

# Social and Religious Reform Movements In India

# Muslims

- Socio Religious movement amongst the muslims emerged late, after the revolt of 1857
- Most Muslims feared that Western education would endanger their religion
- Muhammedan literary society was founded by Nawab Abdul Latif in 1863. It was the earliest institution that attempted to spread modern education.

# Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

- He founded the most important religious movement amongst the Muslims known as Aligarh movement
- He was a judicial officer from a Muslim noble family
- He advised Muslims to accept western education and adapt to British rule
- He established Scientific Society to translate English books on science and other subjects in to urdu

# Muslim Reform movements

- He established Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College which developed later into Aligarh University
- He founded the All India Muhammadan Educational Conference in 1886, for promoting modern liberal education among Muslims.
- As a reformer he campaigned against purdah system, Polygamy and Muslim system of divorce
- **Muhammad Iqbal** –Awareness of social injustice and sufferings of poor through his poems, regeneration of Islamic culture

# Parsis Reform movements

- Among the Parsis, Reform movement started in 1851 against orthodoxy in religion by Rehnumai Mazdayasan Sabha or Religious reform association
- It was started by Naroji furdonji, Dadabhai Nariji, S.S.Bengalee and others. They started a journal Rast Goftar for socio-religious reforms among the Parsis
- Campaigned for removing orthodoxy in Religion and modernisation of Parsi social customs regarding women's education , marriage and social position of women

# Sikhs Reform movements

- Religious and reform movement amongst the Sikhs were undertaken by various gurus which led to positive changes in Sikh religion
- **Akali movement** started in Sikhs for reforms in management of Gurudwaras
- Akalis led the sikhs in 1921 to start a satyagrah against the corrupt mahants of gurudwaras which forced the government to pass new Gurudwara Act of 1922
- Another reform movement within Sikhism was led by **Baba Dayal Das** who propagated the nirankari idea of God

# Some Individual Reformists

- Among women Sarojini Naidu for voting rights of women
- She led the All India Women's Conference in 1926
- Contributed in awakening the women of India, campaigned for creating an equal and just society, and integration of national freedom struggle
- Some Other important reformers were Bankim Chand Chatterji, Rabindra Nath Tagore etc.

# Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

- He was a Bengali poet, novelist, essayist and journalist whose famous work is Vande Mataram which was declared as the national song of India
- He believed in internal reform in Hinduism
- He led the spiritual revival of Bengal with his writings.



# Rabindranath Tagore

- He was a writer, poet, a political and social activist, a socio-economic and educational reformist
- He contributed to the Bramho philosophy (being the son of Devendra nath Tagore)
- He supported Bengali Rennaisance, an intellectual awakening
- He supported educational reforms and established school at Shatiniketan where he tried upnishadic ideals of education