

## QUESTION - 3

Aligarh Movement breathed life into the consciousness of a distinct entity among Muslims through its education. Later, its services became the foundation of Pakistan. Discuss.

### INTRODUCTION:

After the war of Independence <sup>1857,</sup> the Muslims were shattered socially, politically and economically. They were the target of the revengeful activities of the British government. The then situation was such a plight that there was no hope for the Muslim's rise. The Aligarh Movement, a turning point for the Subcontinent's Muslims, proved to be a renaissance movement of Muslims initiated by Sir Syed Ahmed Ali Khan. Moreover, the main objectives behind this movement were the regeneration of Muslim society, intellectual upliftment, and the creation of a bridge between the British and the Muslims to shorten the differences. To realise this dream, a system of scientific Western-style scientific education for the Muslim population in British India was initiated. However, this movement not only brought about an education revolution but also changed the entire political dynamics of the Indian subcontinent. Later, its services

became the foundation of Pakistan through the construction of Two Nation Theory, the reduction of gaps between British and Muslims, and the generation of leading freedom fighters who played essential role in the Pakistan Movement. Also, the sole Muslim representation party, "Muslim League", was established.

### THE ALIGARH MOVEMENT :

After the 1857 War of Independence, the situation of Muslims became miserable and the Hindus got an opportunity to make the British believe that the Muslims were a threat to the British rule. As a result, national recognition of the Muslims was in severe danger. At that crucial time Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, who was a philosopher, educationist, and reformer, came forward as the first leader to uplift Muslims. He started Aligarh Movement. Its purpose was to bring Muslims near the British, keep them away from conventional politics, inculcate Western knowledge into Muslims and introduce a modern aspect of Islam. He set up a series of educational institutions and societies to give his thought a life, like the MAO College, Scientific Society and Muhammadan Educational Conference. This movement

changed the whole situation of Indian Muslims by making effective changes and led to the creation of an independent state, Pakistan.

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES OF ALIGARH MOVEMENT:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan wanted the Muslim nation to be educated to keep pace with the modern advancement. He was of the opinion that honour of the nation could be achieved only by education. He advised the Muslims to get the most modern western education. He established educational institutions for the Muslim youth and guided them both theoretically and practically.

### 1: School in Muradabad:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established the educational institution in Muradabad 1859. That was a Persian school.

### 2: School in Ghazipur:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established a school in Ghazipur in 1862.

### 3: Scientific Society:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established a unique institution Scientific Society in Ghazipur in 1863. The headquarters of this

Society were shifted to Aligarh in 1876. The purpose of its establishment was to acquire the books in other languages, and translate them in Urdu. Sir Syed stressed upon the need for education in English language so that the Muslim generation could learn the Western modern knowledge as soon as possible.

#### 4: Establishment of M.A.O. School Aligarh:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan set up M.A.O. School in Aligarh in 1875; later on in 1877 it was upgraded to college. This institution became Muslim University Aligarh in 1920.

#### 5: Muhammadan Educational Conference:

Sir Syed Ahmed established another organization, All India Muhammadan Educational Conference, in 1886 to provide funds to fulfill the requirements of Aligarh Movement. This organization served the Muslim community in all the fields such as social, political and religious. and all issues were discussed here. The main aim was to inspire the Muslims to work in the field of education. And look at the far sightedness of Sir Syed; 20 years later in 1906 AIMEC was converted into All India Muslim League in Dhaka in its annual meeting.

## SERVICES OF ALIGARH MOVEMENT LAI THE FOUNDATION OF PAKISTAN :

### a) Formation of All India Muslim League :

The Aligarh Movement brought political awareness and educated people about their rights. Additionally, it produced several intellectual graduates, which helped the Muslims reach their destination. All India Muslim League was established on 31st, December, 1906 in the annual session of the Muhammadan Educational Conference. This league played an essential role in protecting the rights and interests of Muslims, and it fought for the freedom of Muslims to protect their identity.

### b) Two-Nation Theory :

This movement also impacted the Muslim's viewpoint about a united India. Previously, they were in the favour of Hindu-Muslim unity. But after Urdu-Hindi Controversy and the teaching of the Sir Syed, they started thinking that Hindus and Muslims are two different communities with different interests. Then, for the first time in the history Sir Syed used the word "Nation" for the Muslims in 1867. So we can say he was the founder of Two-Nation Theory in subcontinent. On the basis of Two-Nation Theory, Sir Syed asked for special safeguards for the Muslims in different fields. Special seats for the Muslims in the local councils were demanded, in

addition to other safeguards. Hence, it is pretty evident that Aligarh Movement laid the foundations of Pakistan.

### c) Leading towards a generation of freedom fighters:

Aligarh movement also set the basis of the generation of freedom fighter, who played a crucial role in disuniting the subcontinent. Due to this movement, a platform was developed for the Muslims to struggle for their rights and protect their identity. Several Aligarh graduates became freedom fighters. One of which was Maulana Muhammad Ali Johar. He was one of the co-founders of the Muslim League, led the Khilafat movement delegation to Europe, opposed Nehru's report and supported Quaid's fourteen points. The role of freedom was very crucial and hence, this movement laid the foundation of Pakistan.

### d) Urdu - Hindi Controversy:

After Urdu-Hindi Controversy in Benaras, Sir Syed understood the mentality of the Hindus and he pressurized the British to avoid replacing Urdu with Hindi as Urdu was very important for the Muslims. As a result, the platform of Aligarh helped Muslims give their thoughts a voice and convey their opinions on the policies of the ruling elite. Thereupon,

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the Aligarh Movement played a crucial role and its services became the foundation of Pakistan.

### e) Bridging gaps between Muslims and British:

Additionally, the movement also played an essential role in bridging the differences between the Britishers and the Muslims after the War of Independence. Sir Syed wrote the book "Causes of the Indian Revolt". In addition, the 'Aligarh Institute Gazette' was the journal published in 1866 by the Scientific Society. The aim was to wash away the misconceptions between Muslims and the British and bring them close to each other. This reduction in differences gave Muslims ample opportunities and included them in the political sector of the subcontinent.

### CRITICAL ANALYSIS:

In a critical diagnosis, it is not wrong to say that Aligarh Movement was primarily an educational movement but essentially it influenced other areas of life be it political, lingual, economical or social. It became a platform for solving the Muslims' grievances and highlighting the issues at the national level. It also helped in the creation of Pakistan by becoming an impetus for Muslims' demand for a separate homeland. All the political

demands and efforts made in the 20th century can be traced back to the Aligarh Movement.

### CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, Aligarh Movement played a vital role in uplifting the Muslims of the subcontinent and creating a new political environment. It also impacted politics by setting up a concept of Two-Nation Theory, leading towards the creation of Pakistan.

The services of Sir Syed were highly appreciable. Maulvi Abdul Haque appreciated the role played by Sir Syed and said,

“The first stone of the foundation of Pakistan was laid down by this old man.”