

Supplementary notes:

Socially and Educationally Backward Classes

- List of socially and educationally backward classes:
 - The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was established under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
 - The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018 gave constitutional status to the NCBC, and empowered the President to notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes for any state or union territory for all purposes.
 - The 2021 Bill amends this to provide that the President may notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes only for purposes of the central government.
 - This central list will be prepared and maintained by the central government. Further, the Bill enables states and union territories to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes. This list must be made by law, and may differ from the central list.
- Consultation with the NCBC
 - Article 338B of the Constitution mandates the central and state governments to consult the NCBC on all major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes.
 - The Bill exempts states and union territories from this requirement for matters related to preparation of their list of socially and educationally backward classes.

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.
- By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely- (i) the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and (ii) the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) w.e.f. 19 February, 2004.

11. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Akalis launched a non-violent Satyagraha against the corrupt mahants in 1921.

Supplementary notes:

Religious Reforms among the Parsis

- Religious reforms began among the Parsis in Bombay in the middle of the 19th century.
- In 1851, the **Rehnumai Mazdayasan Sabha or Religious Reform Association** was started by Naoroji Furdonji, Dadabhai Naoroji, S.S. Bengalee, and others.
- It campaigned against the entrenched orthodoxy in the religious field and initiated the modernization of Parsi social customs regarding the education of women, marriage and the social position of women in general.
- In the course of time, the Parsis became socially the most westernized section of Indian society.

Religious Reforms among Sikhs

- Religious reform among the Sikhs began at the end of the 19th century when the Khalsa College was started at Amritsar.
- The reform efforts gained momentum after 1920 when the Akali Movement rose in the Punjab.
- The main aim of the Akalis was to purify the management of the Gurudwaras or Sikh shrines.
- These Gurudwaras had been heavily endowed with land and money by devout Sikhs. But they had come to be managed autocratically by corrupt and selfish mahants.
- The Sikh masses led by the Akalis started in 1921 a powerful, non-violent Satyagraha against the mahants and the Government which came to their aid.
- The Akalis soon forced the Government to pass a new Sikh Gurudwaras Act in 1922 which was later amended in 1925.

12. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**