



Neja Fair

Why in News?

Recently the Uttar Pradesh administration has banned **the Neja fair** held in **Sambhal**.

Key Points

- **About the fair:**
 - **This fair is organised in the memory of Syed Salar Masood Ghazi, nephew and commander of foreign invader [Mahmud Ghaznavi](#).**
 - The tomb of Abdul Salar Ghazi is located in **Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh**, which was built by [Firoz Shah Tughlaq](#).
 - According to historians, many soldiers of Ghaznavi's army were killed in the conflict between [Prithviraj Chauhan](#) and **Mahmud Ghaznavi**.
 - The tombs of these soldiers were built in **Sambhal**, which later became a centre of faith for the devotees. Later, Neja fairs started being organised at these places.
 - It is noteworthy that **Sambhal** was the capital of Prithviraj Chauhan.
- **Reason for Ban:**
 - Mahmud Ghaznavi **invaded India 17 times between 1000 and 1027 AD** and **destroyed many Hindu religious places including [the Somnath temple](#)**. His commander **Syed Salar Masood Ghazi** is considered the main architect of these invasions.
 - In such a situation, it is **not appropriate to organise a fair in the memory of a robber and murderer**.
 - The historical background of the fair **is linked to foreign invaders**, hence it **can cause communal tension**.

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