

Pakistan AffairsQuestion No. 1Introduction

India - Pakistan relations remain complex, despite deep linguistic, cultural, geographic, and economic ties. There are multiple reasons which create conflict-prone relationships like unresolved territorial disputes, historical grievances, cross border terrorism, strategic rivalry, and domestic political pressures.

Historical and Political Events
Creating complexity in Indo-
Pak Relations

1. Legacy of Partition (1947)	2. Kashmir Dispute	3. Cross-Border Terrorism
4. Military and Strategic Rivalry	5. Domestic Politics on both sides	6. Interference of External Powers
7. Weak Economic Interdependence	8. Water Dispute	9. Media and Public Perceptions

1. Legacy of Partition 1947

The partition of British India created two new nations along religious lines, leading to one of the largest and bloodiest migrations in the history.

The trauma of communal violence, displacement, and loss left deep emotional scars in both societies. This has created a foundation of mutual suspicion that has shaped relations ever.

2. Kashmir Dispute

Jammu & Kashmir became the core territorial dispute when its ruler acceded to India during 1947 conflict. India considers/sees Kashmir's accession as legitimate and final, while Pakistan considers it unfinished business of partition. Kashmir dispute led to multiple wars. (1947-48, 1965, 1998 Kargil). Cross border terrorism and continuous border tensions.

3. Cross-Border Terrorism

India accuses Pakistan-based militant groups of terrorists attacks (e.g. 2001 Parliament attack, 2008 Mumbai attacks, 2016 Pathankot attacks, 2018 Pulwama). This has deepened mistrust and stalled dialogue processes repeatedly.

4. Military and Strategic Rivalry

Both countries developed nuclear weapons. India became nuclear power in 1974 and Pakistan in 1998. Both countries developed nuclear weapons approximately. Pakistan 170, India 172-180 ~~till~~ 2024-2025. The strategic rivalry is driven by security concerns, military doctrines and arms race in South Asia. Frequent border shelling and troop deployments further trap relations in a security dilemma.

5. Domestic Politics on Both Sides

Nationalists narratives on both sides often politicise foreign policy. Any move towards reconciliation is viewed with suspicion domestically, limiting political space for peace.

6. Interference of External Powers

During the cold war, Pakistan allied with US while India leaned toward USSR. The present China - Pakistan Partnership and ^{US} India strategic ties further shape rivalries and suspicions.

7. Weak Economic Interdependence

Despite potential, trade is minimal due to tensions. Limited economic interdependence means fewer stakeholders pushing for peace. Barriers to trade and connectivity reduce incentives for cooperation.

8. Water Disputes

The Indus Water Treaty (1960) was largely held, but tensions persist over hydropower projects and interpretations of the treaty. Though not the main cause of conflict, water adds another layer of mistrust.

9. Media and Public Perceptions

Media in both countries often amplifies sensational narratives. Stereotypes and misinformation create public hostility, making diplomacy more difficult.

Conclusion

Thus, while India and Pakistan share strong cultural and historical bonds, the legacy of partition, territorial disputes, terrorism, strategic competition, and political mistrust have kept relations mired in complexity.

Meaningful progress requires cooperation, sustained dialogue and ^{addressing} core security concerns.

Question No. 2

Introduction

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi and Shah Waliullah played great role in reviving Islamic ideology in the Indian subcontinent and laying the foundation of Muslim nationalism. Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi defended the purity of Islamic beliefs and helped Muslims maintain their identity. Shah Waliullah tried to reform Muslim society by translating Quran, promoting unity, and stressing the need for moral and political revival among Muslims. Their efforts prepared the ground for the idea that Muslims were a distinct nation, which later shaped muslim nationalism.

Role of Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi in Reviving Islamic Ideology

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi, also known as Mujaddid Alf Sani (the Reviver

of the second Millennium), lived during the Mughal Empire under Emperor Akbar and Jahangir. At a time when Akbar promoted Din-i-Ilahi, religious mixing, and policies that weakened Islamic Identity, Sirhindi strongly reacted.

His Contributions

1. Restored the purity of Islamic Beliefs:

He opposed Un-Islamic innovations and emphasized strict adherence to Quran and Sunnah.

2. Protected Islamic Laws:

He challenged Akbar's policies that sidelined Islamic Principles and attempted to replace Shariah with Imperial regulations.

3. Revived Religious Consciousness among Muslims:

Through his letters (Maktubat-e-Imam Rabbani), he urged scholars, nobles, and rulers to return to Islamic Values.

How He Contributed to Muslim Nationalism

Shaykh Ahmed Sirhindi contributed to Muslim Nationalism by defending Muslim identity at a time of syncretism, he ensured that Muslims in India retained a distinct religious and cultural identity - the foundation of later Muslim Nationalism.

He argued that Muslims must live according to their own ideology, separate from other communities.

Role of Shah Waliullah in Reviving Islamic Thought

Shah Waliullah lived during the decline of Mughal Empire, when political instability, corruption, and sectarian conflicts weakened Muslim society.

His Contributions

1. Translated the Quran into Persian:

This allowed common Muslims to understand the Islamic teachings directly.

2. Reformed social and religious life:

He taught harmony between different schools of Islamic thought and removed sectarianism.

3. Called for Muslim unity and defence:

He invited Ahmed Shah Abdali to fight against rising Maratha power to protect Muslim rule in India.

How he contribute to Muslim Nationalism

Shah Waliullah taught ^{that} Muslims were a separate community and needed their own political and moral authority. His students and followers - Syed Ahmed Shaheed, Shah Ismail Shaheed and others

continued his mission, promoting the idea that Muslims should govern according to Islamic principles.

How both scholars Laid the Foundation of Muslim Nationalism

Although the concept of "nationalism" in its modern form developed much later, their work collectively.

1. Strengthened Muslim Identity

2. Provided Ideological Unity

3.

3. Encouraged Political Consciousness

They made Muslims aware of their distinct religious and cultural existence in India. Their teachings created a sense of shared history, faith, and purpose among Muslims. They emphasized the need for Muslim political power and moral leadership.

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preparing the ground for later leaders like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Allama Iqbal, and ultimately the Pakistan Movement.

Conclusion

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi and Shah Waliullah preserved Islamic Identity, revived Islamic teachings, and created the intellectual basis for Muslims to see themselves as a separate nation, which led to Muslim nationalism in India.