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Pak Army and Judiciary on Collision Course on Hanging Musharraf



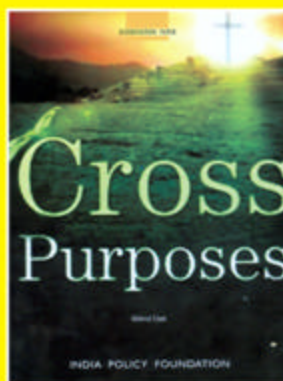
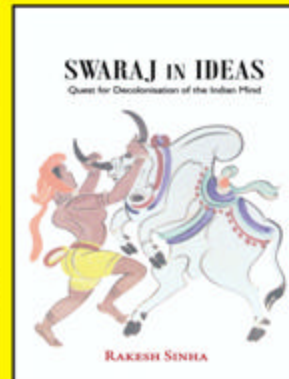
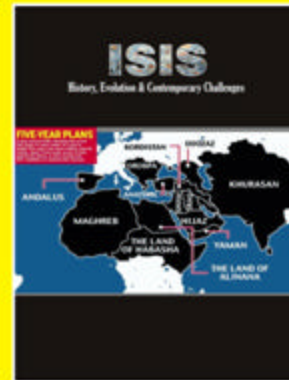
• Controversy over Citizenship Amendment Act

• One Trillion Investments in AMU

• Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Divided in Two

• Germany Bans Hezbollah

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Editorial Advisor
Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo

Editor
Manmohan Sharma

Editorial Assistance
Shiv Kumar Singh

Circulation
Sudhir Kumar Singh
9810821308
011-26524018

Cover & Designing
Suraj Bhardwaj

Office
D-51, First Floor,
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi-110016
Tel : 011-26524018

E-mail:
indiapolicy@gmail.com

Website:
www.indiapolicyfoundation.org

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Summary

Politics is taking a very dangerous turn in neighbouring Pakistan. Recently, a Special Court held former Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf guilty of violating the provisions of the Pakistan Constitution and imposing emergency, which amounted to treason and sentenced him to be hanged. The Chief Magistrate of the Court Waqar Ahmed Seth went so far as to decree that if Musharraf died before this punishment, his dead body should be dragged from Dubai to Pakistan and hanged at the crossing of Islamabad for three days. The Pakistan Army has openly revolted against this. Major General Asif Ghafoor, spokesperson of the Pakistan Army has said that the Army knew how to defend its honour. He said that this decision of the Court order could not be accepted under any circumstances. Could someone who served the country for 40 years and fought wars for the country be accused of sedition? Pakistan's Finance Minister Farogh Naseem has called the statement of Waqar Ahmed Seth as against religion and humanity and demanded that the judge who read out this statement be declared a lunatic and removed from his post. On the other hand, Pakistan Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa has accused that some people had hatched conspiracy to defame the judiciary. The Imran Khan government has been unable to file a petition in the Supreme Court because of this fierce controversy.

The Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) is divided in two groups. There is an open dispute between the Malaysian Prime Minister and the rulers of Saudi Arabia. The meeting of OIC countries called by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad in Kuala Lumpur was attended by only 20 of the 57 OIC members. Among nations which boycotted the meet were Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE and about a dozen Islamic countries from Africa. This development has totally damaged the image of unity of Islamic countries in the world.

Two Dalit leaders of the country, Mayawati and Chandrashekhar Ravan, are in for a big battle of absolute power. So far, Mayawati had projected herself as the sole representative of Dalits in the country. But the founder of Bhim Army, Chandrashekhar, has emerged as a challenge for her. The way he has openly come out in support of Muslims on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has come as a rude shock for her. Now the differences between the two leaders have come out in the open.

The Modi government managed to get the CAA passed by both the Houses of Parliament, but people's opposition has derailed the objectives of the legislation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried to clarify a lot of misgivings on the CAA that are being spread by the vested interests of a particular section of society at his Ramlila Ground rally in Delhi. The agitation against the new law, which first began at the Jamia Millia Islamia University, has now spread across the entire country. The onus is now on the security agencies to find out the forces that are working to spread misinformation amongst people.

National

Controversy over Citizenship Amendment Act

The Urdu newspapers seem to have started a campaign against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) for the past several days. This is despite the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already given a clarification on this.

The **Inquilab** (December 16) writes in its editorial, “This law is against the spirit of the Indian Constitution and things can get worse by this law. The Constitution does not differentiate against anyone on the basis of religion.”

The **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** writes in its editorial, “This law, which goes against the Constitution of India, has made us a laughing stock all over the world. In the country, the law and order situation is worsening every day because of the agitations. Police is using force to suppress the agitation, which has people from all sections of the society. The way police is opening fire on the agitators, is worsening this situation. There is no visible leader of this agitation, but people are coming out on the streets on their own. It has taken the shape of a mass agitation. If the government does not solve this issue now, it will lead to very dangerous consequences. The entire country cannot be thrust into fire for fulfilling one’s own political agenda.”

Weekly Nai Duniya (December 16) says in its editorial, “The CAB and NRC are double- edged sword of the Modi government hanging on the heads of Muslims. These have not only endangered the lives of Muslims but the entire country. The Constitution is in danger and secularism is injured. Under this law, the Indian Constitution made by Dr. Ambedkar will lose its soul. The country which had rejected the two- nation theory of Savarkar and Mohammad Ali Jinnah is being pushed to accept the same now. The Modi government is planning to first impose the CAA and bring the NRC after that. The government has not given any indication as to what it plans to do with crores of Muslims who would be declared foreigners. Pakistan and Bangladesh are not ready to accept them. What then? Will they be thrown into the sea? Or will they be put in gas chambers as had been done with the Jews in Germany?”

Akhbar-E-Mashriq (December 10) writes in its editorial, “This Act is against the Indian Constitution and will retard the development in the country. The editorial alleges that this Act could target Muslims. It does not clarify what the government wanted to do with Muslims, who will be declared foreigners under this law. This is the reason that there is so much of mass agitation on the streets. The biggest drawback of this Act is that it has provision to provide citizenship only to non- Muslims, whereas Muslims have been kept out of it. This is totally

against the principle of secularism in our Constitution. It will not be able to stand scrutiny in Court.”

The Siasat (December 10) condemns the Citizenship Amendment Act in its editorial saying that the government was throwing the Constitution out of the window, that’s why there was so much unrest in the North East and the rest of the country. The students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University are demonstrating against this law. But the Modi government does not seem to be bothered about it. The Opposition has also been unable to stop this. Citizenship cannot be granted on the basis of religion in a secular country like India. Despite this, the Modi government is out to force this law on the people. Attempts are being made to turn Hindustan into a Hindu Rashtra. This attempt will severely damage the unity, integrity and stability of the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is constantly attempting to wipe off the presence of Muslims in the country. Although he is not speaking on this issue, but his supporters are openly declaring their agenda of finishing off the Muslims from the country.”

“It is believed that Home Minister Amit Shah, who has called Muslims termites several times, has unleashed this program to finish off Muslims. But this policy of the BJP would divide the country. This country has chosen secularism as its faith but the BJP would not allow the country to follow this policy. Pretending to follow the constitution and democracy, the BJP is out to take revenge on the Muslims, but the people of the country would not permit this. Muslims should stay firm in their faith and resolve, otherwise the people of the country would have to pay heavy price for this.”

According to **Etemaad** (December 16), writes in its editorial that “the BJP had brought about this Act to implement its agenda of a Hindu Rashtra. Every secular citizen of the country must stand up to oppose this law, which goes against the tenets of the Indian Constitution.”

Chandrashekhar- Mayawati clash

According to **Akhbar-E-Mashriq** (December 23), “It is the war between the Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekhar and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Chief Mayawati, now. Criticizing the Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekhar Ravan for getting arrested for taking part in the anti- CAA protests from Delhi, she said that he was playing into the hands of the opposition. He was deliberately taking part in demonstrations in the states where the BSP had a strong base. Chandrashekhar belongs to Uttar Pradesh, but he was arrested while attending

the protests in Delhi because he wanted to take advantage in the forthcoming legislative elections in Delhi, she said.”

Jadeed Markaz (December 22) published from Lucknow claims that “Chandrashekhar has become a headache for Mayawati, who has sidelined almost all the followers of the late leader Kanshi Ram over the years. Now the party was run by only two-and-a-half persons, including Mayawati herself, Satish Chandra Misra and Mayawati’s nephew Akash, who is looking after the IT Cell of the party and is equal to half. The party is losing its support all over the country, and Chandrashekhar has set up a parallel organization. The way Mayawati went on to support the BJP on Triple Talaq, abrogation of Article 370 and the CAA has given an opportunity to Chandrashekhar to open a front against her. There was a feeling among people that Mayawati was supporting the BJP to escape raids by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax department. At a recent press conference in Lucknow, Chandrashekhar had said that by supporting the CAA, she was insulting both Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram.”

“Chandrashekhar accused that Mayawati had openly supported Triple Talaq and the abrogation of Article 370 in Parliament. While she helped Modi by asking her members to be absent when the CAA was put to vote in Rajya Sabha. He alleged that this had exposed the real face of Mayawati before the public. He said that his party would give representations to Muslims, Dalits and Adivasis according to their population. In the beginning Chandrashekhar had tried to prop up Mayawati by calling her the biggest leader of Dalits and said that he wanted her to become the Prime Minister of the country. But Mayawati did not respond to these overtures, calling him the BJP-RSS planted Dalit leader.”

One trillion- investment for AMU

According to **Siasat** (December 5), “The Ministry for Minorities had agreed to grant a sum of around Rs 1.1 billion to the campuses of Aligarh Muslim University in Malappuram (Kerala) and Murshidabad (West Bengal) for constructing hostels. This amount has been given under the Prime Minister’s Jan Vikas Program. The first installment of this in the form of Rs 30.5 crore has already been released. The Vice- Chancellor Prof Tariq Mansoor stressed on the fact that he would concentrate on improving the residential facilities for students. Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi took special interest in the matter to get this amount sanctioned. He said that they were also thinking of Kishanganj campus in Bihar because the Centre lacked proper facilities. He said that they wanted Muslims to excel in education.”

Comment: The UPA government had taken a decision that campuses of AMU should be set up outside Aligarh in Muslim majority areas of the country. As far as the AMU Act is concerned, it was a residential complex and its working areas should be confined to Aligarh. That is the reason that none of the colleges in Aligarh were affiliated to AMU and are affiliated to Agra University. The Congress had taken a decision to set up AMU campuses in four states of Kerala, Bihar, West Bengal and Maharashtra. The Government had decided that centers would be set up in Malappuram (Kerala), Murshidabad (West Bengal), Kishanganj (Bihar) and Aurangabad (Maharashtra). Of these, the position of Aurangabad campus was not clear, because the Maharashtra government had not allotted land for this so far. While work is on in full swing in the other three centers. The Malappuram and Murshidabad centers were set up in 2010, while the Kishanganj center was set up in 2013. The Kerala Government had allotted 336 acres for the Malappuram Centre. The Murshidabad center had been allotted 288 acres. For the set up of third center, Bihar government had allotted 224 acres in Govindpura. It is interesting that these centers have been in controversy since the very beginning. Muslim leaders used to say that setting up centers outside Aligarh was against the basic concept of the AMU. Last year, the Ministry for Human Resource Development had allotted Rs 30 lakh from its budget for setting up the center in Kishanganj. Interestingly, then-Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee had also announced the opening of four centers in his Budget of 2012/13. There was a proposal for opening a center in Bhopal as well. But due to the non-cooperation of the state government, this plan was shelved.”

Attempt to defraud people under the garb of Islamic Bank

According to **Siasat (December 20)**,-“The Hyderabad Police has arrested Bushra Begum and her husband Siraj-ur-Rahman for defrauding the people of Rs 1.02 crore on behalf of Universal Islamic Research Center. Avinash Mohanty, Joint Commissioner of Police, said that the duo had set up the Universal Islamic Research Center in 2016 by telling people that if they invested in this venture they would be given dividends according to Islamic laws. They used the influence of religious Muslim leaders to entrap Muslims and founded companies like Heera Gold, Heera Food Products and Heera Retail to cheat the people. But the people involved with the company used up all the money. A woman named Ishrari Begum lodged a complaint of cheating her of Rs 20 lakh by this company. Mohanty said that the police was investigating this whole matter and arrests of some more persons were expected soon. Hundreds of people had been cheated in South India of crores of their money by the Islamic Bank and the culprits had

fled abroad. The police had information that some of them were in Dubai and is trying to take action against them.”

Comment: Last August, the Hyderabad Police had uncovered a huge scam in the name of Universal Islamic Research Centre and filed two cases against Bushra Begum and others in this connection. Arshia Sultana along with some other people had complained to the Police that Bushra Begum and her husband Siraj-ur-Rahman had collected lakhs from the people and promised a dividend of three percent to them on their investment. But now they are neither paying this dividend nor returning their principal amount. The Chief of Saidabad Police Station, Inspector K Srinivasan, has registered a case on the complaint of some women. According to police investigations, the people had been duped of Rs 90 lakh so far. On the other hand, Siraj-ur-Rahman claims that he had nothing to do with this organization and he had disassociated himself from it in 2018. The police had handed him over to the Crime Branch for further investigation.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized property, worth Rs 3 billion belonging to Heera Group. This property is believed to belong to Nowhera Shaikh, the Managing Director of Heera Group. The ED has seized the property of this company spread all across India. These properties are in Telangana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh and 96 percent of this is landed property. Besides, the ED has also seized commercial plots, residential complexes and money deposited in banks. According to the investigating agency, the Heera group had taken Rs 56,000 crore from 1.72 lakh people and they had been assured that they would be given interest at the rate of 36 percent. Nowhera Shaikh started 24 institutes in various parts of the country and opened 182 accounts in banks in the name of different companies. Ten accounts were opened in foreign banks also, including the Emirates, Saudi Arabia etc. No permission was taken for this from any department. Shaikh deposited all this money in her and her partners' accounts and set up various fake companies to cheat people.”

Controversy on removal of VC of Aligarh Muslim University

Akhbar-E-Mashriq (December 24) has published a front page story which claims that “the students and teachers of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) are divided on the issue of removal of the Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the University. While one group is demanding that the two must be removed from their position because they allowed the police to enter the campus to take action against the students participating in the anti-CAA protests, the other group is claiming that they were only doing their duty by inviting the police to save the

law and order situation in the campus. However, both the groups are not coming out openly in this matter. The University administration is closed down till the end of January for winter vacation. After aggressive protests by students, the hostels have been vacated. Students have been sent to their homes under police escort. One student admitted that they would not be able to remove the VC and the Registrar from their posts and they are aware of this fact. But they will never forgive them for not standing with them in their hour of need.”

According to **Inquilab** (December 12), “The students of AMU have started a continuous protest against the proposed- Citizenship Amendment Act. Having denied permission by the authorities to demonstrate, they have started their protest inside the campus itself.”

The **Sahafat** in its December 16 edition has prominently published the news of protests against CAA at Aligarh Muslim University and said that “looking at the situation, the VC has called the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and four students have been arrested. One student leader, Syedna Taher Saifuddin has been rusticated. Abhishek, Superintendent of Police, Aligarh, told that those who were arrested, including the former AMU Student Union President Salman Imtiaz, former Secretary Hafiza Amir, former Vice President Humza Sufyan and Mohiuddin. Amir has already been suspended by the University authorities. Ten students of Aligarh school, who were students of High School, have also been suspended. According to newspapers, the Registrar Abdul Hameed had written a letter to the Aligarh administration, asking it to check the hostels and hunt out the anti-social elements hiding there. He alleged that a section of students was trying to disturb peace and harmony in the campus.”

According to **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** (December 16), “There is a video going viral in Aligarh University, which shows a student shouting slogans. According to Police Chief, a case had been filed in this regard. Protesting against the demonstrations in the campus, a delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, under the leadership of its President Mukesh Kumar met the Police Chief and said that protests against the CAA showed that the campus was full of anti-national elements, which was misleading the new generation.”

The same newspaper carries another news story, which says, “The controversial figure, Dr Kafeel of Gorakhpur was trying to misguide the students of AMU. An FIR had been filed in the Civil Lines Police Station in which Sub-Inspector Danish Ali had mentioned that on 12 December around 600 students had gathered at the Syed Gate, where Dr. Kafeel and Yogendra Yadav had addressed and tried to inflame the religious feelings of the students.”

Differences between Shiv Sena and Congress on Savarkar

According to **Inquilab** (December 16), “Differences between the Shiv Sena and Congress, who are allies in the Maharashtra government, have come out in the open, although it is not likely to threaten the government because the parties have come together not on the basis of ideology but on development agenda. The dispute began with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at ‘Bharat Bachao Rally’ in Delhi stating that he was being asked to apologize for speaking the truth by the BJP. Rejecting the suggestion, he said that his name was Rahul Gandhi and not Rahul Savarkar and declared that he would rather die than apologize. Taking objection to this, Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena spokesperson, said that Rahul Gandhi should be more careful with what he says.”

“This gave an opportunity to the BJP to fish in troubled waters and it asked the Shiv Sena to choose between Savarkar and the Government. However, Uddhav Thackeray, the Maharashtra Chief Minister deftly downplayed the issue and said that their alliance was based on a common development program and not on ideology. He clarified that the Shiv Sena has its stand on Savarkar, which was well known to the Congress. When asked about his stand on the CAA, Thackeray said that the matter was in Court and it would not be fair to comment on this.”

The paper writes that “this was not the first time Rahul Gandhi had attacked the RSS leaders. The Congress states that Rahul has not said anything wrong, but only repeated what was a historical fact. Bhim Afzal says people should read history on Savarkar and find out which leaders had apologized to the British. As far as the Shiv Sena was concerned, it had its point of view. If it wanted to object, it is free to do so, but that would not change history.”

World

Pakistan Army and Judiciary on collision course on hanging to Musharraf

The decision of a special court of Pakistan against former President General Pervez Musharraf, awarding him death by hanging on charges of treason, has brought about a direct confrontation between the Army and the Judiciary. The Imran Khan government is in a dilemma over appealing against this order, because it does not want to annoy either of the two. So far, the Army has been having an upper hand in Pakistan and the entire country is witnessing demonstrations and protests against the court's decision.

According to **Mumbai Urdu News (December 21)**, "Recently retired Chief Justice of Pakistan Asif Saeed Khosa has alleged that there was a conspiracy by some prominent people in Pakistan to defame him and the judiciary. A Justice should be bold and unafraid. Thus he attacked the General of the Army."

According to **Daily Jung** (December 19) published from Pakistan, "The spokesperson of the Pakistan Army Major General Asif Ghafoor has asserted that retired General Pervez Musharraf is not a traitor by any standards. He asserted that there was wide spread anger in the Army against this judgment. Post this judgment there was a special meeting at the Army Headquarters. After that, Major Ghafoor tweeted that calling a man who had been Army Chief, Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee, President of Pakistan, and served the country for 40 years, a traitor was unacceptable. He alleged that the normal legal and constitutional procedures were not followed in this case and General Musharraf was not given a chance to present his viewpoint. That's why he Pakistan Army expects that he would be given justice under the provisions of the Constitution."

On the other hand, **Daily Mashriq** reports, "The Chief Justice of Pakistan Supreme Court Asif Saeed Khosa has said that the judgment was delivered following proper legal procedures. He said that several offers were made to him as also threats, but he had not succumbed to either. Had they done so, the decision would not have come so quickly and the case would have lingered on for years."

According to **Jung** (December 19), "Musharraf's lawyers have argued that this judgment was worse than that the Bhutto hanging. The former president was not given any opportunity to present his point of view. They said that there were two other accused in the case, Shaukat Aziz and Abdul Hameed Dogar, but they were not tried. The cabinet never discussed the issue and then- Prime Minister

Nawaz Sharif gave permission to start the trial by passing all the rules and regulations. Musharraf's lawyers also addressed a press conference on the issue."

According to **Jung**, "Even the Defence Minister of the country wasn't aware of this case. The newspaper alleged that it was former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who played a major role in this matter. There have been 125 hearings in this case in the last 6 years and six Justices of special court have been changed. Former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry has demanded that the case should be taken back, whereas another minister Hasan Iqbal said that this judgment proves that the rule of law is uppermost in Pakistan. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ali Mohammad Khan has said that the way former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was ousted by Pervez Musharraf- led army, no one would have any sympathy with him."

According to the same newspaper, "The chief of the Special Court Waqar Ahmed Seth has announced his four-line short judgment. Declaring Pervez Musharraf a traitor he declared that he had violated the Constitution on November 3, 2007, and hence the charge of treason is very apt in this case. The newspaper declared that 2 of the three judges, Waqar Ahmed Seth and Shahid Karim, had supported this judgment, whereas Justice Nazar Akbar gave a dissenting judgment. The Public Prosecutor told the court that he had filed three petitions in which he had requested that cases of sedition should be lodged against three more persons. These include former Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, former Chief Justice Abdul Hameed Dogar and former Law Minister Zahid Hamid. Commenting on these petitions Justice Shahid Karim said that these petitions coming after three and half years showed that this was an afterthought. Will there be a new inquiry against these people now because the time for investigation and evidence was over? On this, the Public Prosecutor said that investigation could be started only after a complaint had been lodged. According to the 2014 petition, it was then- Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz who had suggested Pervez Musharraf to impose the emergency. On this, Justice Nazar Akbar said that they were now referring to Pervez Musharraf's petition, which had already been disposed off."

"The Supreme Court has also announced its judgment on other accused with Pervez Musharraf. And since the charge-sheet had been filed against Pervez Musharraf, nothing could be added to it. The Court had given two weeks time to file the revised charge- sheet and if they wanted to involve another person as accused, a fresh case would have to be filed. Did the government want to delay the judgment on Musharraf? He wondered how they were expected to give judgment where a case not even been filed. Nazar Akbar said they were not

bound by any High Court order. They would work according to the guidelines of the Supreme Court. When the lawyer of Musharraf, Salman Safdar, tried to intervene; the Chief Justice of the Special Court Waqar Ahmed Seth bluntly told him that his client was an absconder and his lawyer could not be allowed to speak. He said that till the time Musharraf surrendered before the Court, his lawyer would have no right to argue. On this, Raza Bashir, another lawyer for Musharraf, said that his client was not in a condition to be present in the Court.”

According to **The News** (December 20), “The detailed judgment delivered in this case reads into 169 pages. What is intriguing is that the Chief Justice of the Special Court had given the same arguments that were given by the Pakistan Chief Justice of Pakistan Asif Saeed Khosa on March 26, 2019. Both said that they would not permit any accused to manipulate the Supreme Court on their terms and conditions. Musharraf should be hanged on the basis of five charges.”

According to **Dainik Siasat** (December 21), “It has been written in the judgment by Waqar Ahmed Seth, the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court and Justice in the Special Court, that if Musharraf died before he was handed the punishment, the law agencies had been directed to punish him with all their might. They had also been directed that his dead body should be dragged to Pakistan and hanged at the crossing at Islamabad for three days. According to Major General Asif Ghafoor, this heinous punishment was against all tenets of human, religious and cultural traditions and no one could imagine such an order in today’s times. He said that this part of the judgment would be challenged in the Supreme Court to get it cancelled. The Pakistan Army knew how to protect its honour.”

According to **Dawn** (December 20), “This judgment had been discussed between the Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Army Chief, but what transpired in this meeting has not been disclosed.”

According to **Daily Times** (December 20), “Pakistan Law Minister Farogh Naseem told a press conference that the Government had decided to challenge the controversial part of the judgment and also appeal to the Supreme Court to remove Justice Waqar Ahmed Seth from his post.”

Saudi student kills three Americans

According to **Mumbai Urdu News** (December 8), “A student from Saudi Arabia has killed three persons in an attack on a Navy Base in the American state of Florida, injuring eight others. He was killed in police firing. The student known as Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani was a trainee at the American Centre. He released a video before the attack, which said that America was the root of all

evil and it had launched a campaign against Muslims and humanity. He also said that America was funding criminal activities against Muslims, which must be condemned.”

Commenting on this, **Siasat** (December 10) said, “This incident had created a very bad name for Islam in the world. Saudi Arabia was in deep financial crisis recently and people from the country were going abroad. America was selling its arms to Saudi Arabia by showing Iran as its enemy. America had also established its army bases in Saudi Arabia. After the Iran attacks on its oil refineries, Saudi Arabia had become totally dependent on American security agencies. The American security agencies have not been able to track the background of the student of the assailant. The student also shouted slogans against America before the shoot-out. The 21-year old had been taking training in aircraft flying for the last two years in America.”

“He had declared that America was an evil country and it was behind every crime against Muslims in the world. Even earlier, of the 19 Al- Qaeda terrorists involved in the attacks of 9/11, 15 were Saudi citizens, but that did not spoil the relations between America and Saudi Arabia. The President of America, today, is totally dependent on Saudi Arabia to crush Iran. Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia have always been bitter. However, a majority of senators in America were against Trump’s Saudi policy. America is supporting Saudi Arabia in Yemen to crush Houthi rebellion. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has condemned the shoot-out by this student and said that this was an individual action and Saudi Arabia was not involved in this in any way.”

Germany bans Hezbollah

According to **Siasat** (December 21), “The German Parliament has passed a resolution with a huge majority, banning terror organization Hezbollah. Both the political parties of Germany have appealed to the European countries to declare Hezbollah a terrorist organization and ban it. A spokesperson of German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that the decision to ban this Islamic terror organization had been taken with the support of the opposition Social Democratic Party. Funds to finance the activities of terrorists were collected worldwide and given for the operations of this organization.”

Comment: Hezbollah was established in 1980 as a terrorist organization at the instructions of Iran for uniting the Shia Muslims in Lebanon. Its leaders and fighters were sent for training to Iran on special instructions of Syrian government. This organization had a great role in scaring away the Americans

and the French from Lebanon in 1985. The Hezbollah launched a Guerrilla War in Lebanon in 2000. In the Bosnia war, this organization fought the Russians. The strength of this group is estimated to be more than that of Lebanon's Army. It has its own radio and satellite TV station. It gets support from the Shias in Lebanon, although the Sunnis are against it. Iran provides arms and ammunition to them and financial support and trains its cadres. In the war of Lebanon in 2006, there were huge clashes between the Israeli Army and Hezbollah. In 2008, the Hezbollah and its partners had 11 out of 30 Ministerial berths in the Lebanon cabinet. The Lebanon government recognizes its significance and believes that it would help liberate the areas that have been occupied forcefully by the Israelis. It also played an active role in the civil war in Syria. The main mission of Hezbollah is to finish off Israel. The Hezbollah also runs a TV channel, called 'Al- Minar,' for its propaganda against Israel and brings out a weekly called 'Al Ahad .' Its intelligence branch is regarded the most powerful in the Arab world. It is believed that many times it has beaten Israel's world- famous intelligence agency Mossad to its game. There is a veil of secrecy over the actual number of its members. According to the Director of Dubai based Gulf Research Foundation Mustafa Alani, its armed cadres are above 1,000 and the number of its part- time members go above 10,000. It claims that Hezbollah is one of the most powerful armed guerrilla groups in the world. It has an armory of more than one lakh rockets and missiles. This jhadi organization has targeted the American embassies and army bases a number of times. It also participated in the war against America in the Iraq war."

Ashraf Ghani wins Afghanistan Presidential election

According to **Akhbar-E-Mashriq** (December 23), "Ashraf Ghani has been declared winner in the Presidential elections in Afghanistan, although his rival Abdullah Abdullah refused to accept the results. According to the Afghan Election Commission, Ghani had secured 50.64 percent votes, while Abdullah had got only 40 percent votes in the elections held on September 28 last year. The Election Commission said that if there were any complaints regarding the election, they would be investigated. Abdullah Abdullah claims that he would lodge an official written complaint and they would not accept the fraud election results till their complaint is investigated."

The newspaper adds, "Earlier the election results were to be declared on October 19 but could not be declared due to objections from Abdullah Abdullah. The Chief of the Election Commission Hawa Alam Nooristani said, "The Commission had performed its duty with due diligence and honesty, because Afghanistan

believes in democracy.' In 2014 elections too, Abdullah Abdullah was defeated by Ashraf Ghani, but after intervention of America, Ghani was declared President and Abdullah Abdullah was made the Chief Executive of Afghanistan."

Jihadis punished in Philippines

According to **Mumbai Urdu News** (December 20), "A court in Manila has awarded a punishment of life- imprisonment to 30 Islamic jihadis accused of killing 58 innocent citizens about ten years ago. These jihadis had killed them about 960 kilometers away from the capital Manila in 2009, which included 32 journalists. This has been called the most heinous political massacre in the history of Philippines."

"It is said that the people of Impato tribal were defeated in the elections and had refused to accept the results. About 32 journalists and some officers had gone to the spot for reporting who were killed by the tribal people. They were said to be connected to Islamic radical organizations. Over 100 accused were arrested in the case and about 50 have still not been traced. Cases were filed against 70 accused and barring 30 of them, all were freed. Death penalty is banned in Philippines and hence all the accused have been awarded life- imprisonment. According to the laws of Philippines, they would have to spend 40 years in jail."

Punishment for not reading the Namaz

According to **Siasat** (December 5), "Six Muslims have been awarded a punishment of one-month imprisonment for not reading the Namaz in Malaysia. According to Islamic laws in Malaysia, it is compulsory to read the Namaz five times a day. But this is the first time that any Muslim has been penalized for not reading the Namaz. Those who have been punished belong to the age group of 17 to 35. It has been said that instead of reading the Namaz, they were enjoying a picnic in a park. Besides jail- term, they have been also fined 2400 to 2500 Ringgit each."

Punishment for forcibly taking off the hijab of a Muslim woman

According to **Hamara Samaj** (December 22), "A Muslim woman has won a case in an American court, where she accused a male jailer of forcibly taking off her hijab for taking picture. The court instructed the government to pay USD 1.2

lakh to Abida Saif Al-Khadik who had alleged that this was against the Islamic laws. The 57- year- old woman said that in August 2013, she had been sent to the Ramsay County jail for driving without a license."

"She argued that she was in an emergency because her daughter was not well. The court ordered her arrest because she did not appear in court. When she went to jail, the officers asked her to take off her hijab and when she refused, it was taken off forcibly. She also alleged that she was kept in a separate cell for 23 hours for not obeying the jail authorities. Since then it has been decided that no Muslim woman would be forced to take off her hijab before a male."

West Asia

The OIC stands divided

There are huge differences among the countries who have been invited for the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad. A large number of Muslim countries have refused to attend the meeting including Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and several African countries. The Saudi Arabian representatives are worried that Mahathir was trying to put them down by creating a new block of Islamic countries. The head office of OIC is in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, and so far it has been dominated by Saudi Arabia. Allegations and counter- allegations between Saudi Arabia and Malaysia are on."

According to **Mumbai Urdu News** (December 21), "The Organization of Islamic Countries has been divided into two. The total membership of this group is 57, out of which only 20 countries took part in this meeting. The Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad has expressed concern on the growing differences among the Islamic countries."

According to another news story published in the same paper, "Two jihadi groups banned by Saudi Arabia have welcomed the meeting of the OIC in Kuala Lumpur. The Ikhwanul Muslimeen has called this meeting historic. This is significant because the countries which are participating in this meeting have given shelter to the members of this group. Similarly, the Houthi rebels who have been revolting against Saudi Arabia have also welcomed this meeting."

According to **Etemaad** (December 19) editorial, "Malaysia has expressed concern over the growing differences among the Islamic countries. According to the editorial, a conference of heads of 20 Islamic countries was organized in Malaysia in which countries like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia did not participate. Those who took keen interest in the organization of the program were Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Imran Khan. The conference had been called to discuss the problems Muslims were facing globally, but at the last minute Pakistan backed out under pressure from Saudi Arabia. It is strange that Muslim countries are not united even in discussing their own problems. Muslims were being exploited in the West in the name of Islamophobia. Similarly, wars between Muslim countries, mutual differences, civil wars and mass agitations against Muslim rulers were increasing the problems of Muslims. Saudi Arabia does not like the participation of Turkish President Erdogan, Iranian President Rouhani and the Emir of Qatar in this conference, called by Malaysia. This is why Saudi Arabia has refused to participate in the conference. Mahathir has clarified that there was no intention of creating a new block, but it was only called to discuss the problems faced by Muslims."

"According to the newspapers, out of 70 Muslim countries, heads of 20 of 57 OIC countries and their 250 representatives were taking part in the meeting. The OIC

had lost its respect in the world because of their internal conflict. Interestingly, the issue of Kashmir is also on the agenda, but despite this, Pakistan has refused to participate in the conference. Iran and Malaysia have now become friends and that is why Iranian President Rouhani was the first to reach Kuala Lumpur. The president of Turkey is also against the sanctions of America against Iran. Qatar has already been removed from its block by Saudi Arabia because it supports Iran. Even though the Muslim countries spread from North- African country of Algeria to mid -Asia's Uzbekistan and Brunei, but more than 60 Muslim countries have no influence on world politics. The countries which are well off are ruined by terrorism. The Muslim countries contribute only 5 percent to the GDP of the world, while most of these countries are victims of poverty and hunger. However, the truth is that there is no country in the world where Muslims are not being discriminated against. 10 million Muslims had to flee from Myanmar, Syria and North Africa alone. Gambia has raised the issue of genocide of Rohingya Muslims at International Court. According to the United Nations, there were one million Muslims in prisoner camps in China. Everyone knows how Uyghur Muslims were being treated in China. Interestingly, the United Nations and USA are raising these issues, but Islamic countries are totally silent. History witnesses that mutual differences have been the base of the problems of Muslims. According to another news story, Indonesia has also refused to participate in the meeting. The UAE has also refused to participate.”

“The Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi raised his concern over Saudi Arabia’s fear of Malaysia creating a new block of Islamic countries. The headquarters of OIC is in Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh. Mahathir Mohammad said that he had discussed this issue with the Shah of Saudi Arabia, Salman bin Abdul Aziz, but it didn’t work. The Malaysian government has claimed that 52 Islamic countries were participating in this program.”

According to Mumbai Urdu News (December 20), "The OIC has condemned this conference, organized in Malaysia, saying that it would weaken the Millat. Creating a parallel organization like this would hit the interests of the Muslims. According to alarabia.com, the General Secretary of OIC, Yusuf Al- Othaimen, has said that creating a forum in Malaysia was like going out of Alam-e-Islam and creating a hue and cry. He said that OIC was a representative of all Muslims and creating any other parallel organization would harm their interests."

According to **Dainik Inquilab** (December 22), "Addressing the heads of Muslim countries, the Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad attacked India, saying that it claimed to be a secular country, but it was taking away the rights of Muslims. He said that if Malaysia started doing that, it would make things very difficult for everyone. There would be chaos all around because there were a lot of Hindus, living in Malaysia. Commenting on this, the spokesperson of Indian Foreign Ministry said that Mahathir wasn’t aware of the facts. This law would not impact any citizen of the country. In this conference of Muslim countries, it was once again stressed that Muslim countries should deal with each other in gold or Dirham for trading instead of dollar, pound or Euro."

According to **Hamara Samaj** (December 22), "Turkish President Erdogan has alleged that Saudi Arabia had exerted pressure on Pakistan not to participate in the Kuala Lumpur conference. According to Dainik Sabah, Erdogan has disclosed that Saudi Arabia rulers had threatened that if Pakistan participated in the program, it would send 4 million Pakistanis living there back to Pakistan and employ the Bangladeshis in their place. The same pressure was employed on Indonesia, Iraq, Syria and Somalia. This allegation has been countered by the Saudi embassy in Pakistan, which said that some people were trying to create misunderstanding among Islamic countries. The spokesperson of Pakistan Foreign Ministry clarified that it did not participate in the Kuala Lumpur summit because long-term efforts were needed to put the issues of Muslim countries in proper perspective. A few days ago, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had claimed that there was a need for an Islamic TV channel to counter the campaign against Islam in the world, but by boycotting the summit, this thought has also gone in vain. Interestingly, even though the Kuala Lumpur summit was over, yet there has been no joint-declaration after the conference so far."

According to **Aakhbar-E-Mashriq** (December 22), "The Pakistan High Commission has clarified that there was no pressure on it and the news being spread about it is absolutely false and misleading."

Iran biggest supporter of terrorists

According to **Mumbai Urdu News** (December 8), "The Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir has said that Iran was the biggest supporter of terrorists in the world. He said that they had been saying this for a long time and now many countries were announcing a ban on trade with Iran. In an interview to Al Arabiya, Adel Jubeir called Iran a country that kills Ambassadors, forms terrorist organizations and involves in terrorist activities in different countries.

"He said that Iran was a danger for the security of the entire Arab world. Its offences could no longer be tolerated. That's why along with other countries, we should impose more sanctions on Iran and devoid it of any weaponry, which is dangerous for the whole world. At a conference, organized in Rome, Al-Jubeir said that Iran was spending millions of dollars on terrorism and that was why Iran and its Foreign Minister had been kept away from the conference. The conference discussed issues of widespread violence and bloodshed in the Arab world and it was said that Iran was violating human rights."

Court decision in the death of Saudi journalist

According to **Inquilab** (December 25), "Five persons have been given death penalty and three have been given 24 years in jail for the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by a Saudi court. Saudi-born Khashoggi, living in the US, was killed in the Saudi consulate in Turkey last year. According to video footage, on

October 12, the journalist entered the Istanbul-based Saudi consulate. He did not return after that. He was considered the biggest critic of the Saudi government. After he went missing, there were allegations that he had been killed by Saudi government. Allegations were also made against the prince of Saudi Arabia. The announcement about the punishment was made by a Public Prosecutor in a press conference in Riyadh and said that 11 persons were held guilty for this crime, out of which three have been set free. The killing of Khashoggi made international headlines."

20 lakh Syrian refugees return home

According to **Siasat** (December 19), "Russian Army chief Valery Gerasimov has claimed that due to its efforts, 20 lakh Syrian refugees have been repatriated. He said that the Russian army was making all efforts for the re settlement of the Syrian refugees. Since the last one and a half years, Russian Army had helped in the repatriation of 4, 95, 000 refugees. Besides this, they had helped in the resettlement of 13 lakh refugees. Since the 2011 Syrian civil- war, over 95 lakh refugees had to leave Syria and flee to other countries. Now under President Bashar Al-Asad, the country has been freed from the influence of the ISIS by the Syrian Army. Spokesperson of the Russian Army told that it was not interested in increasing its army's presence in Syria. In September 2015, Russia had sent its army in Syria to tackle the jihadi organizations like ISIS on the instance of the Syrian President."

500 killed in Iraq

According to **Mumbai Urdu News** (December 20), "The mass protests and violent demonstrations going on in Iraq have taken a toll of 500, leaving 27,000 injured. More than 28 lakh people have been arrested and 48 demonstrators have been kidnapped. Iraq human rights organization claims that the situation is getting worse every day. The army was killing unarmed demonstrators and it has appealed to the world community to intervene."

According to **Hamara Samaj** (December 22), "Prominent Shia leader of Iraq, Ali Sistani has demanded general elections in the country as a solution to come out of the present chaotic situation. This was stated by his representative in the Karbala during the Namaz of Jumma. He has lamented that the permanent solution to the present impasse was that arms and ammunition should be restricted to government institutions. The people of Iraq have been demanding the resignation of the present government."

80 Pakistani infiltrators arrested in Saudi Arabia

According to **Mumbai Urdu News** (December 20), "The Saudi Arabia police had arrested 80 Pakistani infiltrators. They had been hiding in the mountains after entering illegally. They had been living in the huts and were indulging in small business ventures to survive. According to Mecca police, these people used to run away and hide inside the caves to avoid getting arrested. Sometimes, they used to start pelting stones on the police. That's why the police had prepared a special plan to arrest them by raiding their areas at midnight. They had been living in Saudi Arabia without visa and passports."

Others

Case lodged against Owaisi

According to Siasat (November 22), "A court in Hyderabad has asked the police to lodge case against Majlis leader Akbaruddin Owaisi for spreading hatred among various communities. The case has been filed by an advocate Karuna Sagar who filed a petition in court alleging that Owaisi had addressed a public meeting in Karimnagar, which could spread communal disturbance. He has been arrested for this offence many times earlier too. In 2013, he had given a hate speech in Nirmal Town of Adilabad after which he was arrested. After this, he gave a speech in Kishanganj in Bihar, where he had violated the conditions of his bail. The court has ordered the police that this charge must be investigated and a report to be submitted in the court and a case has to be filed against the accused."

Mohammad Ali Jauhar's birthday celebrated

According to **Akhbar-E-Mashriq** (December 12), "The birthday of the Khilafat movement chief, Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar was celebrated in Rampur as Yaad-e-Jauhar. A three- day festival organized in the Jauhar University came to an end. The program was inaugurated by the Rampur Member of Parliament (MP) Azam Khan. Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Shoaib Khan highlighted Maulana Mohammad Ali's life and called him a top- class poet, journalist, litterateur and a freedom fighter. According to another news story, the Samajwadi Party claimed that the government had refused to put up special lights in the city to commemorate the occasion. They alleged that the government's behavior was anti- Muslim."

15 journalists arrested

According to **Siasat** (December 21), "The Mangalore police arrested 15 journalists when they had gone to collect the post- mortem reports of persons killed in police firing. The police said they were interrogating the journalists who had come to them without accreditation. The journalists belonged to Asianet, Mizorama, News 18, etc. In a demonstration against the Citizenship Amendment Act, the police had opened fire leading to the death of two persons."

New Chief Justice in Pakistan

According to **Inquilab** (December 22), " Senior Justice of the Pakistan Supreme Court, Gulzar Ahmed was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Pakistan Supreme Court. The oath was administered by Pakistan President, Dr. Arif Alvi. Among those present on the occasion were Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, the three Army Chiefs, Senate Chairman, head of the National Assembly,

ministers and senior advocates. Asif Saeed Khosa has retired and the new Chief Justice will be functional for two years and will retire on February 1, 2022."

According to **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** (December 22), "Gulzar Ahmed told the media that he wanted total elimination of corruption in Pakistan. He would also try that Pakistan was run by the Constitution of the country. Justice Gulzar Ahmed was born in Karachi in 1957. He got his education in Karachi and started practice in 1986. He was appointed as Justice of the Sindh High Court in 1999. He is considered an expert in banking, company law and corporate law."

Ban on playing music

According to **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** (December 22), "The Mumbai High Court ordered the hotels, cafes, bars, restaurants and resorts not to play music without license. This order was passed after a petition was filed by Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) that holds the copyright of 340 music companies in the country. In its order of November 27, the High Court said that any violation of this order would attract legal action. These institutes would be given licenses only after paying the charges of copyright for the songs. The PPL has the copyright of 30 lakh songs. These companies have an agreement with the PPL, which makes it compulsory for them to obtain licenses. The order will be applicable all over the country."

Death penalty for insulting Rasool

According to **Inquilab** (December 22), "A court in Multan has awarded death penalty to Professor Junaid Hafeez for insulting the Rasool. The English professor at Bahauddin Zakariya University has been charged with making inappropriate comments on the Rasool and Islam. He had been arrested on March 13, 2013 and the hearing of the case started in 2014. He has been asked to pay a fine of Rs 5 lakh apart from being given a death sentence."

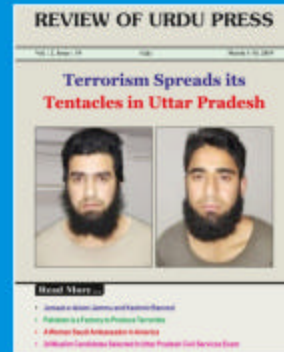
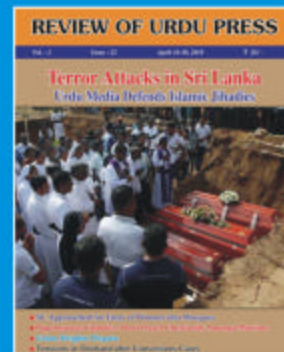
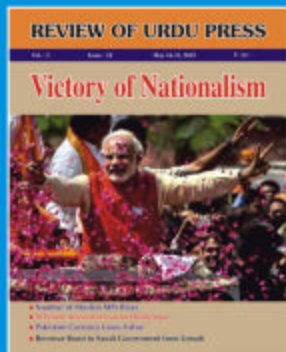
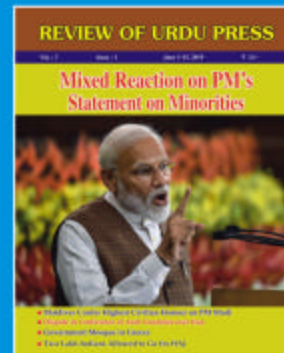
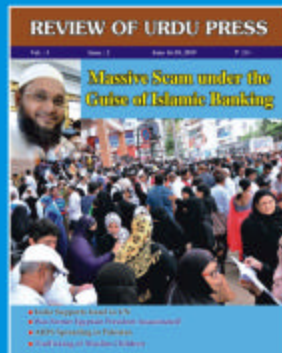
According to **Roznama Rashtriya Sahara** (December 22), "The accused has been given a life imprisonment for criticizing Islam and under section 295, given a ten-year sentence and a fine of Rs 5 lakh. After the completion of this punishment, he would be hanged. He has been charged for putting a post on social media in which he had criticized the Rasool and Islam. His advocate said that he had been arrested under a conspiracy. He said that this was not posted by him, but one of his enemies used his mobile phone to put out the post. The advocates, who tried to fight his case, were also terrorized by extremists and one of his lawyers, Rashid Rehman was killed in 2014."

Review of Urdu Newspapers by IPF

1. Dawat, Delhi
2. Daily Inquilab, Delhi
3. Akhbar-e-Mashriq, Delhi
4. Daily Sahafat, Delhi
5. Roznama Rashtriya Sahara, Delhi
6. Hindustan Express, Delhi
7. Hind Samachar, Jalandhar
8. Daily Pratap, Delhi
9. Daily Munsif, Hyderabad
10. Daily Siasat, Hyderabad
11. Daily Hamara Samaj, Delhi
12. Almi Sahara, Delhi
13. Aurangabad Times, Aurangabad (Maharashtra)
14. Jadid Markaz, Lucknow
15. Weekly Nai Dunia, Delhi
16. Daily Etemaad, Hyderabad
17. Jadid Mail, Delhi
18. Siyasi Taqdir, Delhi
19. Urdu Action, Delhi
20. Weekly Chauthi Duniya, Delhi
21. Weekly Akhbar Nav, Delhi
22. Daily Milap, Delhi
23. Qaumi Tanzeem, Patna
24. Daily Jadid Khobar, Delhi
25. Mumbai Urdu News, Mumbai



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India Policy Foundation

D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
 Tel : 011-26524018 • Fax : 011-46089365
 E-mail : indiapolicy@gmail.com
 Website : www.indiapolicyfoundation.org