

Brahmo Samaj

↳ Sabha ↳ 1828 Aug.

↳ 1 worship
monotheism - one God.

↳ reason + Upanishads + Vedas

↳ Nirgun sapna. (formless worship).

↳ human dignity.

↳ no idolatry

↳ opposed Sati.

↳ prayers, meditation, reading scriptures.

↳ unity of all religions.

↳ 1st intellectual reform movement.

↳ rationalism + enlightenment

Raja Ram Mohan Roy

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"Father of Indian Renaissance"

" " Bengal "

↳ Persian

↳ Arabic.

↳ read Quran.

↳ works of Sufi mystic poets.

Plato and Aristotle

↳ Sanskrit + read Vedas + Upanishads.

16 → national critique of Hindu idol worship.

→ 1804, Tulfat - ul - Muwahhidin.

(A gift to monotheists). [Persian language]

Introduction - in Arabic language.

→ in 1814, Atmiya Sabha (society of friends).

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(Calcutta).

→ Western education.

→ Akbar II gave the 'Raja' title.

His Contributions :-

↳ Abolished Sati.

1829: Government Regulation.

Lord William Bentinck, Governor General of India.
(1828 - 1835)

↳ Demanded the right of inheritance and property for women.

↳ Helped David Hare setting up a Hindu College (1825)
Vedanta College.

↳ Indian Journalism.

Prarthana Samaj] Bhakti cult in Maharashtra.

↳ Atmaram Pandurang + Keshav Chandra Sen. (1867).

↳ Paramahansa Sabha.

- Mahadev Govind Ranade
- R G Bhandarkar
- N G Chandavarkar.

Justice Ranade and Prarthana Samaj.

- Widow Remarriage Association was formed (1861).
- Sharada Sadan. (spreading education among widows).
- 1861 - founded a girls' college (Poona)
'Deccan Education Society'

Arya Samaj

↳ Swami Dayanand Saraswati (1875).

↳ Lahore - headquarters.

Avidya

Swami Dayanand Saraswati

↳ Mulshankar. (Brahmin family).

• Satyarth Prakash.

Vedas - "India's Rock of Ages"

"Back to the Vedas"

Ramkrishna Mission

↳ Ramakrishna Paramhansa,

↳ Swami Vivekananda's Guru

• social service.
• social action

- social service.
- self action

Swami Vivekananda

↳ Narendra Nath Dutta.

Young Bengal Movement

- Henry Vivian Derozio.
- taught at Hindu College. (1826 - 1831).

Theosophical Society (New York City, US) (1875).

- Madame HP Blavatsky
 - Colonel MS Olcott.
- } founders.

↓
Madras. (Adyar).

- reincarnation. , karma,
- Upanishads, Samkhya, yoga, Vedanta School philosophy.
- universal brotherhood.

- Annie Besant.

1893 arrived in India.

- Central Hindu College (Benaras) (1898).

- Benaras Hindu University (1916)

Satyashodhak Society (Truth Seeker's Society) (1873).

↳ Jyotibha Phule

↳ mali community.

↳ 'Savajanik Satya-dharma'
'Gulabgiri'

↳ Savitribai Phule (wife)
opened a girls school at
Poona.

↳ 1854 widows' home was opened in Maharashtra.

↳ 'Mahatma' - title awarded.

Prominent social reform movements.

Brahmo Samaj

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahma Sabha in August 1828. It was later renamed Brahma Samaj.
- Its purpose was to purify Hinduism and preach monotheism. e.g., worship of one god.

The new society was based on reason and Upanishads and Vedas and the main theme was Nirgunasapna (formless worship).

- Brahma Samaj led emphasis on human dignity, opposed idolatry and opposed Sati.
- It focused on prayers, meditation and reading of the scriptures. It believed in the unity of all religions.

It was the first intellectual reform movement in modern India. It led to the emergence of rationalism and enlightenment in India, which indirectly contributed to the nationalist movement.

- Samaj was tolerant towards all religions as it tried to incorporate teachings of other religions.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy

- He is greatly regarded as Father of Indian Renaissance and the Father of Bengal Renaissance.
- During his early education, Ram Mohan Roy studied Persian and Arabic at Patna. Here he read the Quran, the works of Sufi mystic poets and the Arabic translation of the works of Plato and Aristotle.
- In Banaras, he studied Sanskrit and read Vedas and Upanishads. At the age of sixteen, he wrote a rational critique of Hindu idol worship.
- He possessed a great love for his country and people and worked for their social, religious, political and intellectual upliftment.
- In 1804, He wrote Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhiddin (A gift to monotheists) in Persian with an introduction in Arabic.
- He possessed a great love for his country and people and worked for their social, religious, political and intellectual upliftment.
- In 1804, He wrote Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhiddin (A gift to monotheists) in Persian with an introduction in Arabic.
- In 1814, he set up the Atmiya Sabha (or society of friends) in Calcutta to propagate the monotheistic ideals of the Vedanta and to campaign against idolatry, caste rigidities, meaningless rituals and other social ills.
- Although he had great love for his Indian culture and traditions, he believed that Western education alone can help to regenerate the society.
- Ram Mohan Roy was given the title of Raja by the titular Mughal Emperor of Delhi, Akbar II whose grievances the former was to present before the British king.

Contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy Towards Social Reforms

- Raja Ran Mohan Roy organised a crusade against practice of Sati. He visited the cremation grounds, organised vigilance groups and filed counter petitions to the government during his struggle against Sati.
- His efforts were rewarded by the Government Regulation in 1829, which declared the practice of Sati a crime under Lord William Bentinck, the Governor-General of India (1828-1835)
- He condemned polygamy and demanded the right of inheritance and property for women.
- He assisted David Hare in forming Hindu College and in 1825, he established Vedanta college.
- He was also a pioneer in Indian Journalism and brought out various journals, newspapers in Bengali, Persian, Hindi and English.

Keshub Chandra Sen and Brahma Samaj

Brahmo Samaj was revived with new enthusiasm under Keshub Chandra Sen when he was made Acharya by Debendranath Tagore. Many branches of the Samaj were opened outside Bengal like United Provinces,

Punjab, Bombay, Madras and other towns. Debendranath Tagore did not like some ideas of Sen. He was dismissed from post of Acharya in 1865.

Prarthana Samaj

- It was founded by Atmaram Pandurang with the help of Keshub Chandra Sen in 1867.
- A precursor of the Prarthana Samaj was the Paramahansa Sabha, something like a secret. It was like a society to spread liberal ideas and encourage the breakdown of caste and communal barriers.
- Some of the prominent members of this organisation were Mahadev Govind Ranade, RG Bhandarkar, NG Chandavarkar. It was connected to Bhakti cult in Maharashtra.
- Samaj had a following points social agenda :
 - disapproval of caste system
 - women's education
 - widow remarriage
 - raising the age of marriage for both males and females

Justice Ranade and Prarthana Samaj

- Justice Mahadeo Govind Ranade was the most influential member of the Samaj.
- Under his guidance Widow Remarriage Association was formed in 1861.

He worked for the spread of education among widows. He was one of the promoters of Sharada Sadan whose motive was spreading education among the widows.

- He founded girls' college in 1861 in Poona and 'Deccan Education Society'.

Arya Samaj

- The first Arya Samaj unit was formally set up by Swami Dayanand Saraswati at Bombay in 1875, whereas its headquarters was established at Lahore.

▶ Following are the ten guiding principles of Arya Samaj:

1. God is the efficient cause of all true knowledge and all that is known through knowledge.
2. God is existent, intelligent and blissful. He is formless, omniscient, just, unborn, endless, unchangeable, omnipresent, immortal, fearless, eternal. He alone is worthy of being worshiped.
3. The Vedas are the scriptures of all true knowledge. It is the paramount duty of all Aryas to read them, teach them, recite them and to hear them being read.
4. One should always be ready to accept truth and to abandon untruth.
5. All acts should be performed in accordance with Dharma that is, after deliberating what is right and wrong.
6. The prime object of the Arya Samaj is to do good to the world, that is, to promote physical, spiritual and social good of everyone.
7. Our conduct towards all should be guided by love, righteousness and justice.
8. We should dispel Avidya (ignorance) and promote Vidya (knowledge).
9. No one should be content with promoting his/her good only on the contrary, one should look for his/her good in promoting the good of all.
10. One should regard oneself under restriction to follow the rules of society calculated to promote the well being of all, while in following the rules of individual welfare all should be free.

Swami Dayanand Saraswati

- The Arya Samaj was founded by Dayanand Saraswati or Mulshankar (1824-1883).
- He was born in the old Morvi state in Gujarat and belonged to a brahmin family.
- His famous work is Satyarth Prakash where he expressed his views.
- He was inspired by the Vedas and considered them to be India's Rock of Ages.
- He gave the slogan "Back to the Vedas".

Ramakrishna Mission

- Named after Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda's guru, the Ramakrishna Mission emphasised the ideal of salvation through social service and selfless action.
- Swami Vivekananda was the first Indian in modern times, who re-established the spiritual pre-eminence of the Vedanta philosophy on a global scale. But his mission was not simply to talk about religion.

He was convinced that many of the problems facing the mankind could only be overcome if the nations of the world come together on an equal footing.

He united youth on the basis of a common spiritual heritage.

Swami Vivekananda

Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902), whose original name was Narendra Nath Dutta, combined the simple teachings of Sri Ramakrishna with his well founded modern outlook and spread them all over the world.

- He was extremely pained at the poverty and the misery of his countrymen.
- He firmly believed that any reform could become successful only by uplifting the condition of the masses.

Young Bengal Movement

- Young Bengal movement was an intellectual, radical movement among the youth of Bengal.
- Henry Vivian Derozio (1809-31), a young Anglo-Indian was its leader.
- He taught at the Hindu College from 1826 to 1831 and was inspired by French Revolution.
- Derozio inspired his followers to think freely and rationally, question all authority, love, liberty, equality and freedom and oppose in moral customs and traditions.
- However, the Derozians failed to have a long-term impact. Derozio was removed from the Hindu College in 1831 because of his radicalism.
- There was no support from any other social group or class. The Derozians lacked any real link with the masses.

Theosophical Society

- Madame HP Blavatsky and Colonel MS Olcott, founded the Theosophical Society in New York City, United States in 1875.
- In 1882, they shifted their headquarters to Adyar in the outskirts of Madras.
- It recognised the Hindu beliefs in reincarnation and karma and was inspired by the philosophy of the Upanishads and Samkhya, yoga and Vedanta schools of Thought.
- Its objective was to work for universal brotherhood of humanity without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or color.
- In India, the theosophical society gained momentum after the election of Annie Besant.
- The society did an extensive work in field of education.

Annie Besant

- Annie Besant arrived in India in 1893. She laid the foundation of the Central Hindu College in Banaras in 1898.
- College curriculum included both Hindu religion and Western scientific subjects. The college became the basis for the formation of Banaras Hindu University in 1916.
- Annie Besant took enormous efforts towards the cause of the education of women.

Satyashodhak Samaj

- Jyotiba Phule (1827-1890), born in Satara, Maharashtra, belonged to the mali (gardener) community, organised a powerful movement against upper caste domination and brahminical supremacy.
- Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj (Truth Seeker's Society) in 1873, it had a leadership of the Samaj belonged to the backward classes, malis, telis, kunbis, saris and dhangars.
- The main objectives of the movement were: social service spread of education among
 - women and lower caste people.
- Phule's works, Sarvajanic Satyadharma and Gulamgiri were sources of inspiration for the masses.
- Phule, firmly believed in gender equality and was a pioneer in women's Education. He with the help of his wife, Savitribai opened a girl's school at Poona.
- He was a pioneer of widow remarriage movement in Maharashtra and also opened a home for widows in 1854.
- Phule was awarded the title 'Mahatma' for his social reform work.

Servants of Indian Society

- Servants of Indian Society was formed by Gopal Krishna Gokhale in 1905 for the expansion of Indian education.

The society trained people to be selfless workers so they could work for the common good of the people.

The aims of the organisation were as follows:

- To train national missionaries for the service of India.
- To promote true interest of all Indians by all constitutional means.
- To prepare a cadre of selfless workers for the service to the country in a religious spirit.

Prominent Social Reformers

In nineteenth century, many social reformers were born in India who guided the society with many important reforms. Few of them are as follows:

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

- He was one of the great reformers of 19th century in India.
- Used the ancient texts to suggest that widows could remarry His suggestion was adopted by British officials, and a law was passed in 1856 permitting widow remarriage.
- In 1850, he became the principal of Sanskrit College.
- He raised his powerful voice and thoroughly supported the cause of widow remarriage and devoted his entire life for his agitation for legalising widow remarriage.
- First lawful Hindu widow remarriage among the upper caste in India was celebrated under the inspiration and supervision of Vidyasagar.
- Through his endeavors nearly 25 widow remarriages were solemnised between 1855-1860
- For his advocacy of widow remarriage, he had bitter opposition from Orthodox Hindu class.
- In 1850, he protested against child marriage and all his life he campaigned against polygamy.

Gopal Hari Deshmukh

- He was the famous social reformer of Maharashtra. He was also known as Lokhitawadi. He started the publishing of a magazine named Prabhakar in 1848 AD.
- He was related to the Theosophical Society and Arya Samaj He authored a book named Jatibhed in Marathi.

Pandita Ramabai

- Pandita Ramabai was a great scholar of Sanskrit. She felt that Hinduism was oppressive towards women and wrote a book about the miserable lives of upper-caste Hindu women.
- She established a widow's home at Poona to provide shelter to widows who had been treated badly by their husband's relatives. Here women were trained so that they could support themselves economically.