

Evolution of Shaivism in India

- One of the minor deities of the **Vedic period**, **Rudra** is said to be associated with Shiva. Furthermore, the evolution of Shiva is found in **Yajurveda** where names like Pasupati, Nilagriva etc. are attributed to him.
- The **epics and puranas** contain many anecdotes regarding the annihilation of evil persons like Asuras by Shiva, which is how he came to be understood as God of destruction.
- In the **age of the Guptas** the worship of Siva assumed considerable importance. But a bhakti movement of saivism is only traceable to south India and reached a great height.
- The reference to Shiva in ancient **Sangam literature** onwards is a witness to his prowess and popularity amongst the Tamil. Shiva performed sixty four divine sports which are well described in Tamil devotional literature.

Philosophical Schools of Shaivism

The Pasupatas or Kapalikas:

- The Pasupatas, the oldest Shaivite tradition in the North, emphasize their Saiva monotheism. For them, Shiva is absolutely independent and the instrumental cause of the world. Their yogic practice consists of a constant meditative contact with Shiva in solitude.
- Kapalikas are more extreme groups, who believe that indifference to anything worldly is the best method of freeing oneself from samsara.

Kashmiri or Trika Shaivism:

- It is a monistic form of Shaivism developed in Kashmir in the 9th century.
- It teaches that Shiva is the absolute reality from which all else has emanated.
- It has deep roots in Tantrism and does not believe in the renunciation of the world, rather affirms it.
- It stresses the importance of knowledge for liberation.

Vira Shaivism or Lingayats

- It gained momentum during the beginning of 12th century in the North-Western parts of Karnataka.
- This tradition regards Siva as supreme.
- They theoretically abandon all caste distinctions and grant women equal status with men.
- The linga is regarded as a concentration of fire and light which purifies the body and mind of the individual.

Saiva Siddhanta

- It is a theistic philosophy developed in Tamil Shaivites.
- It declared that matter and souls are eternal like God.
- The Absolute through its 'grace-form' is forever engaged in the rescue of souls from the bondage of matter and the three stains which defile their purity.
- God is not identical with the soul or the universe. He is not their substance but dwells in them and they in him.

Slightly different in character from the classical orthodox systems which concentrated much on pure, abstract and speculative philosophical discussions, Saivism had a specific flavour of blending practical living with philosophical thinking.

4. ***The approach and vision of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose towards the Indian freedom struggle differed in key aspects from the one adopted by the Congress mainstream. Discuss.***

(150 words) 10

Approach:

- Briefly write about Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- Give arguments to show different visions and approaches of Netaji from Congress mainstream towards Indian freedom struggle.
- Conclude on the basis of above points.