

Ch- Devotional Path to Divine

1. Assertion (A): The idea of Bhakti allowed people from all castes and genders to worship a personal god.

Reason (R): Bhakti movement upheld that devotion to one's chosen deity was the only path to salvation.

2. Assertion (A): The Virashaiva movement in Karnataka accepted idol worship and temple rituals.

Reason (R): Basavanna and his followers believed that true devotion required elaborate forms of worship.

3. Statement I: Shankaracharya believed that the world is an illusion and Brahman is the only reality.

Statement II: Ramanuja believed that the individual soul merges completely and loses its identity in Brahman.

4. Statement I: Nayanars and Alvars composed hymns in Tamil and promoted regional languages.

Statement II: Their teachings strengthened the rigid caste hierarchy in South India.

5. The teachings of Kabir, Basavanna, and Jalaluddin Rumi reflect a common theme of —

- a) Wealth and power as means to attain salvation
- b) External rituals being necessary for salvation
- c) Search for God within oneself through love and devotion
- d) Acceptance of caste hierarchy as divine

6. Which of the following reflects the inclusive nature of Bhakti and Sufi traditions?

- a) Emphasis on the superiority of one religion over others
- b) Belief that only Brahmins could achieve salvation
- c) The idea that all humans, irrespective of caste or creed, could approach God
- d) Strict adherence to rituals and scripture

7. Which one of the following is not the correct reason for the popularity of the Bhakti movement?

- a) Bhakti saints composed in local languages understood by common people.
- b) Bhakti movement supported equality among all castes and genders.
- c) Bhakti teachings favoured complex rituals and Sanskrit texts.

d) Bhakti offered a direct, personal path to attain God.

8. Situations in history often show how faith became a tool to challenge social barriers. Considering the growth of the Bhakti tradition, explain how this spiritual movement turned into a means for establishing social equality and mutual respect among all sections of society.

Answer: Bhakti as a Force for Equality

- (i) Saints like Basavanna, Namdev and Kabir opposed caste discrimination.
- (ii) Emphasized equality of all before God.
- (iii) Allowed women and lower castes to become devotees.
- (iv) Promoted simple living and selfless service to humanity.
- (v) Rejected priestly dominance and rituals.

9. Periods of social division and religious rigidity often give rise to reformers with inclusive visions. Examine how Baba Guru Nanak's teachings served as a unifying philosophy that encouraged harmonious living, honest work, and shared human values.

Answer: Guru Nanak's Vision of Oneness

- (i) Taught belief in one God beyond caste and creed.
- (ii) Emphasised honest living and sharing with others.
- (iii) Rejected ritualism and idol worship.
- (iv) Promoted community kitchens (Langar) to practice equality.
- (v) Stressed social commitment through work and service.

10. The life of certain saints reflected moral strength greater than any royal power. Discuss how Mirabai's personal devotion and spiritual courage demonstrated her defiance against rigid norms and inspired future generations with the ideal of fearless faith.

Answer: Mirabai's Fearless Devotion

- (i) Refused royal life to follow her spiritual path.
- (ii) Accepted Ravidas, a saint from low caste, as her guru.
- (iii) Faced persecution from Rana with faith and calmness.
- (iv) Sang verses of surrender to Krishna despite opposition.
- (v) Became a symbol of devotion and resistance to social norms.