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Q Keeping in view the socio-economic circumstances of sub-continent, discuss the role of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi who revived Islamic Ideology and establish Muslim identity in sub-continent.

Ans Introduction.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, also known as "The Reformer of the second millennium" was a saint and mystic of Naqashbandia Order. He was born in Sirhind on June 15, 1524. He received his education from Sialkot and Sirhind where he memorized Quran, Hadith, Tafseer and Philosophy. He was living in a time where society was ridden with un-Islamic practices and trends. Belief in Karamat was common. Mystics and sufis openly denied the authenticity of Shariah by declaring it superficial and external. Moreover, there were lasting impacts of "Din-i-Elahi" which was established by Akbar. During such critical and vulnerable circumstances,

Sirhindi emerged and influenced Muslims of India sub-continent. His efforts solidified the foundation of true sense of Islam and established Muslim identity. For having a very sensible and exceptional approach towards the spread of Islam, he will always be remembered in golden words in the annals of history.

Efforts to purge Muslim Society.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi took numerous steps to purge Muslim society of impurities. This task to purge and reform required sustained efforts. He undertook a rational approach for spreading Islam across Indo-sub-continent. ~~He~~ His efforts can be summarized in the following points.

- 1:- He sent disciples in all directions of the sub-continent to preach true version of Islam. He guided his disciple to focus on

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Itbat-i-sunnah and commandments of Shariah. This method resulted in very positive outcomes. Islam and its teaching were conveyed to a vast number of areas and resultantly, the number of the followers were increased.

2: Sending letters to prominent scholars.

Another approach by Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi to reform and purge Muslim society was sending letters to prominent scholars of all Muslim countries in which he explained to true and authentic religious doctrine of Islam. Here also, he put great stress on the following of Prophet (SAW). In this way, true version of Islam was spread more and more which resulted in the establishment of Muslim identity.

Opposition to Athiesm.

Sirhindi was greatly opposed to athiesm. He stressed on to revert to the purer Islam by giving up heretical practices and customs. In this Islam was purified and Muslim identity established.

Influence on leading Nobles

Sheikh Sirhindi exerted significant influence on leading nobles near the emperor to bring about a change in the life of courts and Muslims.

Stress on Prayers and Fasting.

He was regularly conducting sessions on prayers and fasting and their benefits.

Influence of His efforts.

Shoikh Ahmad Sirhindi left indelible impact on Muslim history. Allama Iqbal has paid rich tribute to him and considered him spiritual guardian of Muslims of India. His movement

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gave new life to the Muslims which left far-reaching impact in religious and practical fields.

Conclusion.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was one of the most religious personalities, a scholar and magnetic rhetorician. He laboured hard day and night to keep alive national and religious identity. He was staunch advocate of the separateness of the Muslims. He always emphasized on the separate identity for Muslims and adopted a stern attitude against Hindus. In short, he was the one who re-establish the glory of Islam which was lost in Mughul period, which ultimately lead to separate Muslim identity for Muslims.