

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Muslim Organisations Divided over Survey of Madrasas in UP



- Anti-conversion bill passed in Himachal Pradesh
- War between Houthi rebels and Al Qaida in Yemen
- Explosion near Russian Embassy in Kabul
- Masjid razed in Telangana

*Editorial Advisor*  
**Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo**

*Editor*  
**Manmohan Sharma**

*Translation from Hindi Edition*  
**K.S. Kumar**

*Editorial Assistance*  
**Shiv Kumar Singh**

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

*E-mail:*  
info@ipf.org.in  
indiapolicy@gmail.com

*Website:*  
www.ipf.org.in

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## Summary

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to conduct a survey of unrecognised Islamic madrasas in the state. A campaign unleashed by some fundamentalist elements to incite Muslims against the BJP and the Yogi government on the pretext of this survey, has suffered a serious setback. The biggest organisation of Sunni Muslims, the Jamiat Ulema, sensing the direction of the wind, has changed its strategy. Initially, the leaders of Jamiat Ulema, while extending support to other fundamentalist Islamic organisations, had described the survey of madrasas as an ‘anti-Muslim campaign’. However, the Jamiat leaders changed their view recently and announced full cooperation to the government in this connection. Meanwhile, on the pretext of this step, fundamentalist Islamic organisations like Ittehadul Muslimeen, Shia Council, Barelvi sect and the Muslim Personal Law Board are still provoking Muslims in the state against the government. Uttar Pradesh Minister for Minority Affairs, Danish Ansari, said this survey is not against any particular religion, and instead our effort is to improve the quality of education in madrasas and also to ensure that the ordinary Muslims get all benefits of the schemes launched by the state government for minority welfare. He said that during Samajwadi Party rule, many people had set up fake madrasas and siphoned off crores of rupees from government treasury. We are trying to find such fake institutions so that ordinary Muslims receive benefits of government schemes.

The issue that has been pending in the court for the past few months, seeking permission to do puja of Shringar Gauri at the Gyanvapi masjid in Varanasi, has taken a new turn recently. On the directions of the Supreme Court, the senior civil judge has transferred the case to the court of district judge. The district judge, while rejecting the petition of defendant Gyanvapi Masjid Intezamia Committee, said that the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act passed by the Parliament in 1991 is not applicable in this case. Hence the court is competent to hear the petition seeking the right to conduct puja at Shringar Gauri. The Masjid Intezamia Committee has decided to question this decision of the district judge in the high court. Muslim organisations sharply reacted to this decision of the district judge. They alleged that the mandir-masjid controversy has been raked up again due to political reasons. In fact, the Supreme Court had directed during the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi controversy that in future mandir-masjid disputes shall not be raised in courts.

The situation in Afghanistan is taking a serious turn with every passing day. Terrorist organisations linked to Sunni Muslims, Al Qaida and ISIS, are playing with the blood of Shia Muslims. The Taliban government has so far failed to establish peace. Recently, a suicide bomber linked to ISIS made an attempt to enter the Russian Embassy in Kabul. The security personnel shot him dead before he could enter the Embassy. However, at least 20 people were killed including some officials of the Russian Embassy when the explosives tied to his body exploded. Terrorist organisation ISIS is selectively targeting the leaders of Taliban in Afghanistan one by one. In the past one month, at least four prominent Taliban maulavis were killed by entering masjids.



## Muslim organisations divided over survey of madrasas



The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to conduct a survey of unrecognised madrasas in the state. Initially, though all Muslim organisations got united and hit the streets against the decision, now differences have come to the fore over the protest. For example, Jamiat Ulema had announced an agitation against this decision but following a meeting held at Darul Uloom on September 18, it has changed its stand and announced to cooperate with the government.

**Inqilab** (September 1) reports that the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board has directed a survey of all unrecognised madrasas except the registered ones. There is no official information on how many madrasas are there in the state, but it is still being said to be in the range of 40,000 to 45,000. On the other hand, the number of recognised madrasas is 16,513. The unrecognised madrasas which are operating in the state are said to be linked to different Islamic institutions and NGOs. The survey committees will work under the supervision of ADM and they include the

District Basic Education Officer, an official of minorities department and the SDM of the area concerned. It has been directed through district magistrates to complete the survey by October 10 and hand over the report to the government by October 25. As per the order, a format of the survey has also been attached as per which information needs to be collected on 12 index points. In the questionnaire, it is being asked, to which organisation the madrasa is linked to? How many students are receiving education from there? How many teachers are there? What is the syllabus? And what is the source of its income?

Chairman of the madrasa board, Dr Iftikhar Ahmad Jawed said our intention was not to harass anyone. Neither do we plan to close down these madrasas. We want to improve the quality of the education. As per the information, the government has also decided to transfer the teachers and employees of these madrasas to other madrasas with the cooperation of management committees. This apart, a system has also been created to provide

maternity leave to women employees. In whichever management committee there is a difference of opinion, the district magistrate will appoint a new management committee through mutual consent.

Meanwhile, **Aurangabad Times** (August 31) reports that the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, has described the decision as a proof of Uttar Pradesh government's anti-Muslim stand and said that Muslims should oppose this on every platform. He also claimed that these madrasas are run as per Article 30 of the Constitution and the government has no right to interfere in it. National general secretary of Tanzeem Ulama-e-Islam, Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi said the Uttar Pradesh government wants to close down 15,000 madrasas. He also said that the government's claim of paying the wages of employees of nearly 16,000 government recognised madrasas is only on paper. Only 550 madrasas are getting government grant. The rest of the madrasas are run using charity and donation from Muslims. He said the government's claim that these madrasas are giving terror education is totally false. There is a system to teach both religious and modern education in these madrasas.

**Inquilab** (September 12) reports that the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, while opposing the decision of the Uttar Pradesh government to conduct a survey of madrasas, said that it is a conspiracy by the government to give a bad name to the madrasas. The government wants to make Islam and madrasas look suspicious in the eyes of the countrymen. General Secretary of Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani said this decision of the government is based on its enmity to Muslims. If the government is honest, then it should conduct a survey of all educational institutions.

**Inquilab** (September 7) reports that a special session of Jamiat Ulema Hind had been held in Delhi in which a committee had been formed to protect madrasas. Maulana Arshad Madani said that Islamic

madrasas are a thorn in the eyes of communal elements. Whereas Maulana Mahmood Madani said they will make big sacrifices and protect the madrasas at any cost and will not allow anyone to mess around with Islamic madrasas.

The interesting thing is that after this, all the Urdu newspapers in the country have unleashed a campaign against the Uttar Pradesh government.

**Mumbai Urdu News** in its edition on September 3 has published an editorial titled, 'How long will the government's sword hangs over masjids and madrasas?' In this editorial, it has been claimed that the agenda of RSS is to declare Bharat a Hindu Rashtra. Muslims are the biggest obstacle in implementing this agenda. This is the reason why Muslims, madrasas and masjids are being targeted. Muslims need to get united to protect their Constitutional rights.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (September 11) has published an article written by Suhail Anjum in which it has been said that 'madrasas are forts of religion' and the Modi government and the BJP are conspiring to destroy them. The same newspaper, in its edition on September 13, has published an article written by Ahmad Noor Aini, in which it has been said that some regressive elements want to finish off Islam and this is an important step in that direction.

**Avadhnama** (September 16) reports that a special team of Uttar Pradesh government has conducted a survey of the country's second biggest Islamic educational institution, Darul Uloom Nadwa, for nearly two hours and examined a number of documents.

**Salar** (September 4) has published an article written by Prof Akhtarul Waze in which it has been claimed that the communal governments of Assam and Uttar Pradesh have unleashed a campaign against madrasas and that the madrasas are being destroyed in these two states on the pretext of illegal constructions. He said that Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, is an old Congressman and ever since he joined BJP, he is fueling an anti-

Muslim campaign in order to prove his loyalty to the BJP.

**Salar** has published an article written by Mushtaq Rafeeqi in its edition on September 8 in which it has been stated that madrasas are an important part of our Islamic identity and hence we need to take every step to protect it.

**Salar** (November 9) has published an article written by Iftikhar Ahmad Barkati in which Muslims have been urged to get united and come out with a plan to save the madrasas.

**Etemaad** (September 8) reports that in a statement, the United Muslim Forum claimed that the BJP-ruled states are openly displaying their animosity to Islam and whatever happening in Uttar Pradesh and Assam are proof of this.

**Etemaad** (September 13) reports that Asaduddin Owaisi has urged the secular parties in the country to come out on the streets for the protection of Islam and madrasas.

**Avadhnama** (September 14) states that Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has announced that the state government had decided to conduct a survey of madrasas in Uttarakhand so that the truth comes to the fore over different complaints being received against madrasas.

**Roznama Sahara** (September 12) states that the Uttar Pradesh minister for minority affairs, Danish Ansari, rejected the claim that the state government has demolished any madrasa and neither the government has got any plan to close down any madrasa. He said our aim is only to improve the quality of education in the madrasa and those who run the madrasas receive the full benefits of the government schemes being provided for minority welfare. The city Qazi of Lucknow, Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali, has condemned the statement of Owaisi and said that it is totally wrong to give political colour to every issue.

**Roznama Sahara** in its editorial on September 3 said that what is happening with Muslims in Assam and Uttar Pradesh cannot be called anything but an open animosity to Muslims. In both the states, the educational institutions of Muslims are at the target of the government. The stand of Assam government is anti-Muslim. The same situation prevails in Uttar Pradesh as well. The intention of Yogi government with regard to Muslims is not hidden from anyone. The stand of Uttar Pradesh and Assam governments against Muslims will give more zeal to the atmosphere of communalism and religious hatred in the country.

## Fresh turn in Gyanvapi case

**Roznama Sahara** (December 13) reports that the Varanasi district court has rejected the petition of the Muslims on the Gyanvapi issue and said that the petition seeking permission to conduct puja for Shringar Gauri at Gyanvapi masjid is maintainable. District judge Ajay Krishna Vishvesh, while rejecting the petition filed on behalf of Muslims, said that the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act passed by the Parliament in 1991 is not applicable for conducting a hearing in this case. Lawyer for Muslim side Merajuddin Siddiqui said they will question this decision of the court in the high court.

It is to be noted that the district court heard the petition as per the directions of the Supreme Court. Before this, the case was being heard in the court of Senior Judge Civil Division who had ordered that a videography survey of different portions of Gyanvapi mosque shall be conducted. During the videography survey, the Hindu side claimed that a Shivling was found in the ablution pond of the mosque, and the court, while accepting the claim of the Hindu side, directed that the pond shall be sealed against which the Muslim side knocked at the doors of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court had directed that the



case shall be transferred from the court of civil judge to the court of the district judge. Following this decision, the Uttar Pradesh government has stepped up the security system across the state in order to maintain peace.

**Inquilab** (September 13) reports that the general secretary of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, said that the preliminary verdict of the district court over the Gyanvapi masjid issue is disappointing and painful. He said that those who do not want unity in the country are raising these kind of issues. The surprising thing is that the district court, while ignoring the 1991 Act passed by the Parliament, has decided to hear the petition seeking permission to do puja/archana at Shringar Guari. He demanded that the Act passed by the Parliament shall be implemented.

**Roznama Sahara** (September 14) states that the Marxist Communist Party had said that the preliminary verdict of the district judge regarding the Gyanvapi Masjid is an open violation of the law passed by the Parliament. The government needs to intervene in this issue.

**Etemaad** (September 14) states that the Varanasi's Masjid Anjuman Intezamia Committee has started the preparations to question the decision of the district judge

before the Allahabad High Court. Talks are being held with senior lawyers in the country in this connection.

**Etemaad** (September 13) states that the chief of Majlis, Asaduddin Owaisi, said the decision has overturned the law which was passed by the Parliament. A number of issues may crop up and a slew of controversies may start again due to this decision. After all, in this country, how long will politics continue over masjids. He alleged that the communal elements are deliberately fueling controversies so that they could reap its political benefits in the forthcoming elections. He said that due to this decision there will be a flood of cases against masjids in the country. The chief of Jamiat Ulema, Arshad Madani, urged the Muslims in the country to get united against this decision and file appeal in the high court.

**Inquilab** (September 15) in its editorial said there is a possibility of the controversies over the Gyanvapi masjid and other masjids assuming greater proportions due to this decision. The newspaper said that in the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act passed by the Parliament in 1991, it has been clearly mentioned that whatever be the status of any place of worship as it was on August 15, 1947 it shall be retained as it is. This means that if there is a masjid at a

spot, it cannot be claimed that a mandir existed there at one point of time. The decision of the district judge has overturned the relief that has been provided by this law. Now communal Hindu organisations will come up with several controversies like the Babri Masjid. This will disrupt the atmosphere of peace and the security and safety of the country will be in danger. The newspaper also condemned media organisations for publishing news in a provocative manner.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (September 14) in its editorial said that when the Parliament passed the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act in 1991, the Muslims in the country were happy that in future Babri Masjid kind of controversies will not be raised again. However, Muslims suffered a huge setback and a sense of disappointment spread among them when the district judge decided to hear the petition of Hindu believers on the Gyanvapi Masjid issue. The surprising thing is that due to political interests, some people are making efforts to once again rake up controversies over the Shahi Idgah in Mathura and Quwwatul Islam masjid located on Qutub Minar premises. The newspaper stated that the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, said the way the communal elements are creating an atmosphere of hatred in the society and since the government also plays a role in it, Muslims are now increasingly convinced that a conspiracy has been hatched to end their identity.

**Etemaad** (September 13) in its editorial said the decision of the district judge on the Gyanvapi masjid has reopened the old wounds of Babri Masjid. While Muslims are yet to come out of the gloom of Babri Masjid, efforts have been launched to snatch away other masjids with the help of courts. Muslims believe that once a masjid is constructed at a spot, it will remain as a masjid till eternity. Despite this, the patience of Muslims is being tested. The way the courts are accepting the controversial petitions on masjids for hearings is a serious sign. In the past also

this fear was being spread that after Babri Masjid, the BJP and RSS would raise the issue of other masjids. This fear has been proven true.

Mentioning about the issue related to Gyanvapi masjid case, Asaduddin Owaisi said efforts were being made to take away the Gyanvapi masjid in the same way Babri Masjid was taken away from us. The Sangh Parivar has a list of thousands of masjids which it claims to be temples. It is to be noted that on August 18, 2021, on behalf of Vishwa Vaidik Sanatan Sangh, five women including Rakhi Singh filed a petition before the civil court of Ravi Kumar Diwakar in which it has been demanded that they shall be given permission to do puja on the premises of Gyanvapi masjid. Now since the BJP is not left with any emotional issue in politics, the saffron gang is looking for a fresh issue for the next elections in order to divert the attention of people from basic problems. In such a situation, Muslims expect that the Supreme Court will do justice to them and would strictly implement the law passed by the Parliament.

**Salat** (September 13) in its editorial has described the decision on the Gyanvapi masjid as a serious sign and said the communal elements are making preparations to create disputes in many temples and masjids.

**Comment:** Muslim historian Firishta had claimed that Mahmud Ghaznavi had destroyed hundreds of temples in Bharat and their innumerable wealth were looted and lakhs of people were taken away as slaves. Every Muslim invader had targeted temples, looted them, destroyed the murtis, and many temples were converted into masjids. Saint Martin in his book, while presenting archaeological evidence, established that Aurangzeb had destroyed hundreds of temples in the country and converted them into masjids. This included the world renowned Kashi Vishwanath temple. In 1664, Aurangzeb launched the first attack on this temple which was foiled by Naga Sadhus who sacrificed their lives in thousands. In 1669, on the orders of



Aurangzeb, the sacred temple of Kashi Vishwanath was destroyed the Gyanvapi masjid was constructed on its place. Varanasi is one of the most ancient cities of the world. Kashi Vishwanath is one of the 12 most sacred Jyotirlingas of Hindus.

A number of foreign historians have confirmed the fact that the ruins of ancient Kashi Vishwanath Mandir is still there near the present Gyanvapi masjid. According to historians, the commander of Mohammad Ghorī, Qutubuddin Aibak, had destroyed the first holy shrine of Kashi Vishwanath in 1194, but this mandir was reconstructed in 13<sup>th</sup> century by some Gujarati businessmen, which was again razed to the ground by the Sharqi sultan of Jaunpur. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Army of Sikandar Lodhi once again destroyed the Kashi Vishwanath

mandir which was reconstructed by Raja Todarmal during the regime of Akbar. This mandir was destroyed by Aurangzeb.

The present temple, which is located a little away from the ancient temple, was constructed by the Maharani of Indore, Ahilyabai Holkar. It is being said that in 1742, her father-in-law, Malhar Rao Holkar, had tried to raze the Gyanvapi masjid and reconstruct the temple there, but due to the intervention of the Nawab of Awadh, it did not happen. The present temple was built by Ahilya Bai Holkar in 1780. This mandir is situated a little away from the original Kashi Vishwanath mandir and the Gyanvapi masjid. The Maharaja of Punjab, Ranjit Singh, had donated 40 'tola' gold to this temple which still adorns its dome.

## Anti-conversion law passed in Himachal Pradesh



**Inquilab** (August 14) reports that the Himachal Pradesh Assembly has passed an anti-conversion bill, in which conversion on a mass scale has been declared as an offence and provisions have also been made to remove those involved in conversion from getting reservation benefits. The Congress and Marxist party have opposed this law. Congress legislator Sukhwinder Singh said this law is against the Constitutional provision regarding the reservation and hence

the state Assembly does not have the power to make any amendment. He demanded that the bill shall be send to the select committee. Legislator of Marxist party, Rakesh Singha, said that the issue is under the consideration of Himachal Pradesh High Court and hence the Assembly cannot make a law in this connection. On the other hand, Chief Minister Jairam Thakur said the old law has been amended so that no forceful conversion is done using threat, coercion and inducement

or with the offer of marriage. As per the new law, the punishment for forceful conversion has been increased from seven years to 10 years and it has also been said that any investigation into the cases registered under this law shall be conducted by an officer not below the rank of a sub-inspector and hearing of the cases registered under this law will be heard by a sessions court. In this law, a provision has also been made that in case if anyone wants to convert or converts another person, then he should give a notice to the district magistrate one month before, stating that he is converting himself at his own free will. However, this law will not be applicable to those who reconvert to their own religion.

Commenting on this law, **Mumbai Urdu News** in an editorial on September 2 said that along with Gujarat, Assembly elections are scheduled in Himachal Pradesh also this year and hence the ruling party brought this law in order to amass the votes of majority community. As per this law, not more than two persons can convert their religion at a time. The punishment for forcible conversion has been increased from seven years to 10 years. In this manner, the

government that beats the drum of religious freedom has imposed a total ban on conversion in a democracy. However, earlier the entire clan could convert. The restrictions that has been imposed on the reservation for Scheduled Tribes as per this law is unconstitutional. This is because the state Assembly does not have the power to amend the rules in this connection. It is a fundamental right of human beings to adopt the religion of their choice, the permission for which is given in Islam.

**Comment:** In the more than 20 states and Union Territories, a ban has been imposed on conversion through force or allurement. This law was first implemented in Orissa in 1967, during the regime of a Congress government in the state. Currently, the states where there is a ban on conversion include Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Jharkhand. In these states, the punishment for conversion through force or allurement ranges from a three-year jail term to 10 years in jail. The fine for the offence has been increased from Rs 20,000 till Rs 1 lakh.

## Inquiry ordered into glorification of dreaded terrorist

**Aurangabad Times** (September 9) states that the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, has announced an inquiry into attempts to convert the grave of Yakub Memon, who was convicted in the Mumbai serial blasts case, into a tomb and decorate it with flowers and lights. According to the newspaper, BJP leader Ram Kadam had written a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde alleging that during the time of Shiv Sena government, the grave of prime accused in the Mumbai blasts case, Yakub Memon, located at the Bada Kabristan in Mumbai, has been converted into a beautiful tomb and laid with marble. This apart, it was also decorated with flowers and lights. The BJP



has targeted Shiv Sena and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on this issue.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (September 10) states that Yakub Memon, who was convicted for extending financial help for the Mumbai serial blasts that took place in 1993, was hanged to death in Nagpur Central Jail in 2015 and his body was buried in the Bada Kabristan. According to the newspaper, Yakub Memon is the real brother of the prime accused in Mumbai serial blasts case, Tiger Memon. Nearly 267 people were killed and 575 others were injured in these blasts. In 1994, the police arrested Yakub Memon and the court awarded him death sentence which was upheld by the high court and the Supreme Court.



**Avadhnama** (September 9) states that after a video that showed the grave of Yakub Memon, an accused in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, being converted into a tomb and decorated with flowers went viral, politics over heated up over the issue. The police removed the LED lights installed near the grave of Yakub Memon. The Mumbai police commissioner also launched an investigation into the conversion of the grave into a tomb. The police also sought a report from the Maharashtra Waqf Board, Bombay Municipal Corporation and the Charity Commissioner in this regard. When the controversy erupted over the Kabristan of Yakub Memon, the managing committee of the Bada Kabristan denied that they had given permission to make the grave permanent, lay tiles on it and inscribe on it. The trustee of Kabristan, Shoeb Khatim, said the video was an old one and it has

nothing to do with Yakub Memon's Kabristan. During the Shaab-e-Baraat, it is an old tradition to decorate the Kabristan. It is possible that the video was of that time and no permission was given to beautify any grave or put lights on it. The grave is not a permanent one, it is a temporary one. Its soil should not spill over to the road and hence all the temporary graves are being demarcated. There is no inscription on the grave of Yakub Memon. We do not want anyone to glorify him. His body was buried at this Kabristan as per the directions of the court. The news of his Kabristan being beautified and made permanent is totally false. There are 17 other graves apart from this grave at the same place. The tiles were laid on these graves nearly seven years ago. One tree had fallen down near the grave of Memon. Following this, his family members demanded repair of his Kabristan, which was accepted.

## Jama Masjid in Badaun claimed to be Shiv Mandir

**Inquilab** (September 4) states that Saffron Parivar is now claiming that the historic Jama Masjid in Badaun was a Shiv Mandir. In this connection, they have also filed a case in the court. The court not only accepted the petition but also issued a notice to the managing committee of the masjid, after which the managing committee, sensing danger, said the

petition has no basis and hence it should be rejected. The petition was filed by Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha before the court of Civil Judge, Senior Division. Those who filed the petition included the organisation's state coordinator Mukesh Patel, Advocate Arvind Parmar, Jnan Prakash and Dr Anurag among others. In this Bhagwan Shiv has been made a party

to the case, and it has been claimed that this masjid was constructed by destroying the Neelkanth Mahadev Mandir. The lawyer for masjid committee, Israr Ahmad Siddiqui, said that they have replied to the notice issued by the court.

It is to be noted that this Jama Masjid was built by the second ruler of Slave dynasty Iltutmish when he was sent to Badaun as a Subedar. This is the third oldest masjid in the country and it is a protected monument. Area-wise, it is the seventh largest mosque in the country in which 25,000 namazis can offer namaz at a time. This masjid has eight domes.

**Avadhnama** (September 4) states that the lawyer for the Muslim side said this masjid is 840 years old. In the case filed before the civil judge, the state coordinator of Hindu Mahasabha, Mukesh Patel, has presented several documents in which this masjid has been described as Neelkanth Mahadev Mandir. It is mentioned in the petition that it was the fort of Mahipal and it was he who constructed the Neelkanth Mahadev mandir. In this connection, the petitioners presented evidences published in several historical books. Another lawyer, Ved Prakash Shahoo, said that this mandir has several ruins from which one could confirm it as a mandir. Meanwhile, the lawyer for the masjid committee, Israr Ahmad, said that there is no evidence to prove that there was mandir here earlier. In the government gazette also there is no mention of any mandir, neither there is any mention that the masjid was built after destroying the temple. Leader of Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha, Umesh Sharma, has claimed that he has concrete proof with him, which will be presented in the court.



**Etemaad** (September 12) in its editorial alleged that a concerted effort is being made in the country to establish that the masjids of Muslims belong to Hindus. In the past, in 2019, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanded that the Places of Worship Act passed by the Parliament in 1991 shall be amended. In the Ram Janmabhoomi controversy also, the Supreme Court, while delivering its judgment, had stated in clear terms that except in the present case, permission will not be granted to raise any mandir-masjid issue in any court in future. However, despite this, the issue of Shahi Masjid in Mathura was raised. Now, demands are being raised to cancel this law itself. Recently, the court has given permission to hear the Gyanvapi masjid controversy also which is a total violation of this law. Earlier, in a meeting held at Prayagraj under the leadership of the chief of Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad, Mahant Narendra Giri, it has been demanded that a nationwide agitation shall be launched on the lines of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement in order to capture the Idgah in Mathura and the Gyanvapi Masjid in Kashi. From this, it is clear that all these are being done as per a concerted agenda. Hence, it is necessary for Muslims to remain alert.

## Explosion near Russian Embassy in Kabul



**Inqilab** (September 7) reports that at least 20 people were killed, including two Russian diplomats, in an explosion that took place outside the Russian Embassy in Kabul. Some 11 people were also injured in the blast. According to police sources, a suicide bomber detonated himself during the attack. The military surrounded the entire area and started an investigation. Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn' has claimed that as soon as the attacker tried to enter the embassy, the security personnel shot him dead. But due to the explosion of the bomb tied to his body, people were killed. One security staffer of the embassy was also injured in the blast.

**Inqilab** (September 8) states that a spokesperson of ISIS has claimed that the attack was carried out by one of its cadres and they would continue with their campaign against the Russians. He claimed that Taliban is playing into the hands of foreign powers which cannot be tolerated under any

circumstance. Earlier on September 3, a massive explosion took place inside the main masjid in Herat town in Afghanistan in which a leader of Taliban, Maulavi Mujibur Rahman Ansari, was killed along with his guards and namazis. According to government sources, at least 20 people were killed in the blast. The Governor of Herat has confirmed the death of a prominent leader of Taliban, Mujibur Rahman Ansari, and said that the enemies of Islam are wiping out the scholars of Islam.

It is to be noted that two months ago, Mujibur Rahman Ansari had issued a fatwa in which the Taliban had been directed to strictly implement the Shariah law in Afghanistan and behead anyone who opposes the government. Earlier, another leader of Taliban, Rahimullah Haqqani, was also killed at his madrasa. It is being said that the hands of ISIS are behind these blasts. Even ISIS had confirmed its role behind these attacks.

## US to sell modern weapons to Taiwan

The US has irked Communist China by announcing to sell weapons worth more than one billion dollars to Taiwan. The new defence equipment that have been made available to Taiwan by the US included anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles. This

apart, modern radar systems have also been made available to the country so that it could detect any aerial attack and neutralise them. China has opposed this decision of the US and demanded that this deal shall be cancelled immediately. Otherwise there

will be serious consequences. China said that Taiwan is a part of its territory and may use force to annex it. Last month, when a delegation of representatives from US Congress visited Taiwan, China held a military exercise on all the four sides of Taiwan.

According to US media, the arms and ammunition being supplied to Taiwan included radar warning system worth 65 crore dollars and Harpoon missiles worth 35 crore dollars which can destroy enemy ships. This apart, Sidewinder missiles worth 10 crore dollars are also being

supplied to Taiwan. The missiles can be fired land-to-air and air-to-air. A US State Department spokesperson said it is necessary to militarily strengthen Taiwan to ensure its security.

As per a news in **Inquilab** (September 9), the US Defence department has decided to supply spare parts of F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan. The spare parts are being supplied by US company Lockheed Martin. It is said to be worth 45 crore dollars. The US has decided to supply these parts in order to increase its efficiency in war.

## Rift between Mullah Yaqoob and Haqqani Network over Al Qaida chief



**Hamara Samaj** (September 9) reports that following the killing of Al Qaida chief Ayman Al Zawahiri by the US, the differences between the two groups that are part of the Taliban government in Afghanistan have come out in the open. Defence Minister Mullah Yaqoob has blamed Pakistan government for the attack and said the US planned this attack with the help of Pakistan. Secondly, the foreign ministry of Pakistan said the charges are baseless and tension may erupt in the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan due to this allegation. Following this statement of Mullah Yaqoob, the differences that the Mullah Yaqoob group has with Pakistan-supported Haqqani Network came out in the open.

Recently, Interior minister Sirajuddin Haqqani did not take part in the anniversary celebrations of US withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Haqqani group claimed that the Mullah Yaqoob group has secret links with the former rulers of the country. This is the reason why nearly 80 percent employees of the erstwhile government were given jobs by the Taliban government. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar's group had played an important role in expelling the US troops from the country. However, he has been totally ignored now.

**Hamara Samaj** (September 6) reports that sources close to Al Qaida said that Mohammad Salah Al-Zaidan alias Saif Al-Adel could become the new chief of Al Qaida. However, intelligence agencies do not have any specific information about him. But he is said to be nearly 60 years old and the US agency FBI had announced a reward of one crore dollar for his arrest. The activities of this terrorist has been limited to US and Egypt till now. He had laid the foundation of Al Qaida in Sudan, Somalia and Yemen and has played a significant role in improving its strength.

## Su Kyi sentenced to three years in jail on charges of election fraud

**Mumbai Urdu News** (September 3) states that a military court in Myanmar has awarded a three-year jail term to Myanmar's deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi on charges of committing fraud in elections. The lawyer of Suu Kyi told BBC that she has been awarded 20 years in jail in 11 cases and many cases are still pending. The 77-year-old Nobel Laureate is under house arrest for the past several years. Now since the court has awarded her rigorous imprisonment in a fresh case, she might be sent to jail. The hearing in all the



cases against Suu Kyi were held behind closed doors, where neither media nor public were allowed. The military had banned her lawyers from talking to the media or provide her with any kind of information. It is to be noted that the court had accused Suu Kyi that her party, National League

for Democracy, came to power in the November 2020 general elections due to largescale fraud in elections. However, the military had refused to accept the verdict and captured the power. Since then all the leaders of Myanmar are behind the bars.

## Woman who complained against Taliban commander arrested



**Mumbai Urdu News** (September 3) reports that in Afghanistan, a woman named Elaha Dilawarzai, who accused a Taliban commander of rape, was taken into custody even as she was making efforts to flee to Pakistan. She was arrested from a border outpost. From there she was sent to Kabul. There she is likely to be prosecuted in a closed court. A few days earlier, a video of a woman in Afghanistan had gone viral on social media in which she had

accused a senior official of Taliban of committing rape. In this video, she had accused the interior ministry spokesperson Qari Muhammad Khosti that he had thrashed her and also raped her. Following this, the Taliban tried to arrest her. When she was fleeing to Pakistan in order to save her life, she was taken into custody from the border. The woman is stated to be the daughter of a general under previous government and a doctor by profession.

## War erupts between Houthi rebels and Al Qaida in Yemen



**Inqilab** (September 15) states that at least 26 people were killed in a war that broke out between Al Qaida and Iran-supported Houthis in Yemen's major city of Aden. The war started when Al Qaida attacked an outpost of United Nations in southern city of Abyan in Yemen. It is to be noted that Al Qaida is a Sunni organisation whereas Houthi rebels are Shias and they enjoy the support of Iran. Due to the outbreak of this war, the efforts being made by United Nations to reach an agreement between various warring groups in Yemen has suffered a setback.

It is to be noted that a civil war is on in Yemen since September 2014. The Iran-supported Houthi rebels seized Yemen capital Sana'a and deposed the Saudi-supported government and forced the President of Yemen to take refuge in Saudi Arabia. In Yemen, a war has also

started between Al Qaida and ISIS. They demand that Yemen shall be divided once again and separate south Yemen from the rest of the country. It is to be noted that due to the efforts of United Nations, a unity was established between north and south Yemen in 1990. However, after this a civil war broke out, due to which so far at least 2 lakh people have been killed and nearly 20 lakh people have become homeless. All the efforts made by the United Nations to establish peace have failed. After assuming power, US President Biden had announced that the US would not supply arms and ammunition to the supporters of Saudi Arabia in Yemen. However, they changed their policy and in order to stop the increasing influence of Iran, it decided to continue supply military equipment to many nations in the Arab world.



## Iranian Ambassador expelled from Albania



**Inqilab** (September 9) states that NATO member nation Albania has accused Iran of being responsible for the cyber-attack that took place in July and announced cessation of all kinds of relationship with that country. This apart, all the employees and officials of Iranian embassy have been asked to leave Albania within 24 hours. In a video statement, Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama said his government has decided to sever all kinds of relationship with Iranian government. This is because Iran has hacked the country's entire electronic

communication system and tried to snap the internet network in order to spread instability and disturbance in the country.

A government spokesperson of Albania has claimed that his country has credible evidence to prove that Iran has tried to hack its communication network through a cyber-attack. The US has condemned the Iranian cyber-attack on Albania and said the US would give a befitting reply. The US has also announced that in the investigations that it had conducted so far, it has been confirmed that Iran had launched a cyber-attack on Albania so that Albania could be separated from NATO. Meanwhile, Iran has condemned Albania for cutting off all its relations with Iran and alleged that Albania is raising the fake allegation of cyber-attack against Iran due to pressure from US. An Iranian spokesperson said that Albania raised this allegation due to pressure from US.

## Two homosexual women awarded death sentence in Iran

**Inqilab** (September 7) states that a court in Iran has awarded death sentence to two homosexual women. The two women have been running a nationwide campaign against hijab and for women's rights for a long time now. According to foreign news agencies, the women who were awarded death sentence were Zahra Seddiqi Hamedani, 31, and Elham Choubdar, 24. The Iranian government has confirmed that the two women were awarded death sentence. However, it claimed that the two women were given this punishment after they were caught for human trafficking. The two women were trafficking Iranian teens and were sending them to foreign countries. It



is to be noted that Zahra was arrested from the border in October 2021 when she was trying to flee to Turkey. Later following her interrogation, 24-year-old Elham was also taken into custody. A video of Zahra had gone viral in which she had claimed to be a homosexual.

## Demand to ban Iranian President from entering the US

**Mumbai Urdu News** (September 11) reports that a group of US Congressmen has asked President Joe Biden to refuse entry visa to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his colleagues to take part in the UN General Assembly to be held in New York. These Congressmen have alleged that the Iranian President is aiding terrorism and he is infringing the human rights, and hence he shall not be given permission to enter United States. Till now, 52 Congress members have extended support to this demand.

According to these Congress members, the Iranian government has publicly hanged political prisoners including thousands of women and children since 1988. Majority of those who have been hanged to death are political opponents of the government. Raisi had awarded them death sentence when he was a judge of the Iran's Supreme Court. Hence he was also described as the head of the



‘death commission.’ In the letter, it has also been said that these Iranian authorities were behind the killings of several Americans. Recently, a member of the Iran's intelligence agency had conspired to kill the former US National Security Advisor John Bolton. Hence these Iranians should not be allowed to enter the US. ■

## One crore dollar reward for the arrest of Iranian hackers



**Mumbai Urdu News** (September 16) states that the US justice department has accused three Iranian hackers of blackmailing institutions in Europe, America and Israel. They have been accused of launching a cyber attack on children's hospital. Following their successful act, these hackers also sought lakhs of dollars from the institutions they

targeted. The US justice department has published the photos of all the three and also announced a reward of one crore dollar to anyone who help in their arrest. The three Iranian cyber hackers have been identified as 34-year-old Mansoor Ahmadi, 45-year-old Ahmad Khatibi and 30-year-old Amir Hussain. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said that the US has the full power to stop any kind of cyber attack and interference in its basic rights. A senior official of US intelligence department said there is a possibility that all the three accused are in Iran and they must be linked to the Iran government's intelligence agency. Iran started this process of launching cyber attacks on US, Britain, Israel and Russia in October 2020. ■

## Plan to hoist National Flag at Haji Ali Dargah



**Siasat** (September 11) reports that a plan has been made to erect the world's highest Tricolour at the Trustee dargah of the Haji Ali Dargah, situated in Arabian Sea in Mumbai. There is likelihood of Prime Minister Narendra Modi being invited to unfurl the National Flag in a function at the dargah. Secretary of the dargah committee, Suhail Khandwani said that preparations are on to erect the world's highest flag. Currently, the world's highest flag is in

Egypt where the height of the pole is 201 metres. Earlier, the world's highest flag was at Jeddah and its height was 171 metres. Khandwani said that when Devendra Fadnavis was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra he expressed the wish that the world's highest National Flag should have been in Bharat. In this connection, he had given the indication that this flag should be erected at the holy dargah of Haji Ali.

## Official who had directed that Signboards be written in Urdu suspended

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (September 16) states that the Uttar Pradesh government has suspended additional director Dr Tabassum Khan, who had directed that the names of hospitals shall be written in Urdu, on charges of dereliction of duty. As per the

suspension order, Tabassum Khan did not follow the prescribed rules in order to implement the government order and issued directions to chief medical officers to write signboards and nameplates in Urdu without the directions of the senior officials.

## Crimes against Syrian refugees on the rise in Turkey

**Etemaad** (September 8) states that there is a huge increase in hate crimes against Syrian refugees who have taken shelter in

Turkey. Recently, at least four Syrian refugees were knifed to death in Turkey. It is to be noted that there are 36 lakh



Syrian refugees in Turkey. The local people are blaming these refugees for

increasing unemployment and price rise in the country and hence the sentiments against them are increasing day by day. Two months earlier, two Syrian refugees were killed by a mob in Istanbul in Turkey. Before this, a 70-year-old Syrian woman was beaten up. General elections are scheduled in Turkey next year. The Opposition in Turkey is planning to make the demand for expulsion of Syrian refugees as their main agenda in the election manifesto.

## Masjid demolished in Telangana

**Siasat** (August 31) has alleged that some officials are deliberately trying to antagonize Muslims with the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti. Hence four masjids were demolished recently in the name of road-widening and charges of them being illegal structures. Among them, Masjid Umer in Mehboobnagar is worth mentioning. The chief of

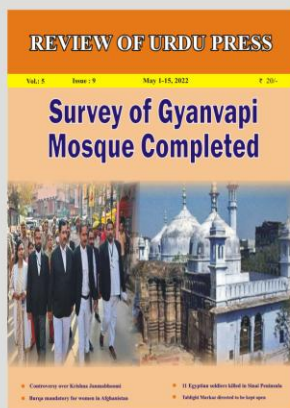
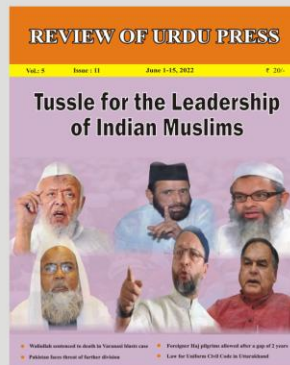
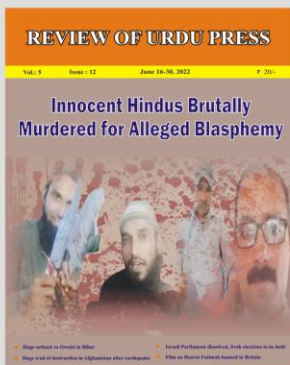
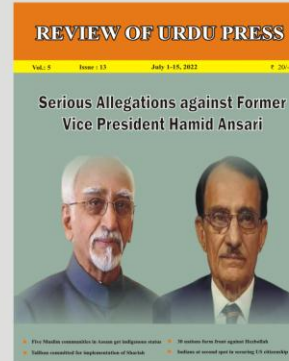
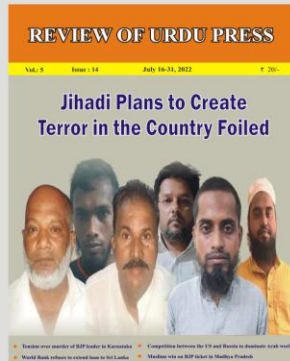
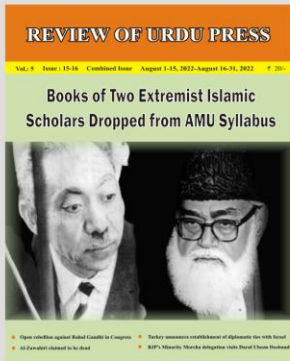
Telangana Waqf Board, Masiullah Khan requested the Telangana chief minister to order a high-level inquiry into the demolition of the masjid and take action against the officials responsible. He alleged that two masjids were deliberately demolished in Hyderabad also. This has hurt the sentiments of Muslims.

## Increasing anti-Muslim incidents in Europe



**Etemaad** (September 8) reports that in a statement, the foreign minister of Turkey said that the French government is

deliberately targeting mosques and Islamic organisations in France. This has irked the Muslims world over. He said that anti-Muslim elements are deliberately creating an atmosphere against Islam in Europe in order to target the Muslims staying in France, Germany and Denmark. Recently, the decision taken by the French government to close down one dozen masjids is condemnable.



भारत नीति प्रतिष्ठान  
**India Policy Foundation**

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