



Between Hope and Despair: 75 years of Indian Republic

The coming of Indian Constitution on 26 January 1950 was the major landmark in the life of our country. It gave us the core values of Liberty Equality, Fraternity and Justice. It was welcomed by all except the Hindu Nationalists, who said that there is nothing Indian about it, there are no values in it, which our Holy Manusmriti has given. They stated that Manusmriti is the law today (Savarkar). We were fortunate that forward looking Nehru and champion of democratic value Ambedkar were at the helm to steer the journey forward. The architect of modern India, Nehru ensured that on one hand the center of Indian policy would revolve around the Public Sector, Education, Scientific research, irrigation and health service improvement among others.

The directive principle of promoting scientific temper was being followed till late, though with lots of lacunae. Despite the massive tragedy of India's partition and migration of lakhs of Hindus and Muslims across the border and terrible violence, the country was steered towards improvement in the basic necessities like, hunger, health, education and employment. This was the foundation which Indian leaders firmly planted in the country. The communal groups while doing their work behind the curtain and sometimes orchestrating violence still were a marginal force till 1980. The firmness in promoting social justice was appreciable, but it still could not eradicate the caste system and there was a deep-rooted bias against the dalits.

The other major flaw was the spread of misconceptions against religious minorities, mainly Muslims, and later Christians who were also drawn into the orbit of 'Hate and consequent' violence. After the Shah Bano fiasco the communal forces made big strides on the pretext of appeasement of minorities (particularly Muslims). The implementation of the Mandal Commission report giving 26% of reservations to OBC's was used as an occasion for Hindu nationalists to show their deeper designs. They pushed forward the issue of Ram Temple being underneath Babri Masjid and so Ram Temple should be built there. On this issue massive mobilization of Hindus was done. The social perceptions about Ram temple being underneath the mosque was articulated and spread far and wide by the vast network of RSS Shakhas and its affiliates. This led to the demolition of Babri mosque and orchestration of violence against Muslims, particularly in Mumbai, Surat and Bhopal.

This massive violence was to be followed by carnage in Gujarat (2002), Delhi (2019), UP (2013) and Kandhamal (2008). In Keonjhar Orissa Father Stains was burnt by Rajendra Pal (Dara Singh) of Bajrang dal and massive anti Christian violence was unleashed in Kandhamal later. The issues of Holy Cow, beef eating and love jihad and innumerable other jihads have been floated and the intimidated Muslims are forced to live under tremendous fear. Muslim ghettos are the order of the day in many cities. Post communal violence the phenomenon which was observed was that

in these areas, where the violence had taken place, BJP became stronger in the electoral arena. A sense of fear is also building up among sections of Christian community.

This trajectory from the beginning, where democratic values, pluralism were to be the core of the country, was gradually undermined. Last ten years in particular have seen the worst situation with the rule of BJP. Though nominally this rule has been under the cover of NDA, it is BJP and its agenda of Hindu Rashtra which has been ruling the roost. This period has seen the state institutions like ED, IT, Intelligence agencies, Election Commission and to some extent judiciary, have been internally fallen prey to the influence of Hindu Right and this has weakened the values of our Constitution to no end.

The increasing poverty, income disparity, worsening of education and health is extremely disturbing. The minorities are being relegated to second class citizenship. The political representation of Muslims has fallen dismally. There is not a single MP from ruling BJP and no Muslim minister in the Cabinet. Scientific temper, the part of our directive principles of Constitution, has gone for a toss. The top academic institutions are organizing lectures on producing something like 'Master race' (Garbh Sanskar knowledge). Various such centers have come up dishing out such advice. Even IIT Madras director praised the use of cow urine as a panacea for many diseases. The rise of Babas dishing out all round wisdom is a worrying phenomenon. Many such Babas are promoted indirectly by the state. The values of the Constitution are being mauled subtly, with the claims that India got real Independence not on 15th August 1947 but on 22nd January 2024 when Ram Temple was inaugurated. The claims that the Constitution does not conform to our Civilizational principles is picking up and demand to scrap the acts like 'Freedom of Places of Worship' (1991) are becoming stronger by the day. This act states that the status of old places of worship will be retained as was on 15th August 1947.

In this dismal scenario, where is the hope? The atmosphere of relief began partly with 'Bharat Jodo' and 'Bharat Jodo nyay yatra's'. (Unite India for Justice) There is a growing realization amongst a large section of the population that the party which promotes and uses religion for political goals is the real danger to our democracy and our Constitution. This rising awareness is running parallel to many political parties trying to form INDIA coalition.

To add on to these multiple campaigns to promote harmony and amity are being undertaken by social groups. Many of the social groups which have massively contributed to the rights of people are coming together as platforms to raise the popular awareness about dangers of misconceptions being promoted by communal parties and its parent organization. They are also trying to spread awareness about the real meaning of Constitutional morality and what it should mean for the country.

Sura al-Ma'idah

108. And, (O Muslims,) do not abuse these (false gods) that these (polytheists) worship besides Allah, lest these people should (also, in retaliation,) revile against Allah's Glory wrongfully due to ignorance. Thus have We made the conduct of every sect (and faction) seem attractive to (their own eyes and they regard only that as truth). Then all have to return to their Lord, and He will inform them of (the results of) their deeds which they used to do.

109. They swear their most solemn oaths by Allah that if there comes to them some (manifest) sign, they shall certainly believe in that. Say (to them): 'Signs are but with Allah alone. And, (O Muslims,) you are not aware that when the sign comes, they will (still) not believe.'

110. And (due to their own malice) We shall turn their hearts and their eyes away from (accepting the truth the same way) as they have disbelieved (in the Messenger [blessings and peace be upon him]) the first time. (So, they will not believe even on seeing the sign). And We shall leave them to wander astray in their rebellion and defiance.

111. And if We sent down to them angels, and the dead started talking to them, and We gathered everything in clusters

The delegates of 'Abdul Qais came to Allah's Apostle and said, "The pagans of the tribe of Mudar intervene between you and us therefore we cannot come to you except in the Holy months. So please order us to do something good (Religious deeds) by which we may enter Paradise (by acting on them) and we may inform our people whom we have left behind to observe it." The Prophet said, "I order you to do four things and forbid you from four things: I order you to believe in Allah. Do you know what is meant by belief in Allah? It is to testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah, to offer prayers perfectly, to give Zakat, and to give Al-Khumus (one-fifth of the war booty) (in Allah's Cause). And I forbid you four things, (i.e., Do not drink alcoholic drinks) Ad-Dubba, An-Naqir, (pitched water skins), Az-Zuruf, Al-Muzaffat and Al-Hantam (names of utensils used for the preparation of alcoholic drinks)." (See Hadith No. 50, Vol. 1) Allah's Apostle said, "The painter of these pictures will be punished on the Day of Resurrection, and it will be said to them, Make alive what you have created."

The Prophet said, "The painters of these pictures will be punished on the Day of Resurrection, and it will be said to them, 'Make alive what you have created.'"

West Bengal: Student thrashed on train, called 'Bangladeshi' by Hindutva mob

In yet another incidence of growing intolerance towards minorities in India, a 27-year-old Muslim student Rezaul Islam Mondal was brutally assaulted and humiliated allegedly by a Hindutva extremist group on a Sealdah-bound train in West Bengal.

The incident reportedly unfolded near Payradanga station. The attackers thrashed the young Muslim man, pulled his beard, and threatened to throw him off the train, accusing him of being a "Bangladeshi," The Observer Post reported. The incident took place when Rezaul, a final-year M Tech student at Aliah University and a native of Meshera village of Hooghly district was returning from the Bishwa Ijtema, a religious gathering, that was held in Bangladesh with four friends on the local train from Gede station to Sealdah.

Rezaul explained that the confrontation began when a passenger asked him to take away his trolley bag from the luggage compartment which he proceeded to do. Shortly after, a group of men staged an attempt to remove him from his seat. When he resisted, the attackers encircled him and hurled communal slurs aggressively calling him a "Bangladeshi".

Rezaul further recounted the moment, stating that one of the attackers, named Ajay, taunted him and questioned what were his reasons for leaving Bangladesh while claiming that the country had plans to attack India. Despite Rezaul's explanation that he was an Indian citizen, the mob launched an attack on him. During an hour-long attack, several men thrashed and kicked Rezaul continuously. Attackers ripped his skull cap off his head and pulled his hair and beard while shouting communal slurs at him. At one point, some attackers allegedly urged others to toss him off the moving train.

When his friend Sajid Mirza attempted to record the assault he received threats from the perpetrators. Sajid said that his phone was snatched by the attackers who threatened to push him off the train if he recorded any video, accusing

them of being "uneducated militants destroying India".

Delayed police response :- Following the attack, Rezaul visited a hospital to receive medical care and then pursued the process of reporting to the police. However, Haripal police station officers denied accepting his legal complaint. Rezaul then approached Sealdah Government Railway Police (GRP) on February 5 and filed a police complaint. The authorities filed a case under sections 115(2) and 299 351(2) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The railway police launched an investigation. A police official said, "We are investigating this incident and will conduct necessary legal actions."

Politicians, activists respond :- The violent incident has led to widespread outrage and condemnation. Lawyer and CPI MP Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya linked the incident to rising communal polarization by attributing the pattern of such acts to states influenced by Hindutva politics. He added that West Bengal has been significantly influenced by RSS ideology creating religious divisions across the state. He urged the development of an intense secular movement as the required solution to disrupt this destructive pattern. ISF MLA Peerzada Nawsad Siddique stated that attacks on minorities because of their religious markers are unacceptable in democratic spaces.

"What is the crime of Rezaul Islam? He has a beard and a cap on his head, is that his crime? That's why he must be physically assaulted with a terrorist tap. He has to be abused? Even the soil of Bengal is not spared from the hatred that the Hindutva BJP government is cultivating all over the country. The Trinamool Congress government of this state is also helping on this matter. Using Muslims as a 'Captive Vote Bank', this group is pushing their Hindutvaists into extreme communal attacks. A portion of the mainstream media continues to fuel this hate spreading," Siddique wrote on Facebook.



A new Palestine, free of Palestinians, says Trump.

Muslim Countries Strong reactions

Like many of his recent illogical Presidential orders or statements, President Trump is trying to drive out Palestinians from the occupied territories, into other Arab nations. But the story has a twist, as it has emerged that the Palestinian land in the West Bank is being sold illegally to American far-right Jews by Jerusalem-based companies, violating several laws.

The 47th American President Donald Trump, in the first week of his second term as president, has issued various contentious executive orders and given his longwinded view on many international issues. One such issue is the rehabilitation of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, after the recent ceasefire.

Trump said on Saturday (24 January) that "we just clean out that whole thing," referring to Gaza and asking Jordan and Egypt to take Palestinians from Gaza.

Trump's proposal to "clean out" the Gaza Strip by moving more than a million Palestinians to neighbouring countries has drawn sharp criticism, with opponents condemning it as ethnic cleansing and warning of regional chaos. Apparently, he told reporters aboard Air Force One, "You're talking about a million and a half people, and we just clean out that whole thing." The potential transfer, he said, "could be temporary" or "could be long-term."

The proposal marks a sharp break from the Biden and earlier American administration's stance that Gaza should not be depopulated, and this could signal a shift from a longstanding US position that Gaza should be part of a future Palestinian state. It would also align the Trump administration with Israel's most radical far-right politicians, who advocate transferring Palestinians out of the territory to make way for Jewish settlements. While there has been no response from the Israeli Prime

Minister's Office, the idea was applauded by far-right Israeli politicians.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who leads the Religious Zionism party, said Trump has recognised that Gaza was "a breeding ground for terror," and "there is no doubt that in the long run, encouraging migration is the only solution that will bring peace and security to the residents of Israel and alleviate the suffering of Gaza's Arab residents."

Jordan, Egypt, and PA's Response :- Meanwhile, Egypt and Jordanian leaders have rejected Trump's suggestion to take in Palestinians. President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah have rejected any forced displacement of Palestinians, days after United States President Donald Trump suggested that Arab countries take in Palestinians from the war-torn Gaza Strip. "Regarding what is being said about the displacement of Palestinians, it can never be tolerated or allowed because of its impact on Egyptian national security," el-Sisi told a press conference on Wednesday.

A statement issued by the Palestinian Authority's President Mahmoud Abbas, based in the West Bank, said, "We will not allow the repetition of the catastrophes that befell our people in 1948 and 1967." The former date is known to Palestinians as the Nakba, or "catastrophe," which refers to the 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were driven out of what is now Israel before and during the War of Independence in 1948, after the UN-proposed division of Mandatory Palestine was rejected by Arabs in Palestine and Arab states, who invaded Israel.

The 1967 war, during which Israel captured East Jerusalem including Muslim and Christian sites there, the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights, saw further several hundred thousand more displaced from those territories, and is also referred as Al Naksa, meaning "the setback." Abbas also rejected what he called "any policy that undermines the unity of the Palestinian land in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem." Earlier, the UN's top court, the International Court of Justice at The Hague in a July 2024 ruling had said Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is against international law.

Illegal sale of land in West Bank to American Zionists :- Meanwhile, there have been reports that real estate firms based in Israel are selling land parcels and flats in the West Bank, urging the investors to buy a piece of the Promised Land (apparently illegal). Majority of the buyers are far right Orthodox Jews. These events have been organised in many US cities, where the invitees are handpicked, based on their religious affiliation. Journalist Marc Steiner in his podcast Not In Our Name on the US-based The Real News Network, invited Eleanor Goldfield, a creative activist and a journalist, to get more details about this new business.

According to Eleanor, the potential buyers are cherry picked, she said, "Some folks were saying when they tried to register for the event, they had to do a Zoom call with the organiser and the organiser asked to see their bookcase to see if there were Jewish books on there. They demanded to know where they daven (where they pray), who their rabbi was. And finally, only the far-right ultra-Orthodox Jews were invited to events in Baltimore, USA." Reportedly, these events have been held in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore and many other US states and cities, too.

Rich Segal, a resident of Teaneck, New Jersey told Al Jazeera's Kevin Herten on his podcast The Take that he first became aware that there were such real estate events here in Teaneck back in 2007 and he only became aware because he happened to be reading the Jewish newspapers, and saw this advertisement for a real estate event. He investigated the event a little bit and found out that the promoters are actually selling West Bank settlement homes directly to Jews here in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Rich further said that he thought that this has to be illegal and certainly immoral, and he has to try to stop it, and he did. So that was the first time that he organised a demonstration, he tried to stop it in other ways too, made calls to everyone from the local police to the FBI and found out that absolutely nobody was interested to investigate this matter.

According to Rich recently, meaning after October 7, 2024, things boiled over in Teaneck, New Jersey, when he tried to organise demonstrations against these real estate shows, after he and one of his colleagues were thrown out ceremoniously from one of them when they disclosed their identities. Rich himself is a Jew but says that only ultra rightwing orthodox Jews are invited to these shows, confirming Eleanor's observation, who too is a Jew. He said further that in

Halqae Zikre Ilahi, Islamic Education and Instructiveness Assesions

SUNDAY

2 to 3pm : Halqae Zikr,
Darse Hadees,
Khutbaat-e-Ghouse al Azam
RA, Fiqahi Masail,
Tazkiratul Auwliya.

TUESDAY

Maghrib to Isha: Darse
Tasswuff, Question
Answers. At: Qanqahe
Shujaiya

EVERYDAY

After Maghrib Zikre Jahri.
At: Khanqahe Shujaiya

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Shah Obaiullah Qadri
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THURSDAY

After Asar to Maghrib:
Halqae Zikre Jahri and
Waaz. At: Dargah Hazrat
Syedna Mir Shujauddin
Hussain Qibla RA, Eidi
Bazar Hyderabad.

FRIDAY

2 to 3 pm : (Khitab) Speech
of Hazrat Maulana Syed
Shah Obaidullah Qadri Asif
Pasha Sahab Qibla At:
Jama Masjid Shujaiya
Charminar Hyd. Namaze
Juma at:3-15 pm. After
Namaz Majlis Darood wa
Zikr, Salaam Ba Huzoor
Sallalaho Alaihi Wa Sallam

SATURDAY

Deeni Tarbiyati Camp: After
Maghrib to Sunday Isha
(Zikr, Wazif, Basic Education
of Islam, Tazkiratul Awliya,
Muraqiba, Prays Namaze
Thajjud and Ishraq. At:
Khanqahe Shujaiya
Backside Jama Masjid
Shujaiya Charminar,
Hyderabad.

SALAAH WA ZIKR (PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH)

Prayer : Performing the prayers is of utmost importance. It is the second pillar of Islam after the testimony of faith. The Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said: "The first matter that the slave will be brought to account for on the Day of Judgment, is the prayer. If it is sound, then the rest of his deeds will be sound. And if it is bad, then the rest of his deeds will be bad." [al-Tabarani]. He also said: "If a person performs the five daily prayers, after making a thorough wudu (ablution), and prays them at the beginning of their time with complete humility and submission, Allah has promised to forgive him". [Muslim, Abu Dawud, Ahmad]

It is recorded that Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) has said: "The first thing the people will be accountable for on the Day of Judgment is prayer. Allah will say to His angels (even though He already knows), "Look at my servant's prayers. Were they complete or not?" If they were complete, it will be written as complete. If they were not fully complete Allah will say, "See if my servant has voluntary prayers." If he has them, Allah will say, "Complete his obligatory prayers shortage with his voluntary prayers." Then the rest of his deeds will be dealt with in the same manner," [Ahmad].

Praying extra, voluntary prayers, other than the 5 daily ones, has much blessing in it. As Aisha (RadiyAllahu Anha) quoted the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) as saying:

"The two rak'ah before Dawn (Fajr) Prayer are better than the world and all that which it contains." [Muslim]. Umm Habibah Ramlah bint Abu Sufyan (RadiyAllahu Anha) narrated that she heard the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) saying: "A house will be built in Paradise for every Muslim who offers twelve units of Prayers other than the obligatory ones in day and night, to seek pleasure of Allah." [Muslim]

The following sayings of the Prophet, Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam, also show the importance of prayers: Rabi'ah ibn Malik al-Aslami (RadiyAllahu Anhu) reported that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said: "Ask (anything)." Rabi'ah said: "I ask of you to be your companion in paradise."

The Prophet, Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam, said: "Or anything else?" Rabi'ah said: "That is it."

The Prophet, Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam, said to him: "Then help me by making many prostrations (i.e., supererogatory prayers)." [Muslim]

It was also related from Jabir, the Messenger of Allah, Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam, said: "If one of you offers his prayers in the mosque, then he should offer a portion of his prayers at home, as Allah has made saying prayers in one's home a

means of betterment (for him)."

Ahmad records from 'Umar (RadiyAllahu Anhu) that the Messenger of Allah, Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam, said: "The supererogatory prayers prayed by a person at home are a light. Whoever wishes should light up his house." [Ahmad, Muslim]

Performing prayers also washes away sins as the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) has described to us in a couple of narrations. One is from Abu Huraira (RadiyAllahu Anhu) who said: I heard Allah's Apostle (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) saying: "If there was a river at the door of anyone of you and he took a bath in it five times a day would you notice any dirt on him?" They said, "Not a trace of dirt would be left." The Prophet, Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam, added: "That is the example of the five prayers with which Allah blots out (annuls) evil deeds." [Bukhari]

Abu Dharr (RadiyAllahu Anhu) also narrates that once our Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) came out of his house. It was autumn and the leaves were falling from the trees. He caught hold of a branch of a tree and its leaves began to drop in large number. At this he remarked, "O Abu Dharr! When a Muslim offers his Salaah (prayer) to please Allah, his sins fall away from him just as these leaves are falling off this tree." [Ahmad]

It is recorded in Tirmidhi, that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said: "Whenever a Muslim prostrates to Allah, He will elevate him one degree and forgive him one bad deed."

REMEMBERING ALLAH (s.w.t):

Abdullah ibn Abbas (RadiyAllahu Anhu) narrates that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said: "Those who will be invited first into the Jannah (Paradise), are those who praise Allah both in prosperity and tough times." [Hakim 502/1] Anas ibn Malik (RadiyAllahu Anhu) narrates that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said:

"Verily Allah is pleased with His slave who praises Allah whenever he eats something and drinks something and praises Him thereupon." [Muslim]

Imams Bukhari and Muslim reported that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said:

"He who utters a hundred times in a day these words: 'la ilaha illallahu, wahdahu la sharika lahu, la hul-mulku wa la hul-hamdu, wa huwa'ala kulli shai'in qadir' (none has the right to be worshiped but Allah. He is One and he has no partner with Him; His is the sovereignty and His is the praise, and He is omnipotent),' he will have a reward equivalent to that for emancipating ten slaves, a hundred good deeds will be recorded to his credit, hundred of his sins will be blotted out from his scroll..." And also Imams Bukhari and Muslim reported that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa

Sallam) said: "And he who utters: 'Subhan-allahi wa bihamdihi' (Glory be to Allah and His is the praise) one hundred times a day, his sins will be obliterated even if they are equal to the extent of the foam of the ocean."

Narrated Abu Huraira (RadiyAllahu Anhu): Allah's Apostle (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said: "Allah has some angels who look for those who celebrate the Praises of Allah on the roads and paths. And when they find some people celebrating the Praises of Allah, they call each other, saying, "Come to the object of your pursuit." He, Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam, added:

"Then the angels encircle them with their wings up to the sky of the world." He, Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam, added: "(after those people celebrated the Praises of Allah, and the angels go back), their Lord, asks them (those angels)—though He knows better than them—"What do My slaves say?" The angels reply, 'They say: Subhan Allah, Allahu Akbar, and Alham-du-lillah, Allah then says: "Did they see Me?" The angels reply, 'No! By Allah, they didn't see You.' Allah says: "How it would have been if they saw Me?" The angels reply, 'If they saw You, they would worship You more devoutly and celebrate Your Glory more deeply, and declare Your freedom from any resemblance to anything more often.' Allah says (to the angels), "What do they ask Me for?" The angels reply, 'They ask You for Paradise.' Allah says (to the angels), 'Did they see it?' The angels say: 'No! By Allah, O Lord! They did not see it.' Allah says: "How it would have been if they saw it?" The angels say, 'If they saw it, they would have greater covetousness for it and would seek It with greater zeal and would have greater desire for it.' Allah says, "From what do they seek refuge?" The angels reply, 'They seek refuge from the (Hell) Fire.' Allah says, "Did they see it?" The angels say, 'No By Allah, O Lord! They did not see it.' Allah says, "How it would have been if they saw it?" The angels say, 'If they saw it they would flee from it with the extreme fleeing and would have extreme fear from it.'

Then Allah says, "I make you witnesses that I have forgiven them." Allah's Apostle, Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam, added: "One of the angels would say, 'There was so-and-so amongst them, and he was not one of them, but he had just come for some need.' Allah would say, "These are those people whose companions will not be reduced to misery." [Bukhari]

Safeguard Your Imaan

Having read the Kalima of Islam does not permit anyone to utter Kufr as much as wanted. The Kalima is not a shield to protect you from becoming a Kaafir (non-believer) through uttering and practicing acts of Kufr. It is to be read, and Imaan is to remain on it at all times.

After accepting Islam, to reject any belief of the Deen which is necessary to believe in (such as monotheism of Allah, Prophethood of the Ambiya, Jannat, Jahannam, Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam is Khaatamun Nabiyeen etc.) is Irtidaad (one becomes a Murtad) and it is more severe and worse than original Kufr. A Muslim is a Muslim until he utters or makes Kufr and a Kaafir is a Kaafir until he brings Imaan and becomes a Muslim. To deem a Muslim to be a Muslim and a Kaafir to be a Kaafir is also from the necessities of Deen. [Bahaare Shariat]

Some people argue that any person who recites the Kalima cannot be called a Kaafir. In response to this, the following indisputable proof from the Holy Qur'an is presented, "Were you mocking at Allah and His Verses and His Messenger? Make no excuses, you have already become infidels after becoming Muslims. [Surah 9, Verses 65-66] The hypocrites referred to in this verse are called Kaafirs even though they recited the Kalima, read Namaaz etc. because of them disrespecting Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). Therefore it is in accordance with Allah Ta'ala's commands that we believe a person to be an infidel if he commits acts of Kufr such as disrespecting Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), irrespective of whether he recites the Kalima, performs Salaah, Hajj etc.

Allah Ta'ala then further states in the Glorious Qur'an regarding the deeds of such a person who becomes an infidel after being a Muslim, "And whoever of you turns back from his faith, and dies while he was a disbeliever, for them their deeds have become worthless in this world and in the hereafter and they are the inmates of the Fire and they will abide therein forever." [Surah 2, Verse 217] From this verse we learn that Irtidaad (apostasy) results in the ruination of all of one's good deeds. Therefore if a pilgrim becomes an apostate and thereafter accepts Islam again, he will have to perform his Hajj again as his first Hajj becomes null and void. Likewise all good deeds performed in the state of apostasy are null and void and not acceptable. However, an original non-believer's good deeds become worthy of reward after he accepts Islam. Furthermore the apostate loses out in this world in that his wife comes out of his Nikah, he is no longer liable to receive inheritance from his relatives, all forms of love relations with Muslims are forbidden for him and no assistance can be rendered to him by a Muslim, and in the hereafter he is beyond redemption and void of any reward. [Tafseer Noorul Irfaan]

Will merely reciting the Kalima then blanket a Shia who says that the Holy Qur'an is defective and Hazrat Sayyiduna Ali (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) receives Wahi? Will it shield a Wahaabi who performs his five times Salaah yet he believes that Allah Ta'ala can lie and that Shaitaan has more knowledge than Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam)? Indeed not!

Thinking rationally also leads a person to conclude that merely reciting the Kalima and performing Salaah is not Islam. If it was the case then the person who reads Salaah once and then prostrates towards idols will remain in the folds of Islam. How can Imaan and Kufr be united?

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) narrates that Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has said, "Sometimes a person says something pleasant to Allah and does not concentrate on it (meaning it is not something major in the sight of the person) but through it Allah elevates his rank. Sometimes a person says something unpleasant to Allah and does not think much of it but is thrown into Hell because of it. The area in Jahannam where he is thrown into is more than the distance between the east and the west" [Bukhari Shareef]

Many Muslims in this modern day and age utter words of blasphemy without realizing it and unknowingly lose their Imaan. A few statements of Kufr are mentioned below so that we may be careful of what we utter.

Saying "Allah has forgot you" to a person who has become sick or is very old and does not die or "When Allah cannot compete against you, how can I," to an abusive speaker are both Kufr. [Khulaasatul Fataawa]

To gain the attention of a powerful or rich man or a Haakim some people say, "Allah is above and you below." This statement is Kufr and should never be said. Saying "No" angrily when told by another to fear Allah or "What can he do besides sentencing a person to Jahannam" are both statements of Kufr. [Alamghiri]

A destitute person reflecting on his impoverishment says, "O Allah! Certain person is Your Banda and has been blessed by You with much blessings. I too am Your bondsman but I have been given much hardship by You. Is this fair?" This statement is Kufr. [Alamghiri]

Using the name of Allah in a diminutive noun is Kufr. [Bahur Raa'iq] To disrespect the Ambiya (Alaihimus Salaam), or to assert immorality to them is Kufr, e.g. connecting Zina towards Hazrat Yusuf (Alaihis Salaam), Ma'azallah. The person who rejects Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) to be Khaatamun-Nabiyeen (The Final Prophet), believes that Prophethood can be attained after his time or refutes the meaning of Khaatamun-Nabiyeen in any way is out of the folds of Islam.

To disrespect or defame anything associated with the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) or to regard it to be defective is Kufr, e.g. to say the clothes of Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) are dirty, or deeming an action of his to be unmannerly or even to dislike calabash for the mere reason that Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was fond of it, is Kufr. Being disrespectful, rude or arrogant towards Hazrat Jibra'eel (Alaihis Salaam), Mika'eel (Alaihis Salaam) or any angel is a Kufr. Some ignorant people, on seeing their enemy or a person they dislike say, "The angel of death has come." This is a statement bordering on Kufr and should never be said. To call any Aayat of the Holy Qur'an defective, disrespecting or joking about it is Kufr.

The person who says that some Aayat, Surah or even one letter of the Holy Qur'an has been added, taken out or changed, is explicitly a Kaafir.

Uttering any statement that conveys rejection of Namaaz being Fardh or degrading it is Kufr e.g. what benefit is there to read Namaaz, reading or not reading Namaaz is both equal etc. Similarly uttering any statement that conveys rejection of the obligation of fasting in Ramadaan or insulting it is Kufr e.g. When Allah has given us food why should we starve, why should I die starving etc. This is the case of other Fardh Ibaadat as well i.e. Zakaat and Hajj. Making fun of, or insulting Laa Howla Wa Laa Quwwata, Subhaanallah or Laa Ilaaha Illallah or saying something that negates their importance is Kufr. Teaching a Muslim male or female to make Kufr is Kufr even if done as a joke or in amusement. To celebrate Holi, Diwali or Christmas is Kufr as these celebrations are worship of Ghairullah (other than Allah). Similarly to buy goods on the specific day of these celebrations for the mere reason that they are celebrations of Kaafirs or to join them with this reason is Kufr as well. Also, to buy something and send it to the Mushrikeen on the specific day of their celebration as a gift or to congratulate them with the intention of revering their holy day is Kufr. [Bahur Raa'iq; Bahaare Shariat] We need to live our lives according to the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). In this lies our success in this world as well as the hereafter. Muslims should always be conscious of the deception of Shaitaan who always attempts to lead us away from Islam. We should not have trust in our obedience and Amaal, but rather have faith in the protection of Almighty Allah. May Allah Ta'ala grant us the Taufeeq to remain steadfast on the path of Islam and may He in His Infinite Mercy grant us death with Imaan, Ameen.

Fighting Against the Lower Self

O human beings! Remember that your lustful nature orders you to commit evil acts. This enemy is compared to Shaitaan who gains power against you by sensuous desires and lustful appetite. Your lower self wants continuation of tranquillity, carelessness and laziness and its claim is baseless. If you receive a deceiving thing and accept it, it will lead you to hell. The self is not inclined to betterment. This is the root of all troubles and the treasure of Shaitaan. This is the root of every evil.

Allah Ta'ala states in the Glorious Qur'an, "And fear Allah, undoubtedly, Allah is aware of your doings." [Surah 5, Verse 8] Therefore a wise man should resort to repentance for the past sins and he should prepare for the hereafter. He should recite the name of Allah, leave forbidden things, should control his sensuous desires and should not run after them.

When Hazrat Malik bin Dinar (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) was about to leave this world, he felt like eating a warm mixture of honey, milk and bread. After his servant fetched these things, Hazrat Malik bin Dinar (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) took them, looked at them for some time and then said, "O selfish self! You had patience for thirty years, can you not have patience in this last moment of life?" He then placed the bowl on the ground, had patience and passed away. This is the condition of the pious people and friends of Allah, those who abstain from worldly pleasures. Hazrat Sulaiman (Alaihis Salaam) said that the man who controls his self is braver than the one who conquers the whole city.

Hazrat Yahya bin Mu'adh (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) said, "You should wage a religious war against your lower self by doing religious exercises and prayers. Religious exercise is that you should shorten your sleep, eat less, talk less, enlarge your night prayers and share others hardships." Less sleep purifies your intentions, less talk shields a man from troubles, while tolerance and patience enhance the spiritual station of man. At the same time, eating less eliminates the lust, as excessive eating hardens the heart and removes its illumination. Hunger enlightens inner-self while over-eating drives away a man from Almighty Allah.

Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has stated, "Illuminate hearts with hunger. Wage a holy war against your lower self. Through hunger and thirst continue knocking at the door of paradise, because the reward in doing so is equal to Jihad. Allah Ta'ala likes hunger and thirst above all things. The angels avoid a person who has lost the relish of prayer and is gluttonous." Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) said, "Since the time I embraced Islam I have not eaten food to the full extent so that I may have relish of prayers. Since the time I have entered in the fold of Islam I drink less as I yearn meeting my Creator." Excessive eating interferes with the prayers, as the body gains weight and man becomes slumberous. His limbs are loose and idle and he is like a carcass in the way. Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said, "Do not kill your hearts by excessive eating and drinking because the heart is killed in this way just as over-watering spoils the crop."

Once, Prophet Yahya (Alaihis Salaam) saw Shaitaan who was carrying several baits. On this Hazrat Yahya (Alaihis Salaam) asked him, "What are these?" He replied, "These are lusty elements with which I trap human beings." Hazrat Yahya (Alaihis Salaam) asked him, "Is there any trap for me also?" He replied, "No, but one night you had eaten to your fill after which you were less active in your prayers." Hazrat Yahya (Alaihis Salaam) said, "Now it has become incumbent on me that in future I should not eat to my fill." Shaitaan remarked, "After today I shall not be a counsellor to any human being." This is the condition of a person who has fear of Allah and

ate only one night to his capacity. How then can a man who has not starved even for one night truly worship Allah?

The job of a wise man is that he should cut off sensual desires by starving because starvation is a calamity for Shaitaan. Sensuality and excessive eating are the weapons of Shaitaan in misleading a person into forbidden acts. Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said, "The devil circulates inside the human body like blood. Therefore narrow down his passage by starvation." It is extreme destruction for human beings that they should busy themselves in fulfilling the stomach's desire. The fact is that the stomach in reality is the source of sensual desires. Allah Ta'ala has created three types of creatures: Angels who have intelligence but no lust.

Animals that have lust but no wisdom.

Human beings who have both wisdom and lust.

If lust overcomes his wisdom, then animals are better than him and if wisdom overcomes lust, then he is better than angels.

Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said, "The best struggle is to struggle against the lower self (nafs)." When the Companions of Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) came back after fighting the atheists, the Beloved Rasool (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said, "We have come from the small struggle (Jihad) to the big struggle." This was because fight with the sensuous desires of the lower self and Shaitaan is perpetual, whereas with the infidels it is occasional. Secondly, against the infidels the Muslim fighter sees his enemy but Shaitaan and the lower self is not visible, and it is much easier to fight against a visible enemy.

Therefore we should try to act against our lower self whenever it commands us to go towards sin. The way to do this is to follow the teachings of Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), so that we may derive pleasure in our Salaah and attain closeness to Almighty Allah. May Allah Ta'ala grant us the Taufeeq and Hidayat to fight against our nafs, even if it means reducing our sleep or reducing the amount that we eat, solely for His Pleasure, Ameen. [Compiled from Makashifatul Quloob by Hujjatul Islam Hazrat Imam Ghazzali Radiallahu Anh]

Drawing Closer To Allah

The way to become closer to Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) is to practice Islam in the way that it has been established for us. Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an: "This day have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favour on you and chosen for you Islam as a religion." (Qur'an: 5:3). We do this by performing the obligatory actions such as prayer and fasting, giving in charity and pilgrimage. Also by the supererogatory (non obligatory) prayers, good deeds and remembrance of Allah. In a famous Hadith e Qudsi, Allah says: "Whosoever shows enmity to someone devoted to Me, I shall be at war with him. My servant draws not near to Me with anything more loved by Me than the religious duties I have enjoined upon him, and My servant continues to draw near to Me with supererogatory works so that I shall love him. When I love him I am his hearing with which he hears, his seeing with which he sees, his hand with which he strikes and his foot with which he walks. Were he to ask [something] of Me, I would surely give it to him, and were he to ask Me for refuge, I would surely grant him it. I do not hesitate about anything as much as I hesitate about [seizing] the soul of My faithful servant: he hates death and I hate hurting him." [Bukhari]

REMEMBERING ALLAH: "So remember Me; I will remember you. Be thankful to Me, and never ungrateful." (Qur'an) In another Hadith e Qudsi, Allah says: "I am as My servant thinks I am. I am with him when he makes mention of Me. If he makes mention of Me to himself, I make mention of him to Myself; (Continue on page 7)

MANHOOD IN THE QUR'AN AND THE SUNNAH

We might not realize the greatness of the month that is upon us but Insha Allah we should try to spend this month the way Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) and his blessed Companions did, as we will learn hereunder.

Hazrat Aisha Siddiqah (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anha) has said, "Allah's Rasool (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) used to fast until we would say he was never going to stop fasting, and he would go so long without fasting that we would say he was never going to fast, but I never saw Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) fasting from the beginning to the end of any month except the month of Ramadaan, and I never saw him do more fasting in any month than he did in Shabaan." Hazrat Aisha (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anha) also stated, "The fasting Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) liked best was that which he did in Shabaan, so I said to him, 'O Messenger of Allah how is it that I always see you fasting in Shabaan?' and Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) replied, 'O Aisha, it is the month in which the Angel of Death has to note down the names of anyone whose soul he must take before the year is out, so I would rather he did not record my name except while I am fasting.'"

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) reports that, "The Beloved Rasool (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) never fasted throughout the whole of any month outside Ramadaan, apart from Rajab and Shabaan." Hazrat Anas ibn Malik (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) reports that when Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was asked about the most meritorious fasting, he replied, "Fasting in Shabaan in honour of Ramadaan."

Hazrat Abdullah (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) narrates that Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said, "Anyone who fasts on the last Monday of Shabaan will be granted forgiveness." Hazrat Ubaidullah ibn Qais (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) once heard Hazrat Aisha Siddiqah (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anha) say, "The dearest of months to Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was Shabaan, which he would link to Ramadaan."

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) narrates that Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) once said, "Shabaan is my month, Rajab is the month of Allah, and Ramadaan is the month of my Ummah. Shabaan is the expiator while Ramadaan is the purifier."

Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) also said, "Shabaan is the month between Rajab and Ramadaan. People tend to neglect it, but that is when the deeds of His servants ascend to the Lord of the Worlds, so I would rather mine rose up while I was fasting."

Hazrat Anas ibn Malik (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) states that Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said, "The excellence of Rajab over other months is like the excellence of the Qur'an over all other speech, while the excellence of Shabaan over other months is like my excellence over the rest of the Prophets, and the excellence of Ramadaan over other months is like the excellence of Allah over all His creatures."

Hazrat Anas (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) also reports that when

the Companions of Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) beheld the new moon of Shabaan, they would immerse themselves in reading the Holy Qur'an. The Muslims would pay their Zakaat assessed on their wealth, thereby providing the means for the weak and the poor to fortify themselves in preparation for the fasting of the month of Ramadaan. The governors would summon the prison inmates, to carry out the sentence on those convicted of major offences under Islamic Law, and to set the rest free. Businessmen would set about paying their debts and collecting their dues. Then, when they beheld the new moon of Ramadaan, they would bathe themselves and devote themselves to worship.

Shabaan is a month in which the treasures are laid open, in which blessings are sent down, in which faults are forsworn, in which sins are expiated, and in which benedictions are multiplied upon the best of creation, Muhammad Mustafa (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam).

Far from being negligent during this month, therefore, every conscientious believer is obliged to exert himself in preparation for the coming month of Ramadaan, using the days that remain to get clear of sins and repent those committed in the past. One should beseech Almighty Allah in the month of Shabaan. One should appeal to Allah Ta'ala through the owner of the month, Muhammad Mustafa (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), until the corruption of one's heart is corrected, and the sickness of one's inner being is cured.

This must be done without delay and not put off until tomorrow, for the days are three: yesterday, which is a date in history; today, which is a time for action; and tomorrow, which is a hopeful expectation, for whether you will get there or not is beyond your ken. Thus yesterday is a caution, today is an opportunity and tomorrow is a risk. The months are likewise three: Rajab, now past and gone beyond return; Ramadaan, awaiting in a future you may not live to see; and in between we have Shabaan, so let us seize this opportunity for worshipful devotion.

Hazrat Zunnoon Misri (Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh) has said the following, "Rajab is the month of sowing, Shabaan is the month of watering and Ramadaan is the month of the harvest. Everyone reaps what he sows, and everyone is recompensed for what he does. If a person wastes the time he should devote to cultivation, he will regret it on his day of harvesting. He will realize in retrospect that he was sowing nothing but a bleak future for himself."

[Compiled from Ghunyalit Taalibi Tareeqal Haq by Hazrat Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani Radiallahu Ta'ala Anh]

May Allah Ta'ala through the Sadaqa of our Beloved Master Muhammad Mustafa Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam grant us the Taufeeq to do much fasting and repentance during this month and to prepare ourselves for the blessed month of Ramadaan, Ameen.

Drawing Closer To Allah

(Continue by page 6)

and if he makes mention of Me in an assembly, I make mention of him in an assembly better than it. And if he draws near to Me an arm's length, I draw near to him a fathom's length. And if he comes to Me walking, I go to him at speed." [Bukhari] The Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said that Allah has angels roaming the roads to find the people of dhikr, i.e. those who say La Ilaha Illallah and similar expressions in remembrance of Allah, and when they find a group of people reciting dhikr, they call each other and encompass them in layers until the first heaven. [Bukhari, Muslim]

The Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) also said: "When any group of men remember Allah, angels surround them and mercy covers them, tranquillity descends upon them, and Allah mentions them to those who are with Him." [Muslim, Tirmidhi, Ahmad, Ibn Majah] Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) went out to a circle of his Companions and asked: "What made you sit here?"

They said: 'We are sitting here in order to remember Allah and to glorify Him because He guided us to the path of Islam and he conferred favours upon us.' Thereupon he adjured them by Allah and asked if that was the only purpose of their sitting there. They said: 'By Allah, we are sitting here for this purpose only.'

At this the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) said: "I am not asking you to take an oath because of any misapprehension against you, but only because Jibraeel (angel Gabriel) came to me and informed me that Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, was telling the angels that He is proud of you!" [Muslim]

16 years as undertrial prisoner: Kerala's Muslim youth Zakariya still in jail under UAPA

Zakariya, a Muslim youth from Kerala, has spent 16 years in jail without conviction under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Arrested at 19 years old for his alleged involvement in the 2008 Bengaluru blasts, Zakariya continues to languish in Karnataka's prisons despite a lack of evidence and witnesses retracting their statements. On 5 February 2009, Zakariya, a resident of Calicut, was picked up by the Karnataka Police while heading to his workplace in Malappuram. His family was unaware of his whereabouts until he called them four days later, informing them of his arrest. The authorities accused him of providing technical assistance for the 2008 bomb blast, but his trial has dragged on without a verdict.

Human rights activists and Zakariya's family have been campaigning for his release, citing unjustified detention and an unfair legal process. The Free Zakariya Action Forum, along with the Association for Protection of Civil Rights (APCR), has taken up his case. Noushad NM, president of APCR's Kerala chapter, called Zakariya's imprisonment a human rights violation, noting that he was denied bail even to visit his bedridden mother, Beyummah, a cancer patient.

Zakariya lost his father at age 10, and his mother now depends on relatives for care. She recalls that Kerala Police visited their home a day before Zakariya's arrest, inquiring about a passport application. It was only days later that she learned about his detention. Adding to the injustice, two key witnesses withdrew their statements, claiming they had been forced to sign documents in Kannada, a language they did not understand. Yet, Zakariya's bail pleas were consistently rejected. Over 16 years, he was granted parole only twice—once for his brother's wedding and later for his funeral. Noushad expressed deep concern over the slow judicial process, pointing out that Zakariya's case is heard in an NIA court that sits for just one hour a month, making a timely trial almost impossible. He also emphasized that Zakariya has already spent a period equivalent to the maximum sentence for his charges, yet remains imprisoned. Comparing his case to that of anti-CAA activists Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and others, Noushad argued that Muslim prisoners face systemic discrimination under UAPA, which severely restricts bail.

In September 2020, Beyummah moved the Supreme Court, challenging the constitutionality of UAPA and calling for its repeal. Her petition underscores the grave misuse of anti-terror laws and demands justice for her son and others unjustly imprisoned.

Row over Waqf Board properties survey in MP; MLA Arif Masood claims wrong data presented

A controversy has erupted over the survey of Waqf Board properties here in Madhya Pradesh after Congress MLA Arif Masood demanded that the ongoing physical survey be stopped. Masood, who is an MLA from Bhopal Madhya Assembly seat, has written letters to Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary Anurag Jain, expressing concern over the survey of Waqf Board properties in Madhya Pradesh.

In his letter, the Congress MLA said that the rules being followed for the Waqf Board properties could lead to a future dispute, claiming that documents of most of the properties are incomplete. He also accused the state government of presenting "incorrect" data in the name of the survey.

"Documents of various properties of Waqf Board are incomplete, therefore, conducting a survey of such properties won't be easy. This could lead to a major dispute on such properties. I have written a letter to the Chief Secretary of the Madhya Pradesh government and has demanded that the ongoing survey should be stopped," Masood told. Meanwhile, the Congress MLA has also appealed to the representatives of Muslim organisations to come forward to oppose the survey of Waqf Board properties and register their complaints with district administrations.

Responding to Masood's allegation, senior BJP leader and Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD) Minister, Rakesh Singh, said the survey is being conducted on the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) and there should be no objection to it. "Some people are in politics to create controversies only. They don't want to get things settled. This step (survey) has been taken to make properties

encroached-free and stop corruption in Waqf Boards. Some selective people are opposing it for their vested interest, otherwise majority of people of the minority community have welcomed the survey," he added.

Notably, the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), has recently demanded details of Waqf Board properties in Madhya Pradesh. There are 14,986 properties of the Waqf Board and the JPC has demanded details, including current status, khashra numbers, and other records. State governments have also been asked to share details of cases where their authorities are engaged in a legal dispute with Waqf boards over ownership or possession of any property.

Madhya Pradesh Waqf Board Chairman Sanwar Patel has earlier said that JPC has demanded information on 15 heads and 12 out of them are related directly to the Waqf Board and the rest of the heads are related to the Collector and the Revenue Department.

According to sources, the Madhya Pradesh government had informed the JPC that the State Waqf Board oversees 14,921 registered properties spanning 52,752 acres, as documented in official records.

(Continue by page 3) Teaneck synagogues are hosting real estate fairs encouraging members to buy property in Israel and occupied West Bank settlements. They call it redemption of the land or coming back home. According to Eleanor groups like Jewish Voice for Peace, CARE, and PAL – the Palestinian Association for Liberation organised demonstrations against these shows, but to no avail.

The Gameplan :- Now, one just needs to link these two apparently unconnected but really intertwined issues. Trump is urging to get Gaza and West Bank free of Palestinians, while at the same time the Israeli companies are flouting a total of 22 international, American, and Israeli laws, selling the land in West Bank to the orthodox and fanatic Jews, according to Rich. Trump, as is commonly known is a property developer, he, and his son-in law Jared Kushner, own a large number of companies in Israel and ultimately, they and their band of followers will be the opportune gainers in this deal.

However, what is heartening is the fact that actions against these illegal activities are being organised by Jews themselves, particularly those who denounce Zionism, like Eleanor and Rich, both.

But at the same time what worries one is that this issue is missing from many western news outlets, except some independent ones like, the Real News Network. What is needed is that more people report this and media should highlight it, demanding a proper investigation into these murky illegal land deals. Moreover, the manner in which this idea has been floated by Trump and the clandestine sale of land in Israel may prove to be part of the old Israeli plan to create a Greater Israel.