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## ISRAEL BANS PALESTINIAN'S ENTRY INTO AL-AQSA AHEAD OF RAMZAN



Barely two weeks ahead of the holy month of Ramzan, Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem are reportedly receiving WhatsApp messages from Israeli intelligence services banning them from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

The move has raised concerns among Palestinian residents and rights groups, who view it as part of a broader pattern of restrictions imposed around religious observance. On February 5, Israeli occupation authorities issued new entry bans against several Palestinian Jerusalemites, according to the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Citing the Wadi Hilweh Information Centre, the agency reported that the bans were handed to three

former detainees from the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Al-Issawiya, a Jerusalem Sharia judge, Iyad Al-Abasi, and two other Palestinian men. According to the report, the bans prohibit individuals from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque for one week at a time, though they can be renewed repeatedly, extending for several months.

Those affected are reportedly informed through summons, arrests, or direct notifications, including messages sent via WhatsApp, before being released with restrictions that limit their access to the mosque. Palestinian institutions say this practice has become increasingly common, with individuals summoned for questioning or briefly detained and

then released under conditions that include bans from Al-Aqsa. Rights advocates argue that these measures amount to a systematic policy aimed at reducing the presence of worshippers, guards, and mosque staff, particularly in the lead-up to Ramzan, a period that traditionally sees large numbers of Muslim worshippers at the holy site.

Al-Aqsa Mosque, located within the Haram al-Sharif compound in occupied East Jerusalem, holds deep religious significance for Muslims worldwide and has long been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Any changes to access or worship arrangements often trigger heightened tensions.

## WHEN ASSAM CM POINTS A GUN AT MINORITIES, THE HATE HAS REAL CONSEQUENCES

Assam BJP Faces Backlash Over Video Showing CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Firing Rifle at Muslim Figures

The Democratic News  
Assam, Feb 08

The Assam Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has come under heavy criticism for posting a video on X that showed Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma taking aim with a rifle and firing a shot at two people – one wearing a skull cap and

the other with a beard – with “point-blank shot” as the caption. It’s been deleted since, but the video is a blatant call for violence against Muslims, whom the CM has again and again referred to as “Bangladeshis,” taking away their agency as citizens. Minorities have become immune to hate, especially from those associ-

ated with the right-wing party and its affiliate groups, who are more right-wing than the other. This particular incident shouldn’t affect as much, except that it does. Sarma isn’t a “member” of Hindutva groups like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) or the Bajrang Dal.

He is in a position of power, a position of influence and a position where his words are taken seriously, both by the people implementing law and order in the state and those who have to follow it.

Himanta’s words are taken seriously

There’s a real-life example of this. On the sidelines of an official event on January 27, the Assam Chief Minister went on an unhinged tirade about harassing “miyas” – a derogatory term used for Bangali-speaking Muslims. “In a rickshaw, if the fare is Rs 5, give them Rs 4. Only if they face troubles will they leave Assam... We are saying it openly. We are not hiding it... Now I myself am encouraging people to keep giving troubles,” Sarma had said.

## Bengal SIR:

Application against CM Mamata's personal appearance in SC

An application has been filed against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's personal appearance in the Supreme Court in relation to last week's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) hearing against the Election Commission of India. Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha (ABHS) Vice President Satish Kumar Aggarwal filed the application seeking intervention in

the matter.

According to his application, the Bengal CM's petition raising issues to the SIR is a matter of the State governance. Her appearance in the court looks like a more personal or private dispute. “Such personal appearance by a sitting Chief Minister is constitutionally improper, institutionally undesirable, and legally untenable, as it runs contrary to settled judicial conventions, established court practice, and principles of judicial discipline, particularly in proceedings where professional legal representation is already in place,” the application read. In her first appearance, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called the ECI a “WhatsApp Commission,” alleging the poll body issued informal orders through the messaging platform to booth-level officers (BLO). The SIR case is scheduled for its next hearing on Monday, February 9.

## PM Modi, Malaysian PM Ibrahim

CONDEMN TERRORISM, AGREE TO COUNTER RADICALISATION, EXTREMISM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart, Anwar Ibrahim, condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism.

The Democratic News  
New Delhi, Feb 08

Kuala Lumpur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart, Anwar Ibrahim, condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. The two leaders called for zero-tolerance of terrorism and concerted international efforts to com-

bat it in a comprehensive and sustained manner.

The joint statement said, “Both Leaders appreciated India’s steadfast engagement in the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus framework and welcomed the co-chairmanship with Malaysia of the Counter-Terrorism Working Group for the 2024-2027 term.”

## Security measures and development weakening Maoists: Amit Shah

Shah said the ongoing fight against Maoists must not be scattered, and the remaining Maoists must not be allowed to flee to other states.

The Democratic News  
Raipur Feb 08

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday, February 8, attributed the positive fallout of the fight against Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) to the combination of a security-centric strategy, infrastructure development, and disruption of Maoist financial networks. He reiterated that the Maoist menace will be completely eradicated before March 31 this year while chairing a high-level security meeting on LWE in Raipur. Shah said the ongoing fight against Maoists must not be scattered, and the remaining Maoists must not be allowed to flee to other states. He stressed the need for smooth coordination between various states and Central agencies, a government statement said.



The Home Minister, in a post on X, shared photographs of the meeting.

“Today in Raipur, I held a review meeting with the Chhattisgarh government and officials on anti-Maoist operations. The security-centric strategy, infrastructure development, targeting of the Maoist financial network and the surrender policy have yielded positive results, and Maoists will be completely eradicated before March

31,” he wrote. Addressing the meeting, Shah said the security-centric strategy of the Centre and Chhattisgarh governments, infrastructure, strikes on the Maoist financial network, and the surrender policy have yielded positive results. Chhattisgarh was once a stronghold of Maoist violence, but it has now become a symbol of development in the double-engine government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said. Shah said youths of Chhattisgarh have been progressing in sports, forensic science, and technical education while preserving their culture and traditions. He said Maoism has pushed many generations into the darkness of poverty and illiteracy. Shah also chaired a review meeting regarding various development works in Chhattisgarh, the release said.

RSS not remote controlling govt, says Mohan Bhagwat

Mumbai: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday dismissed theories about the organisation remotely controlling the government, reaffirming sevak's commitment to support the government whenever needed. Speaking on the second day of the Mumbai Vyakhyanamala lecture series, organised as part of the “100 Years of Sangh Journey”, Bhagwat said, “We do not engage in backseat driving. The government is run by those who are in the government.” Apart from denying any intervention in the BJP-led government, the RSS chief also mentioned the organisation's commitment to national service and its willingness to join government efforts.

## India-Iran Historic and Cultural Ties Reaffirmed at Iran's 47th National Day Celebrations in Hyderabad



The 47th National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran was celebrated with dignity and warmth at a grand reception hosted by the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Hyderabad, Mr. Hamid Ahmadiyeh, at the Trident Hotel,HITEC City, Hyderabad. Addressing the gathering, Consul General Mr. Hamid Ahmadiyeh highlighted Iran's developmental progress and shared his views on the prevailing global situation. He strongly condemned the ongoing oppression and violence in Gaza and Palestine by the United States and Israel, terming it a grave humanitarian crisis. Emphasising centuries-old historical, cultural, and civilisational ties between India and Iran, he underlined the importance of further strengthening bilateral relations. The event witnessed the presence of several distinguished dignitaries, including Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, former DGP of Telangana. Mr. Jitender Kumar, the Consul General of Turkey in Hyderabad, Mr. Tariq Ansari, Chairman, Minority Commission, Maulana Syed Nisar Hussain Hyder Agha, President, All India Shia Majlis Ulema-o-Zakireen, Maulana Agha Mujahid Hussain, Mr. Syed Jaffer Hussain, Editor, Sada-e-Hussaini, Mr. Baqar Hasan, Nawab Najaf Ali Khan (grandson of the Nizam of Hyderabad), Mr. Hamid Mohammad Khan, Mr. Nazar Ali, President, Jamaat-e-Islami Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Mohammad Azhar of Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Qari Maulana Mateen Qadri, Mr. Syed Mohammad Raza Zaidi (Ali Pasha), Central Matami Qaid, Mr. Haji Ali, senior Congress leader, Mr. Akbar Nairumand, Mr. Syed Hamid Hussain Jafferi, Mr. Tilawat Hussain Jafferi, along with eminent scholars, religious leaders from various khanqahs, and other notable personalities. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Ms. Fatima Naqvi (PRO).

