

20/11/24

Page No. _____

Date _____

CH- Devotional paths to The Divine

* Notes:-

- The idea of a Supreme God:-
Earlier → Diff. groups → Own gods & goddesses
Towns → new ideas developed

* All living beings → Birth, Rebirth → Bad & Good deeds

* All humans are not equal even at birth.
‘Social privileges’ → Birth in a ‘noble family’ or
‘high caste’

felt uneasy

felt attracted

ex- Shiva, Vishnu, Durga → Supreme Gods

* Puranas → It was possible for devotees to the
grace of god regardless of their caste
status.

Buddhists

Jains

→ followed

* A new kind of Bhakti in South India - Nayanaris and
Alvars :-

- The Nayanars and Alvars went from place to place composing exquisite poems in praise of the deities enshrined in the villages they visited, and set them to music.

- This was also the time when their poems were compiled. Besides, hagiographies or religious biographies of the Alvars and Nayanars were also composed.

* Philosophy and Bhakti -

- He was an advocate of Advaita or the doctrine of the oneness of the individual soul and the supreme God which is the ultimate reality.

- Ramanuja, born in Tamil Nadu in the eleventh century, was deeply influenced by the Alvars.

- He propounded the doctrine of Vishishtadvaita or qualified oneness in that the soul even when the supreme God remained distinct.

* Basavanna's Virahanaivism -

- The Virashnavas argued strongly for the equality of all human beings and against Brahmanical ideas about caste and the treatment of women.

* Bhakti movement in the Deccan -

- The most important among them were Dnyaneshwar (Gyaneswar), Namdev, Eknath and Jukhaman as well as women like Sakhubai and the family of Chokhamela, who belonged to the 6b 'untouchable' Mahar caste.

* Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis -

- A number of religious groups that emerged during this period criticised the ritual and other aspects of conventional religion and the social order, using simple, logical arguments.

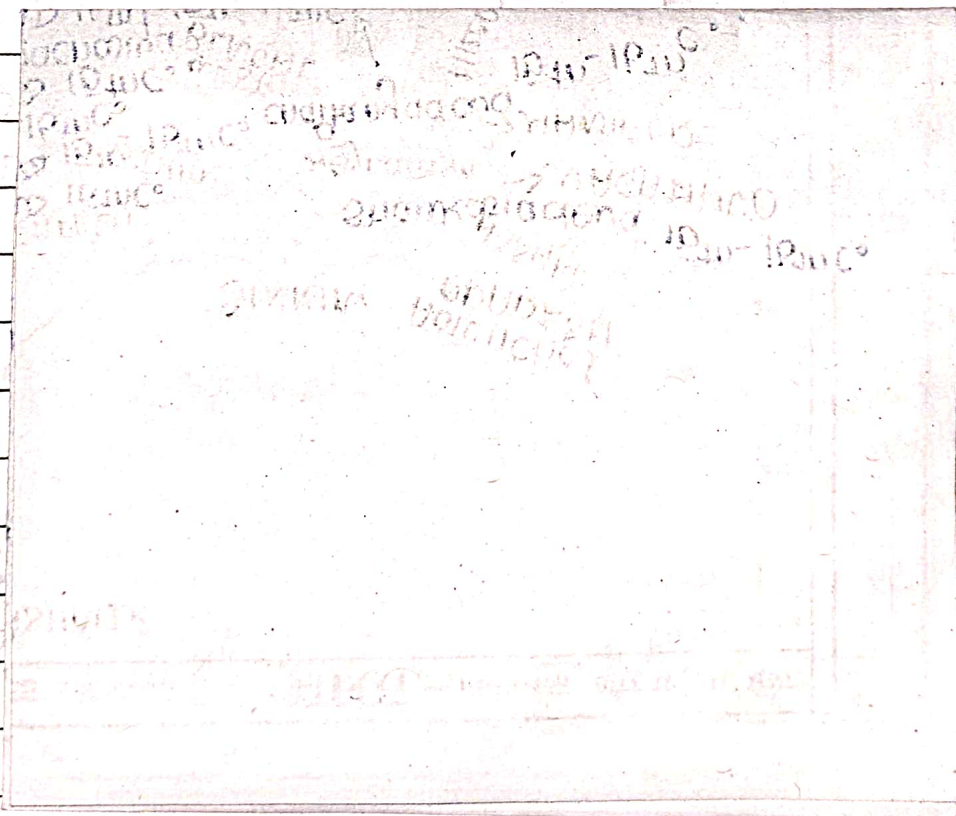
Islam and Sufism -

Islam propagated strict monotheism or submission to one God.

Sufis were Muslim mystics.

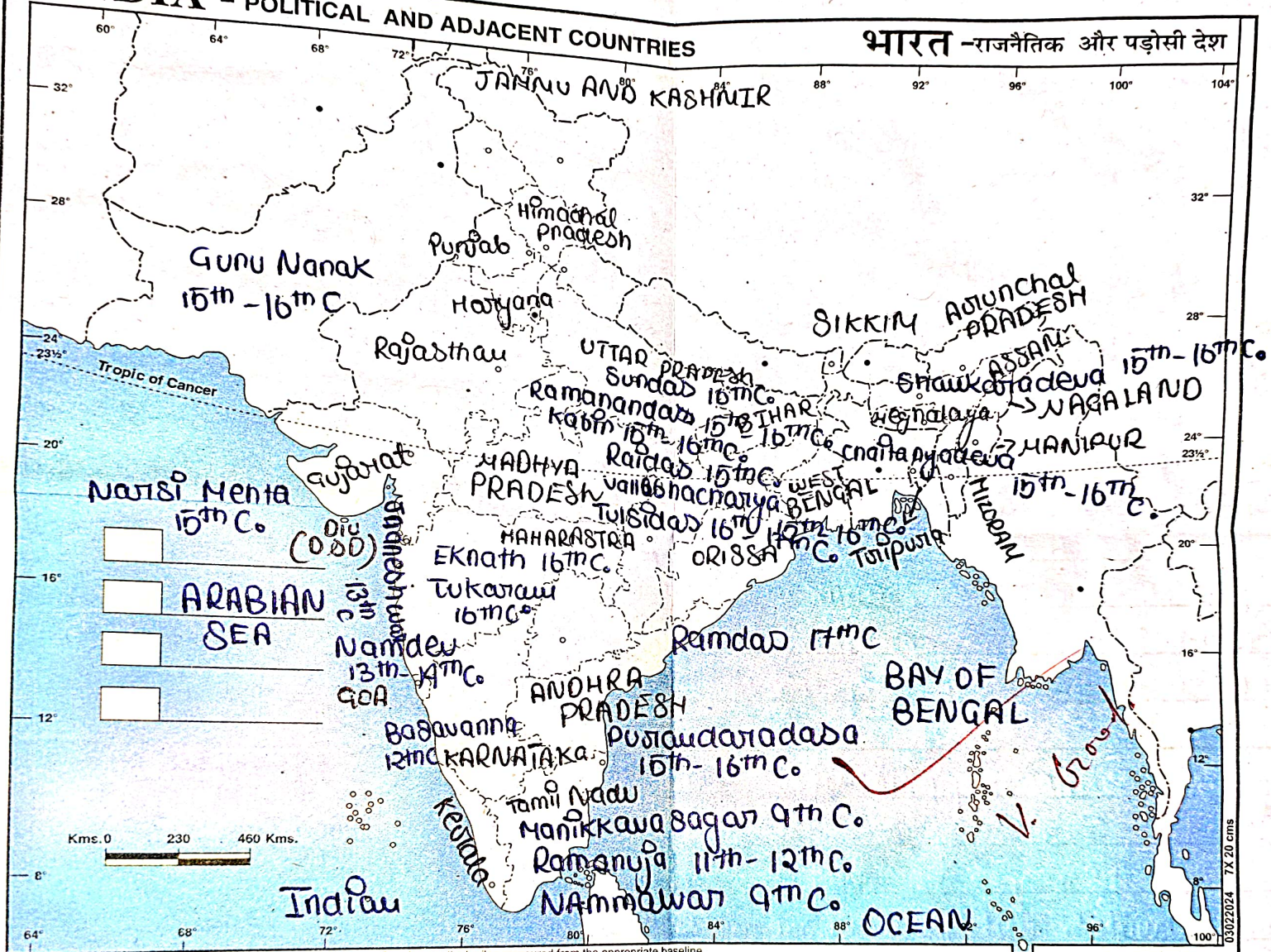
The Chishti Silsilah was among the most influential orders.

- The Sufi masters held their assemblies in their khanqahs or hospices.
- * New religious developments in north India
- This was an age when Islam, Brahmanical Hinduism, Sufism, various strands of bhakti, and the Nathpanths.
- Some of them like Kabir and Baba Guru Nanak rejected all ~~orthodox~~ religions.
- This tradition also included saints like Dadu Dayal.



INDIA - POLITICAL AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES

भारत - राजनैतिक और पड़ोसी देश



1. The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate baseline.
2. The State boundaries between Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand, Bihar & Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh have not been verified by the Governments concerned.
3. The interstate boundaries amongst Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya shown on this map are as interpreted from the "North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971," but have yet to be verified.
4. The External boundaries and coastlines of India shown on this map agree with the Record / Master copy certified by the Survey of India, Dehra Dun Uttarakhand. (Vide their letter No. T.B. 410/62-A-3/213 Dated 1-10-2019.)
5. The administrative Headquarters of Chandigarh, Haryana and Punjab are at Chandigarh. Andhra Pradesh are at Hyderabad.

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- * A closer look at Kabir -
 - We get to know of his ideas from a vast collection of verses called Sakhi's and pads said to have been composed by him and sung by wandering bhajan singers.
- * A closer look at Baba Guru Nanak -
 - In spite of their former creed, caste or gender, his followers ate together in the common kitchen (Langar).
 - Before his death in 1539, Baba Guru Nanak appointed one of his followers as his successor.
 - The number of Baba Guru Nanak's followers increased through the sixteenth century under his successors.
 - He emphasised the importance of the worship of one god.
 - Like Kabir, Ravidas and Dadu whose ideas were very similar to those of Baba Guru Nanak.

* Q / ANSWERS -

Q1 Match the following -

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| • The Buddha | namghari |
| • Shankaradeva | worship of vishnu |
| • Nizamuddin Auliya | questioned social differences |
| • Nayanars | Sufi saint |
| • Alvars | worship of Shiva |

Q2 Fill in the blanks:-

- Shankara was an advocate of ~~the~~ advaita.
- Ramanuja was influenced by the Alvars.
- Basavanna, Allama Prabhu and Akkamahadevi were advocates of ~~vishnavism~~ ~~vaishnavism~~.
- Vithala temple was an important center of the Bhakti tradition in Maharashtra.

Q3 Describe the beliefs and practices of the Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis?

Ans i) The Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis believed in the renunciation of the world.

ii) They criticized the ritual and other aspects of conventional religion and social order.

iii) According to them, the path of salvation lay in meditating on the formless ultimate reality and oneness.

iv) They stressed on intense training of the mind and body through yogasanas, breathing exercises and meditation.

Q4 What are the major ideas expressed by Kabir? How did he express these?

Ans The following ideas were expressed by Kabir:

i) Kabir rejected the major religious traditions.

ii) He believed in a formless Supreme God.

iii) For him, the path of salvation was through bhakti or devotion.

iv) He expressed his ideas through verse called

Sakhis and pads.

- v) He openly made fun of all external forms of the religion, Hindu and Islam, also the pre-eminence of priestly classes and the cast system.

Q5. What were the major beliefs and practices of the Sufis?

Ans. The following were the major beliefs and the practices of the Sufis:-

- i) Sufis were muslim mystics and they rejected the outward religiosity.
- ii) The Sufis believed in union with God as a lover seeking his beloved.
- iii) They also believed that the heart could be trained to look at the world in a different way.
- iv) They rejected the elaborate rituals and codes of behaviour demanded by muslim religious scholars.

v) The Sufis developed various methods of training using Zikr (chanting of a name or sacred formula), Contemplation, singing and dancing.

vi) The Sufi masters held their assemblies in Khauqans, there they discussed spiritual matters and sought the blessings of saints.

Q6. Why do you think many teachers rejected prevalent religious beliefs and practices?
Ans. Many teachers rejected prevalent religious beliefs and practices because:-

i) Such beliefs advocated social differences and practicing them was difficult and cumbersome.

ii) The lower cast was oppressed by upper cast.

iii) They wanted to free the right of worship God and simplify it by abandoning the rituals to please God.

iv) They believed in power of personal devotion.

Q7. What were the major teachings of the Baba Guru Nanak?

Ans. The following were the major teachings of Baba Guru Nanak -

- i) Baba Guru Nanak emphasized the worship of one god.
- ii) He directed people to the importance of right belief and worship, honest living and helping others.
- iii) According to him, caste, creed and gender was irrelevant for attaining liberation.
- iv) Liberation for him was not that of state of inert bliss but the pursuit of active life with a strong sense of social commitment.
- v) He gave the motto of nam, dan and niran, which meant right worship, the welfare of others and purity of conduct.

Q8. For either the virashnavas or the saints of Maharashtra, discuss their attitude towards caste.

Ans. The attitude of virashnavas or the saints of Maharashtra are discussed attitude as follows-

- i) Both virashnavas and the saints of Maharashtra rejected social inequality and caste difference.
- ii) They reacted to the temple worship.
- iii) They rejected the ideas of Brahmins towards cast system and women.
- iv) Argued for the equality of all human beings, mainly the virashnavas.

Q9. Why do you think ordinary people preserved the memory of Mirabai?

Ans. Ordinary people have preserved the memory of Mirabai because of-

- i) She belonged to the royal family.
- ii) Her songs openly challenge the norms

of the upper casts.

iii)

She left her husband and even drink the poison but did not die. This popularized her as being saved by Lord and as a true devotee.