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Subject : Pakistan Affairs.

Q.No:1 Keeping in view the socio-political circumstances of sub-continent, discuss the role of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi and Shah Wali Ullah in the history of Subcontinent.

1 → Introduction:-

The muslim society had degenerated when Mufaddid Alif Sani appeared on the horizon. A number of Hindu customs and practices had become part of their creed. The commandments of shariah and sunnah were being flouted. In the era of Shah Waliullah the decline of muslim power in the subcontinent started. The muslims in the sub-continent had degenerated from a powerful and well-integrated community to a helpless and disorganized crowd.

3) Services Rendered by Shah Waliullah:-

Shah Waliullah took several steps to safeguard the muslim rule and society.

1) Efforts for Preserving muslim rule in India:-

After the weakening of muslim power, Marathas emerged as the biggest threat to the muslim rule in the sub-continent.

It seemed certain that Marathas would capture the throne of Delhi easily.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, Shah Waliullah wrote to the Afghan King Ahmad Shah Abdali to remind him of his duty as a muslim king to

liberate the muslim community. Shah Waliullah also enlisted the support of Rohilla tribe to support Ahmad

Shah Abdali against the Marathas.

As a result Ahmad Shah Abdali crushed the Marathas in the third battle of Panipat and the muslim rule in the sub-continent was saved from imminent collapse.

2) Translation of the Holy Quran:-

Shah Waliullah felt that deviation from Islamic norms had led the

Muslim community into decline. This deviation he attributed to lack of direct access to the meaning of the Holy Quran. He took the bold step of translation of Holy Quran into Persian in 1738.

3. Conciliation between Muslims:-

The worst internal conflict was amongst the Sunnis and Shias. Shah Waliullah studied and discussed the whole question very objectively. He firmly and explicitly rejected the belief of some Sunnis that Shias were not Muslims. In this regard he wrote Izalat al Kifa to eliminate the active hostility between the Sunnis and Shias.

4. Shah Waliullah reconcile opposing Stands of Sufism:-

Shah Waliullah tried to reconcile opposing strands of Sufism. He maintained that the Wahdat-ul-Wajood of Ibn Arabi and the Wahdat-ul-Shahood of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi were correct and there was no meaningful difference between the two.

5. Shah Waliullah and Ijtihad:-

Shah Waliullah was a firm believer of the institution of ijtihad. Shah Waliullah wrote Hujjatullah Al-Baligha in which he discussed in detail the intellectual and Scholastic requirements of a mujtahid and the general Principles of Ijtihad.

6. Equitable Distribution of wealth:-

Shah Waliullah's guiding Principles were adl and tawqan, e.g. justice and balance. Therefore Shah Waliullah was in favor of an equitable distribution of wealth in society.

7. Adoption of Islamic Principles:-

Shah Waliullah urged the muslims of the sub-continent to concentrate on the fundamental Principles of Islam and follow the examples of Holy Prophet (PBUH).

8. Moral Reform of muslim Community:-

Shah Waliullah said that all the Sufi orders consist of tariqat and all the tariqat is subordinate to shariah. This was also the main platform of this reformist movement as it was under the cover of sufism that

a number of practices, threatening morality had crept into muslim society.

9. All Embracing Nature of Islam:-

Shah Waliullah was a firm believer in the all-embracing nature of islam.

Shah Waliullah asserted that Islam is a complete code of life and has a definite role to play in the functioning of state.

10. Literary works of Shah Waliullah:-

Shah Waliullah was a prolific writer and wrote extensively on Fiqh and Hadis, eventually had 51 books to his credit 23 in Arabic and 28 in Persian.

11. Letters by Shah Wali Ullah:-

He wrote open letters to:

(i). Mughal rulers:- To give up their corrupt and inefficient practices.

(ii). Letters to Soldiers:-

Soldiers, for forgetting to inculcate the spirit of jihad.

(iii). Letters to workers:-

Artisans, workers, and peasants reminded them that on their labors the economic prosperity of the state depends.

⇒ Steps taken by Mujaddid Alif Sani:-

Mujaddid Alif Sani endeavored to restore pure doctrine to Islamic thought and to compel the muslims to follow shariah and Sunnah in letters and spirit. For this, he took the following steps:

1. Correspondence with Eminent Personalities:-

Mujaddid Alif Sani began writing letters to rulers and eminent men in India and neighboring, muslim countries. He also highlighted the difference between Islam and Hinduism and called for curbing the trend towards Hindu-muslim integration. Total letters written by him are 525 and are collectively known as Makhubat-e-Imam Rabbani.

2. The Doctrine of Wahdat us shuhud:-

Mujaddid Alif Sani put forward the concept of Wahdat us shuhud, which mean that the creator and the creation is not one, But God is separate from what He has created.

3. Strict Adherence to shariah and Sunnah:-

Mujaddid Alif Sani emphasized the strict adherence to Shariah and Ittiba

e sunnah. He preached the mysticism without shariah was misleading and un-Islamic. This was the reason that he refused to act of sajdah before Mughal Emperor because he believed that sajdah was due only to Allah Almighty. As a result Mujaddid Alif Sani was incarcerated at Gwalior Fort for two years until the emperor realized the gravity of his mistake. He not only released mujaddid but called him to Agra and made him the teacher of his son Shah Jahan.

4. Original teaching of Islam by Mujaddid Alif Sani

Mujaddid Alif Sani restore the original teaching of islam, he did following:-

1. Emphasized the concept of Tauheed.
2. Asked the muslims to adopt simple lifestyle in the light Quran and Sunnah.
3. Asked the muslims to give up heretical ideas and return to pure Islam.

4. Explained the importance of Namaz, Fasting, Zakat prescribed by Allah.

5. The Muslims to maintain separate identity distinct from Hindus.

5. Campaign for the Imposition of Jizya:-

Mujaddid Alif Sani impressed upon the rulers to impose Jizya on non-Muslims. According to Mujaddid Alif Sani,

"Jizya is designed to humiliate the infidels since the dignity of infidels is the humiliation of the believers."

6. Reformation through Literary works:-

Mujaddid Alif Sani also propagated his philosophy by writing books on a scholarly level. Some of his famous works are.

Asbat un Nabuwwas

Risal-e-Nabuwat.

Tauheed-i-Shukhuli

7. Mujaddid Alif Sani and Two Nation Theory:-

He laid the foundations of 'Two

"Nation Theory" which ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan.

Hafeez Malik in his famous book "Muslim Nationalism in India and Pakistan" writes,

"Mujaddid Alif Sani's influence on posterity has been great indeed. His was truly a 'call back to Muhammad (PBUH)'"

⇒ Main Services of Shah Waliullah and Mujaddid Alif Sani in the history of Sub-continent.

Shah Waliullah

1. Translation of the Holy Quran into Persian
2. Literary work
 - i. 51 Books
 - ii. 23 in Arabic
 - iii. 28 in Persian
3. Ijtihad
4. Conciliation between Muslims.

Mujaddid Alif Sani

1. Two Nation Theory.
2. Literary work
 - i. Asbat-un-Nabuwwa
 - ii. Risal-e-Nabuwat
 - iii. Tauheed-i-Shuhadi
3. Campaign for the imposition of Jizya
4. Strict Adherence to Shariah and Sunnah

⇒ Conclusion:-

Shah Waliullah and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi played pivotal roles in shaping the history of the Indian subcontinent.

Sirhindi's opposition to Din-i-Ilahi and emphasis on shariah helped preserve Islamic distinctiveness. Shah Waliullah's

contributions to Islamic Sciences and ~~Hadith~~

Hadith studies revitalized Muslim intellectual and spiritual life. Their contributions to Islamic thought and identity are undeniable.
