

RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY (1772 - 1833)



WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, the 245th birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy was celebrated

Brahmo Samaj

First Intellectual Reform Movement in Modern India to purify Hinduism

Founded in Calcutta by Raja Ram Mohan Roy on 20 August 1828

Based on the twin pillars of Reason & Vedas and Upanishads

Earlier known as **Brahmo Sabha**, and was the culmination of Roy's Atmiya Sabha of 1814

Propagated **Monotheism** and **brotherhood**

Opposed priesthood, idolatry, rituals, sacrifices, superstitions, **Sati**



RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY

A great historical figure behind the socio-cultural awakening of India in the 19th century

A Man of Versatile Genius, a **Social - Educational Reformer**, popularly known as "**Father of Modern India**"

He was conferred the title "**Raja**" in 1831 by the **Mughal Emperor**, "**Yugdoot**" by **Subhash Chandra** and "**Modern**" by **Tagore**

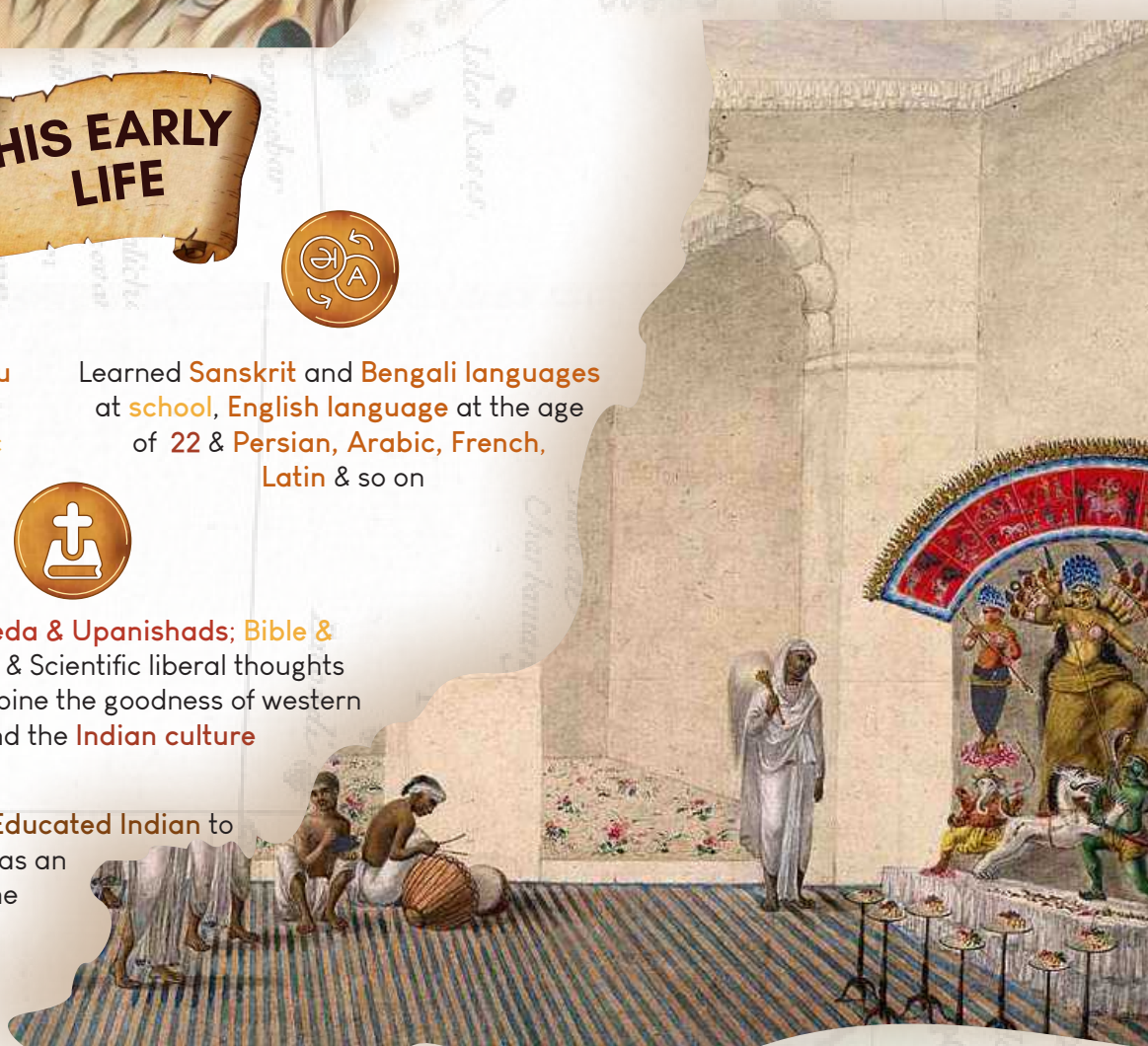
HIS EARLY LIFE

Born into an elite **Bengali Hindu family** in 1772 when India was suffering with **socio-economic** and **political problems**

Learned **Sanskrit** and **Bengali** languages at **school**, **English** language at the age of 22 & **Persian, Arabic, French, Latin** & so on

Studied **Rig-Veda & Upanishads; Bible & Quran** Western & Scientific liberal thoughts and tried to combine the goodness of western ideals and the **Indian culture**

Became the first **Educated Indian** to travel to **England** as an **ambassador** of the **Mughal Emperor Akbar II**



HIS THOUGHTS & BELIEFS

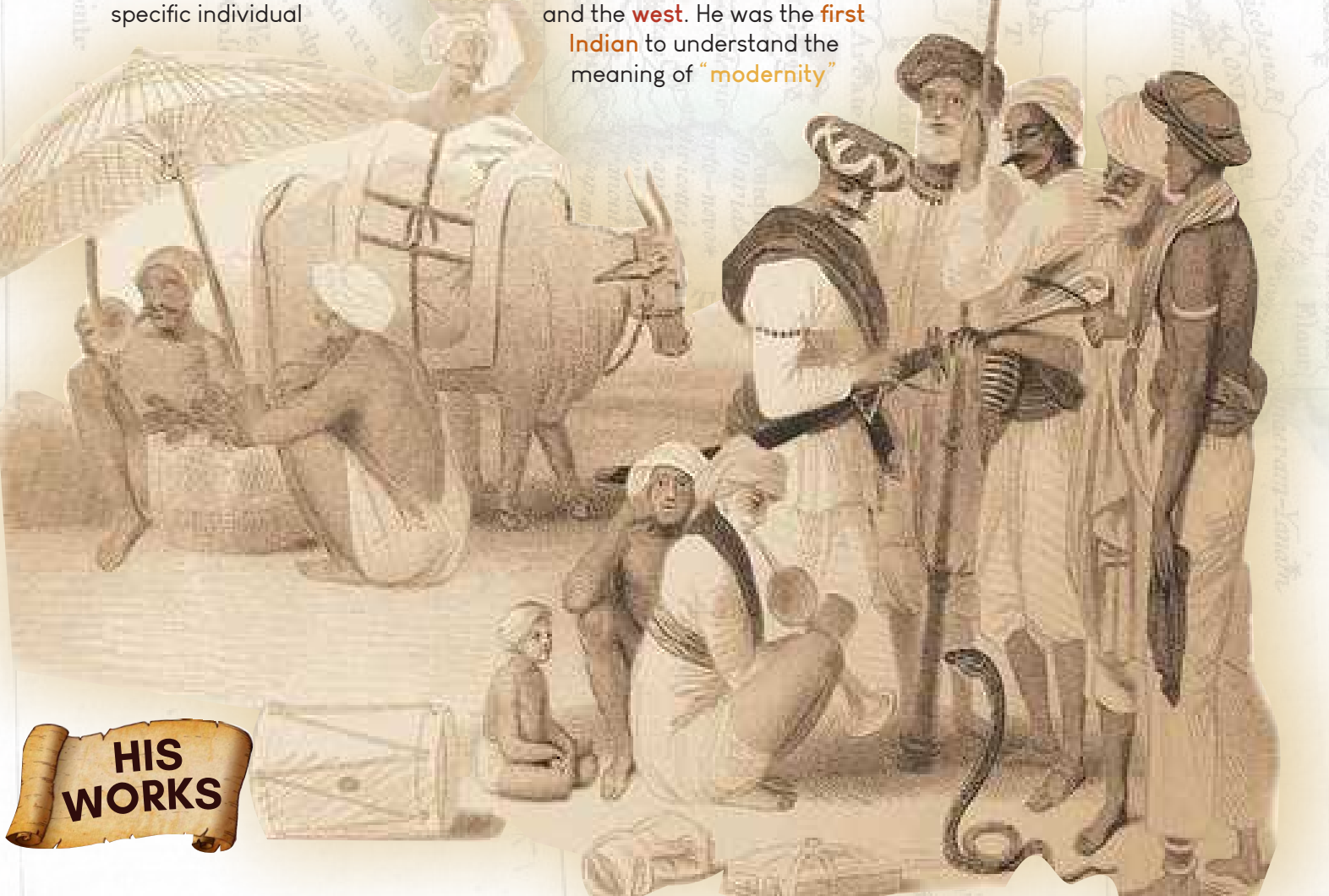
God is one. He even being Hindu. He was against the **idol worship**

All religions preach **common message of brotherhood**

Each **individual** has right to live as he or she **wishes**

Prayer do not need specific **place** or specific **individual**

New India, guided by **reason**, should acquire the best in **East** and the **west**. He was the **first Indian** to understand the meaning of "**modernity**"

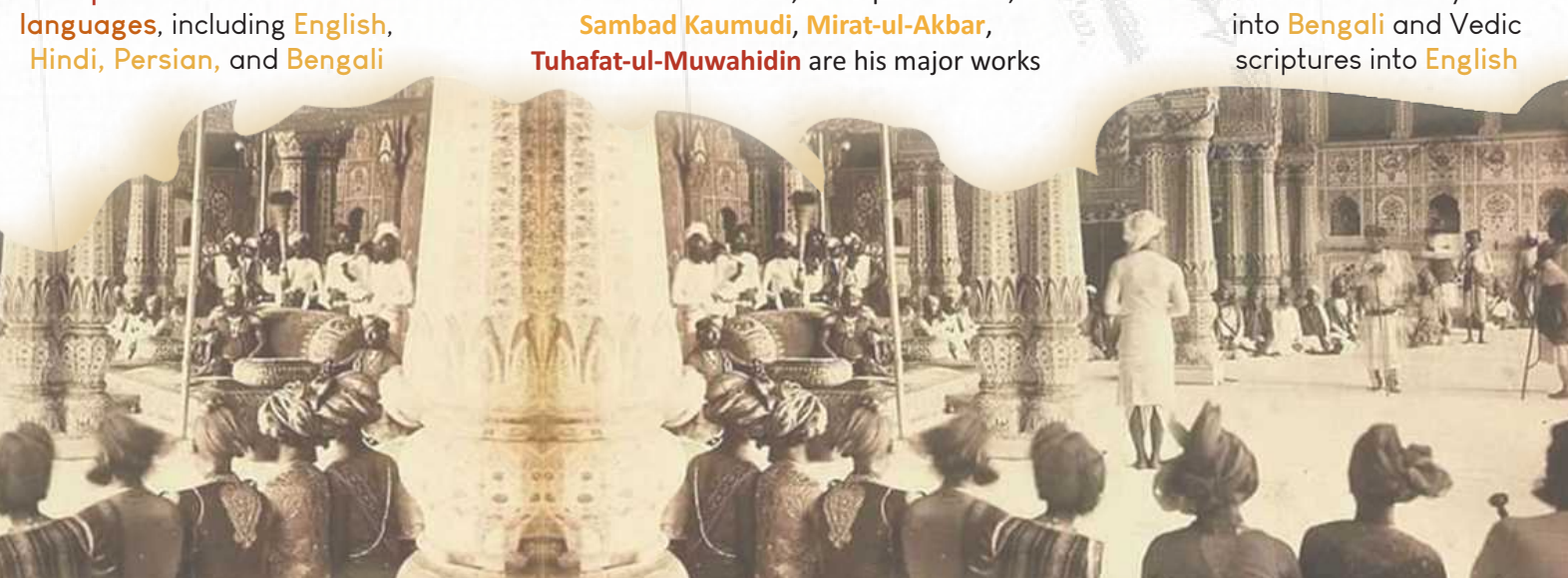


HIS WORKS

He **published** in different **languages**, including **English, Hindi, Persian, and Bengali**

Gift to **Monotheists**, Precepts of **Jesus, Sambad Kaumudi, Mirat-ul-Akbar, Tuhafat-ul-Muwahidin** are his major works

He **translated** many works into **Bengali** and **Vedic scriptures** into **English**



HIS CONTRIBUTION

Social Reforms

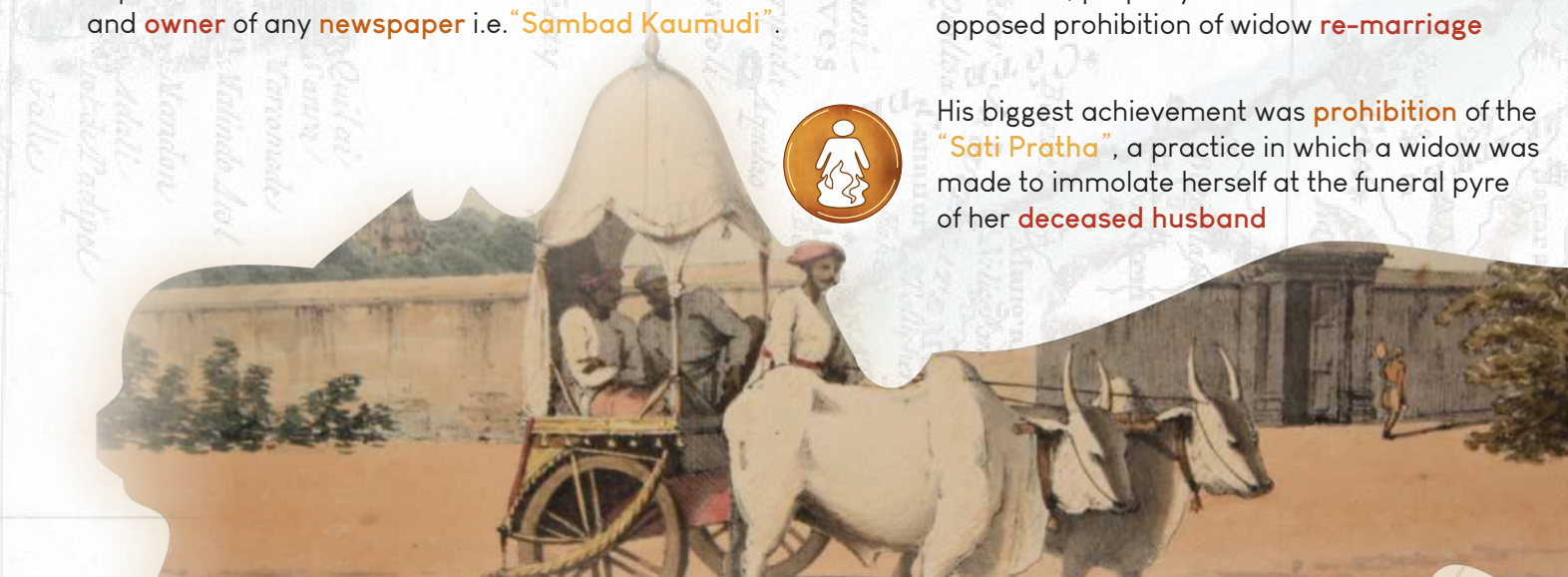
Roy's first organisation, **Atmiya Sabha**, founded in **Calcutta** in **1815**, eventually took the shape of **Brahmo Samaj**, a major religious movement of the middle class educated Bengalis, based on essential principle of **monotheism**

Stood as the "**Pioneer of Indian Social Reforms**" as many social reformers were inspired by him. e.g. **Keshav Chandra Sen (Brahmo Samaj of India), Devendranath Tagore (Tattvabodhini Sabha), K.T. Telang and Mahadeo Govind Ranade (Prarthana Samaj)**

Voiced against **British policy** of restriction on freedom of press and became the first Indian who was an **editor** and **owner** of any **newspaper** i.e. "**Sambad Kaumudi**".

Advocated Women's rights to freedom, **education**, property and inheritance and opposed prohibition of widow **re-marriage**

His biggest achievement was **prohibition** of the "**Sati Pratha**", a practice in which a widow was made to immolate herself at the funeral pyre of her **deceased husband**



Educational Reforms

Established **Vedanta College** in **1825**, and revived the ethical principles of the **Vedanta school** of philosophy as found in the Upanishad

Stood one of the earliest propagators of **modern education**, he **established** many Anglo Hindu schools and introduced two new subjects **Mechanics** and **Voltaire's philosophy**

Promoted inclusion of **English** and **Scientific** subjects, **Mathematic** and **Technology** in curriculum of **Indian School**

In **collaboration** with **David Hare**, promoter of **modern education**, he founded famous **Hindu College**



CONCLUSION

He **died** in **1833**. He was an **internationalist** with a vision beyond his times