

Socio-Religious Reform Movements

In the history of modern India, the socio-religious reforms occupy a significant place. Social reformers like Raja Rammohan Roy, Swami Dayanand Saraswati and Swami Vivekananda were responsible for the social and cultural awakening in India. It aimed at reforming the society by eradicating practices like Sati, untouchability, widowhood, brahmanical dominance, etc. The important Socio-Religious Reform Movements are given below

Religious Reform Movement/Organisation	Founder	Objectives
1. Atmiya Sabha (1815), Calcutta	Raja Ram Mohan Roy (wrote Gift to Monotheist Percepts of Jesus)	To propagate monotheism and reform Hindu society.
2. Brahmo Samaj (1828), Calcutta	Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Keshab Chandra Sen, Debendranath Tagore	Emphasised on human dignity, scientific temper, opposed idolatry, criticised social evils like sati, caste system.
3. Young Bengal Movement (1826-32), Calcutta	Henry Vivian Derozio (First Modern Nationalist Poet)	Followed the teachings of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Believed in education for women, freedom, reason, etc.
4. Dharma Sabha (1830), Calcutta	Radhakant Deb	Established to counter Brahmo Samaj, opposed to liberal and radical reforms.
5. Paramhans Mandali (1849)	Dadoba Pandurang, Bal Shastri Jambekar	Opposed to polytheism of Hinduism, caste system and brahmanical dominance.
6. Prarthana Samaj (1867), Bombay	Atmaram Pandurang	Promotes education of women, abolition of caste distinctions and Monotheism.
7. Satyashodhak Samaj (1873), Pune	Jyotirao Phule	Its objective was to liberate the less privileged in society from exploitation and oppression.
8. Arya Samaj Bombay (1875)	Dayanand Saraswati	Gave the slogan of "Go Back To Vedas," denounced idolatry, rites, etc.
9. Theosophical Society, New York (Original) Adyar (Indian Headquarter, 1857)	Madam HP Blavatsky and Col HS Olcott (Annie Besant established it in India)	Believed in transmigration of soul, universal brotherhood and drew inspiration from Upnishads, Vedanta.
10. Ramkrishna Mission, Belur, (1897)	Swami Vivekananda	Revival of Hinduism, against caste distinctions, overhaul of education system and promoting social service.

Practice Exercise

- Which factors contributed to the socio-cultural awakening of India during late 19th and early 20th century?
 - Favourable intellectual growth of Indians
 - Creative literature
 - Influence of Modern Western ideas
 - All of the above
- Consider the following statements.
 - Paramhans Mandali was founded in 1849.
 - Satyashodhak Samaj was founded by Jyotirao Phule.
 - Ram Krishna Mission was founded in Belur.
 - Theosophical Society believed in transmigration of soul.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
 - Only I
 - I, II, III are correct
 - Only I and III are correct
 - All of the above
- Ram Krishna Mission was founded in
 - 1897
 - 1898
 - 1899
 - 1896
- Who wrote the book 'A Gift to Monotheists'?
 - David Hare
 - Raja Ram Mohan Roy
 - Mahadev Govind Ranade
 - Ram Krishna Bhandankar
- Which of the following is not rightly matched?
 - Keshab Chandra Sen – Brahmo Samaj of India
 - Debendranath Tagore – Adi Brahmo Samaj
 - Dayanand Saraswati – Arya Samaj
 - Radhakant Deb – Prarthana Samaj
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Keshab Chandra Sen and Debendranath Tagore were prominent leaders of
 - Brahmo Samaj
 - Arya Samaj
 - Prarthna Samaj
 - None of these
- Founder of Young Bengal Movement was
 - Rabindranath Tagore
 - Henry Vivian Derozio
 - Raja Ram Mohan Roy
 - Gopal Ganesh Agarkar
- Atmiya Sabha was founded in
 - 1815
 - 1828
 - 1826
 - 1849
- Which of the following statement is not correct?
 - Raja Ram Mohan Roy set up Brahmo Samaj in 1828
 - Brahmo Samaj forbade idol worship and discarded meaningless rites and rituals
 - Raja Ram Mohan Roy worked to abolish child marriage
 - Sati Pratha was abolished in 1829
- Match the following.

List I	List II
A. Atmiya Sabha	(i) 1830
B. Brahmo Samaj	(ii) 1815
C. Young Bengal	(iii) 1828
D. Dharma Sabha	(iv) 1826

Codes

 - A B C D
 - (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)
 - (iii) (ii) (iv) (i)
 - (ii) (iv) (iii) (i)
 - (iv) (i) (ii) (iii)
- Satyashodhak Samaj was founded in
 - Belur
 - Pune
 - Bombay
 - Calcutta

- 12.** Who established Theosophical Society in India?
 (a) Madam HP Blavatsky (b) Col HS Olcott
 (c) Annie Besant (d) Radhakant Deb
- 13.** Which among the following association was founded by Jyotirao Phule?
 (a) Ahmadiya Movement
 (b) Paramhans Mandali
 (c) Satyashodhak Samaj
 (d) Young Bengal Movement
- 14.** Who is considered as the first modern Nationalist Poet of India?
 (a) Debendranath Tagore
 (b) Keshab Chandra Sen
 (c) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
 (d) Henry Vivian Derozio
- 15.** Which association believed in transmigration of soul?
 (a) Theosophical Society
 (b) Ram Krishna Mission
 (c) Satyashodhak Samaj
 (d) Brahmo Samaj
- 16.** Which among the following is/are not correct regarding Ram Krishna Mission?
 (a) Revival of Hinduism
 (b) Against caste distinctions
 (c) Promoting social service
 (d) Universal brotherhood
- 17.** Who established Prarthana Samaj?
 (a) Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar
 (b) Derozio
 (c) David Hare
 (d) Atmaram Pandurang
- 18.** Which among the following is/are incorrect?
 (a) Theosophical society was founded in United States in 1875
 (b) It was led by Blavatsky and Olcott
 (c) In India, the movement was popularised by Annie Besant
 (d) As religious revivalists and theosophists brought many reforms in Hindu religion
- 19.** Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?
 (a) Arya Samaj was founded in 1875
 (b) Paramhans Mandali was founded in 1847
 (c) Prarthana Samaj was founded in Bombay
 (d) Ram Krishna Mission was founded in Calcutta
- 20.** Who gave the slogan of 'Go Back to Vedas'?
 (a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
 (b) Henry Vivian Derozio
 (c) Dayanand Saraswati
 (d) Jyotirao Phule

Answers

1	(d)	2	(d)	3	(a)	4	(b)	5	(d)	6	(a)	7	(b)	8	(a)	9	(c)	10	(c)
11	(b)	12	(c)	13	(c)	14	(d)	15	(a)	16	(d)	17	(d)	18	(d)	19	(d)	20	(c)