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S.No	Article	Author	Page No.
10.	Sources of Kashmir History: An Overview	Manzoor Ahmad Bhat	161
11.	Al-Ghazzali and Ibn Taymiyah: Their Thought and the Impact	Sheikh Jamiel Ali	185
12.	Impact of Shaykh Ahmad Sirhindi on the Mughal Polity	Afroz Ahmad Bisati	201
13.	Polution: An Islamic Viewpoint	Latif Ahmad Fazili	213
14.	Globalisation and the Contemporary Global Society	Nazir Ahmad Zargar	221

## Impact of Shaykh Ahmad Sirhindi on the Mughal Polity

Afroz Ahmad Bisati \*

The influence of Shaykh Ahmad Sirhindi (1564-1625) on the subsequent religious and political scenerio of Indian sub-continent has been too great. "The mission of the Mujaddid which filled a large space in the religious and political history of the Muslim community of the seventeenth century, was undoubtedly a success".<sup>1</sup> In his efforts he was successful in neutralizing the work of Akbar and affecting a change in the mentality of his successors towards the pristine Islam. He also affected a change in the outlook of Muslim nobility and upper classes in general. His thought put an impact on the every section of Muslim society — the sufi, the theologian, the ruler or the ruled. And it seems no exaggeration on part of Maulana Azad who holds only the Mujaddid responsible for the reformation and revival of Islam during the Mughal period.<sup>2</sup> "The father of the religio-political reform movement of orthodox Islam in India",<sup>3</sup> not only influenced his contemporaries but also the future generations. Sirhindi's endeavours brought under its impact cross section of the society. The present paper, however, will focus on his impact on the Mughal polity.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, was not merely a reformer in the common sense of the word, but a *mujaddid* with a definite mission and higher ideas, the objective that he himself claimed. 'I have not been created', he said, 'for the spiritual direction of the people and their self-perfection. The purpose of my creation is different,

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