Society & Social Justice · GS - I

The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Pluralism; religious diversity; philosophical traditions; Bhakti and Sufi movements; constitutional values; contemporary challenges

Model Answer

Introduction

Indian society has evolved through the interaction of diverse religions, languages, communities and philosophical traditions. Tolerance and love have helped sustain this pluralistic civilisation across centuries.

Historical Foundations

- **Philosophical traditions:** Ancient Indian thought included diverse schools of philosophy and debates on truth, ethics and existence.
- **Religious pluralism:** Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity and other traditions have contributed to India's cultural heritage.
- **Bhakti and Sufi movements:** Saints such as Kabir and Guru Nanak emphasised devotion, equality and the rejection of social divisions.
- **Emperor Ashoka:** His policies promoted respect for different religious sects.
- **Freedom struggle:** Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi advocated non-violence, communal harmony and respect for all faiths.

Contemporary Relevance

- India's Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and equality before the law.
- Inter-community cooperation enriches food, music, literature, festivals and everyday life.
- Tolerance strengthens national integration and democratic dialogue.
- Love and compassion encourage inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Challenges

Communal polarisation, hate speech, caste discrimination, misinformation and social prejudice sometimes weaken these traditions. Tolerance should not mean accepting injustice; it must be accompanied by equality and constitutional morality.

Conclusion

Tolerance and love remain essential to India's social cohesion. Education, interfaith dialogue, responsible public discourse and impartial enforcement of law can help translate these enduring values into everyday practice.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP