Art & Culture · GS - I

Explain how the teachings and historical contributions of the Sikh Gurus have shaped India's traditions of social equality, religious freedom and national integration.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 25/11/2026	GS - I	Art & Culture

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Sikh philosophy, equality, seva, Khalsa, religious freedom, social reform, national integration

Model Answer

Introduction

The Sikh Gurus made significant contributions to India's spiritual, social and cultural history. Their teachings emphasised equality, compassion, service and resistance to injustice, influencing India's pluralistic traditions.

Major Contributions

1. **Social equality:** Guru Nanak Dev rejected caste-based discrimination and emphasised the equality of all human beings. The institution of *Sangat* and *Pangat* promoted collective worship and dining without social distinctions.

2. **Service and compassion:** The tradition of *Seva* and *Langar* institutionalised voluntary service, community participation and shared responsibility.

3. **Religious freedom:** Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom for defending the religious freedom of others became an important historical symbol of resistance to religious persecution.

4. **Courage and collective responsibility:** Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa in 1699, creating a disciplined community committed to justice, courage and the protection of the vulnerable.

5. **Cultural contribution:** Sikh institutions, literature, music and devotional traditions have enriched India's composite cultural heritage.

Contemporary Relevance

1. **Constitutional values:** Sikh teachings of equality and dignity resonate with constitutional principles of liberty, equality and fraternity.
2. **Social harmony:** Community service and interfaith respect offer foundations for reducing social divisions.
3. **National integration:** The tradition of collective responsibility encourages citizens to contribute towards the welfare of society beyond narrow identities.

Conclusion

The legacy of the Sikh Gurus extends beyond religious boundaries. Their emphasis on equality, service, courage and freedom remains relevant to strengthening India's inclusive society and democratic values.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP