

### ① UNIT-III Reform Movements Brahmo, Arya Samaj:-

It was one of the most influential religious movements in India and made a significant contribution to the making of modern India. It was started at Calcutta on 20 August 1828 by Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Debendranth Tagore as reformation of the prevailing Brahmanism of the time and began the Bengal Renaissance of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its Trust Deed was made in 1830 formalising its inception and it was duly and publicly inaugurated in January 1830 by the consecration of the first house of prayer, now known as the Adi Brahmo Samaj from the Brahmo Samaj Springs Brahmoism the most recent of legally recognised religions in India and Bangladesh, reflecting its foundation on reformed spiritual Hinduism with vital elements of Judeo-Islamic faith and practice. The Arya Samaj members consider the Gayatri mantra as the most holy mantra and chant it periodically, do the meditation known as 'sandhya' and make offerings to the holy fire. The havan can be performed with a priest for special occasions or without a priest for personal worship. The havan is performed as per the havan pustika usually a simplified guide to do havan having mantras for general or special occasions. The priest is generally a Vedic scholar from the local Arya Samaj Mandir or Gurukul sometimes elder members of family or neighbours can also perform the havan acting as a purohit. The host is known as the 'yajmana'. The priest can be called an Acharya, Swami ji or pandit ji depending upon his scholarly status and local reputation.

### ② The Ramakrishna mission and the Theosophical Society:

Ramakrishna mission is a Hindu religious and spiritual organisation which forms the core of a worldwide spiritual movement known as the Ramakrishna Movement or the Vedanta Movement. The mission is named after and inspired by the Indian saint Ramakrishna Paramahansa and founded by Ramakrishna's chief disciple Swami Vivekananda on 1 May 1897. Apart from religious and spiritual teaching the organisation carries out extensive educational and philanthropic work in India. This aspect came to be a feature of many other Hindu movements the mission bases

(2)

its work on the Principles of Karma yoga the principal of selfless works done with dedication to God. The Ramakrishna Mission has centres around the world and publishes many important Hindu texts.

The Theosophical Society, founded in 1875 is a worldwide body with aim to advance the ideas of Theosophy in continuation of previous Theosophists, especially that of the Greek and Alexandrian Neo-Platonic Philosophers dating back to 3rd Century AD. It also encompasses wider religious philosophical like Vedanta, Mahayana Buddhism, Qabbalah and Sufism. The Theosophical Society functions as a bridge between East and West, emphasizing the commonality of human culture.

The term theosophy comes from the Greek theosophia which is composed of two words theos and Sophia, Theosophia, therefore, may be translated as "wisdom of the gods" wisdom in things divine or divine wisdom.

### (3) Young India Movement - Derozians:

Henry Louis Vivian Derozio (18 April 1809 - 25 December 1831) was an Indian poet of English and Portuguese origin and assistant headmaster of Hindu College, Kolkata. He was a radical thinker of his time and one of the first Indian educators to disseminate Western learning and science among the young men of Bengal.

Henry Louis Vivian Derozio was born on 18 April 1809 at Entally-Padmapukur in Kolkata. His parents were Francis Derozio a Christian Indo-Portuguese office worker, and Sophia Johnson Derozio an Englishwoman. His original family name was "De Rozario".

Derozio attended David Drummond Dharmatala Academy School from age 6 to 14. He later praised his early schooling for its liberal approach to education, particularly its unusual choice to teach Indian, Eurasian and European children from different social classes together as peers. Derozio's late religious skepticism is sometimes attributed to David Drummond who was known as a freethinker. Derozio was a successful student, noticed in the India Gazette and the Calcutta Journal at the time mentioned Derozio's academic excellence and successful performances in student plays while a student. He read the poetry of his contemporaries John Keats, Percy Shelley, and Lord Byron.

At age 14 Derazio left school to work. He initially joined his father's office in Kolkata then shifted to his uncle's indigo factory in Bhagalpur, with poems published in multiple newspapers and periodicals.

In 1827 when Derazio was 18 the editor John Grant took notice of his poetry offering to publish a book of his work and inviting him to return to Kolkata. In May 1826 at age 17 he was appointed teacher in English literature and history at the new Hindu College.

In 1838 after his death, members of the Young Bengal movement established a second society called the Society for the Acquisition of General Knowledge. Its main objective was to acquire and disseminate knowledge about the condition of the country.

#### ④ The Muslim Reformist Movement:

The Muslim Reform movement is an organization dedicated to reform in Islam based on values of peace, human rights and secular governance.

The organization was founded on December 4, 2015, when the Founder read a 'Declaration of Reform' at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. The Founders then went to the Saudi-affiliated Islamic Center of Washington and posted the Declaration of Reform on the doors of mosque "denouncing violent Jihad, rejecting Islamic Statism and opposing the ideology of violent Islamic extremism. Founding Signatories of the Muslim Reform Movement are Asra Nomani, Tahir Aslam Gora, Tawfik Hamid, Usama Hasan, Arif Humayun, Farahnoor Ispahan, Zuhdi Jasser, Naser Khader, Courtney Loneragan, Hasan Mohumud Raheel Raza, Sohali Raza, and Salma Siddiqui.

Announcing the founding of the Muslim Reform Movement on NBC's meet the Press on December 6, 2015 Asra Nomani said, "We are opposing a very real interpretation of Islam that espouses violence, social injustice and political Islam. The problem is sitting in the birthplace of Islam, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia where this interpretation of Islam has gone out in to the world over the last four decades California, vicious attack."

#### Reference Book

1) G.S. Chhabra :- Advanced Study in the History of Modern India.

2) S.K. Chatterjee :- Language and Literature of Modern Times.