



# IAS MAINS 2019-GS1

## Q3- Answer

- By

*Munish Bansal*

IIT Delhi

**GRACE IAS- Vijaynagar, Bengaluru-7899678279, 9886800910**



# Indian Renaissance

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- **Examine the linkage between the 19<sup>th</sup> century's of Indian Renaissance and the emergence of national identity**



# Introduction

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- **What is Indian renaissance?**
- **What was the situation prior to Indian renaissance?**

- **The social and religious movements, of 19<sup>th</sup> century is popularly termed as the Indian renaissance. They preceded the political struggles, are considered a necessary precursor to the coming of nationalism.**

- **India in the 19th century was caught in a vicious web created by religious superstitions and fragmented society. In such times Socio- religious reform movements played major role in emergence of national identity.**



**BODY**

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- Positive
- Negative

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- **Positive-**
  - **Cultural pride**
  - **Modernisation vs Westernisation**
  - **Upliftment of vulnerable section of society**

- **Negative**
  - **Division of Hindus and Muslim**
  - **Mysticism in the name of greatness of past**
  - **Revivalist tendencies**
  - **Narrow social base**

## ➤ Positive-

- Raja ram mohan roy
- Ishwar Chandra vidya sagar
- Vivekananda
- Justice movement
- Self respect movement
- Temple entry movement

- **Negatives-**
  - **Ahmadiyya movement**
  - **Dharma Sabha**



# Conclusion

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- **How relevant is study of 19<sup>th</sup> century reforms in today's India**
- **Continuous struggle for imbining nationalism**
- **New challenges to National Identity**

- **The fruits and undesirable by-products of Indian renaissance, both have become part of daily existence of Today's India. So, it is vital to study reforms of 19<sup>th</sup> century to study Today's Indian society.**



- **Even in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, India is yet to fully achieve the ideals of Humanism, Universalism and Rationalism. Continuous Reforms in society and religion will strengthen the National identity among the masses.**

- **Misinformation/superstition in the age of Internet presents a new challenge to Nationalism and national identity. The positive elements of 19<sup>th</sup> century can act as guiding light.**

Q. Examine the linkage between the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Indian renaissance and emergence of national identity.

Religious superstitions & fragmentation of society were the norms of 19<sup>th</sup> Century India. In such times, socio-religious reforms movements or 'Indian Renaissance' played major role in emergence of national identity.

Positive role played by Indian Renaissance -

- (i) Enhanced Cultural Pride to establish national identity -
  - 'Back to Vedas', given by Arya Samaj established that Indian culture is not inferior to British or European culture.
  - Gave middle class much needed cultural roots to cling to → This class later became the leader of freedom struggle.
- (ii) Promoted Modernisation and not outright westernisation
  - 'Vivekananda's teaching' allowed growth of Indian identity as separate & independent to British identity.

• Resisted the colonial Cultural & ideological hegemony.

(ii) Vulnerable section was uplifted

- Bhwar Chandra Vidyasagar and work of other reformers was watershed in woman's upliftment. They later played important role in freedom struggle.

- Movements like Justice Movement, Temple Entry movement empowered lower caste to identify themselves as integral part of National Identity.

Negative Impact

(i) Narrow social base of urban middle class concretised the social hierarchy.

(ii) Compartmentalisation of Hindus, Muslim, Sikh created artificial conflict in religious & national identity.

(iii) Revivalist tendencies ~~hinders~~ often promoted British rule to oppose reform. for ex. Ahmediyah movement.

So, it is seen that both 'fruits' and 'undesirable by-products' of Renaissance ~~can~~ became part of daily existence of Indian society.