

Tablighi Jamaat

July 16, 2020

The Tablighi Jamaat was at the centre of a controversy after dozens of people who attended a religious congregation the group held at its headquarters in Delhi tested positive for COVID-19. At least 2,000 people, both from across the country and foreign nations such as Indonesia and Malaysia, had attended the **gathering in Nizamuddin**.

Tablighi Jamaat

Tablighi Jamaat, which literally means a **society for spreading the faith, is a Sunni Islamic missionary movement**. The proselytising movement aims to reach out to ordinary Muslims and **revive their faith, particularly in matters of ritual, dress, and personal behaviour**. Its roots lie in the **Deobandi version of the Hanafi school of jurisprudence**. It was launched by **Deoband cleric and prominent Islamic scholar Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Khandhalaw in 1927 in Mewat**.

In two decades after its launch, the Tablighi Jamaat had spread beyond the Mewat region. The Tablighi Jamaat also has a significant base in the United States and Britain, which has a large Indian subcontinent diaspora. It also has a presence in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore.

The Tablighi Jamaat is based on 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.
 - 5th is ikhlas-i-niyat, or sincerity of intention.
 - 6th is dawat-o-tabligh, or proselytisation.

There is **no defined structure, but there exists a hierarchic network of elders and mosques.** Originally, it used to be headed by the Ameer, who would preside over the shura (council), the core of the organisation, and deal with important matters including international congregations known as Aalmi Ijtama.