

# Saudi Arabia's Tablighi Jamaat ban

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**In news-** Recently, Saudi Arabia has banned the Tablighi Jamaat and Da'wah group, also known as Al Ahbab, calling it a 'danger to society'.

## **About Tablighi Jamaat-**

- The **literal meaning** of Tablighi Jamaat is a '**society for spreading the faith**'.
- It a **Sunni Islamic missionary movement** that was **launched in Mewat in 1927** by the Islamic scholar and teacher **Maulana Muhammad Ilyas**.
- He first launched his campaign in the Mewat region in northwestern India, where many Hindu converts re-embraced their original faith in response to Arya Samaj's 'shuddhi' campaign, the original version of 'ghar wapsi'.
- The slogan Al-Kandhlawi coined for his new organization captured the essence of its activities – "Oh Muslims, become true Muslims".
- The **roots of this movement originated from the Darul Uloom madrasa in Deoband**.
- While the movement is connected to the Deobandi movement of Sunni Islam, **it has much in common with the Wahhabi style of Islam that is associated with Saudi Arabia's religious establishment**.
- It focuses on exhorting Muslims and encouraging fellow members to follow the pure form of Sunni Islam.
- **The focus of the organisation was** not on converting people from other faiths into Islam, rather it is focussed on 'purifying' the Muslim faith.
- **The Emir is the leader of the international movement** and is always related to the group's founder Muhammad Ilyas

al-Kandhlawi.

- **The group also has a Shura Council**, which is largely an advisory council with different national units and national headquarters.
- **They divide themselves into small Jamaats (societies) and travel frequently across the world** to spread the message of Islam to Muslim houses.
- Tablighi is the **largest Islamic missionary movement today**.
- **In 2013, Kazakhstan banned the Tablighi Jamaat** and designated it as extremist.
- The movement is **also prohibited in countries including Iran, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**.

### Its six principles-

- **1st is the kalimah**, an article of faith in which the Tabligh accepts that there is no God but Allah and that Prophet Muhammad is his messenger.
- **2nd is salat**, or prayer five times daily.
- **3rd is ilm and dhikr**, the knowledge and remembrance of Allah conducted in sessions in which the congregation listens to preaching by the imam, performs prayers, recites the Quran and reads the Hadith; the congregation also uses these sessions to dine together, thus fostering a sense of community and identity.
- **4th principle is ikram-i-Muslim**, the treatment of fellow Muslims with honour.
- **The 5th is ikhlas-i-niyat**, or sincerity of intention.
- **6th is dawat-o-tabligh**, or proselytisation.