## **Media and Muslims**

Thousands of guests from across India and abroad had congregated at the international center of the Tablighi Jamaat known as the Banglewali Masjid in the Hazrat Nizamuddin area of Delhi. The series of global consultative meetings along with religious sermons had commenced and they were about to expand until the Prime Minister announced a sudden lockdown. Thousands of preachers from the country and abroad were staying in the Banglewali Masjid and due to total suspension of all means of transport including railways, air transport and road transport they had to stay in the Masjid.

Despite reports to the local police and repeated requests for cooperation, no solution for sending the preachers back to their homes was arrived at. As a result, in the next few days, unfortunately many preachers contracted Coronavirus.

Subsequently, our corrupt and bigoted media played a filthy game that makes the soul tremble at the thought of it. The best of God's servants were accused of sinisterly conspiring to spread this virus .

During this period a lot of important events which also contributed to the spread of the virus because of the negligence of the central government including the untimely arrival of the US President Donald Trump in Gujarat, the political game of Madhya Pradesh in which the Congress government was overthrown and a new BJP government was formed, presence of thousands of devotees in Vaishno Devi Temple were totally ignored by the media and only members of Tablighi Jamaat were vilified.

But now the Muslims of India have woken up from their slumber and they have become aware of the Sangh Parivar's tactics and conspiracies of the media. For the first time, Indian Muslims exhibited a strong sense of unity and strongly condemned the media's campaign of slander against the Tablighi Jamaat. Reputed Ulema(Religious scholars) and intellectuals of all schools of thought in the country along with heads of reputed national organizations and madrassas came forward in solidarity with Tablighi Jamaat. They lashed out at the police and Delhi administration for their laxity and incompetency in the whole affair and also called out the media for working as a Sanghi propaganda machinery which propagated hatred against defenceless Muslims.

Meanwhile the nation-wide lockdown caused a lot of distress to millions of citizens across the nation. Ignoring the hate campaign of the media, Muslims came forward to serve the needy with food, water, ration kits, medical supplies and even performed the last rites of the corpses of their Hindu brothers who had succumbed to Coronavirus. They did everything possible to help their fellow countrymen by all means necessary. After all, this is what Prophet Muhammad(PBUH) had taught the Muslims and they succeeded in proving that no matter what the circumstances, Muslims will always be in the frontline to serve the humanity in the hour of crisis.

It was not a long time after the vilification of Tablighi Jamaat that in a debate on June 15th, a sick and evil-minded anchor of News18, Amish Devgan, dishonored and disrespected the legendary Sufi Saint Hezret Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Ajmeri and India once again witnessed the ideal unity of Muslims. Barelvis, Deobandis, Salafis, Shias, Khojas, Bohras all stood together and strongly condemned Amish Devgan and declared him a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. Multiple FIRs have been registered against him in several police

stations of every state and this process is still going on.

The filthy anchor apologized, both personally and on his channel, but it is not possible for the justice and peace loving people of this country to forgive him, because he has attacked a Sufi who is revered not only by Muslims but also loved and honored by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Parsis, Jains and Buddhists.

The law will take its course, but the people of this country expect and request the Hon'ble Supreme Court to take notice of the matter and take stern action against Amish Devgan-----

Salim Alware Member, IMPAR Media Group