paramatma.
- His philosophy was that the world is not an illusion but a reality. God, soul, matter are unique in nature.

**Nimbarka and Vallabhacharya**

- They were also other preachers of Vaishnavite Bhakti in the Telungana region.
- Vallabhacharya, Basava was the founder of Virasaivism. His followers were known as Virasaivas or Lingayats.
They challenged the idea of caste and theory of rebirth.

**Surdas**

- He was the disciple of Vallabhacharya
- He popularized Krishna cult in north India

**Mirabai**

- She was a great devotee of Krishna.
- She became popular in Rajasthan for her bhajans.

**Tulsidas**

- He was a worshipper of Rama.
- He composed the famous *Ramcharitmanas*, the Hindi version of *Ramayana*.

**Ramnanda**

- He was born at Allahabad.
- Initially he was a follower of Ramanuja.
- Was responsible for spreading the Bhakti movement in northern India
- Later he founded his own sect and preached his principles in Hindi at Banaras and Agra.
- Ramananda was the first to employ the vernacular medium to spread his ideas.
He opposed the caste system and chose his disciples from all sections of society irrespective of caste.

Ramananda’s disciples were:

- Kabir
- Raidasa, he was a cobbler
- Sena, he was a barber
- Sadhana
- Dhanna, he was from a Jat farmer
- Naraharai, he was a goldsmith
- Pipa, he was a Rajput prince

**Kabir**

- Kabir was the most famous disciple of Ramananda.
- He made bakthi movement popular among the people.
- He was brought up by a Muslim couple who were weavers by profession.
- He had a curious mind in learning new things and he learnt much about Hinduism in Benares.
- Kabir’s aim was to reunite Hindus and Muslims and form harmony between them.
- He is regarded as the greatest of the mystic saints.
- His followers are called Kabirpanthis.
His teachings were collected in a book called Bijaka.

In the 14th and 15th centuries, Ramananda, Kabir and Nanak remained the great apostles of the Bhakti cult.

They aided the common people to shed age-old superstitions and attain salvation through Bhakti or pure devotion.

Criticized all forms of worship of idols.

**Guru Nanak**

- Guru Nanak was born in 1469 in Talwandi near Lahore.
- He was a disciple of Kabir.
- He was founder of the Sikh Religion.
- He condemned caste difference and rituals like bathing in holy rivers.
- He established a centre at Kartarpur named Dera Baba Nanak on the river Ravi. His idea of religion was highly practical and strictly moral.
- His one of the famous sayings was “Abide pure amidst the impurities of the world”.
- He preached unity of god, goodwill and cooperations among hindus and muslims.
- He opposed idol worship and orthodox beliefs.

**Guru Agnad**
Guru Angad also known as Lehna was appointed by Guru before his death.

Guru Angad compiled the compositions of Guru Nanak in a new script known as Gurmukhi and added his own compositions as well.

Guru Arjan

- He was the 5th Guru.
- He compiled the writings of the three successors of Guru Angad who wrote under the name of “Nana”.
- He was executed by Jehangir in 1604.

Guru Govind Singh

- He was the 9th Guru.
- In 1706, he authenticated the compilation which was added with the writings of other figures like Shaikh Farid, Sant Kabir, Bhagat Namdev and Guru Tegh Bahadur, which is now known as Guru Granth Sahib.

The town of Ramdaspur (Amritsar) had developed around the central Gurdwara called Harmandar Sahib (Golden Temple) by the beginning of the 17th century. It was almost self-governing and also referred as ‘a state within the state’ community.

Chaitanya
➤ Chaitanya was another renowned saint and reformer of Bengal who popularised the Krishna cult.

➤ He believed that a devotee can feel the presence of God through song and dance and love and devotion.

**Gnanadeva**

➤ He was the founder of the Bhakti Movement in Maharashtra in the 13th century.

➤ It was called as Maharashtra dharma.

➤ He wrote Gnaneswari a commentary of Bhagavat Gita.

**Namadeva**

➤ In the 16th Century Namadeva preached the gospel of love.

➤ He opposed idol worship and dominance of priests.

➤ He criticized the caste system.

**Ekanath**

➤ He was a prominent Marathi Sant, a scholar and religious poet of the Varkari Sampradaya.

➤ He opposed caste differences and was kind towards the lower castes.

➤ He is known as a bridge between his predecessors Dnyaneshwar and Namdev and the later Tukaram and Ramdas.

**Tukaram**
Tukaram was another Bhakti saint of Maharashtra and was a contemporary of Sivaji.

Tukaram also referred to as Sant Tukaram, Bhakta Tukaram, Tukaram Maharaj, Tukobaand Tukobaraya.

He was a 17th-century poet-saint of the Bhakti movement in Maharashtra.

Tukaram is best known for his Abhanga-devotional poetry and kirtans—community-oriented worship with spiritual songs.

His poetry was devoted to Vitthala or Vithoba, an avatar of Hindu god Vishnu.

Responsible for creating a background for Maratha nationalism.

Nathpanthis, Siddhas, and Yogis

They condemned the ritual and other aspects of orthodox religion and the social order, using simple, logical arguments.

They encouraged renunciation of the world.

To them, the path to salvation lay in meditation and to achieve this they advocated intense training of the mind and body through practices like yogasanas, breathing exercises and meditation.

These groups became particularly popular among “low” castes.

Importance of the Bakthi Movement
Bhakti movement provided a spur for the development of regional languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, etc.

The lower classes rose to a position of great importance.

The Bhakti movement gave equal importance to men and women which gave way to the importance of women in society.

**Sufism**

Sufism was a liberal reform movement within Islam. It spread into India in the 11th century but had origin in Persia.

**Shaikh Ismail**

- Shaikh Ismail of Lahore was the first Sufi Saint who started preaching his ideas.

**Khwaja Muinuddin Chisthi**

- Also called 'Gharib Nawaz' Which means protector of the poor.
- He was one of the most famous Sufi Saints who settled in Ajmer which became the centre of his activities.
- He had a number of disciples who are called Sufis of the Chisthi Order.

**Bahauddin Zakariya**

- He is another renowned Sufi Saint who was influenced by Shihabuddin Suhrawardi another famous mystic.
- He founded the Sufis of the Suhrawardi Order.
**Baba Farid**

- He is famous among the Sufi saints.
- Sultan Balban was a devotee of baba farid

**Nagore Andavar**

- Also called as Meeran Sahib and Qadirwali
- 'Kandhuri urs' festival is celebrated in nagore

**Nizamuddin Auliya**

- Also called as 'Mehboob -i-Illahi'
- He belonged to the Chisthi Order who is regarded to be a mighty spiritual force.

**About Sufism**

- Sufism highlighted the essentials of love and devotion as the effective means of the realization of God.
- Sufis believed service to humanity was equal to service to God. According to the Sufis, Love of God meant Love of Humanity.
- In Sufism, self-discipline is essential to gain knowledge of God with a sense of insight.
- The Sufis protested against materialism of the caliphate as a religious and political institution.
The communities were controlled by a master known as shaikh pir or murshid.

The Sufis organised themselves into communities.

The Sufis belonged to 12 orders called as Silsilas.

The word Silsilas means a “chain” signifying a continuous link between master and disciple.

**Bhakti And Sufi Movements - Questions**

1) Where was the Bhakti Movement arose first?

(A) North India

(B) **South India**

(C) Central India

(D) West India

2) Who was responsible for spreading the Bhakti movement in northern India?

(A) **Ramananda**

(B) Kabir

(C) Nayanmars

(D) Alwars

3) Who made the Bhakti movement popular among the people?

(A) Ramananda

(B) **Kabir**
4) Which religion did Alwars embraced?

(A) Saivism

(B) Vairavism

(C) Buddhism

(D) Jainism

5) Who is also called as Appar?

(A) Sundarar

(B) Tirunavukkarasar

(C) Manikkavasagar

(D) Sambandar

6) What is the right statement in the following statements?

1) Tirunavukkarasar has composed 49,000 hymns (pathigams).

2) Tirunavukkarasar taught the only way to reach the God is love and not the rituals.

3) The Thiruvasagam is written by Tirunavukkarasar.

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 only

(C) 3 only

(D) All of these

7) Which book describes Biography of Nayanmars?
(A) Devaram

(B) Thiruvvasakam

(C) Thirumurai

(D) Periyapuranam

8) How many Alwars were there?

(A) 63

(B) 12

(C) 10

(D) 11

9) Who compiled 4000 hymns sung by the Alwars and named it as 'Nalayira Divya Prabhandam'?

(A) Nammalwar

(B) Perialwar

(C) Nadamuni

(D) Andal

10) Who started the Bhakti movement in ancient South India?

(A) Kabir

(B) Sankaracharya

(C) Manickavasagar

(D) Sundarar
11) Which of the following statements is/are wrong?

1) Sankaracharya did not preach the Advaita philosophy or worship of one God.

2) Brahma or supreme spirit is alone real.

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

12) Who is a great exponent of the bhakti born at sriperumbudur in AD 12\textsuperscript{th} century and followed vaishnavite?

(A) Ramananda

(B) Ramanuja

(C) Sankaracharya

(D) Somananda

13) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1) Vallabhacharya, Basava was the founder of Virasaivism. His followers were known as Virasaivas or Lingayats.

2) They challenged the idea of caste and theory of rebirth.

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 only

(C) 1 and 2
(D) None of these

14) Who was the first to emphasize Hindu-Muslim unity?

(A) Kabir

(B) Chaitanya

(C) Vallabachariya

(D) Nanak

15) How is Kabir's teachings called?

(A) Dohas

(B) Bijaka

(C) Kabirpanthis

(D) Poems

16) Which of the following statements is not related to Guru Nanak?

1) Guru nanak was born in 1469.

2) He preached unity of god, goodwill and cooperations among hindus and muslims.

3) He opposed idol worship and orthodox beliefs.

(A) 1 and 2

(B) 2 and 3

(C) All of these

(D) None of these
17) Who was the founder of Sikhism?

(A) Guru Nanak
(B) Guru Govind Singh
(C) Guru Arjun Dev
(D) Somananda

18) The bhajans of mirabai is very popular in

(A) Gujarat
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Bengal
(D) Mewar

19) Who is the first dalit writer of india who belongs to maharashtra saints?

(A) Namdeva
(B) Chokamela
(C) Eknath
(D) Tulsidas

20) Match the following

1) Guru Ramadas - Periyapuranam
2) Tulsidas - Dasabodha
3) Sekizhar - Gnaneswari
4) Gnanadeva - Ramcharit manas

(A) 2 4 1 3
21) Sufism was a reform movement which originated in Persia and became popular in India in the 12th century. How was the followers of this movement called?

(A) Caliphate

(B) Sufi

(C) Mursit

(D) Silsila

22) Which of the following statements is /are wrong?

1) The Sufi organised themselves into communities.

2) The communities were controlled by a master known as shaikh pir or murshid.

3) The Sufis belonged to 24 orders called as Silsilas.

4) Silsila is a continuous chain, which refers to the link between God and the disciple.

5) The Sufi movement supported the actions of the caliphate.

(A) 1, 2, 3

(B) 4, 5
(C) 1, 4, 5

(D) 3, 4, 5

23) Who is called 'Gharib Nawaz'?

(A) Baba Farid

(B) Khwaja Muin-ud-din-chisti

(C) Nizam-ud-din-auliya

(D) Nagore Andavar

24) 'Gharib Nawaz' means

(A) God's Protector

(B) Protector of the poor

(C) Protector guardian

(D) Protector of love

25) Who is famous among the Sufi saints?

(A) Khwaja Muin-ud-din-chisti

(B) Baba Farid

(C) Nizam-ud-din-auliya

(D) Nagore Andavar

26) Who is called 'Mehboob -i-Illahi'?

(A) Khwaja Muin-ud-din-chisti

(B) Baba Farid
(C) Nizam-ud-din-auliya

(D) Nagore Andavar

27) 'Who is called as Meeran Sahib and Qadirwali?

(A) Khwaja Muin-ud-din-chisti

(B) Baba Farid

(C) Nizam-ud-din-auliya

(D) Nagore Andavar

28) In which place 'Kandhuri urs' festival is celebrated?

(A) Punjab

(B) Nagore

(C) Ajmer

(D) Velankanni

29) Who was a devotee of baba farid?

(A) Sultan Balban

(B) Iltutmish

(C) Khwaja Muin-ud-din-chisti

(D) Nagore andavar

30) How was the people spread Vishnu's fame is called as

(A) Jains

(B) Buddhist
(C) Nayanmars

(D) Alwars