



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

Published On: 27-10-2022

**Why is in news?** Making sense of an outreach to Pasmanda Muslims

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was born in 1817 in a family that was close to the Mughal court, he was a man of many distinctions, a **civil servant, journalist, educationist, social reformer and historian** among others.

He served the British administration before the revolt of 1857.

He has also written a pamphlet titled "**The Causes of the Indian Revolt**" to explain the reasons for the revolt from a Indian perspective.

Sir Syed is, **first and foremost**, known for his **pioneering role in transforming the educational opportunities for Muslims**.

Sir Syed realised that Muslims could only make progress if **they took to modern education**. For this **he started the Aligarh movement**.

He also pushed for social reforms and was a champion of democratic ideals and freedom of speech.

He was **against religious intolerance, ignorance and irrationalism**. He **denounced purdah, polygamy and easy divorce**.

**Tahzebul Akhlaq** (Social Reformer in English), a **magazine** founded by him, tried to awaken people's consciousness on social and religious issues in a very expressive prose.

In his later years Sir Syed **encouraged the Indian Muslims not to join the National Movement**. He felt that education and not politics was needed by them.

In a way he **encouraged the forces of communalism and separatism** at this stage.

## Aligarh Movement:

It was a systemic movement aimed at **reforming the social, political and educational aspects of the Muslim community**.

The movement undertook to modernise Muslim's education by **adapting English as a medium of learning and western education** rather than just focusing on traditional teachings.

Sir Syed established the **Scientific Society in 1864**, in Aligarh to translate Western works into Indian languages to prepare the Muslims to accept Western education and to inculcate scientific temperament among the Muslims.

The **Aligarh Institute Gazette**, a **magazine** published by Sir Syed was an organ of the Scientific Society.

In 1877, he founded the **Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College** on the pattern of Oxford and Cambridge universities. The college **later grew into Aligarh Muslim University**.

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The Aligarh Movement helped in the Muslim revival. It gave them a common language— Urdu.

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