



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** What were the major teachings of Guru Nanak? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world. (Answer in 150 words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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### Approach

- Begin with a brief introduction to Guru Nanak Dev and his teachings.
- Discuss his major teachings.
- Conclude by discussing how his teachings are relevant in the contemporary world.

### Introduction

Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism and a social reformer who taught the principles of equality, service, honesty, and harmony. His teachings continue to hold immense relevance in the contemporary world.

### Body

His major teachings are as follows:

- **Oneness of God (Ik Onkar):** Guru Nanak emphasized the belief in one universal God, rejecting the notion of multiple deities. This monotheistic doctrine promotes religious tolerance and unity, which is crucial in a world marked by religious diversity and conflicts.
- **Equality and Social Justice:** Guru Nanak championed equality, inspiring Sikhism's values of justice, gender parity, and service. His teachings remain a beacon of hope in our modern struggle against discrimination and inequality.
- **Selfless Service (Seva):** Guru Nanak promoted 'Seva,' selfless service to humanity, fostering compassion, altruism, and a sense of responsibility, still relevant today.
- **Interfaith Dialogue:** Guru Nanak fostered interfaith harmony through dialogues, stressing unity in diversity. His teachings remain vital for global peace and coexistence.
- **Rejecting Rituals and Superstitions:** Guru Nanak rejected empty rituals and superstitions, emphasizing a personal connection with God, which appeals to those seeking a deeper, more meaningful faith.

### Conclusion

In the contemporary world, Guru Nanak's teachings inspire inclusive, compassionate, and harmonious societies, addressing modern issues like religious intolerance and social inequality, guiding us toward a more enlightened and equitable future.

