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## Survey of Gyanvapi Mosque Completed



- Controversy over Krishna Janmabhoomi
- 11 Egyptian soldiers killed in Sinai Peninsula
- Burqa mandatory for women in Afghanistan
- Tablighi Markaz directed to be kept open

*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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## **Contents**

<b>Summary</b>	03
<b><u>National</u></b>	
Gyanvapi masjid survey completed	04
Controversy over Krishna Janmabhoomi	06
Sedition law cases halted by Supreme Court	08
Efforts to communalise actions against encroachments	10
Qutub Minar in Delhi under dispute	11
National Anthem mandatory in madrasas in UP	14
<b><u>World</u></b>	
Burqa mandatory for women in Afghanistan	15
Taliban's opponents capture areas in Panjshir	17
Inquiry Commission announced in Pakista	17
Indonesia bans export of palm oil	18
More than 25,000 Russian soldiers killed	19
<b><u>West Asia</u></b>	
11 Egyptian soldiers killed in Sinai Peninsula	20
USA ready to sell fighter planes to Turkey	20
Leader of Hamas on the target of Israel	21
Abu Dhabi King passes away	22
Smartphone mandatory for Hajis	22
<b><u>Others</u></b>	
Tablighi Markaz directed to be kept open	23
Relief for Tablighi Jamaat	23
Construction of Urdu House	23
Standardised baggage for Haj pilgrims	24
Action against selling meat without licence	24

## Summary

Nobody can deny the series of damages inflicted on the faith of Hindus by foreign invaders. Whether it was Ayodhya, Varanasi or even Mathura, none of Hindu holy places could be saved from the target of these invaders. Now it has become necessary to mitigate the injustice meted out to Hindus. Time has come to remove the stigma of Gyanvapi masjid in Varanasi and the Shahi masjid built on Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura. The invaders destroyed the ancient and holy Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi several times and the Hindus kept rebuilding their place of worship. Religious fanatic Aurangzeb issued royal edicts and Islamised the Kashi Vishwanath temple and the Janmabhoomi of Bhagwan Sri Krishna. The mosques built on these two places are still intact. These two mosques are a heartburn for Hindus. Ideally, Muslims should have voluntarily returned these two places of worship to Hindus to create an atmosphere of communal amity, but they are not ready for it. Those with a jihadi mentality like Asaduddin Owaisi are still threatening Hindus.

The Vishnu Sthambh located in Mehrauli in Delhi was converted as Qutub Minar on the strength of the sword. Masjid Quwwat-ul Islam located on its premises is standing there as a symbol of the vicious attack launched on the religious sentiments of Hindus. Can this be called justice when Muslims are permitted to offer namaz in this masjid while Hindus cannot do the puja for their devi-devatas?

It is really regrettable that whenever the government takes any step against infiltrators staying illegally in the country, it is given a communal colour. It is really condemnable that the Congressmen and Communists are trying to create controversy over the campaign launched against illegal encroachments.

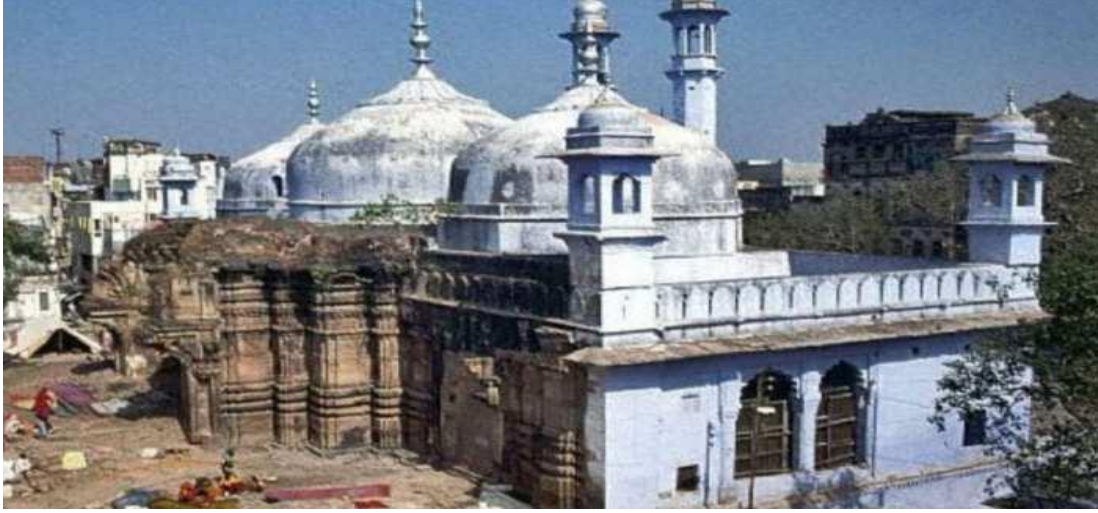
In Afghanistan, the Taliban have forcefully implemented the Shariah law after coming to power. It has been made mandatory for the women in the country to wear burqa. Women who violate this Taliban order will not only be given jail term, even their parents will be send behind bars apart from losing their jobs. Along with this, Taliban have also banned women from getting education and taking up any job. They are also not permitted even to go to markets or parks.

Nowadays Iran is concentrating on the development of nuclear weapons despite opposition from Western nations. The ban imposed by the US and European nations has failed to deter Iran from achieving its nuclear aim. The US is trying to isolate Iran among Muslim nations. The US is trying to get as many Arab nations as possible to enter into a friendship treaty with Israel. This is the reason even hardcore Muslim nations have established diplomatic relationship with Israel on US pressure.

Recently, Indonesia has imposed a ban on export of palm oil and thereby given a jolt to the economy of several nations. The countries include India. This is because India is dependent on imports of edible oil. In South America, Soyabean crops got heavily damaged. Besides, due to the low yield of canola and rapeseed in Canada, there is a huge increase in the prices of edible oil in international market. This crisis in edible oil is likely to have a huge impact on the economy of the country.



## Survey of Gyanvapi mosque completed



**Inquilab** (May 15) reports that the videography and survey at the basement and other portions of Gyanvapi mosque have been completed. The survey team visited four rooms in the basement of the complex. A few of these cellars are in the custody of Anjuman Intezamia Committee which has put locks on them. Initially, Intezamia Committee had refused to cooperate with the survey, but after the court heard both the sides, they got ready for the survey. The survey report will be presented in the court in a sealed cover. Earlier, the Intezamia Committee had raised this complaint that they did not have faith in the commissioner appointed by the court because during the survey he made an effort to examine the structure by removing cement with bare hands. This apart, whatever survey the commissioner wanted to undertake, it should be conducted on the outside portion of the mosque. They should not be given permission to conduct the survey inside the mosque. However, the court totally rejected all these contentions and directed the Intezamia Committee to completely cooperate with the survey.

**Inquilab** (May 14) reports that a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court on behalf of Intezamia Committee in which it has been urged that the Chief

Justice of the Supreme Court interfere in the issue and maintain status quo on the matter. However, Chief Justice N V Ramana refused to issue any kind of order without examining the documents. Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee has urged in the petition that the order issued by a local court in Varanasi is against the Places of Worship Act, 1991, passed by the Parliament and hence it should be scrapped. The lawyer for the Committee, Huzefa Ahmadi, said that the court should take immediate action because it is a sensitive matter. Earlier, a court in Varanasi had directed that a lawyer, Ajay Kumar Mishra, be appointed as court commissioner to conduct an investigation on mosque premises, which the masjid committee has questioned in Allahabad high court. The high court, however, rejected this petition. The lawyer for the mosque committee said that the Gyanvapi mosque comes under the purview of Places of Worship Act, 1991. The petitioner said that the court in Varanasi has totally overlooked the Places of Worship Act and issued an order to conduct a survey in Gyanvapi mosque. The masjid committee has questioned the April 21 order of Allahabad High Court in the Supreme Court. Muslim organisations have been



protesting against the survey at the mosque. Chief of All India Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, said that the lower court order is an open violation of the law passed by the Parliament. For once we lost Babri Masjid and will not let any more mosque to slip out of our hands under any circumstance.

**Roznama Sahara** (May 12) said that there is lot of discomfort among Muslims over the decision of the government. The newspaper said that the Uttar Pradesh government has taken strong measures to ensure proper security to the survey commissioner. This apart, more than 1,500 policemen have been deployed on duty. District Magistrate of Varanasi Kaushal Raj Sharma and Police Commissioner Satish Ganesh are overseeing the security arrangements. Before the survey, District Magistrate Sharma called a meeting of Hindu and Muslim leaders where it was stressed to maintain peace in the city during the survey. The newspaper said that during the Juma namaz this time, multiple times more namazis than the number who normally come for the namaz had arrived. They were permitted to go inside the mosque after checking.

It is to be noted that on August 18, 2021, in connection with offering puja at Shringar Gauri on the premises of Gyanvapi mosque, five women -- Rakhi Singh, Manju Vyas, Sita Sahu, Rekha Pathak and Lakshmi Devi -- filed a petition before Civil Judge (Senior

Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar and demanded that they should be given permission to do puja-archana in this mandir throughout the year. Later, Rakhi Singh withdrew her name from this petition.

**Comment:** Muslim era historian Firishta has claimed that Mahmud of Ghazni had destroyed hundreds of temples in Bharat and had looted their invaluable wealth and took

away lakhs of people as slaves. Every Muslim invader had targeted temples. They were looted, the murtis were destroyed and innumerable temples were converted into mosques. In his book, San Martin had established by presenting archaeological evidence that Aurangzeb had destroyed hundreds of temples in the country and converted them to masjids. This include the world famous Kashi Vishwanath temple. Aurangzeb attacked the temple for the first time in 1664 which was foiled by the Naga Sadhus who sacrificed their lives in thousands and saved the temple. Later in 1669, on the orders of Aurangzeb, the holy mandir of Kashi Vishwanath was destroyed and Gyanvapi mosque was constructed in its place. Varanasi is among the ancient cities of the world. Kashi Vishwanath is among the 12 holiest jyotirlingas of Hindus.

Many foreign historians have confirmed that the ruins of ancient Kashi Vishwanath mandiris hidden near the present Gyanvapi masjid. According to historians, Qutubuddin Aibak, the commander of Muhammad of Ghor, had destroyed the holy temple of Kashi Vishwanath for the first time in 1194. However, this temple was rebuilt in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by some Gujarati businessmen and it was again destroyed by the Sharqi Sultan of Jaunpur. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the forces of Sikander Lodhi had once again destroyed the Kashi Vishwanath temple and it was rebuilt during the reign of Akbar by Raja

Todarmal. This temple was destroyed by Aurangzeb.

The present temple, which is located at a distance from the old temple, was constructed by the Queen of Indore, Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar. It is being said that in 1742, her father-in-law, Malhar Rao Holkar, had tried to raze the Gyanvapi masjid and construct a temple on its place.

However, due to the interference of the nawabs of Audh, this could not be done. Ahilyabai Holkar constructed the present temple in 1780. This temple is located at a distance from the original temple and Gyanvapi masjid. Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the king of Punjab, had donated 40 mun (1600 kilogram) gold to this temple which still adorns the shikar of the temple. ■

## Controversy over Krishna Janmabhoomi

**Avadhnama** (May 8) reports that the Allahabad High Court has delivered its verdict in the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi case in Mathura and directed a court in Mathura that it disposes of all petitions related to this issue within four months. This direction was given by a division bench headed by Justice Salil Kumar Rai. The high court has given this direction on a petition filed by Manish Yadav, in which he had urged the high court to club together all the petitions pending before the courts in Mathura and conduct a joint hearing so that it could be resolved as early as possible. Hindu organisations claim that Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb had destroyed the temple that existed on Katara Keshav Dev on Krishna Janmabhoomi in 1670 and constructed a masjid and Idgah in place of it. Last year, some Hindu organisations had announced that they would install a murti of Bhagwan Sri Krishna in the masjid and do puja. But they did not succeed in their attempt due to strong police deployment.

**Inquilab** (May 14) reports that after the survey at Gyanvapi masjid, a petition has been filed in a local court seeking to conduct a videography and an inquiry by a court commissioner at the Shahi Idgah and Krishna Janmabhoomi. An Allahabad High Court judge has said that if the lawyers of Sunni Waqf Board and others representing the Shahi Idgah fail to appear in the court, then the court will take decisions on its own. Following this direction from the high court, three petitions were filed before the high court, in which a demand has been raised to conduct a videography of the

Shahi Idgah Masjid through the court commissioner. The court in Mathura will hear the petitions on July 1.

**Comment:** There is no different opinion that Sri Krishna was born in Mathura. Several documents and archaeological evidence are available in this connection. In 1950, during the excavations at Katara Keshav Dev, a platform was found in which it was written in Brahmi script that repair work was being undertaken on the constructions done on Krishna Janmabhoomi by his grandson. It is being said that the inscription was of 1,000 years before Christ. This apart, the museum in Mathura has an ancient statue of Bhagwan Sri Krishna found in a well, and it is stated to be as old as 2,500-2,700 years on the basis of carbon-dating test. The Sri Krishna Janmasthan used to be a constant target for foreign invaders. The invaders have destroyed it several times and the devotees used to rebuild it as well. As per historical documents, Mahmud Ghaznavi had attacked Mathura and ruthlessly looted the grand temples and destroyed them completely by setting fire to them. Al Biruni had written that the grand temple destroyed by the Sultan might have been constructed by spending at least one crore Dirham. It might have been completed after 20 years of continuous effort by at least 10,000 workers. Later, written historical evidence show that Qutubuddin Aibak, Muhammad Tughlaq and Sikander Lodi had also destroyed Krishna Janmabhoomi. The King of Orchha, Raja Vir Singh Judev, had played



an important role in securing the throne for Mughal Emperor Jahangir and when the Emperor asked him to accept a reward in return for his help, Judev said he wanted permission to build a temple at Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura. Later, a grand seven-storey temple was constructed by spending Rs52 lakh and the burning lamp atop the temple could be seen from the royal palace in Agra. A detailed description of this grand temple was given by French traveller Bernier in his travelogue during the time of Aurangzeb. In 1670, this temple was destroyed on the orders of Aurangzeb. This apart, more than 3,000 other temples situated in Mathura and Vrindavan were also destroyed. As per the 'firman' issued by Aurangzeb, the murti at Krishna Janmabhoomi was destroyed and taken to Agra and laid on the steps of Juma Masjid so that when namazis offer namaz, it could be crushed under their feet. One Gujarati trader had constructed a new temple on the spot which was once again destroyed by Ahmad Shah Abdali during his attack. The Naga Sadhus resisted Ahmad Shah Abdali and more than 5,000 Naga Sadhus sacrificed their lives taking on the attackers. Later the East India Company had auctioned the plot where the temple once stood. In 1950, due to the efforts of Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya and Jugal Kishore Birla, a new temple was constructed on Krishna Janmabhoomi. It is

being said that during excavations, the original sanctum sanctorum was found, on which inscriptions were written, which establishes that Bhagwan Krishna was born there. In 1950, a deal was struck between the managing committees of Shahi Idgah and Krishna Janmabhoomi as per which it has been stated that they do not have any conflict between them.

**Aurangabad Times** (May 13) reports that the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court had rejected a petition demanding that the 22 closed rooms on the basement of Taj Mahal should be opened so that it could be established whether any Hindu idol is there or not? While dismissing the petition, a bench comprising Justice D K Upadhyay and Justice Subhash Vidhyarthi came down heavily on the petitioners and said that such petitions should be filed only after a proper study of Taj Mahal. The bench told the petitioners that "you are making a fun of PIL law. First find out when was the Taj Mahal built and by whom. You should do a PhD in history. First go to the university and do a PhD on Taj Mahal and then come back. History cannot be taught as you wish." The petition was filed by a BJP leader of Ayodhya, Dr Rajnish Singh, and he had demanded that the state government form a committee to investigate about the rooms.



## Supreme Court deals a blow to Sedition law



**Roznama Sahara** (May 12) reports that the Supreme Court has stopped all proceedings on sedition cases registered across the country. The Centre and state governments have been directed not to register any fresh sedition cases until the government reviews the law. A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana, Justice Suryakant and Justice Hima Kohli said that it is necessary to create a balanced law keeping in view the freedom of citizens and the interests of people.

The court said that Section 124 A (Sedition) of Indian Penal Code is not in tune with the current social situation in the country. Hence it is necessary to take a review of the issue. The court directed the Central and state governments not to register any fresh cases under sedition law until the law is re-examined. The court has indicated that the review should be done by the third week of July and said the directions that it had already given would remain in force till the next decision. In his order, the Chief Justice said the Attorney General had given many examples of the misuse of the sedition law. For example, it was used in the case of recital of Hanuman Chalisa. The court refused to accept the contention of the government that if a case for treason had been registered, then an

officer of the level of a police commissioner should conduct the investigation.

Earlier, the Central government had said that it was not possible to stop registration of cases under the sedition law because a Constitutional bench of the Supreme Court had in 1962 directed to uphold this law. However, the court refused to accept this argument of the Attorney General. Earlier, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, while presenting the Central government's view point, said that restrictions should not be imposed on the law. The Central government has assured the court that a decision would soon be taken on the bail applications filed in sedition cases. Matters related to extending monetary help to terrorist organisations will also be registered under this law. All these issues are under the consideration of the court. Hence it is necessary for us to keep our faith on the discretion of the court.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had issued an interim stay on this law and told the government that this law was a symbol of the age of slavery and hence the government needed to re-examine it. The Supreme Court issued this directive while hearing different petitions filed in





connection with the sedition law. Law minister Kiren Rijju has advised the court that the judiciary and other institutions should not cross the Lakshman Rekha. Talking to journalists, he said that we respect the judiciary and hence the judiciary should also respect the government. Every organisation has a clear limit and no one should cross the Lakshman Rekha. The Congress said that showing the mirror to the ruling party cannot be termed as a treason to the country. The Congress said that the promise it had made in its election manifesto in 2019 to scrap the sedition law has been proved right. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in his tweet that speaking the truth is not treason, hearing the truth is raj dharma and crushing the truth is arrogance of power.

**Etemaad** (May 10) states that the Central government, while taking a U-turn on the sedition law, said the government is willing to re-examine the law. Union law minister Kiren Rijju said that a decision has been taken on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review the laws created during the time of British to suit the present age. The Prime Minister is in favour of cancelling this law and we have been scrapping such laws ever since we came to power. From 2014 till now, we have scrapped more than 1,500 laws. According to the newspaper, many

journalists, human rights activists and different political leaders had petitioned the Supreme Court and demanded the scrapping of sedition law.

**Roznama Sahara** (May 10) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court and said that a traitor to the country is like a traitor to own mother. Those who are involved in treason should not be spared and they should be dealt with firmly. But if there is an allegation that the ruling party or the government is registering false cases against its opponents under this law, then it is necessary to think about the requirement of such a law and it becomes necessary to cancel it to avoid its misuse. The country's judicial system always stresses that no innocent shall be punished. Had the government been ready to review this law earlier itself, there would not have been any need for journalists, social activists and leaders of political parties to file petitions in the Supreme Court against the misuse of this law. The newspaper stated that after the current government came to power, cases have been registered under this law in a reckless manner. From 2016 till 2019, there is a 160 per cent increase in the number of cases registered under Section 124A. However, the conviction took place only in 3 per cent cases. Hence it is natural to suspect that this law has been misused.

In an article in **Inquilab** (May 13), Siraj Naqvi has alleged that after Modi came to power, there has been indiscriminate use of sedition law. From this, a suspicion arises that the BJP government, in order to target its political opponents, is misusing the provisions of this law. An investigation into this allegation is a different matter, but we should admit that there is a sudden increase in the number of traitors under BJP rule. From 2014 till 2019, nearly 326 cases were filed under this law, but till now only six persons have been convicted. From this it is clear that either the police or investigating agencies did not do their job properly or the law has been used to trap innocent people. This is the reason why the Supreme Court

had to direct the Central government that it should not register any new case under this law.

**Siasat** (May 10) in its editorial has expressed satisfaction that the Central government has abandoned its old adamant stand and is ready to take a review of the sedition law. The newspaper has demanded that stringent action be taken against those officials who trapped innocent people in fake cases.

**Hamara Samaj** (May 12) in its editorial, while supporting the decision of the Supreme Court, said that in the past few days there are voices from across the country that the government has been misusing the provisions of UAPA and sedition law. The law is being used to scare and threaten those people who are raising their voice against the arbitrariness of the government. However, this law is not a new one, instead it belongs to the British period. From 1870, the British government started using it under different names. Initially, Congress used it under the guise of POTA and now the BJP government is

using it against its opponents under the guise of UAPA. The newspaper stated that this black law is used against those people whose only crime is that they raised slogans against the government or delivered speeches or opposed its different decisions.

**Etemaad** (May 12) in its editorial has described the stay on sedition law as a historical decision of the Supreme Court and said that ever since the BJP came to power, this black law is being used against Opposition parties, human rights activists, minorities and journalists. Last year also, the Supreme Court, during a hearing on a batch of petitions, asked the Modi government why this law, a remnant of the British rule, was being indiscriminately used? The newspaper said that 800 cases have been registered under this law and 13,000 innocent people have been sent to jail. When this law was used against journalists, a few among them questioned it in the Supreme Court. The newspaper expressed hope that the government would soon take a decision to scrap this law. ■

## Efforts to communalise actions against illegal constructions

The drive against illegal constructions in different parts of the country has been given a communal colour by a few Muslim organisations and their leaders. These Muslim organisations are making efforts to instigate people by giving a communal twist to the action taken against illegal constructions in Jahangirpuri, Shaheen Bagh, Khargone and Ujjain.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (April 26) reports that the bulldozers of Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh demolished a colony of the teachers of a renowned madrasa of Barelvi sect in Mubarakpur town in Azamgarh named Al Jamiatul Ashrafia. The government has claimed that the colony was built on government property. When this action was being taken, the madrasa was closed due to Ramzan and majority of the students and

teachers were not present. When the head of the institution Haji Sarfaraz Ahmad received information about the government action, he urged the authorities through telephone to stop the action for a few days. However, the officials refused to accept his demand.

The newspaper has published a statement of the chairman of World Sunni Sufi Andolan, Mufti Mohammad Manzar Hussain Khan Ashrafi, in which it has been stated that the Yogi government has been deliberately taking action against a particular community. He said that Jamiatul Ashrafia is an international-level education institute. Hence it is totally wrong to destroy it. He alleged that currently there is no law in the country and only the arbitrariness of communal elements is seen.



shops of Muslims were razed using bulldozers after the communal clashes in Jahangirpuri in Delhi, claiming that stones were pelted from them during Hanuman Jayanti processions. The surprising thing is that some portions of Jama Masjid of Jahangirpuri were also destroyed using the bulldozers. The newspaper stated that currently the country's

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 5) reports that after Mubarakpur, the bulldozer of Yogi ran over an Islamic madrasa in Kanpur as well. The Islamic madrasa was constructed on a private land which was bought. Despite this, the government claimed that the madrasa was constructed on government land in an illegal manner. The principal of the madrasa showed the documents related to the buying of the land to SDM Anup Chaudhary but he refused to accept it and razed the madrasa. The intezamia committee of the madrasa alleged that the Holy Quran was desecrated during this action. However, the SDM of Khatampur, Anup Chaudhary, denied this allegation. He said that the madrasa was constructed on government land in an illegal manner and hence it was razed.

masjids and madrasas are on the target of the government. A ban has been imposed on giving azaan through loudspeakers and doing namaz on the roads has been forcefully stopped. The only aim of this is to hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims.

**Etemaad** (May 8) stated that not many days have gone since the houses and

In this connection, a religious madrasa in Kanpur district was also razed to the ground on the pretext of being an illegal construction. Earlier, the Jamia Ashrafiya in Mubarakpur was also made a target of bulldozers. Recently, the bulldozer had arrived at Shaheen Bagh for action but after seeing the public anger, they had to retreat. Later, the police arrested the chairman of Delhi Waqf Board Amanatullah Khan in this connection, who was later released on bail by the court. The newspaper has written that the government bulldozers are used only against those who are against the ruling party at the Centre.

## Dispute over Qutub Minar

**Aurangabad Times** (May 11) has alleged that extremist Hindu organisations have now started staking claim even on Qutub Minar. More than 40 people have made an effort to chant Hanuman Chalisa in Qutub Minar area who were taken into custody from the road itself and whisked away in a bus. Later, restrictions were imposed on anyone entering the premises of Qutub Minar. On an appeal by United Hindu Front, the Hindu organisations have been

demanding permission to conduct puja at Masjid Quwwatul Islam.

The protesters were holding some posters on which it was written, 'Qutub Minar is actually a Vishnu Sthambh and hence it should be declared as a Vishnu Sthambh.'

It is to be noted that a lawyer in Delhi, Vishnu Shankar Jain, had filed a petition in a court in Saket a few months ago and demanded that since Masjid



Quwwatul Islam was constructed after destroying nearly 27 Hindu and Jain temples, it should be handed over to their followers. However, the judge of Saket court rejected this petition.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 11) reports that the activists of Mahakal Manav Seva organised a chanting of Hanuman Chalisa near Qutub Minar. However, the police took them into custody from the road itself before they could enter its premises. President of United Hindu Front Jai Bhagwan Goyal said that since the mosque was built after destroying the Hindu and Jain temples on the premises of Qutub Minar, Hindus should be permitted to do puja of the murtis present in the mosque or these murtis should be shifted to such places where the devotees can worship them. He said that in Islam, there is a ban on idol worship, but in Masjid Quwwatul Islam, there are large numbers of idols of Hindu devi-devatas. As per Islamic concepts, it can neither be called a masjid, nor Muslims can do namaz there.

Former Congress MLA Mukesh Sharma said that those associated with the saffron party are raking up a controversy over Qutub Minar and Gyanvapi masjid in order to distract the attention of people

from price rise and unemployment. However, people know their real intentions very well.

**Inquilab** (May 14) reports that the Archaeological Survey of India has not granted permission to offer namaz at Masjid Quwwatul Islam located on Qutub Minar premises and said that now onwards namaz cannot be offered there. The newspaper claimed that the imam of Masjid Quwwatul Islam had told reporters that he has been leading the prayers there for the past 46 years. Now, all of a sudden, the Archaeology department has told him that the masjid belongs to them and hence namaz cannot be held there. When they were asked about the reason for the same, they said that the order has come from above. This masjid is on the records of Delhi Waqf Board. As per law, if any place of worship is brought under the control of ASI, and if any puja/archana or namaz are being offered there at that point of time, then it cannot be stopped. The Delhi Waqf Board said that it will question this decision in a court of law. Hafiz Mohammad Javed of Waqf Board has described the decision as against the law and said that due to pressure from the saffron party, the Archaeology department

is dancing like a puppet. According to the Waqf board, except the morning prayers at the Quwwatul Masjid located in Qutub Minar premises, the other four namaz are taking place regularly.

The Delhi Waqf Board has appointed an imam to lead namaz in this mosque who has been doing so for the past 46 years continuously. The Waqf Board gives him monthly salary as well. The Waqf Board had directed the imam to continue lead the namaz, but despite this, during the day of Juma, police were deployed on all the four sides of the masjid. Before the namaz, imam Maulana Mohammad Sayeeb was called to the office of the Archaeological Survey of India located on the premises of Qutub Minar and told him that the masjid is under the control of ASI and namaz cannot be offered there. The imam told reporters that he had the necessary documents but the government was not ready to listen to him. The authorities of Archaeological department have banned him from visiting the masjid premises. He said he was not even permitted to remove his belongings or even the mats that were laid on the floor for namaz.

The authorities of Delhi Waqf Board said they had contacted the authorities of Archaeology department in this connection and showed the documents to them, as per which namaz is being offered there for the past 50 years. He said that they will oppose the arbitrariness of the communal party. In this connection, it is worth mentioning that two months ago, the chairman of the National Monuments Authority of the archaeology department and a former Rajya Sabha member of BJP Tarun Vijay has advised that the idol of Bhagwan Ganesh located on Qutub Minar premises shall be shifted from there to the National Museum. However, due to the protest from Hindu organisations, they could not shift it to the museum.

**Comment:** As far as the issue of Qutub Minar is concerned, it is the highest

minar in the world made of bricks. Its height is 72.5 metre and it has a width of 14.3 metre. On the top, it has a width of 2.75 metres. It has 379 steps. Its premises have been declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It is being said that its construction was started by Qutubuddin Aibak in 1193. Later his successor Iltutmish constructed three more stories. In 1368, Feroz Shah Tughlaq constructed two more stories on it. The first mention about Qutub Minar was made by Arab traveller Ibn Battuta. He had written that it was called a seven-storey minar and the royal flag of Mohammad Tughlaq is hoisted on it. The three stories of the minar was constructed using red sandstone while two stories were built using marble. The verses of Quran are written on the minar. Many important historical buildings are also located on the premises of Qutub Minar. It includes masjid Quwwatul Islam. It is said to be one of the oldest masjids in India.

According to archaeology department, this masjid was constructed after razing 27 Hindu and Jain temples. Even today, hundreds of murtis of Hindu devi-devatas are present in this masjid. Its pillars are great examples of Hindu architecture and it is engraved with Hindu symbols like lotus and holy Kalash. On the premises of the masjid there is an iron pillar, which is called Vishnu Sthambh. On this iron pillar, there is an inscription written in Brahmi and Sanskrit language as per which it was constructed by Chandragupta Vikramaditya. However, it is not clear whether the iron pillar was already present here or brought here from some other place by the foreign invaders. On this premises, apart from Ilahi darwaza and a half Ilahi minar, the tombs of Iltutmish and Alauddhin Khilji are also there.

In 1971, when the Archaeology department undertook excavations here, they got several ancient Hindu statues which are kept at the National Museum today.

## National Anthem mandatory in madrasas in Uttar Pradesh



**Avadhnama** (May 13) reports that the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh has made National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana) mandatory in all Islamic madrasas in the state. In this connection, the registrar of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board has sent a letter to the authorities of all district minorities welfare and directed them that before the classes begin in the morning, National Anthem should be mandatorily recited along with Duwa in every madrasa. A direction has been given to recite it mandatorily from May 12. In the letter issued by the registrar, every madrasa, whether recognised, aided or unaided, the National Anthem shall be recited mandatorily. It is to be noted that there are 16,513 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh. This decision was taken by the Uttar Pradesh government at a meeting of the Board on March 24.

**Inquilab** (May 15) reports that a leader of Janata Dal (U), Dr Khalid Anwar, while expressing surprise over this decision of the Uttar Pradesh government, said that this direction was aimed at misleading the country and provoke Muslims. The National Anthem is being sung right from the beginning. The government is deliberately creating a controversy by issuing such a directive. Dr Anwar said that those people who are lecturing Muslims about patriotism have no knowledge about the country's history. Or they are deliberately creating a controversy. Manager of Madrasa Jamia Sheikh ul Hind Maulana Mufti Asad Qasmi said that the National Flag is hoisted at all madrasas during Republic Day and Independence Day and National Anthem is recited. ■

## Burqa mandatory for women in Afghanistan



**Roznama Sahara** (May 8) reports that the Taliban government in Afghanistan has made it mandatory for women to wear burqa in the country. The male relatives of those women who break this rule will be dismissed from their jobs apart from being sent to jail. This order has been issued on behalf of the supreme leader of Taliban Hibatullah Akhundzadah. This 'firman' was issued following a function organised in capital Kabul. As per this firman, every woman has to wear a head-to-toe burqa and has to cover her face except the eyes. The Taliban government said that if any woman violates this order, then her father or close relative will be arrested immediately and will also be dismissed from the job.

This biggest decision concerning women was taken recently by the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Earlier, though it was not mandatory for women to wear burqa in Afghanistan, ever since Taliban came to power, the women started wearing it due to fear. In any case, as soon as Taliban captured power in Kabul, they had started attacking women who were not wearing burqa and many women were killed in this connection. In the past also, when the Taliban was in power in Afghanistan (1996 to 2001) they had forcefully implemented the Shariah law. This time also, after coming to power, the

gates of all schools and colleges were closed for women. Last time, when the Taliban rule ended in Afghanistan following US intervention, women stopped wearing the veil in major cities and started going to colleges and offices in Western dress.

Before this, in 1929, the ruler of Afghanistan, Amanullah Khan, had to abdicate power and flee to a foreign country due to pressure from mullahs as his wife did not wear a burqa and used to wear Western dress. In this connection, the fundamentalist mullahs had issued a fatwa against Amanullah Khan. On seeing the growing public anger, Amanullah Khan had to flee and take refuge in Italy. Traditionally, due to the influence of fundamentalist mullahs in Afghanistan right from the beginning, women had to remain under a strict veil and their path to education and employment remained closed. It is to be noted that recently, the Afghan government had banned women from going to parks and also directed them not to venture out of their houses and work in government offices. Due to this firm decision, 20,000 women teachers lost their jobs. The US had announced that if the Afghan government does not take steps to open educational institutions to teenagers and women, then the US will not extend



any kind of financial help to Afghanistan and neither would give recognition to Afghan government.

**Inquilab** (May 14) reports that the Afghan government has banned gathering or eating together by men and women in hotels at night. The interior ministry of Afghanistan said that the police have been directed to take stringent steps to prevent mingling together by unmarried men and women and going to feasts.

**Roznama Sahara** (Inquilab May 12) reports that some women had held a protest in Afghanistan capital Kabul against making burqa mandatory and shouted 'Insaaf-Insaaf.' They did not even wear masks. The protesters shouted that burqa was not their hijab. As soon as the news of the protest reached them, armed Taliban men reached the spot and forcefully removed the protesters from the spot. This apart, they also asked the media not to carry any news about the protest. A woman who took part in the protest told the BBC correspondent that they wanted to live like human beings. We can't survive if we are tied to a corner of the house like animals, they said.

The Taliban government had also issued an order that if any woman does not wear burqa then she will be arrested immediately and stringent action will be taken against her parents as well. It is to be

noted that after coming to power, Taliban had announced they would not implement Shariah law as stringently as last time and a lenient policy will be adopted towards women and children. Later, Taliban arrested many women from roads for not wearing the veil and there is no information till now about their whereabouts. The media was told that if they try to publish any news against the government, then stringent action would be taken against them.

The United Nations has announced a debate in the Security Council against the decision of the Afghanistan government to make burqa mandatory for women in that country.

**Roznama Sahara** (May 11) reports that the US has warned that if the Afghanistan government does not immediately remove all restrictions imposed on women, then it would have to face serious consequences. A spokesperson of the US State department told correspondents that the US government has urged the Taliban that their decision to make burqa mandatory and restriction on women from travelling outside their houses apart from banning women from entering offices and schools and colleges are a violation of human rights. Hence it would use all kinds of pressures on Taliban and force them to change their decision.



**Inquilab** (May 11) reports that Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has condemned the Afghan government's restrictions on women and said that this decision was taken in order to keep women away from education and employment and it is an open violation of human rights. The Afghan government needs to think about it.

**Siasat** (May 12) has supported Afghan government's restrictions imposed on women and said that it is as per Islam and Shariah and the basic education of Islam is that women should not step out of their homes without a veil because if they go out of house without a veil, then they would land in the grip of shaitan. In Islam, modesty has been described as virtue. It is

said in Hadis that wherever is modesty, virtue is there. Without modesty there is no virtue.

The newspaper has written that those who oppose these restrictions do not have any problem with women being without a veil because in their culture, there is no concept about the honour of women. If any government implements Islam and Shariah, then one should not find any threat in it.

**Avadhnama** (May 11) also in its editorial said that veil is an integral part of Islam. If any government implements any such Islamic law, then nobody should worry about it. However, it would be better if Taliban adopts more gentleness on their stand due to the changing situations.

## Opponents of Taliban capture areas in Panjshir



**Inquilab** (May 9) reports that the National Resistance Force of Afghanistan, formed by the son of anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Masood, has claimed that its fighters have crushingly defeated the Taliban at the warfront in Panjshir and captured three districts from them. The war is still on and we hope that our forces will

soon be able to liberate the entire Panjshir region from the clutches of Taliban. A spokesperson of the front claimed that the Taliban suffered huge damages in the war that took place between Taliban and the Front in the rural areas of Panjshir. Currently, a war is on between the fighters of Taliban and the Front in 12 regions of Afghanistan while the

northern region has slipped out of the hands of Taliban. Spokesperson of Taliban, Zabiullah Mujahid, has claimed that the news circulated by the foreign media about the victory of Ahmad Masood is imaginary. He said that Taliban forces are strongly taking on the forces of Masood and they have not vacated any of their places.

## Inquiry commission formed in Pakistan

**Roznama Sahara** (May 6) reports that the Pakistan government has announced the formation of an inquiry commission which will look into the charges of former Prime Minister Imran Khan that the hands of

foreign powers were behind the dismissal of his government. Announcing the formation of this commission, Information Minister of Pakistan, Marriyum Aurangzeb said the chairman of the commission would

be a person against whom not a single person from Pakistan would raise his finger. This inquiry commission will be a neutral one. Whatever be the report of the commission, it will be implemented by Pakistan government with full honesty. She said that those who used the country for their fake



politics will be brought before the justice system. She said that this allegation of foreign conspiracy had been raised in order to cover up one's own failures. Those who wanted to financially destroy the country would want to cover up their own actions. The conspiracy gang which was in power in the past has looted the country for four years. Today, financial crisis and unemployment is rapidly increasing in Pakistan and the main reason for this is the corruption and loot by Imran Khan government. During Imran Khan's regime, the prices of wheat, sugar and medicines were very high. On the other hand, as soon as the current government came to power, the people of Pakistan got relief from the back-breaking inflation. Now, there are no long queues in front of shops for a kilogram of sugar. Today, after four years, people are getting cheap wheat, sugar and ghee for the past two weeks. The Imran Khan government was looting the wealth of Pakistani people with both hands in order to fill their own coffers and the people of Pakistan had to pay a heavy price for this.

She said that the truth will be revealed before the people and they will get an opportunity to take a decision on what is right and what is wrong.

**Siasat** (May 12) reports that the Pakistan government is getting ready to conduct fresh elections in the country by the end of this year.

The newspaper has given the warning that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is running the Pakistan government from London through remote control and he would soon come back to Pakistan and take over power once again. In this connection, the current Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif is going to London to meet his elder brother Mian Nawaz Sharif to hold discussions with him. Many other leaders of Pakistan are also going with him including Ahsan Iqbal, Miftah Ismail, Ayaz Sadiq, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Khwaja Asif, Rana Sanaullah, Malik Ahmad Khan and Athaullah Tarar.

**Siasat** (May 3) reports that the Saudi government has announced an aid of 8 billion dollars to Pakistan to help the country overcome its financial crisis. This decision was taken during Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif talks with Saudi leaders during his visit to Saudi Arabia recently. According to the newspaper, the Saudi government has taken this decision after seeing the continuous dip in the forex reserves of Pakistan. ■

## Indonesia bans export of palm oil

**Avadhnama** (May 1) reports that in order to stop the growing inflation in the country, the Indonesian government has imposed a ban on the export of palm oil. According to French news agency AFP, there is a huge increase in the prices of edible oil across the world following the announcement by Indonesia. Financial analysts in France said the world was already facing a crisis with

regard to edible oil due to the destruction of Soyabean crops in South America and reduced production of Cannola in Canada. In between, due to the war between Russia and Ukraine, the export of sunflower oil has also almost stopped. Due to this, the crisis over edible oil has assumed larger proportions. According to the head of LMC, James Fry, palm oil is the biggest

source of edible oil. Nearly 35 per cent of the palm oil used by the whole world belongs to Indonesia. Since Indonesia has put a ban on the export of palm oil, there is likely to be a huge increase in the prices of palm oil across the world.

According to Indonesian government, the ban was imposed because the stock of palm oil cannot be kept for a long time as it will get spoiled. Now tension has increased between America and Brazil on the issue of edible oil, because it has a huge stock of Soyabean oil. Canada, the largest country in the world that exports Rapeseed oil, said that since there is a 10% decrease in the yield of Rapeseed, there is a



likelihood of its prices increasing. The highest impact due to edible oil crisis is likely to be felt on India because it is dependent on foreign countries for almost 80% of its edible oil.

## More than 25,000 soldiers of Russia killed



**Etemaad** (May 8) reports that the Army chief of Ukraine has claimed that so far 25,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in the war between Russia and Ukraine. This apart, their 199 aircraft, 155 helicopters, 1,122 tanks, 2,000 armoured vehicles, 509 guns, 172 rocket launcher system and 84 air defence system were also destroyed in this war. On March 25, the Russian defence ministry had announced that 1,351 Russian soldiers were killed in Ukraine. After this, the Russia had not given any account of the damages it suffered in the war. However, the defence ministry of Britain had stated

that the most modern weapon systems of Russia suffered maximum damages in the war with Ukraine. This include the most modern T-90M tanks. Various European countries had imposed sanctions on Russia due to this war, due to which Russia would find it difficult to get the necessary micro-electronic parts required for manufacturing most modern weapon systems.

A spokesperson of Russian defence ministry said that Russia had shot down many aircraft of Ukraine and had also destroyed the arms and ammunition depots of Ukraine. Russia had also destroyed 24 important military stations of Ukraine. The Russian guns had also silenced 280 soldiers of Ukraine and destroyed more than four dozen aircraft. Russia's claim is that its military has so far destroyed Ukraine's 151 aircraft, 112 helicopters, 742 drones, 290 air defence system, more than 3,000 tanks, 330 armoured vehicles and more than 1,400 guns.

## 11 Egyptian soldiers killed in Sinai Peninsula



**Roznama Sahara** (May 9) reports that at least 11 Egyptian soldiers were killed in an Islamic terrorist attack in Sinai Peninsula, an Egyptian region. According to the defence ministry of Egypt, the Egyptian Army had launched a drive to liberate a region near Suez Canal in Sinai Peninsula from foreign occupation. The terrorists wanted to forcefully close Suez Canal. During the military operation, the Egyptian soldiers clashed with terrorists in which many terrorists were killed but 11 Egyptian soldiers also lost their lives in the process and five others were injured. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has expressed condolences over the death of Egyptian soldiers and said they would finish these traitor terrorists at any cost.

It is to be noted that in the past few days, following the capture of a water pumping station on the eastern side of Suez Canal, the terrorists had clashed with

Egyptian soldiers. After this, the Egypt has lost many of its soldiers in this war and its army chased the terrorists who had fled from there to the Sinai deserts. The Egypt government has claimed that the name of this terrorist gang is Wilayat Sinai and they have the support of foreign powers. Clashes are taking place between Egyptian soldiers and Islamic terrorists from 2011 itself in this region. ISIS has claimed that the attack on Egyptian soldiers was carried out by its own organisation, Wilayat Sinai, and its aim was to inflict damages on the military of Egypt which has become a puppet in the hands of America. The US State Department has condemned the attack and said that the US has been extending help to soldiers to eliminate Islamic terrorists in the region for the past several decades. According to Egyptian media, the situation of bloody clashes between Egyptian soldiers and the terrorists of ISIS still continues. ■

## US ready to supply aircraft to Turkey

**Siasat** (May 7) reports that the US has agreed to supply F-16 fighter aircraft to Turkey. According to US newspaper 'Defence News,' Turkey has adopted a positive stand in the Ukraine war. Hence the US Congress has agreed to supply the most modern US war planes to Turkey. In

the current situation, it is necessary to extend more and more help to our friendly nations in order to curb the growing influence of Russia. The decision to sell modern war planes to Turkey is an important step in this direction.



**Avadhnama** (May 2) expressed happiness on the growing close relationship between Turkey and Saudi Arabia and said that due to the talks between the Crown Prince of Saudi Mohammad bin Salman and Turkey's President Erdogan, a new era has started in the relations between Turkey and Saudi Arabia. It is to be noted that after the relationship between the two countries got strained following the murder of Jamal Khashoggi in 2020, Saudi Arabia's trade with Turkey got reduced by 58%. In Turkey, Presidential elections are scheduled next year and currently due to the increasing inflation in the country, President Erdogan will find it difficult to

win the elections once again. Recently, there was huge decrease in the forex reserves of the country and the value of its currency, Lira, has fallen sharply.

It is being said that due to US pressure, Saudi Arabia is trying to bail out Turkey from its current financial crisis. Recently, Saudi Arabia's financial condition improved due to the increasing prices of oil. Hence it can invest in Turkey which will help Turkey to come out of financial crisis.

Erdogan has claimed that his visit to Saudi Arabia will help improve the relationship between the two countries on military, trade and cultural relations. Due to pressure from the US and Saudi Arabia, Erdogan has criticised the increasing activities of Houthi rebels in Yemen and advised Iran to improve its relationship with Saudi Arabia so that the differences that have come up in Islamic world could be resolved. Recently, Turkey has established a few military stations in Qatar and Somalia. Due to the changing situation, Turkey is now extending a friendly hand to Egypt, UAE, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

## Leaders of Hamas on the target of Israel

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 10) reports that Israel had given green signal to its intelligence agency Mossad to target the leaders of Islamic terrorist organisation Hamas. It is to be noted that last month, Hamas targeted many places in Israel in which at least 19 Israelis were killed. The latest incident took place in Israeli town Eilat when a few terrorists of Hamas attacked an Israeli settlement and killed three persons and injured seven others. According to British newspaper 'The Times', Israel has made a plan to target the leaders of Hamas who are secretly staying abroad. The main persons include a man named Saleh al-Aroui who



is the head of the military action group of Hamas. This apart, some Muslim industrialists are also there who provide financial aid to Hamas to carry out terrorist activities in Israel.

It is a well-known fact that Iran extends financial and military aid to Hamas. The intention of Israel is to break the backbone of Hamas. For the past several decades, apart from Palestine, Hamas is active in those places which were occupied by Israel during the war. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett had declared that Israel knows very well how to defend its own citizens and the enemies' weapons will be selectively destroyed. A new organisation, Civil National Guard, has been formed with this

aim. It will include reserve soldiers, secret agents and those trained to handle weapons. According to British newspaper, 'The Times', in the past one decade, Mossad had selectively eliminated many important leaders of Hamas and some foreign citizens who were extending financial help to them. They include the murder of well-known arms dealer in Dubai Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, expert on drones in Tunisia Mohammed al-Zoari and rocket engineer from Malaysia Fadi Al-Batsh. It is to be noted that earlier, Mossad

agents had murdered four senior nuclear scientists of Iran in order to neutralise its nuclear development programme. Now the Israel's plan is to target the nuclear energy centres of Iran.

**Etemaad** (May 9) reports that a spokesperson of Iran's national council told Arab News that Iran has almost manufactured a nuclear bomb and several successful experiments have also been done in this connection. He also said that his council jointly works with Iran-based People's Mujahideen organisation. ■

## Abu Dhabi ruler passes away

President of UAE and the ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has passed away at the age of 73 years. According to Khaleej Times, the Khalifa took over power in 2004. Earlier, his father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was the first president of UAE. He assumed power in 1971 and passed away in 2004. Khalifa Zayed Al Nahyan was considered as a friend of India and he had visited India several times. According to media reports, the Sheikh was ill for the past several days. Following his death, a 40-day mourning and a three-day national holiday has been announced in UAE. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences over the death of Sheikh and described him as a great and visionary



leader under whose leadership the relations between India and UAE improved a lot. Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif also expressed condolences on his death and said that Pakistan has lost a friend. ■

## Smartphone mandatory for Hajis

**Roznama Sahara** (May 14) reports that Saudi government has issued an order that those who arrive for Haj in Saudi Arabia have to compulsorily carry a smartphone. As per the new rule, in order to offer 'Nawafil' (optional namaz) at the masjid of the Prophet, it is necessary to get the scheduled time through the mobile application. This apart, they can take permission for doing Umrah and the circumambulation at Ka'aba only through the mobile app. The Haj ministry of Saudi

Arabia has imposed a ban on bringing children to do Haj and Umrah. The Saudi government has created two mobile applications, 'Tawakkalna' and 'Eatmarna,' which can be downloaded from Google Play store. In order to install mobile application, the Hajis have to produce identity card, passport and the visa number. This apart, all Hajis have to create an email address and password and keep them safely and have to learn how to use mobile app before coming to Saudi Arabia. ■

## Order to keep Tablighi Markaz opened



**Siasat** (May 3) reports that the Delhi High Court has directed that the Tablighi Jamaat's centre located in Nizamuddin colony be kept open till October 14. It is to be noted that the Central government had shut down this centre on March 30, 2020 during the Corona outbreak and later some of its portions were opened for residential purposes. On March 16 this year, on the

directions of the High Court, two stories of the centre were opened for Shaab-e-Baraat. Later, all the five stories were opened. Now the high court has directed to keep the centre opened till October 14. The high court has directed that the Corona protocol is strictly implemented in this centre and no other programme except the namaz be held there. ■

## Relief for Tablighi Jamaat

**Avadhnama** (May 13) reports that the Supreme Court has given relief to foreign citizens who had arrived for the Tablighi Jamaat programme in 2020. Those foreign citizens who are not in the black list will be provided visa by the government to arrive in the country to participate in programmes

organised by Tablighi Jamaat. This order was issued during the hearing of a petition filed by foreign citizens from 35 countries. The Supreme Court has made it clear that those foreigners who have been blacklisted for 10 years will not be a beneficiary of this order. ■

## Construction of Urdu House

**Aurangabad Times** (May 8) reports that the Maharashtra government has decided to establish Urdu Houses in different cities of the state for the promotion and dissemination of Urdu language. As per a notification issued on May 6, on the basis of the Census of 2011, in whichever city the number of people who speak Urdu is more than 1.5 lakh, an Urdu centre



will be established there. Most likely these will be constructed in Mumbai, Thane, Aurangabad, Parbani, Amravati, Akola, Jalgaon, Buldhana, Dhule, Pune and Beed. For the construction of Urdu houses, the state government will provide 2,500 square metre of land for free and the construction will be undertaken using

government money. It will include library, one auditorium, two seminar halls, two store rooms, washroom, waiting room for women, canteen and parking facilities. It is to be noted that in Nanded town, an Urdu house was constructed and it has been named after film star Dileep Kumar. ■

## Standardised baggage for Hajis



**Hamara Samaj** (May 13) reports that the Central Haj Committee has announced that those Indian citizens who visit Saudi Arabia for Haj will be provided two suitcases and a carry bag as gift on behalf of the Haj Committee. The Committee has directed all Haj pilgrims not to use their own private suitcases during the travel, otherwise they will face difficulties at airport. This is because the Saudi government had announced earlier itself that all Hajis will be

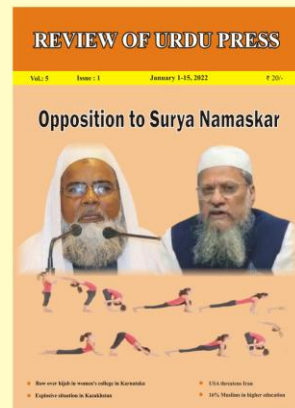
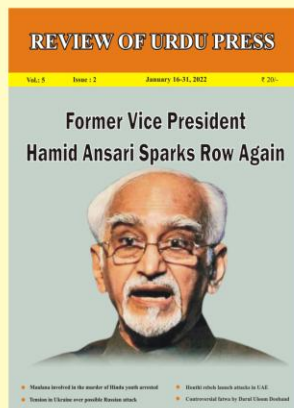
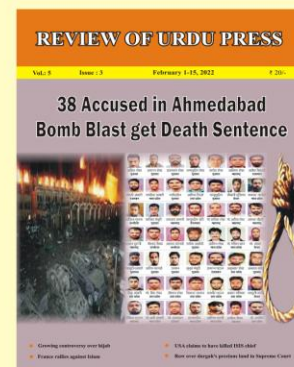
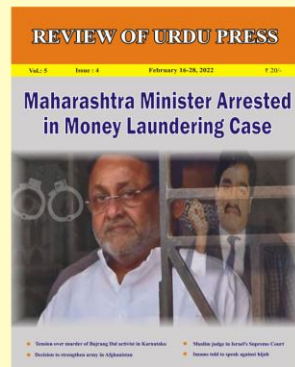
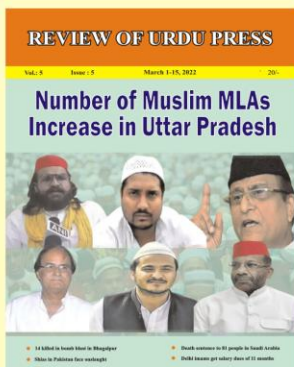
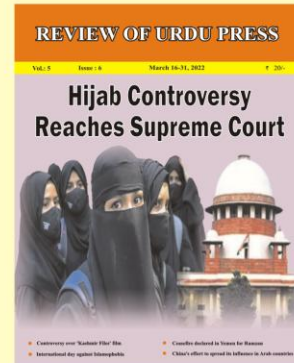
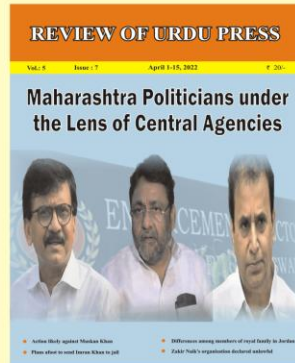
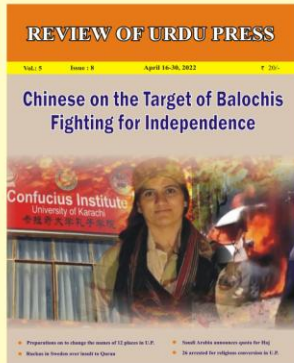
permitted to use only standardised suitcase and carry bag. Hence the Modi government decided to provide two suitcases and one carry bag each to all Haj pilgrims as a gift. Every suitcase will have a carrying capacity of 20 kg. While carry bags can carry items weighing maximum seven kilograms. The Haj Committee has also said that every Haji should deposit Rs 1.2 lakh in the account of Haj Committee as initial payment before May 19, 2022. ■

## Action against selling meat without licence

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 11) reports that the SDM of Deoband has called a meeting of meat sellers and told them that only those who have a licence to sell the meat will be able to do so from their shops in future. Those who violate this rule will face stringent action. There are 32 registered shops that sell

meat in Deoband and every shop owner should hang a black curtain in his shop, should use a deep freezer, and tiles should be laid up to 6 feet inside every shop. If any seller is found killing animals in an illegal manner, his licence will be cancelled immediately. ■





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](mailto:info@ipf.org.in), [indiapolicy@gmail.com](mailto:indiapolicy@gmail.com)  
Website : [www.ipf.org.in](http://www.ipf.org.in)