

Q. Aligarh movement was a pure educational venture but it has deep impacts on Indian politics. Discuss.

### ANSWER:

#### 1- INTRODUCTION:

Politics without education is hypocrisy without limitation. It means that without education there is no proper political behavior. The Aligarh movement began as a purely educational venture intended to modernize the muslim community in India. However, it had a substantial and far-reaching impact on the Indian politics over the period of time.

#### 2- BACKGROUND:

After the fall of mughal empire and the war of independence in 1857, Syed Ahmed Khan set up roadmap for the muslims to regain their achievements through ways <sup>and services</sup> such as educational, social, political, religious reforms. Although its primary focus was

on educational upliftment, the movement had profound implications for Indian politics, particularly in the context of the eventual creation of Pakistan. Aligarh became a centre of all Muslim educational institutes, providing a platform for Muslim youth to struggle for a separate homeland.

### 3- Aligarh Movement - A game changer:

Sir Syed was a Messiah of the Muslims in the sub-continent in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He worked towards the moral, social, political, economical and religious uplifting. His movement played a significant role in bringing about an intellectual revolution among the Indian Muslims. His efforts earned Sir Syed the title "Prophet of Education".

### 4- IMPACTS OF ALIGARH MOVEMENT ON INDIAN POLITICS:

#### 4.1 Modernization of Indian Society through education:

Sir Syed's first and foremost objective was to acquaint the British with the Indian mind.

He established the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriented College which later became Aligarh Muslim University. He had two immediate objectives in mind: to remove the state of misunderstanding, and tension between the Muslims and the new British Government and to induce them to go after the opportunities available under the new regime without deviating in any way from the 'fundamentals' of their faith.

#### 4.2 Development of Muslim Nationalism in India:

The Aligarh movement emphasized the need for Muslims to participate in the political process and work towards their upliftment. The movement aimed to create a sense of identity among Indian Muslims, which was distinct from other communities in India. This led to the emergence of the concept of Muslim nationalism, which became a significant political force in

India. His writings played an important role in popularizing the ideals for which the Aligarh stood. His essay on "The Causes of Indian Revolt in 1858" and other writings such as "Loyal Muhammadans of India", and "A series of Essays on the life of Muhammad and subjects subsidiary therein" helped to create cordial relations b/w the British government and the Indian Muslims -

#### 4.3 Social and Political impacts:

The movement contributed to the awakening of political consciousness among Muslims. To articulate the awakening a prominent tool of education was used and which helped in promoting political demands and aspirations. The graduates of Aligarh played a pivotal role in shaping the political landscape. They became leaders in various fields, including politics and actively participated in political parties.

It turned in-to the idea of a separate Muslim identity which evolved over time through the Aligarh movement. The Two-Nation Theory, which argued for the creation of a separate Muslim state, found support among Aligarh-educated intellectuals-

#### 4.4 Religious impact on the Indian Politics:

Sir Syed has not only defended the integrity of muslim sentiments but also worked hard to bridge the gap b/w the two respective communities, especially in the backdrop of the war of Independence. Sir Syed Ahmed said, "Do not show the face of Islam to others; instead show your face as the follower of true Islam representing character, knowledge, tolerance, and piety." He reinterpreted the teaching of Islam and brought them in harmony with modern science and philosophy to educate muslims who

4.5 holding on to their religion.  
legacy and contemporary  
significance:

The graduates of Aligarh movement played key roles in the Pakistan movement. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, was a prominent figure associated with Aligarh's educational philosophy. In the contemporary times, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) continues to be a symbol of educational and cultural resilience for Muslims in South Asia. It remains an influential institution, producing leaders in various fields.

#### 5- CONCLUSION:

The Aligarh Movement, though initiated as an educational reform, had far-reaching consequences for Indian politics. It contributed to the emergence of a politically conscious Muslim community. Also it played a crucial role in shaping the demand for a separate Muslim state, leading to the creation of Pakistan in 1947.