

(Study material according to B.A final year question pattern)

Rajaram Mohun Roy

- Rajaram Mohun Roy was a great social, religious and political reformer of 19th century
- Born in Radhanagar of Hugli district (Bengal Presidency) in May 1772 in a Bengali Hindu family
- He is known as the 'Father of Modern India' or 'Father of the Bengal Renaissance'
- He was a scholar and knew Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Hebrew, Bengali, Hindi and English etc. to understand the different religion and society of different community
- He fought against the perceived ills of Hindu society at that time
- Propagation western education among Indians
- Formed **Brahmo Samaj** in 1828
- He worked for the East India company as a clerk
- He opposed **Sati, Polygamy, Child marriage, Idolatry, the caste system and propagated Widow remarriage**
- He stressed on **rationalism and modern scientific approach**
- He believed in social equality of all human beings
- He started many school to educate Indians in western scientific education in English
- He was against the **perceived polytheism of Hinduism. He advocated monotheism as given in the scriptures and wrote a Persian treatise called 'A gift to Monotheism' or "Tohfatul-Muwahideen"**
- He studied Christianity and Islam

- He translated the **Vedas and five of the Upanishads into Bengali**
- Applied rationality to Christianity he published 1820 a book entitled **"The precept of Jesus, the guide to peace and happiness"**
- He started **'Sambad Kaumudi'** a Bengali weekly newspaper which regularly denounced Sati as barbaric and against the tenets of Hinduism in Calcutta
- **In 1828, he founded the Brahmo Sabha which was later named Barahmo Samaj. He had also founded the 'Atmiya Sabha' in 1815**
- Barahmo Samaj chief aim was worship of the eternal god. it was against priesthood, rituals, and sacrifices. it focussed on prayers, meditations and reading of the scriptures
- It was the first intellectual reform movement in modern India where social evils practiced were condemned and efforts made to remove them from society
- It led to the emergence **of rationality and enlightenment** in India which indirectly contributed to the national movement
- **Barahmo Samaj** believed in the unity of all religion
- He worked for **the improvement of women, advocated widow remarriage, right of inheritance and education for women**
- **Great efforts to abolish sati in 1829 by William Bentinck, the Governor General of India**
- He speaks against the restrictions and **freedom of press**
- **He visited England as to plead the British for the matter of pension of Mughal emperor Akbar II (Father of Bahadur shah) where he died of a disease in 1833**
- He was awarded the title of **"Raja"** by Akbar II
- Later the Barahmo Samaj was extended and powered by **Devendra Nath Tagore** who was also a great reformer of his time

