Medieval History · GS - I

Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - I	Medieval History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Sulh-i-kul, religious tolerance, Ibadat Khana, Din-i-Ilahi, interfaith dialogue, abolition of discriminatory practices, Rajput policy

Model Answer

Introduction

Akbar's religious policy evolved from political accommodation towards an ethical vision of tolerance and interfaith understanding.

1. Religious Tolerance

Akbar abolished the pilgrimage tax and later the jizya, reducing discriminatory fiscal practices against non-Muslims. His Rajput policy also facilitated political and cultural integration.

2. Interfaith Dialogue

The Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri became a forum for discussions among Muslim scholars and representatives of different religious traditions, including Hinduism, Jainism and Christianity.

3. Sulh-i-kul

The principle of sulh-i-kul, or universal peace, emphasised tolerance and equal treatment of subjects irrespective of religion.

4. Din-i-Ilahi

Akbar introduced Din-i-Ilahi as an ethical fellowship incorporating selected moral ideas rather than establishing a mass religion.

Conclusion

Akbar's syncretism sought to create political stability and social harmony through tolerance, dialogue and accommodation, contributing to a composite cultural ethos.