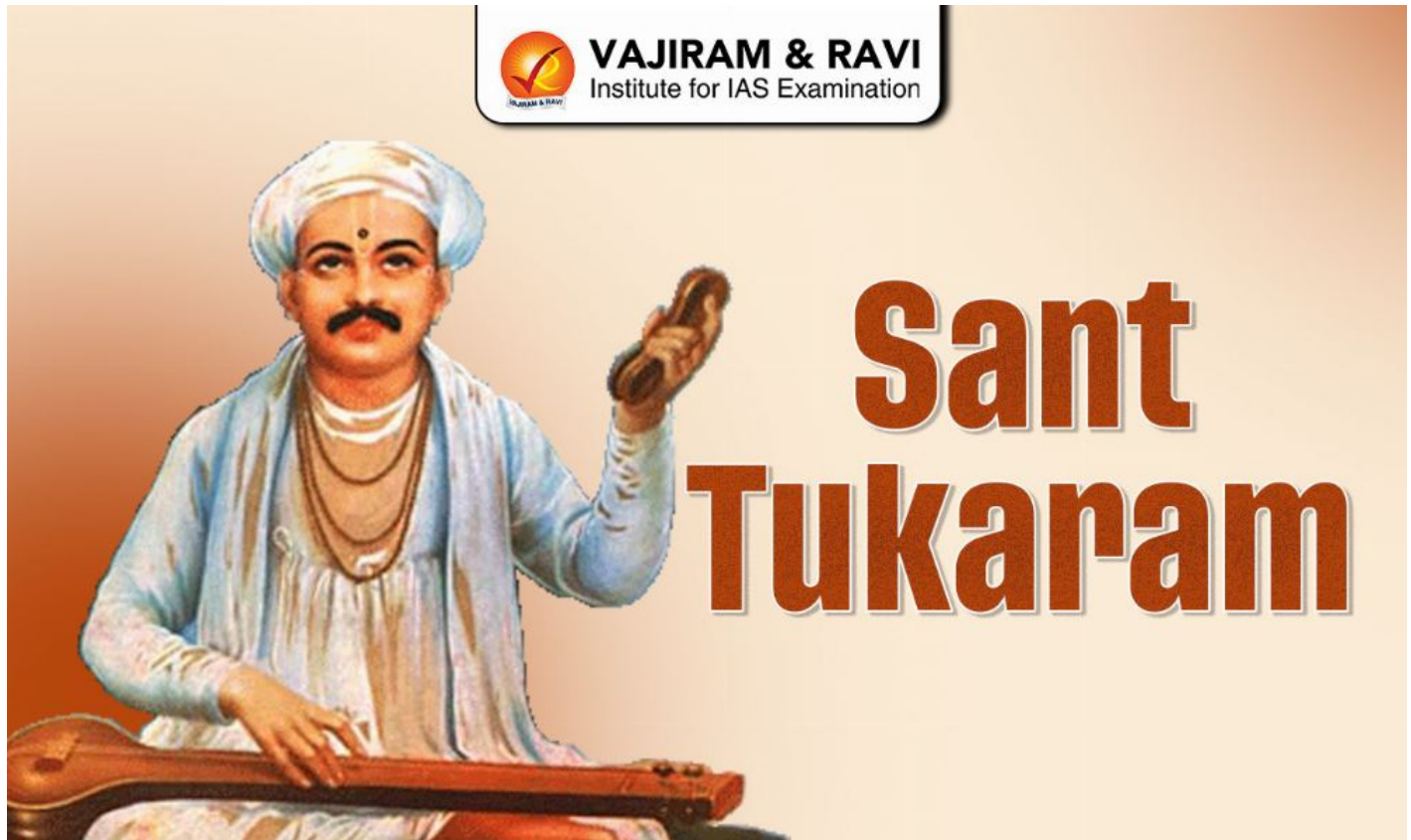


Sant Tukaram, Philosophy, Contributions, Abhangas, Reforms

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Sant Tukaram was a prominent saint and poet of the Bhakti tradition in India. He is known for his deep devotion to God and for spreading the message of love, faith, and equality among people. Through his simple and meaningful teachings, he encouraged people to connect with God through devotion and lead a life based on honesty and humility.

About Sant Tukaram

- Sant Tukaram was a **17th-century saint, poet, and philosopher from Maharashtra**, associated with the Bhakti tradition.
- He was a key **follower of the Warkari sect**, a devotional movement centered on the worship of Lord Vitthala (Panduranga).
- He was also a **contemporary of Shivaji Maharaj**.
- **Warkari Tradition**
 - The Warkari sect is popular in Maharashtra and focuses on **devotion, equality, and simple living**.
 - Saints like **Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, and Eknath** were also part of this tradition.

- Sant Tukaram's teachings and poems are **central to this sect** and still inspire followers today.

- **Literary Contributions**

- Sant Tukaram is best known for his **Abhangas**, which are short devotional poems written in Marathi.
- These poems combine **simple language, folk ideas, and deep spiritual meaning**, making them easy for common people to understand.
- His collection of poems is known as **"Tukaram Gatha"**, which includes thousands of Abhangas.

- **Devotion and Worship**

- He promoted **Kirtans (devotional songs and group singing)** as a way to connect with God.
- His devotion was mainly towards **Lord Vitthala (a form of Vishnu/Krishna)**.
- He believed that **true devotion comes from love and faith**, not from rituals or external practices.

- **Philosophy and Influences**

- Sant Tukaram's teachings were influenced by earlier Bhakti saints like **Kabir, Namdev, Dnyaneshwar, and Eknath**.
- His philosophy had roots in **Vedanta**, but he explained it in a **simple and practical way**.
- He focused on values like **humility, devotion, truth, and inner purity**.

- **Social Reforms**

- Sant Tukaram strongly spoke against **caste discrimination and social inequality**.
- He rejected unnecessary rituals and emphasized that **all people are equal in the eyes of God**.
- His Abhangas became a powerful tool to **challenge social injustice and Brahmanical dominance**.

- **Overall Contribution**

- Sant Tukaram played a major role in strengthening the **Bhakti movement in Maharashtra**.
- His teachings made spirituality **simple, emotional, and accessible** to everyone.
- Even today, his poems and ideas continue to inspire people towards a life of **devotion, equality, and moral values**.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/sant-tukaram/>

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