



حلقہٴ مہاراشٹر

जमाअत-ए-इस्लामी हिन्द, महाराष्ट्र

JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI HIND, MAHARASHTRA

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Date : 04th August 2021

To,

Shri Uddhav Thackeray

Hon. Chief Minister,

Government of Maharashtra

Sir,

This is with reference to a news in Hindustan Times (dated 31st July 2021) which mentions that the Government of Maharashtra is planning to allow wine to be sold at retail outlets and departmental stores. We, at Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, are deeply disturbed by this proposed move in the larger interest of the citizens of our state.

Prophet Muhammad ? had very rightly said that alcohol is the mother of all evils. It is for this reason that Islam completely prohibits the consumption and sale of alcohol. The disastrous consequences of alcoholism are too obvious to be mentioned here. Wine and gambling have destroyed many a family across the world, and Maharashtra is no exception. According to a WHO report, alcohol kills some **2.6** lakh Indians every year. Of these, **1** lakh die in road accidents, **30,000** from cancer and another **1.4** lakh from liver cirrhosis. You are well aware that alcoholism also leads to domestic violence and untold penury.

We fear that this proposal to ostensibly categorise wine as a health drink and promote it would open the floodgates for other forms of alcohol to be sold so freely in the future too. And even if our fears in this regard prove unfounded - and we sincerely

hope they do - it cannot be denied that making wine freely available at departmental stores would make hitherto teetotalers alcoholics. Once they become habitual of wine, they can also succumb to addiction of other forms of alcohol.

We had hoped that under your egalitarian rule, Maharashtra would follow the example of other states like Gujarat and Bihar where alcohol is prohibited. But we are quite appalled to learn that your government is promoting alcoholism instead of curbing it.

We hope that good sense prevails, and that the welfare of the citizens of Maharashtra takes precedence over economic profits. We request and call upon you to reconsider this proposal and save the citizens of Maharashtra from imminent danger.

Yours truly,



Rizwanur Rahman Khan
President,
Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Maharashtra