OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE: DELHI.

No. 332 /PRO/PHQ dated Delhi, the 09.05.2020 .

To

The Editor,
INDIAN EXPRESS,
Express Building, B-1/B Sector-10,
Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh

Subject :- Rejoinder to the news-item captioned "Tablighi FIR: Police probe indicates Saad audio clip was doctored"

Sir,

This is with reference to the above-mentioned byline news item, which appeared in your esteemed newspaper, today. It is found to be factually incorrect based on wholly unverified sources and purely conjectural imagination.

The report has claimed that the Crime Branch investigation has found that the audio clip mentioned in the police FIR against Markaz Nizamuddin head Maulana Saad Kandhalvi in which he had asked Tablighi Jamaat members not to follow social distancing norms and prohibitory orders is doctored.

The report further claimed that highly placed sources told The Indian Express that police recovered a laptop from the Markaz member who put out their audio clips, and had gone through all. "After scanning them, police found there are over 350 audio clips in three forms — raw clips of Markaz events; audio clips sent to their followers; and ones uploaded on their YouTube channel,"

That a team led by Inspector Satish Kumar, has been trying to find the specific audio which went viral and was mentioned in the FIR, has so far recovered no such clip from the laptop. On the other hand, the investigators found that Saad's comments on police and religion from other events had been taken out of context and doctored.

The report further claimed that in the audio clip mentioned in the FIR, a man can be heard saying "there is no need for social distancing as it is not written about in our religion". "The investigation team noticed that the viral audio is a mix of several clips, which have been edited and doctored. They heard all audio clips again and found that statements from around 20 had been used. Kumar informed his seniors about the development and was asked to send all clips as well as the viral audio to the FSL for further examination,"

The claims made by the reporter regarding the investigation are strongly rebutted. The news is not only factually incorrect but seems to be based on wholly unverified sources and purely conjectural imagination. The Delhi Police does not in any way stand by the story of the reporter, nor has he spoken to any official sources as claimed in his report.

In view of the above-stated facts, it is requested that this rebuttal may be published with the same prominence, so as to put the facts in proper perspective before your esteemed readers.

Yours faithfully,

(Mandeep S. Randhawa)IPS

Public Relations Officer,

Delhi Police, **Delhi**