



Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Present a sketch of major Sufi orders in India. What was their goal? Explain. (250 words)

Reference: Medieval Indian History NCERT by R S Sharma

Why the question:

The question is based on the theme of major Sufi orders that prevailed in India and their goals.

Key Demand of the question:

Account in detail for major Sufi orders in India and present their goals.

Directive:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start by explaining what you understand by Sufi orders. Sufism has a history in India evolving for over 1,000 years.

Body:

There are three Sufi orders:

Silsilahs – The Sufis Formed Many orders – *silshilas*. By the thirteenth century, there were 12 *silsilahs*.

Khanqas – The Sufi saints live in *khanqas*. Devotees of religions came to these *khanqas* to seek the blessings of Saints.

Sama – Music and dances session, called *Sama*.

Provide first for their early history. The core concept of Sufi Movement is *Darikh-i-Duniya* / *Wahad-ul-wahjud*, meaning “Universal Brotherhood”. It outwardly rejected the religion and emphasized love and devotion to God and compassion towards all fellow human beings.

Explain how they tried to transform Islam and promote secular fabric of India.

Discuss their key goals.

Conclusion:

Conclude with their importance.

Introduction:

Sufis were a group of religious-minded people who turned to asceticism and mysticism in protest against the growing materialism of the Caliphate as a religious and political institution. Sufism entered India in the 12th century with Muslim invaders and became popular in the 13th century. The socio-religious movement saw many mystic Sufis, who were unorthodox Muslim saints. These Sufis had a deep study of vedantic philosophy and had come in contact with great sages and seers of India. Sufism emphasizes upon leading a simple life. Sufi saints preached in Arabic, Persian and Urdu etc. The Sufis were divided into 12 orders each under a mystic Sufi saint like Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, Fariuddin Ganj-i-Shakar, Nizam-ud-din Auliya etc.

Body:

Major Sufi orders in India

In India the four major *silsilas* to take root were **Suhrawardiyya, Chishtiyya, Qadiriyya and Naqshabandiyya**. From these major orders many suborders such as **Shattariyya and the Kubrawiyya** branched out.

1. **Chishti Silsilah:**