HOW ARE PEOPLE IN PUNJAB REPAIRING THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY PARTITION?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

In Punjab, northern India, villagers are rebuilding mosques that were abandoned or damaged during the partition of British India in 1947. Partition created the new countries of India and Pakistan, but it also caused terrible violence and forced millions of people to leave their homes. Many Muslims left the Indian side of Punjab, while Sikhs and Hindus moved in the opposite direction. Hundreds of village mosques were left empty, damaged or used as storage buildings. Now some Sikh and Hindu communities are helping to restore them. In one village, a Sikh woman persuaded her family to donate farmland so that a mosque could be built for the remaining Muslim families. In another village, people of different faiths contributed money, bricks and cement. The projects cannot erase the suffering of 1947, but they are helping communities recover buildings and relationships damaged by one of the largest migrations in modern history.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

Partition is often remembered through violence, refugees and divided families. These mosque restorations show another part of the story: people choosing cooperation after conflict. Buildings can carry painful memories, but they can also become places where communities repair trust and decide that the past should not control their future.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

“Why might rebuilding a mosque help people recover from partition?”

Source: The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2026/oct/28/punjab-india-mosques-restored-heal-sectarian-wounds