

Efforts for Renaissance by Muslims :

Muslim Revivalism in India :-

In the sixteenth century, during the reign of Akbar, Islam faced overwhelming threats. Akbar's Infallibility Decree in 1579 and Deen-i-Ilahi in 1581 were considered to be grave threats to Islam. During this period, the Muslims in India had become so deficient in the knowledge of Islam that they had more belief in *kaumat* or miracles of the saints than Islamic teachings. To restore the lost glory of Muslims in India, great personalities like *Mujaddid Alf Sani* and *Shah Waliullah* rendered valuable services for the reformation of Muslim society and provided a counterpoise against the Deen-i-Ilahi and the Bhakti movement. Their commendable role influenced the ruling authority of that time.

Islam was spread in multiple regions as a result of peaceful missionary activities of "Ulema-i-Akbar". They had later consolidated the power of Muslims in various parts of the country.

Religious Reformist Movement :-

A religious reformist movement is a social movement which brings gradual evolutionary change in the society with aim of the reformation of Islamic teachings. It is based on reformist ideas of religious and personal transformation.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi

Saeed Ahmed Butt in his book *Exploring Pakistan* introduces Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi with the following line,

"History itself is an evidence of the fact that whenever Islam came at any danger by agencies either from its enemies or from ideology; it was saved by such personalities who through their spiritual power not only saved it, but gave it a new life," such is the story of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

Life Sketch :-

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, the first of the great Muslim reformers in India, commonly known as **Mujadid Alf Sani** (the reformer of the second millennium), was a revivalist of 16th century. He was born in Sirhind (Punjab) on June 26, 1564. He belonged to a devout Muslim family that claimed descent from Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA). Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi received his basic education at home. He got his spiritual training and religious education from Khwaja Baghi Billa, who encouraged his tremendous spiritual activities. His initial instructions in the Holy Quran, hadith and theology were rendered in Sirhind and then he went to Sialkot where he learnt logic, philosophy and theology, and devoted most of his time to the study of hadith and tafseer. Most of his followers in current time are of Afghani Madaras. He died on 10th December 1624.

Expose the Evils of Muslim Society

Shah Waliullah Khan was the first person who exposed the evils of Muslim society. Following are evils which were prevalent in Indian society during the revival which led to the revival of Muslim glory of Islam :-

Hindu Reformatory Movements :- Emergence and dominance of Hindu reformatory movements gave birth to the dire need of Muslim Reformatory movement to check the former's influence.

Aloofness from Shariah :- The ulama and theologians of the time had ceased or denied the authenticity of Shariah as superficial and considered jurisprudence the only religious knowledge.

Spread of the social evils :- Social evils as a result of aloofness from Islamic principles had gradually become dominant. Social evils like luxurious lifestyle, gambling, hypocrisy, lies etc.

Dominance of Hindu culture :- Un-Islamic practices of Karamat under the influence of Hindu culture had become common.

Threat of Rakhtis :- Influence of Bhakti Movement had started during the Sultanate period and Muslims in India had become so deficient in the knowledge of Islam that their Islamic / religious identity was being compromised.

6: Danger of De-e-i-Islami :- Deen-i-Ilahi was a great danger to Islam and Akbar himself assumed the title of "Mujadid Azam" and "Imam-i-Adil". This religious dogmatic system of Akbar greatly affected the beliefs of the Indian Muslims.

7: Moral decadence of rulers :- Moral decadence of a ruler or corruption of a ruler was a grave threat to the Muslim rule.

8: Deviance of laws :- Deviance from divine laws to man-made laws was also prominent during that time.

Efforts / Services :- It was a great challenge for Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi to bring reforms in the Indian society. His main objective was to purify the Indian Muslims from the un-Islamic practices, which had adopted by the Muslims with the passage of time. Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi efforts or services can be divided into two :- His writings and Practical Services.

- Writings / Books of Sirhindi :-

Shamshad Ahmed in his book "Pakistan and World Affairs" says, "Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi's greatest contribution was undoubtedly the task of countering unorthodox sufism and beliefs" And to carry out this contribution Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi wrote many books and pamphlets which include his **Maktubat** (Research and Ijtihad), **Ma'arif ud Dunya** (Book of Spirituality), **Asbat un Naboo** (Logic and Reason)

Through verbal teachings, discussions and his Maktubaat (letters) addressed to important nobles and leaders of religious thought, he spread his message amongst the elite in particular. He continued preaching Islam and Islamic teachings till the end of his life.

- Practical Services :-

1: Betterment of True Islamic Morality :- Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi initiated a process of social change, inspired by true Islamic morality and Islamic ideals in an age which was becoming secular. He opposed all plans to bring Islam and Hinduism together on the religious level, knowing that it would loosen the Muslim grip on the sources of imperial strength. Iqbal rightly regarded him as the "spiritual Guardian of the Muslims of the subcontinent" and one to whom God had uttered to the great perils inherent in the syncretism of Akbar.

2: Ending of Social Evils and Propagation of simple Habits :-

- Saeed Ahmed Butt Book page 11

3: Rectification in Mysticism :-

Shamshad Ahmad in his book: Pakistan and World Affairs says that "To Sirhindi, mysticism without Shariat was misleading".

- Saeed Butt book page 10

4: Opposition to Atheism and Polytheism :-

- Butt (pg 10)

5: Opposition to Deen-i-Ilahi :-

- (pg 10)

6: Opposition to Bhakti Movement :- Influence of Bhakti Movement had started during the Sultanate period and Muslims in India had become so deficient in the knowledge of Islam that their true Islamic religious identity was being compromised. Sirhindi critically opposed the notion of assimilation and asked Muslims to adhere to their Islamic identity.

7: Forceful voice against activities of leader/ruler of that time :- As he and his followers also worked in the imperial camp and army, he was soon noticed by Jehangir, the ruler of that time. Jehangir, unlike his father was a more orthodox Muslim. However, he still insisted on full prostration by all his subjects. Sirhindi refused to prostrate before him and emphasized that Islam do not allow to bow before anyone except Almighty Allah. As a result of it, he was imprisoned for two years until Jehangir realized his mistake, released him and thereafter retracted all un-Islamic laws implemented by Akbar.

8: Sirhindi and Two Nation Theory :-

• page 10

9: Sirhindi's letters :-

• page 10

10: Reformation of Islamic society and Defense of faith :- He worked for the reformation of Islamic society as his forceful and eloquent letters addressed to the leading nobles, calling on them to rise in defense of Islam and uphold the dignity of their religion with great power and effectiveness. He worked to illuminate

both religious and social failings of Muslims of India at that time.

Efforts of Sirhindi Impacts & Shah Waliullah together

Conclusion :-

- Butt Book page 12

S. M. Ikram, a Pakistani historian, in his book 'The Cultural Heritage of Pakistan' has rightly said that "Khawaja Baqi Billah's principal disciple, Shaikh Ahmad of Sirhind, was in many respects able than his Murshid and had been greatly embittered by Akbar's religious innovation."

Shah Waliullah

Ishfaq Hussain Qureshi in his book "A Short History of Pakistan" introduces Shah Waliullah with the following lines,

"It was in the atmosphere of thickening gloom and growing desolation that the founder of the third school of thought Shah Waliullah flourished. He was one of the most original and constructive thinkers of the period with a clear appreciation of the political realities."

During 18th century, an era of religious regeneration was inaugurated, which was due more than anything else to the activities of one man, Shah Waliullah whose reform movement rejuvenated spiritual basis for the national cohesion among Indian Muslims. He rendered invaluable services for the social, political and religious regeneration of the Muslim society. He not only correctly diagnosed the ills of the Indian Muslims, but also produced effective remedies for the future malaise and paved the right path for the future of Islam and Muslims of India.

Life - Sketch :-

Shah Waliullah belonged to a religious family and was born on 21st February 1703 in Delhi when the reign of Aurangzeb was nearing its end. He completed his early education under the supervision of his father, Shah Abdur Rahim at Madrasa-i-Rahimiyah. He taught in Madrasa-i-Rahimiyah for twenty years. He later went to Makkah for pilgrimage in 1730 and achieved higher studies from the best and the leading Muslim divines of the world. He died in 1762 by leaving a legacy which is being followed by Sunni Madrasas of Pakistan.

According to Allama Iqbal, Shah Waliullah was the first Muslim "to find the urge of a new spirit in him."

Situation of that time :-

By the time Shah Waliullah returned to Delhi in July 1732, the decline in Mughal fortunes had started. The social, political, economic and religious conditions of the Muslims were very poor. Following are the evils which were prevalent in Indian society which were further causing the decline of Indian Muslims :-

- 1: Hindu Reformist Movements :-
- 2: Aloofness from Shariah :-
- 3: Spread of Social Evils :-
- 4: Threat of the Dominance of Hindu Culture :-
- 5: Deviance from Islamic laws to Man-made Laws :-
- 6: Growing threat to the Muslim Rule :- There was a growing threat to the Muslim rule from the rise of two Hindu rebellious groups, namely Marathas and Jats. Maratha power was threatening the last vestige of the Muslim rule in Northern India.
- 7: Weak Muslim Rule in the sub-continent :- During that time, the decline of Muslim rule had already started in the sub-continent especially it was instigated at the end of Aurangzeb's rule.
- 8: Threat of Missionaries :- Along with the gloomy threat of Hindu rebellion groups, there was also a grave threat of missionaries who were converting and distracting people from their beliefs and get them enter into the domain of Christianity.

Efforts / Services :- It was impossible for Shah Waliullah to remain indifferent, aloof and unaffected by the prevailing situation. So he pondered the prevailing situation of India and wanted "to carve out a straight way of knowledge and action out of the jungle of confused ideas and thoughts." Thus, he rendered the invaluable services for the regeneration of the Muslims in the subcontinent.

S.M. Ikram, a well-known historian and scholar describes in his book, "The Cultural Heritage of Pakistan" that "He was the first Muslim who identified the causes of Muslim decline."

- Religious Service :-
 - Intellectual Service :-
 - Political Service :-
 - Social Services :-
- } Saeed
Ahmed
Book

- Working to end Social evils (sirk)
- Reformation of Islamic Society (sirk)
- (IMP) • Letters to various segments of society for social and political reformation.
- Formation of Madaris administration.

Conclusion :-

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Influence of the Efforts of Sheikh

Ahmad Sirhindi :-

- 1: Start of Muslim Nationalism :- / Protagonist of Two Nation Theory.
 - pg 10
- 2: Reformation and Rectification in Mysticism :-
 - pg 10 (Efforts point here too)
- 3: Opposition of Biddat / Pioneer of Muslim self-amendments :-
 - pg 11
- 4: Denunciation of Deen-i-Ilahi / Powerful writings against Akbar :-
 - pg 11
- 5: Govt as an essential mean for regeneration of society / Political uplift of Muslims :-
 - pg 21
- 6: Reformation of society and true spirit of Islam through morality :-
 - Practical effort (1)
- 7: Weakening the power surge of Rajpoots :-
Sirhindi pointed out and raised his forceful voice against unfaithfulness of rulers and rescued community conscience and belief eventually weakened the power surge of Rajpoots.
- 8: Laid foundation of Comprehensive Movement :-
Sirhindi was the first reformer who worked for the revival of Muslim glory altogether laid the movement which dealt with political, social and religious adversities and evils of society.
- 9: Rescued Community conscience and belief :-
(Point 3 repeat)
- 10: Reconciliation of various sections of society :-
 - (Effort 4 & 6 mix)

Influence of the Efforts of Shah Waliullah:

- 1: Reformation of Scholars :- Shah Waliullah thought that the degeneration of the Muslims was due to the negligence of religious practices. He proposed Fak-ul-Nizam which meant full fledged revolution of Islamic society and scholars. He observed that no progress would be made without the reformation in the Islamic society.
- 2: Reformation of society and true spirit of Islam through education :- / Dissemination of True spirit of Islam :- pg 20 → reconciliation next page point
- 3: Government as an essential means for regeneration of Society / Political uplift of Muslims :- Pg 21
- 4: Founder of separate state ideology :- Pg 20
- 5: Opposition of Biddat / Pioneer of Muslim self assertions :- pg 11
- 6: Decline of Sectarian conflicts :- pg 20
- 7: Weakening the power surge of Marathas :- He played a vital role in the Indian politics of his times and was greatly instrumental in forging a united Muslim front against the rising Maratha power which was threatening the last vestige of the Muslim rule in Northern India. He chose the most capable and disciplined Muslim leaders of his time for combating the Marathas. It was on account of his call that Ahmad Shah Abdali appeared on the field of Panipat in 1761 and put an end to the Marathas dream of dominating the subcontinent.
- 8: Rescue Community Conscience and Belief :- Shah Waliullah was responsible for awakening in the community the desire to win back its moral fervor and maintain its purity. To rescue a community's conscience, identity, belief and faith from destruction was no small achievement of Shah Waliullah. He considered 'self-consciousness' as a prerequisite

of 'political consciousness'.

9: Reconciliation of various sections of society:-

He tried to reconcile the basic differences amongst the different sections of the Muslims and considered the government as an essential means and agency for regeneration of the community. He studied the writings of each school-of-thought to understand their pov, and then wrote comprehensive volumes about what is fair and just in light of the teaching of Islam. He worked out a system of thought, beliefs, and values, on which all but extremists could agree.

10: Provided a spiritual basis of National Cohesion:-

He recommended the application of Ijtihad against blind taqlid, and believed that intellectual revolution was necessary for political change. He thus provided a spiritual basis for National Cohesion.

11: Laid Foundation of Comprehensive Movement :-

- Sirhindi Point

He directed his teachings towards reorienting of Muslim society with the concepts of basic social justice, removing social inequalities and balancing inequitous distribution of wealth. (Combination of Pol + Social + Reli) ^{Ma}

12: Overhauled existing education system :-

Reforms of administration of madaras.

Efforts More Points of Economics :-

In his book Hujjat-ulah-il-Balighah, he pinpointed the causes of chaos and disintegration of Muslim society. These included economic mismanagement manifest in undue pressure on public treasury and heavy taxation on peasants, merchants and workers with the result that tax evasion was rampant. He realized the

importance of economics in a social and political set-up. In his view, no economic exploitation was to be tolerated in an Islamic state.

He visualized a social order based on economic equality and advocated the maintenance of economic equilibrium in the society and strongly criticized the accumulation of wealth which leads to all sort of evils in the world.

Shah Waliullah indeed laid the foundation of Islamic Renaissance in the subcontinent and became a source of inspiration for almost all the subsequent social and religious reform movements of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Question no. 5

Date _____

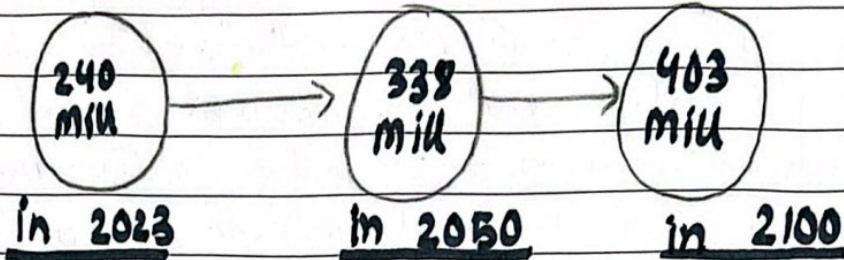
Introduction :-

Over population or explosion of Pakistan's population is one of the key issues in Pakistan as Pakistan is recently ranked in 2023 as world's fifth populous country in the world. Despite realizing the need to curb overpopulation in Pakistan amid population explosion and depleting economic resources of the country, Pakistan remains unsuccessful to control population growth in the country. However, it is imperative to consider that population explosion is considered as 'mother of social problems', but it gives rise to number of economic problems too. It includes the repercussions such as strain on resources, environmental degradation, economic challenges and overburdened infrastructure to name a few. Therefore, Pakistan must realize the need to take collective and coordinated steps to instrumentally decline population explosion.

Population Growth - a conundrum for Pakistan's Growth :-

Overpopulation is one of the key issues of Pakistan as Pakistan is recently ranked in 2023 as world's fifth most populous country in the world. Pakistan today stands at 240m population as a country and according to the stats of United Nations, Pakistan's population - if not controlled - would lead Pakistan as world third most populous country in the world by 2030. Moreover, according to the United Nations World Population Prospects 2019, Pakistan's population will see a further increase to 338.01 million in 2050 and 403.10 million by 2100.

This means that there will be an overwhelming increase in population with no national and welfare oriented strategy to deal with it.



Causes of Over Population in Pakistan :-

Pakistan is culture and religious oriented country, therefore, state deals with population growth with gradual strategy to curb the menace of overpopulation.

However, the causes of overpopulation in Pakistan are complex and multifaceted. Some of the main factors include :-

(1) High Fertility Rate :-

Pakistan has a relatively high fertility rate of around 3.3 children per woman, which is significantly higher than the global average. In 2020, there was a slight change in the foreign policy of Pakistan as they added the goal of promoting the use of contraceptives to save the Pakistan population conundrum while also keeping the health issues of women in Pakistan as a priority. However, Pakistan drastically failed to implement the policy of contraceptive use and failed to curb the population explosion.

(2) Lack of Family Planning Services :-

Another important cause of population explosion in Pakistan is the lack of family planning awareness and services. Though, government of Pakistan took steps decades ago to spread awareness about the importance of family planning, it could neither curb the taboos attached with it nor spread it to the grass root levels of Pakistan's society. Many people in Pakistan do not have access to family planning services, which makes it difficult for them to control the size of their families.

(3) Cultural and Religious Beliefs :-

Culture plays an important role in Pakistan. Pakistan is a culture-oriented country with its roots immersed in the religious ideology of the country. Some orthodox cultural and religious beliefs in Pakistan discourage the use of birth control, which can contribute to high fertility rates.

(4) Poverty and unavailability of Birth Control :-

Poverty and unavailability of birth control also contribute to overpopulation. In many parts of the country, the contraceptives are not readily available or affordable to the general population. Moreover, poverty leads to the belief that more the big family, more it would be easy for poor people to survive amid growing inflation and recession.

(5) Immigration :-

Apart from the natural growth, immigration is another factor that contributes to the population explosion phenomenon. To illustrate, as of October 2023, the United Nations estimates that nearly 3.7 million Afghans reside in Pakistan, while Pakistani society/ authorities believe the number to be as high as 4.4 million. Of these, only a few hold the required documentation allowing them to legally stay in Pakistan.

Impacts of Population Explosion on Pakistan :-

Overpopulation is known as 'mother of all social problems' because due to overpopulation and lack of resources, there is a high surge in poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, people getting involved in crimes to keep their lives going, growth living in slums, illiteracy, difficulty in governing and many other problems are caused by overpopulation. Some of the dire consequences of Pakistan explosion on Pakistan are as following :-

(1) Strain On Resources :-

Pakistan is already a crisis-ridden country and going through complex and multifaceted crises in Pakistan including water, energy, inflation and depleting economic resources. Therefore, if there is a surge of overpopulation in Pakistan, it would pummel the economic stability which is already unstable in Pakistan.

(2) Environmental Degradation :-

Rapidly growing population not only increases pressure on marginal lands, over-exploitation of soils, overgrazing, soil erosion, overcutting of wood, silting, flooding but also increases excess use of pesticides, fertilizers, causing land degradation and water pollution. Therefore, population explosion contributes to overall environmental degradation and causes climate crisis of the world.

(3) Overburdened Infrastructure :-

With Pakistan already going through economic depletion of resources and suffering \$30 bn loss of infrastructure through 2022 floods according to World Bank, overpopulation would blow the economic stability of Pakistan. Overpopulation can lead to overcrowding, which in result puts a strain on infrastructure such as roads, housing and public transportation with already metropolitan cities over flooding with increased number of people migrating from rural areas to urban.

(4) Increased Social Challenges :-

Overpopulation can lead to high surge in poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, people getting involved in crimes and increased social unrest. It can also put a strain on social services, such as housing and welfare programs and difficulty in governing which can make it more difficult for people to access these services.

(6) Overuse of Natural Resources :-

Over population also leads to the more usage of natural resources. As the population of the world increases, more and more natural resources are being consumed at an alarming rate. Pakistan already faced complex and multifaceted issues post-2022 flood dealing with agriculture growth. Therefore, overpopulation leads to overuse of natural resources.

Strategies / Measures to be Taken by Pakistan to Control Over Population :-

Both Iran and Bangladesh are Muslim countries, but still they have managed to control their population. In 1971, the population of Pakistan was about 60 million in comparison with Bangladesh who stood at 70 million. Nearly fifty years later, Bangladesh population is 175 million, whereas Pakistan's is over 240 million.

The government needs to take stock that this is an emergency situation and the ramifications could be catastrophic for the national security of Pakistan. Thus, Pakistan should take steps like: institute strategic, innovative, and morally upstanding family planning programmes that focus on lowering fertility rates. The ministry of Religious affairs and inter-faith harmony has also an important role to play.

Conclusion :-

Pakistan should take over possible measures to curb the evil of overpopulation lest it deprive it of economic, political and social stability.