



Sikh Reform Movements

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Singh Sabha

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- o The Sikh community could not remain untouched by the rising tide of rationalist and progressive ideas of the nineteenth century.
- o The Singh Sabha Movement was founded at Amritsar in 1873 with a two-fold
- o objective—
- o (i) to make available modern western education to the Sikhs, and
- o (ii) to counter the proselytising activities of Christian missionaries as well as Hindu revivalists.
- o For the first objective, a network of Khalsa schools was established by the Sabha throughout Punjab.



Akali movement

- o The Akali movement was an offshoot of the Singh Sabha Movement.
- o It aimed at liberating the Sikh gurudwaras from the control of corrupt Udasi Mahants who were a loyalist and reactionary lot, enjoying government patronage.

- o The Government tried its repressive policies against the non-violent non-cooperation satyagraha launched by the Akalis in 1921, but had to bow before popular demands and passed the Sikh Gurudwaras Act in 1922 (amended in 1925) which gave the control of gurudwaras to the Sikh masses to be administered through Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) as the apex body.

- o The Akali Movement was a regional movement but not a communal one
- o The Akali leaders played a notable role in the national liberation struggle though some dissenting voices were heard occasionally.



THANK YOU