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Department of Employment and Training

Course : TNPSC Group II Exam
Subject : History & Culture of India
Topic : **Social Reforms & Religious Movements**

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Commissioner,
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SOCIO-RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS

RISE OF THE MOVEMENTS

- ❖ Introduction of Western education and ideas played an important role in bringing the knowledge of some advanced ideas of the Western world and modern science to India
- ❖ From the late 18th century, a number of Indian scholars began the study of ancient India's philosophy, science, religion and literature. It helped the reformers in their work of religious and social reform. For their struggle against social evils, superstitions and inhuman practices and customs, the reformers used the authority of ancient texts.
- ❖ Thus, Indian religious and social reformers made use of their knowledge of Western ideas as well as of ancient learning.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOVEMENTS

- ❖ Social base of social reforms was newly emerging among middle class and Western educated

intellectuals.

- ❖ These movements emerged in different periods of time in different parts of India, but having considerable similarities in their objectives. Religious reformation was a precondition for social reformation.
- ❖ There was cultural ideological struggle against backward element of traditional culture. The movement could not reach to the masses of peasantry and urban poor.

MAJOR ISSUES OF THE MOVEMENTS

- ❖ **Religious sphere** To revitalise religion in the light of modern science and reason. As there was no aspect of Indian life, which religion didn't influence.

- ❖ **Social Sphere** Poor position of women and evil of caste system.
- ❖ **Political Sphere** Generating political opinion of the people by



vernacular pamphlets, newspapers etc.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy and the BrahmoSamaj

- ❖ In 1815, he established the **Atmiya Sabha**. Later, it was

Association Related with BrahmoSamaj

- ✓ Atmiyasabha, Brahmsamaj --- Ram Mohan Roy
- ✓ Tatvabodhinishabha – DevendraNath Tagore
- ✓ Sangat Sabha – Keshav Chandra sen
- ✓ Veda Samaj (Madras)
- ✓ PrarthanaSamaj (Maharashtra)
- ✓ AdiBrahmoSamaj (1866)

developed into the Brahmo Sabha in August 1828. Through this organisation, he preached that there is only one God. He combined the teachings of the *Upanishads*, the *Bible* and the *Koran* in developing unity among the people of different religions. The work of the Atmiya Sabha was carried on by Maharishi Debendranath Tagore (father of Rabindranath Tagore, who renamed it as BrahmoSamaj.

- ❖ Raj Rammohan Roy is most remembered for helping Lord

William Bentinck to declare the practice of *Sati* a punishable offence in 1829. He also protested against the child marriage and female infanticide.

- ❖ In 1817, he founded the Hindu College (now Presidency College, Calcutta) along with David Hare, a missionary. He also set up schools for girls.
- ❖ Rammohan Roy started the first Bengali weekly *SamvadKaumudi* and edited a Persian weekly *Mirat-ul-akhbar*. He stood for the freedom of the press. Rammohan died in Bristol in England in 1833.

*Raja Rammohan Roy established the **BrahmoSamaj** at Calcutta in 1828 in order to purify Hinduism and to preach **monotheism**. He is considered as the first 'modern man of India'. He was a pioneer of socio-religious reform movements*

Henry Vivian Derozio and the Young Bengal Movement

- ❖ Derozio was the founder of the **Young Bengal Movement**. He

was born in Calcutta in 1809 and taught in the Hindu College, Calcutta. He died of cholera in 1833. His followers were known as the Derozians and their movement, the Young Bengal Movement. They attacked old traditions and decadent customs. They also advocated women's rights and their education. They founded associations and organized debates against idol worship, and superstitions.

into its fold. He wrote the book *SatyarthaPrakash* which contains his ideas.

- ❖ Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (DAV) School was founded in 1886 at Lahore. The Arya Samaj had also spread nationalism. Hundreds of Arya Samaj patriots, including LalaLajpat Rai, took part in the

Swami Dayanand Swami Three Books

- ✓ *Satyartha Prakash* (in Hindi)
- ✓ *Veda-BhashyaBhumika* (in Hindi and Sanskrit)
- ✓ *Veda-Bashya* (in Sanskrit).

Swami DayanandSaraswathi and the Arya Samaj

- ❖ The Arya Samaj was founded by Swami



DayanandSaraswathiat Bombay in 1875.

- ❖ Born in Kathiawar in Gujarat, he believed the *Vedas* were the source of true knowledge.
- ❖ His motto was "Go Back to the Vedas".
- ❖ He started the Shuddhi movement to bring back those Hindus who had converted to other religions

PrarthanaSamaj

- ❖ The PrarthanaSamaj was founded in 1867 in Bombay by **Dr.AtmaramPandurang**. It was an off-shoot of BrahmoSamaj.
- ❖ Justice M.G. Ranade and R.G. Bhandarkar joined it in 1870 and infused new strength to it.
- ❖ Justice Ranade promoted the Deccan Education Society

Swami Vivekananda and Ramakrishna Mission

- ❖ In 1886 Narendranath took the vow of **Sanyasa** and was given the name,



Vivekananda. He preached Vedantic Philosophy. He condemned the caste system and the current Hindu emphasis on rituals and ceremonies. Swami Vivekananda participated in the **Parliament of Religions** held in **Chicago (USA)** in September 1893.

- ❖ The best way to serve god is by service the poor and the downtrodden
- ❖ He believed that service to mankind is service to God. He founded the Ramkrishna Mission at Belur in Howrah in 1897. It was a social service and charitable society. The objectives of this Mission were, providing

humanitarian relief and social work through the establishment of schools, colleges, hospitals and orphanages.

Theosophical Society-1875

- ❖ The Theosophical Society was founded in New York (USA) in 1875 by Madam H.P. Blavatsky, a Russian lady, and Henry Steel Olcott, an American colonel.
- ❖ Their main objectives were to form a universal brotherhood of man without any distinction of race, colour or creed and to promote the study of ancient religions and philosophies. They arrived in India and established their headquarters at Adyar in Madras in 1882. Later in 1893, Mrs. Annie Besant arrived in India and took over the leadership of the Society after the death of Olcott.
- ❖ Mrs. Annie Besant founded the Central Hindu School along with Madan Mohan Malaviya at Benaras which later developed into the Banaras Hindu University.

Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar



❖ Pandit Ishwar Chandra was a great educator, humanist and a social reformer who

established many schools for girls. He helped J.D. Bethune to establish the Bethune School. He founded the Metropolitan Institution in Calcutta. He protested against child marriage and favoured widow remarriage which was legalised by the Widow Remarriage Act (1856). It was due to his great support for the spread of education that he was given the title of Vidyasagar.

JyotibaPhule

❖ JyotibaPhule belonged to a low caste family in Maharashtra. He waged a life-long struggle against upper caste domination and



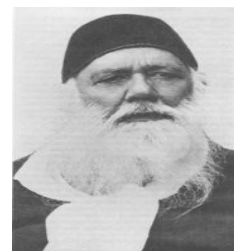
Brahmanical supremacy. In 1873 he founded the SatyashodakSamaj to fight against the caste system. He pioneered the widow remarriage movement in Maharashtra and worked for the education for women. JyotibaPhule and his wife established the first girls school at Poona in 1851.

Muslim Reform Movements

❖ The Muslim reform movements started a little later because they had avoided western education in the beginning. The first effort was in 1863 when the Muhammad Literary Society was set up in Calcutta. Its aim was to popularise the study of English and western sciences.

Aligarh Movement

❖ The Aligarh Movement was started by Sir Syed



AhmadKhan (1817-98) for the social and educational

♦.....♦
♦ advancement of the Muslims in India.

- ❖ In 1875, he founded a modern school at Aligarh to promote English education among the Muslims. This had later grown into the **Mohammadan Anglo Oriental College** and then into the Aligarh Muslim University.

The Deoband School

- ❖ The orthodox section among the Muslim *ulema* organised the Deoband Movement. It was a revivalist movement whose twin objectives were: (i) to propagate among the Muslims the pure teachings of the *Koran* and the *Hadis* and (ii) to keep alive the spirit of *Jihad* against the foreign rulers.

Sikh Reform Movement

- ❖ Punjab also came under the spell of reforms. Baba Dayal Das founded the **Nirankari Movement**. He insisted the worship of God as nirankar (formless). The **Namdhari Movement** was founded by Baba Ram Singh. His followers wore

white clothes and gave up meat eating.

Parsi Reform Movement

- ❖ The Parsi Religious Reform Association was founded at Bombay by Furdunji Naoroji and S.S. Bengalee in 1851. They advocated the spread of women's education. They also wanted to reform their marriage customs. Naoroji published a monthly journal, *Jagat Mithra*.

Saint Ramalinga

- ❖ Saint Ramalinga was one of the foremost saints of Tamil Nadu in the nineteenth century. He was



born on October 5, 1823 at Marudhur, near Chidambaram.

- ❖ He founded the **Samarasa Suddha Sanmargha Sangha** for the promotion of his ideals of establishing a casteless society. He preached love and compassion to the people. He composed *Tiru Arutpa*. His other literary works include *Manu Murai Kanda Vasagam*

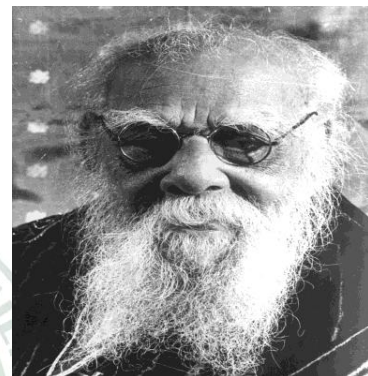
and *JeevaKarunyam*. His language was so simple as to enable the illiterate people to understand his teachings. In 1870 he moved to Mettukuppam, a place three miles away from Vadalur. There he started constructing the **Satya GnanaSabai** in 1872. He introduced the principle that God could be worshipped in the form of Light.

death, the religion was spread on the basis of his teachings and the religious books *AkilattirattuAmmanai* and *ArulNool*. Hundreds of NizhalThangals (places of worship) were built across the country.

Self-Respect Movement and Periyar E.V.R

Sri VaikundaSwamigal

- ❖ Sri VaikundaSwamigal was born in 1809 at Swamithoppu in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu. His original name was MudichoodumPerumal but he was called Muthukkutty. He preached against the caste system and untouchability. He also condemned religious ceremonies. Many came to his place to worship him and slowly his teachings came to be known as **Ayyavazhi**. By the mid-nineteenth century, Ayyavazhi came to be recognized as a separate religion and spread in the regions of South Travancore and South Tirunelveli. After his



- ❖ Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy was a great social reformer. In 1921, during the anti-liquor campaign he cut down 1000 coconut trees in his own farm.
- ❖ In 1924, he took an active part in the Vaikam Satyagraha. The objective of the Satyagraha was to secure for untouchables the right to use a road near a temple at Vaikom in Kerala.
- ❖ E.V.R. opposed the **Varnashrama policy** followed

in the V.V.S. Iyer's Seranmadevi Gurukulam.

During 1920-1925 being in the Congress Party he stressed that Congress should accept communal representation.

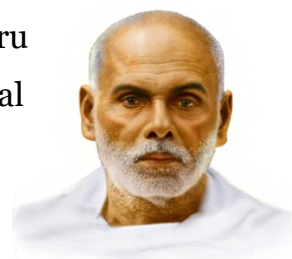
- ❖ Subsequently in 1925, he started the "Self-Respect Movement". The aims of the 'Self-Respect Movement' were to uplift the Dravidians and to expose the Brahminical tyranny and deceptive methods by which they controlled all spheres of Hindu life.

- ❖ He denounced the caste system, child marriage and enforced widowhood. He encouraged inter-caste marriages. He himself conducted many marriages without any rituals. Such a marriage was known as "Self Respect Marriage". He gave secular names to new born babies. He attacked the laws of Manu, which he called the basis of the entire Hindu social fabric of caste. He founded the Tamil journals Kudiarasu, Puratchi and Viduthalai to propagate his ideals.

- ❖ In 1938 at Tamil Nadu Women's Conference, appreciating the noble service rendered by E.V.R. he was given the title "**Periyar**". On 27th June 1970 the UNESCO organisation praised him and adorned him with the title "**Socrates of South Asia**".

Sree Narayana Guru

- ❖ Sree Narayana Guru was a great social reformer from Kerala.



- ❖ In 1903 Sree Narayana Guru Dharma Paribalana Yogam was started to work for the social economic and educational development of the Ezhava Community and other backward people.
- ❖ He condemned animal sacrifice, casteism and other social evils.

Sripade B.V. Sadhu Maharaja



- ❖ Sripade B.V. Sadhu Maharaja

belonged to the Royal family of Mungir became a Vaishnava, even though his family had previously been devoted to worshipping Lord Shiva.

- ❖ He constructed a temple in honour of Sri Chaitanya, called the PremaMandir in Mungir.
- ❖ He started many Ashramas to serve is this was humanity.

Dr.B.R.Ambedhkar



- ❖ Dr.B.R.Ambedhkar is viewed as messiah of dalits and downtrodden in India.
- ❖ He was the chairman of the Drafting committee that was constituted by the Constituent Assembly in 1947 to draft a constitution for the independent

India.

- ❖ BhimaraoAmbedhkar was also the first Law Minister of independent India.
- ❖ For his yeoman service to the nation, B.R.Ambedhkar was bestowed with BharathRatna in 1990.
- ❖ Dr.B.R.Ambedhkar was born on April 14, 1891 in Mhow (presently in Madhya Pradesh).
- ❖ In July 1924, he founded the BahiskritHitkaraini Sabha (Outcastes Welfare Association).
- ❖ The aim of the Sabah was to uplift the downtrodden socially and politically in the Indian society.
- ❖ In 1927, he led the Mahad March near Bombay, to give the untouchables the right to draw water from the public tank the 'Manusmriti' publicly.

Muslim Socio-religious movement and organization

<i>Movement/ Organization</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Founder</i>
Faraizi or Faraidi Movement	1804	Faridpur,Bengal	Haji Shaiatullah and DudhiMiyan
Taayuni Movement	1839	Dacca	Karamati Ali Jaunpur

Deoband Movement (a school and Islamic Theology at DeobandShahranpur, Uttar Pradesh	1867	Deoband	Muhammad QasimNanautavi and RashidcAhmed Gangohi
Aligarh Movement	1875	Aligarh	Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
Ahmadiya Movement	1889-90	Faridkot	Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Quadiyan
NadwatalUlema	1894-95	Lucknow	MaulanaShibliNumani
Ahrar Movement	1910	Punjab	Riza Khan and Ali Brothers

Founder of Sikh Movements

Nirankari Movement	BabuDayal Das
Namdhari Movement	Baba Ram Singh
ShrimaniGurdwarPrabandhaksamiti	Nationalist Sikhs
The singh Sabha	Thakur Singh SandhawaniGianiGian Singh

Lower Caste/Caste Movements and Organisation

<i>Movement/ Organization</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Founder</i>
Satya ShodhakSamaj	1873	Maharashtra	JyotibaPhule
Aravippuram Movement	1888	Aravippuram ,Kerala	Shri Narayan Guru
Shri Narayan ParipalanaYogam Movement	1902- 03	Kerala	Shri Narayan Guru, Dr. Palpu and Kumaran Asan
The Depressed Class Mission Society	1906	Bombay	V.R. Shinde
BahujanSamaj	1910	Satara, Maharashtra	MukundraoPatil

Justice (Party) Movement	1915-16	Madras, Tamil Nadu	C.N. Mudaliar, T.M. Nair and P. TyagarajaChetti B.R. Ambedkar
Depressed Class Welfare Institute (BahiskritHitkarini Sabha)	1924	Bombay	B.R. Ambedkar
Self-Respect Movement	1925	Madras, Tamil Nadu	E.V. Ramaswaminaiker 'Periyar'
HarijanSevakSangh	1932	Pune	Mahatma Gandhi
DravidaMunnetraKazhagam	1944		Conjeevaram Natarajan Annadurai and RamaswamiNaicker

Socio-Religious Reform Movements and Organisation

<i>Movement/ Organization</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Founder</i>
Swami Naryanan Sampraday	1800s	Gujarat	Swami Sahajanand (original name Ghanshayama)
Atmiya Sabha (later BrahmoSamaj)	1815-28	Calcutta	Raja Ramamohan Roy
Wahabi Movement	1820	Rohilakhand	Shah Waliullah popularized by Syed Ahmed of Rae Bareli
BrahmoSamaj	1828	Calcutta	Raja Ramamohan Roy, Keshub Chandra sen, Debenranath Tagore
Young Bengal	1826-32	Calcutta	Derozio, Rasik Krishna Mallick, TarachandChakraborty, Krishnamohan Banerjee
Dharma Sabha	1830	Calcutta	Raja Radha Kant Deb
Namdhari/Kuka movement	1841-71	NWFP and Bhaini (Ludhiana district, Punjab)	Bhai Balak Singh and Ram Singh
Rahanumai	1851	Bombay	SS Bengali, NaorojiFundoji, JB

History & Culture of India

Mazdayasnan Sabha			Nachaetc
RadhaSoamiSatsang	1861	Agra	Tulsi Ram, Also known as Shiva DayalSaheb
ParthanaSamaj	1867	Bombay	DrAtmaramPandurang
Indian Reform Association	1870	Calcutta	Keshub Chandra Sen
Arya Samaj	1875	Bombay	Swami Dayananda Saraswati
Theosophical Society	1875	New York	Madame Helena Blavatsky and Colonel Henry Steel Olcott
Deccan Education Society	1884	Pune	MahadevGovindRanade, Vishnu Sastri Chiplunkar and Gopal Ganesh Agarkar etc
SevaSadan	1885	Bombay	Behhramji M Malabari
Ramakrishna Mission	1897	Belur	Swami Vivekananda
Indian National Social Conference	1887	Bombay	MahadevGovindRanade and Raghunath Rao
Deva Samaj	1887	Lahore	Shiv Narayan Agnihotri
Madras Hindu Association	1892	Madras	VirasalingamPantulu
Bharat Dharma Mahamandal	1902	Varanasi	Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and Pandit Din Dayal Sharma
The Servants of Indian Society	1905	Bombay	Gopal Krishna Gokhale
Poona SevaSadan	1909	Pune	GK Devadhar and RamabaiRanade (wife of MahadevGovindRanade)
Nishkama Karma Math(The monastery of disinterested work)	1910	Pune	DhondoKeshavKarve
The Bharat stree Mandal	1910	Allahabad	Sarala Devi Chaudhuani
Social Service League	1911	Bombay	Narayan Malhar Joshi
SevaSamiti	1914	Allahabad	PanditHaridaynathKunzru
The woman's Indian Association	1917	Madras	Mrs Annie Besant
KhudaiKhidmatgar Movement	1929	NWFP	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan

The first person of Indian origin to get Nobel Prize in Medicine - Har Gobind Khorana

Women Movements

Organisation/ Movement/ Society	Year	Place	Founder	Objectives
Social Service League	1911	Bombay	Narayan Malhar Joshi	Securing better life and work for the masses.
Indian National Social Conference	1887	Bombay	M.G. Ranade, Raghunath Rao	The social reform cell of Indian National Congress, attached with pledge movement.
Satnami sect		Bilaspur	Guru Ghasi Das	Equality of human being, belief in a single true God and abstention from liquor, meat, drugs etc.
Deva Samaj	1887	Lahore	Shiva Narain Agnihotri	Supremacy of Guru, ideal social conduct.
Sangat Sabha	1859	Calcutta	Keshav Chandra Sen	To discuss social and spiritual problems of the day.
Brahmo Samaj of India	1866	Calcutta	Keshav Chandra Sen	Social and moral reformation of India
Indian Reform Association	1870	Calcutta	Keshav Chandra Sen	To create public opinion against child marriage and improve the social status of women.
Deccan Education society	1884	Pune	M.G. Ranade, G.G. Agarkar, Vishnu Sastri Chiplunkar	Social reform and expansion of education.
Madras Hindu Association	1892	Madras	Virasalingam Pantulu	Social purity movement and oppose to Devadasi System.

The first Indian to receive Nobel Prize in Economics- Amartya Sen

Social Legislations in Moderns India

Year	<i>Social reforms</i>
1795	Abolition of infanticide by Bengal Regulation
1802	Abolition of infanticide by Lord Wellesly
1811	Abolition of Slavery under Regulation X by Bengal Govt.
1829	Abolition of sati by lord William bentick (under regulation XVII) pioneering efforts in this direction were made by raja Ram Mohan Roy
1831 – 37	Abolition of thugs by William Bentick operation by William Sleeman.
1832	Abolition of slavery by Lord Ellenborough
1856	Approval of widow remarriage by Hindu Widow remarriage Act by the efforts of Ishwar Chandra VidyaSagar
1872	Banning of child marriage, polygamy and approval of intercaste marriage and widow remarriage by native marriage Act.

The first Indian to win the Nobel Prize- RabindranathTagore(1913)