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## Kashmiri Separatist Yasin Malik gets Life Imprisonment



- Court hearing over Krishna Janmabhoomi dispute
- Pakistan on the path of civil war
- Two Shia leaders sent to gallows in Saudi Arabia
- Rs 50 crore estimation for repair work at Jama Masjid

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## Summary

There is a growing demand in the country to scrap the law that seeks to maintain status quo at places of religious worship, an Act which was passed in the Parliament during the time of Narasimha Rao, and to remove the masjids and dargahs built by foreign invaders after demolishing sacred Hindu religious places. These days, the row over Gyanvapi masjid at Varanasi has become a serious issue. Along with this, there is a growing demand to restore Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura.

In Pakistan, the situation is becoming explosive day by day. Recently, deposed Prime Minister Imran Khan has organised a long march in Islamabad and he declared that if elections were not announced within a week as per the new rule, he would take his current protest to a new level. Pakistan's current Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had announced his decision to strongly crush this agitation with the help of Army and police, but due to the intervention of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, he had to bow down. The interior minister of Pakistan has rejected the demand to hold fresh elections in the country.

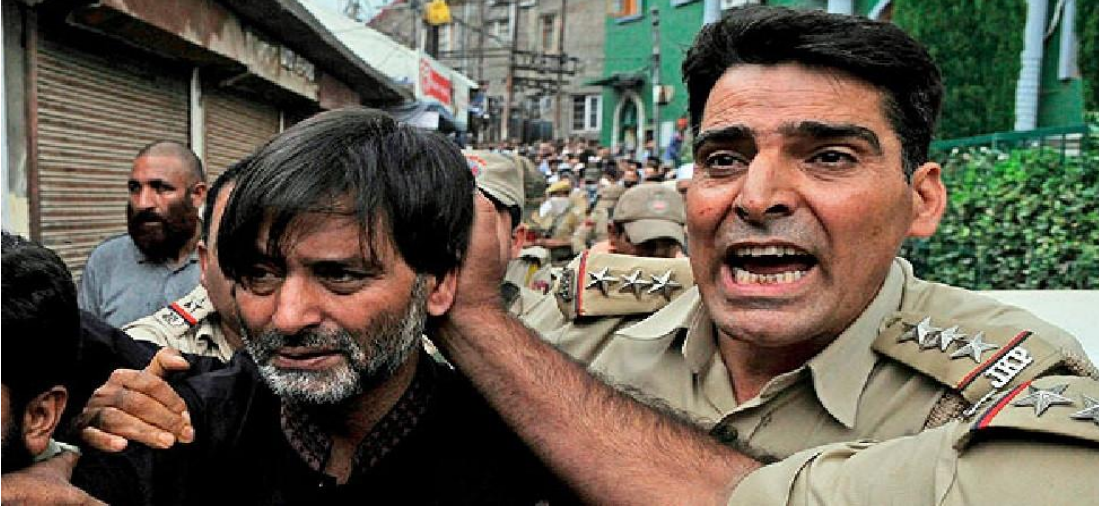
Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik has been awarded life term in jail by a special court apart from a fine of Rs10 lakh for allegedly distributing money to terrorists. The National Investigation Agency had charged that Yasin Malik had close relationship with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI and he used to extend financial help to terrorists through hawala transactions via fake companies set up in Dubai with the cooperation of Kashmiri-origin businessmen. The money thus routed was being used to promote violent and terrorist activities. It is to be noted that Yasin Malik's wife belongs to Pakistan and he has a daughter as well. The strong reactions that arose in Pakistan against his jail term itself is a clear evidence that Yasin Malik's connections are with Pakistani terrorist organisations.

Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has opposed the induction of Finland and Sweden into NATO alliance. He said that both these countries are promoting the campaign against Islam in Europe. Due to this reason, Turkey's relationship with the US and European nations has got strained.

Despite assurances from the government, Haj pilgrimage has become quite expensive this year. However, the Union minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has made it clear that the Union government has no hand in this as the Saudi Arabian government had imposed different types of taxes on Haj pilgrims. The Haj yatra remained closed for the past two years due to Corona pandemic and now it has started again. This time, Saudi Arabia has made a huge reduction in the number of Haj yatis. Muslim organisations demand that the management of Haj yatra be handed over back to the External Affairs Ministry because ever since the management of the Haj yatra was handed over to the Haj Committee, the pilgrims are facing lot of hardships.



## Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik gets life-term in jail



**Inquilab** (May 26) reports that a special court in Delhi has awarded life imprisonment to the chief of Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front Yasin Malik. The National Investigation Agency had conducted an investigation against Yasin Malik under UAPA and different sections of Indian Penal Code. He has been accused of serious charges like waging war against the state, taking part in terrorist activities and collecting money for terrorism. The investigating agency has submitted a chargesheet in the court in which it has demanded that Yasin Malik be awarded death sentence. The court had convicted Yasin Malik in this case on May 19 itself but the punishment was announced only now. According to a foreign news agency, Yasin Malik had told the court that all the charges levelled against him were imaginary and fake. If demanding independence is a crime, then I accept this charge and I am ready to face the consequences, he had said.

According to media reports, when Yasin Malik was presented in the court before the verdict was announced, the judge told him that the investigation agency had sought death sentence for him. Addressing the court, Yasin Malik said he would not make any arguments in the

court. Let the court do whatever it feels right, he said, adding He said that had he been a terrorist, then why seven Prime Ministers of the country held talks with him. Why was he issued a passport? Why he was given permission to deliver speeches in different countries of the world? The judge then said that time has passed for all these things. Later the court awarded him life-term in jail and a fine of Rs 10 lakh. Following this verdict, a hartal was observed in Srinagar and many other regions of Jammu and Kashmir. In Masuma area in Srinagar, some youths who staged a protest march were arrested by the police. Later women in huge numbers held a rally against the verdict. The police lath charged the protesters in order to disperse them and also fired teargas shells. The administration tightened the security measures in the entire Kashmir Valley.

The National Investigation Agency had arrested 56-year-old Yasin Malik from his house in 2019. Later he was sent to Tihar jail and till now nobody was permitted to interact with him. Initially, Yasin Malik was a leader of Islamic Student League and later he took part in inciting armed violence in Kashmir Valley in 1989. Initially, Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front was a terrorist

organisation and its network was spread even in foreign countries. One of its leaders, Maqbool Bhatt, had killed an official of Indian Embassy in England. Later Maqbool Bhatt was hanged to death in Tihar Jail.

In 1993, Yasin Malik had announced a decision to convert Liberation Front into a political party and said that in future the front will try to resolve the Kashmir issue in a peaceful manner. In April 2019, the Union home ministry had banned the Liberation Front. In 2009, Yasin Malik had married a Pakistani artist, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, and in 2012, a daughter was born to him whose name is Razia Sultana. His wife had also staged a protest in Pakistan along with her daughter against the arrest of Yasin Malik. In this case, the court has registered a case against many separatist leaders like Farooq Ahmad Dar alias Bitta Karate, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Masarat Alam, Syed Salahuddin, Aftab Ahmad Shah, Altaf Ahmad Shah (son-in-law of Ali Shah Gheelani) Naeem Ahmad Khan, Mohammad Akhar Khande, Mehrajuddin Kalwal, Peer Saifullah, former legislator Engineer Rashid, Zahoor Ahmad Watali and Naval Kishore Kapoor. Salahuddin is currently in Pakistan. Whereas all other accused are in jail. In this case, Asiya Andrabi, Kamran Yousuf and Ahmad Batt had got bail earlier itself.

**Aurangabad Times** (May 27) reports that now Yasin Malik has to spend his entire life in Tihar Jail in Delhi. He will be kept separate from the rest 13,000 inmates of the jail. The government has made stringent security arrangements around his barracks. Director General of Tihar Jail, Sandeep Goyal said that Yasin has been in Jail No. 7 right from the beginning and he will remain there only. He has been kept in a separate room and tight security arrangements have been made for him. Two CCTV cameras have been installed in his room. He will not be given any work in the jail. This decision has been taken due to security reasons. As far as Tihar's Jail No.7 is concerned, many celebrities had been kept there as inmates.

This includes former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, former Union Minister A. Raja, Sahara Group chairman Subrata Roy and Christian Michael.

Pakistani newspaper **Mashriq** (May 27) reports that Pakistan's National Assembly had condemned the life-term awarded to Yasin Malik and said that the Indian government had trapped him in fake cases because he had been demanding independence for Kashmiris. According to Pakistani newspaper, the Hindustani government has been booking him in fake cases for several decades. Despite this, Yasin Malik associated himself with the agitation for freedom of Kashmir. The newspaper said that there was a total hartal in Pak Occupied Kashmir against his sentence. Huge protests were held in several cities of Pakistan in support of Yasin Malik. The foreign ministry of Pakistan has summoned the Indian Ambassador and protested against the punishment given to Yasin Malik. A spokesperson of Pakistan's foreign ministry said the Indian government would never be able to crush the Kashmiri people's passion for independence.

**Avadhnama** (May 27) in its editorial said that Yasin Malik is tired after a long struggle. He had even removed his lawyers from this case because he did not oppose the allegations raised against him in the court and hence he cannot question the sentence awarded to him in the high court. Now he has to remain in jail throughout his life. Though he has been given rigorous imprisonment, he will not be given any work due to security reasons. This decision has been taken as per the jail manual. Yasin Malik was born Kashmir in 1966. Right from the beginning, he has been supporting a violent struggle for the independence of Kashmir. Now, one chapter of separatism has ended in Kashmir.

**Comment:** The court said in its decision that these separatists get regular funding from Pakistan. They get these funds through the chief of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hafiz Saeed and leader of Hizbul Mujahideen, Salahuddin. Yasin has

admitted that after the killing of terrorist Burhan Wani, he had flared up terrorism in Kashmir Valley at the behest of Pakistan. Though the National Investigation Agency had sought death sentence for Yasin Malik, the court said that it is not a 'rarest of the rare' case. Hence he was not awarded death sentence. The National Investigation Agency had also claimed that a Kashmiri trader, Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, used to get money from Pakistan through hawala to spread terrorism in Kashmir Valley. This money was being distributed by Yasin Malik and his colleagues to spark violent activities in the Valley and also among stone-pelters.

The National Investigation Agency had also claimed that Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI had established fake companies in UAE in order to provide funds to these separatists to spread violence in Kashmir, through which money and weapons were being sent for terrorist activities. In this connection, the National Investigation Agency conducted raids in several places in Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Haryana and collected documents related to foreign aid to this gang. This apart, terrorists were being distributed money from the office of Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. Using this foreign money, Yasin Malik acquired immovable property worth Rs 15 crore in Kashmir Valley. His contact with Pakistan's intelligence agency was through his Pakistani wife. The National Investigation Agency has also produced evidence in the court to establish that Kashmiri trader Watali used to get money from Pakistan regularly and after several raids in several houses in Gurugram, this money was confiscated. The agency has also claimed that Yasin Malik has got 12 benami immovable properties. Five among them are in Srinagar. These properties are situated in Maisuma, Lal Chowk and Bohri Kadal. This apart, Yasin is running several schools in the Valley.

Former chief of RAW, A S Daulat, in his book has claimed that during the regime of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, due to his

efforts, Yasin Malik had abandoned the path of violence and had announced that he would adopt a Gandhian way in future for the independence of Kashmir. He had also written in his book that when Yasin was in house arrest in Mehrauli in Delhi during 1991-1994, he had met him twice. This meeting was arranged through an AIIMS doctor, Upendra Kaul, who used to treat Malik. Dr Kaul said that he had treated Yasin Malik at the behest of Indian government and he was given this indication that the Indian government would soon release Yasin Malik. The doctor said he never discussed any political issues with Yasin Malik. When the doctor's mother passed away, Yasin Malik came to Delhi from Srinagar in order to pay his respects. Daulat said that Yasin Malik has close friendship with the present National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and he also has his connections with the then chief secretary of Kashmir and a close confidant of Nehru family, Wajahat Habibullah.

Daulat, however, has not written in his book why the India government's talks with these separatist Kashmiri leaders failed. However, he has written that in order to improve the relationship between India and Pakistan, a Safar-e-Azadi campaign was launched, for which Yasin Malik had extended his support. During this time, Yasin Malik used to frequent between India and Pakistan and he developed a friendship with a Pakistani woman there, got trapped in the love affair and later married her. In an interview to BBC, Yasin had said that he had three faces. The first was of 1984-1988 when he used to fight for the independence of Kashmir as a student leader. From 1988 to 1994, he played the role of a terrorist and later he adopted a Gandhian path. In 2013, when Kashmiri terrorist Afzal Guru was hanged to death, Yasin Malik went to Pakistan and he organised a hunger strike outside Islamabad Press Club against the hanging and said that the death sentence to Afzal Guru will further flare up terrorism in Kashmir. That time he also held a meeting with Hafiz Saeed. ■

## Haj pilgrimage becomes expensive



**Inquialab** (May 29) states that from this year, the Haj pilgrimage has become expensive for Indian Muslims. This year, every Haj pilgrim needs to spend approximately Rs 4 lakh. However, this expenditure was approximately Rs 2.5 lakh in 2019. According to the authorities of Haj Committee, the cost has increased due to the hike in airfare, taxes, accommodation, transportation and food. This apart, the value of Riyal has increased compared to Indian Rupee. The Haj yatra did not take place in the past two years due to Corona pandemic. This year, the Saudi government has reduced the number of Haj pilgrims from India. Earlier 1.4 lakh Haj pilgrims used to go for Haj from India but this year, their number has been reduced to approximately 80,000 pilgrims. It is to be noted that the airfares during Haj is almost double compared to other days. As per government estimate, in the year 2015, the Haj expenses were to the tune of Rs 1,69,800 which got increased to 1,84,500 in 2016. In 2017, this got increased to 2,07,750. In 2018, this got further increased to 2,26,000. In 2019, this became 2,53,000.

As per another report, making its stand clear on the increase in the expenditure for Haj, the Indian government has argued that it has no role in the increased cost. On the other hand, the Saudi government has imposed many new taxes and also increased the expenditure for accommodation due to which the Haj

pilgrimage has become expensive. The government also stated that it has reduced the fares for air travel. However, many institutions associated with Haj pilgrimage targeted the government over this increase and argued that when the expenditure for Umrah is only Rs1.1 lakh, how come the Haj expenditure to be its four times? Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the government has no role in this increase.

Earlier in a press conference, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi had stressed that due to the efforts of the government, there would be no increase in the expenses for Haj and no extra financial burden on Haj yatri. However, the chairman of Anjuman Falah Haj (an organisation for the welfare of Hajjis) Haji Mohammad Zahoor said in a press conference that the Central Haj Committee has set this year's Haj expenditure at Rs 3.9 lakh. This is a huge amount. This is the reason why there is no special interest among Haj yatri to go for the pilgrimage. However, for Umrah, one has to spend only Rs 1.1 lakh. Interestingly, for both the pilgrimages, one has to go to the same place only and the expenses are also almost same, but then why there is a huge difference in the charges between Umrah and Haj? The five-day arrangement for Haj is done separately. Hence if the expenditure goes up to Rs2 lakh or 2.5 lakh, it is understandable. He said that in 1996, when he went for Haj, every Haj

pilgrim was given 2,100 Riyals for expenditure. However, though the inflation has shoot up, no increase has been made in the Saudi currency given to Hajis. He complained that this time, the accommodation for Hajis have been arranged nearly five kilometres away from Ka'aba. Hence it would be difficult for people to go and come back. He complained that the Haj Committee is making profit out of Hajis and that the Hajis are compelled to purchase several items from Haj Committee at exorbitant prices.

**Inqilab** (May 28) reports that the first flight carrying Haj pilgrims will take off from Delhi on June 2. This year, the Haj pilgrims can leave for Mecca only from 10 places instead of the usual 21 places. The Shia pilgrims need to deposit an extra Rs 32,000 for visit to Najaf. The first plane from Lucknow will take off on June 6 and the process will continue till June 15. The return series will begin on July 14 and will continue till July 28. Secretary of the Haj Committee, S P Tiwari, said every Haj yatri will be given two bags of items to be carried along.

**Roznama Sahara** (May 25) reports that camps have been set up in different places to impart training to Haj yatri. Different Muslim organisations have

demanding that the management of Haj yatra shall be handed over back to the External Affairs ministry instead of Haj Committee. They said that many scams took place over Haj pilgrimage due to which the Haj yatri's expenses have increased. Noushad Azmi, who is associated with Haj Committee, said that the meetings of Haj Committee, that used to take place in different parts of the country, have stopped after the Modi government came to power. He alleged that ever since the management of Haj yatra came under Haj Committee, the facilities being extended to Haj yatri have also been stopped. Earlier, the Haj yatri used to depart from Varanasi, Gaya, Ranchi, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Chennai, Bhopal, Indore, Jaipur and Kolkata but now the air services from these places for the Haj have been stopped. He alleged that a huge scam is taking place in Haj Committee. The minister has been claiming every now and then that transparency has been brought in Haj pilgrimage. But this claim is totally false and the current government is playing politics in the guise of Haj yatra. He said that the government had promised to re-launch Haj yatra through sea route but this promise has not been met so far. Similarly, the subsidy that used to be provided to Haj pilgrims have also been stopped. ■

## Assam Chief Minister proposes to close down madrasas

**Inqilab** (May 24) reports that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while targeting Islamic madrasas, said that the madrasa system needs to be totally abolished. Any individual who is demanding closing down of Islamic madrasas and seeking implementation of Uniform Civil Code is a real friend of Hindustani Muslims. He said that the Assam government has closed all madrasas which were running on government aid. If anybody wants to learn Quran, then let him learn it at his home. What is the need for the government to spend money on it? He

said that those who study in Islamic madrasas, learn the entire Quran. He claimed that all the Muslims who stay in this country were originally Hindus. If any Muslim student is intelligent, then I will credit him for the genes of the Hindus. Sarma said that the word madrasa itself should cease to exist. As long as the madrasa remains in their mind, the students will never become a doctor or engineer. He said that the meaning of Ghar Wapsi is that if anyone wants to return to his original religion, then he should be welcomed. This is possible only through a special





atmosphere and training. He said the 36% Muslims in Assam could be divided into three groups. One group is local Muslims, who follows the culture of common people and also speaks the language of common people. The second group is those who have embraced Islam some time ago. The third group is the one who has come from foreign countries and do not consider themselves as a part of Indian culture. He said that the Miya Muslims are very communal and they are destroying the culture of Assam.

Recently, mentioning about the bulldozing of the houses of Muslims who took part in the riots in Nagaon district following the murder of a Muslim man in police custody, he said that the riots took place in one of the 12 districts where infiltrators are in a majority. We need to ensure that the infiltrators do not illegally occupy the land in Assam and seize financial institutions. According to the newspaper, the Chief Minister had closed all the madrasas in Assam earlier itself and converted them into government schools. In January 2021, the Assam Assembly had abolished the Assam Madrassa Education (Provincialisation) Act and imposed a ban on Islamic madrasas. When some people questioned this decision in the Assam High Court, the high court has upheld the government decision.

**Inquilab** (May 19) reports that the Uttar Pradesh government has announced

that it would not give any kind of grant to any madrasa in future. The government claimed that madrasas are run in huge numbers on the basis of fake documents and huge money is extracted from the government on its pretext. It is being said that when the government took this decision, some madrasa managers questioned it in the high court. Later the government, following the intervention of the court, decided to give grant to the Islamic madrasas but when an investigation is conducted into these madrasas, it was found that they were registered on the basis of fake documents. Hence the government took this decision not to give any kind of grant to any madrasa in future.

It is to be noted that in 2016, the Akhilesh Yadav government had decided to extend grant to Islamic madrasas. In this connection, some laws were also made as per which after giving recognition to 535 Islamic madrasas, government grants were issued to them. After the Yogi government came to power, within five years, the government grant to these madrasas were stopped. In this connection, the managers of some madrasas approached the court. In Mau district, a number of fake madrasas were detected on which the government decided not to issue any grant to them. Sufiyan Nizami of Islamic Centre of India said that this decision of Yogi government is anti-Islamic. In view of the decision taken by the previous government, the



in order to prove his loyalty to Modi and Shah. He has got immersed in the poison of communalism in order to prove his loyalty to RSS. The surprising thing is that Sarma himself is a lawyer, despite which he is making statements against the Constitution. Huge floods have hit Assam and he has so far failed to provide some relief to the flood victims. He is targeting Muslims like their masters in order to distract the attention of people from their problems. He is wearing

documents of madrasas recognised by the Uttar Pradesh government should be checked and the madrasas whose documents are in order should be given government grant.

**Inquilab** (May 23) in its editorial has condemned the Assam and Uttar Pradesh governments on the decision to close down Islamic madrasas and stop government grants to them and said that if Islam has to be kept alive then these madrasas should also be kept alive. It is in these madrasas that we meet the scholars of Quran and the Ulema who protect the basics of Islam and play a role in their spread and dissemination. If Islamic madrasas are closed, then the new generation will have no idea about Islam. The Muslim social structure will end. Muslims will not be able to meet the imams who help them offer namaz five times a day at the masjids or the muftis who guide them on matters of Shariah in Islam. The newspaper also said that due to Corona, a number of Islamic madrasas got closed and hence it is necessary that the Muslims come together and restart them and send maximum number of our children there so that the religion be protected and Islam spreads.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 25) in its editorial criticised the statement of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on madrasas and said that the newly joined BJP man Sarma is issuing such statements

the saffron specs of RSS and hence he is unable to see anything. He is worried only about his chair. He wanted to save his chair by making the Muslims of Assam fight against each other. This kind of statement is against the Constitution and secularism of the country. Before making such inflammatory statement, any Chief Minister should think that he is occupying a constitutional position.

**Etemaad** (May 21) in its editorial has complained that the BJP has now started targeting religious madrasas after masjids. The interesting thing is that despite a law that seeks to maintain status quo at religious places, the court is blowing it away in an arbitrary manner. Due to this, new disputes are coming up apart from older ones. Fresh claims are made on masjids. Restrictions are imposed on namaz and azaan sometimes in Uttar Pradesh, sometimes in Madhya Pradesh and sometimes in Haryana. The main reason for this is that the Central government and its leaders have kept their eyes closed on these anti-Muslim activities. In the name of yet another Darma Sansad, an effort is on to unleash the poison of hate against Muslims. Secondly, some organisations are trying to seize the masjids and dargahs of Muslims. Recently, the Jama Masjid in Srirangapatnam has been described as Hanuman Mandir and now a similar claim has been made on a masjid in Aligarh saying that it was constructed over a

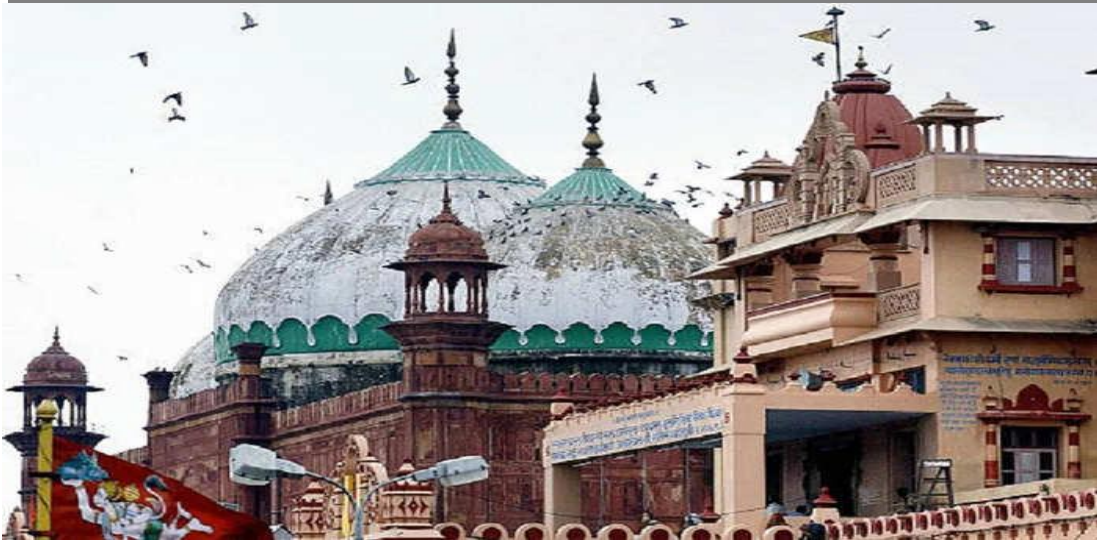
temple. The strangest thing is that the media is adding salt and pepper to these things and serving it. The Muslim Personal Law Board has started reviewing this situation.

The latest problem is that the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh has started a campaign to close down Islamic madrasas. Now neither there is any permission to start any new Islamic madrasa in Uttar Pradesh nor they would get any government aid. In the 2021-22 budget, the Uttar Pradesh government had allocated Rs 479 crore for the modernisation of madrasas in the state. There are 16,000 Islamic madrasas in the state. Among them, 558 are being given grant right from the time of Akhilesh Yadav government. Nearly 20 lakh students receive their education in these madrasas. In 2013, the Samajwadi Party government first started the system of giving grant to religious madrasas. Initially, 146 madrasas were given grant. Now the

government has not given any grant to any madrasa in the past five years. The interesting thing is that the BJP government has banned these madrasas from receiving foreign funds.

Recently, the government has made singing of National Anthem mandatory in these madrasas. Uttar Pradesh's minister for minority department, Danish Azad Ansari, said that singing of National Anthem has been started in order to inculcate patriotism among students. The sad thing is that the BJP wants to forcefully bring Hindu culture in Islamic madrasas. Pressure has been exerted on reciting Vande Mataram and Gita slogans in madrasas. The madrasas are targeted in Madhya Pradesh as well. Now this disease has spread to Karnataka and other BJP ruled states as well and all kinds of restrictions are imposed on Islamic madrasas.

## Hearings in court over Krishna Janmabhoomi



**Aurangabad Times** (May 22) reports that due to the boycott of lawyers, the fast-track court in Mathura has suspended the hearing on the Idgah-Krishna Janmabhoomi dispute till July 20. The lawyer of the petitioners Dinesh Sharma said that Gopal Baba, describing himself as a follower of Bhagwan Krishna, had filed a petition on September 20, 2021, seeking to remove the Shahi Masjid constructed on a portion of

the 13-acre land in possession of Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust, which has been handed over to the fast-track court of Additional Civil Judge. The court concluded that the Places of Worship Act passed by the Parliament was not applicable in this case and hence it would hold a hearing. The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board, Intezamia Committee, Masjid Idgah and Krishna Janmabhoomi Seva

Sansthan have been made party to the case. The court had also fixed May 20 as the next date of hearing in the case. However, following a statement of Uttar Pradesh government secretary Prafulla Kamal, the lawyers went on a boycott of the courts and hence the hearing in the case would now be held only on July 20.

**Inquilab** (May 24) reports that a new petition has been filed over the Krishna Janmabhoomi controversy in Mathura in which permission has been sought for purification of the sanctum sanctorum. This purification will be done using the holy water of Yamuna. The petitioner has described himself as the treasurer of Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha. Dinesh Chandra Sharma, through his lawyer Deepak Sharma, has filed this petition in which it has been demanded that he shall be given permission to conduct purification of the sanctum sanctorum of Keshavdev Mandir.

**Siasat** (May 20) reports that a demand has been made to remove the Shahi Idgah Masjid constructed on Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura. This case has been filed on behalf of several Hindu organisations in which it has been stated that Aurangzeb had razed the Krishna temple constructed by the Raja of Orchha at Katara Keshavdev in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and constructed the Shahi Idgah masjid on its place in 1670. Ranjana Agnihotri, a resident of Lucknow, has filed this petition as the next friend of 'Bal Krishna'. The petitioner has demanded that the government return the 13-acre land of Srikrishna Janmabhoomi to them which was illegally seized by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and on which Idgah was constructed. The petition also questions the Places of Worship Act, 1991, passed by the Parliament and stated that the management of religious places comes under the ambit of state government and only it can create a law in this connection. By creating this law, the Parliament has interfered with the federal structure of the Constitution. Hence this law should be cancelled. In view of the controversy, the Uttar Pradesh government

has put police personnel on alert in eight neighbouring districts of Mathura in order to maintain peace. Inspector General of Agra zone said he had directed that a close watch be kept on the activities of mischievous elements and anybody trying to disturb peace should be arrested immediately.

**Avadhnama** in its May 17 editorial has decried this effort to look for a temple below every building built during the Mughal rule. The sad thing is that in order to promote this mischievous effort, the help of courts is also taken. The courts should have immediately dismissed such petitions because it is an open violation of the Places of Worship Act passed by the Parliament. The surprising thing is that along with the Gyanvapi masjid case, the court has started hearing a petition seeking to remove the Shahi Idgah in Mathura and hand over its land to the Srikrishna Janmabhoomi Trust. The mischievous elements are not even prepared to abide by the agreement reached between Srikrishna Janmasthan Seva Samiti and Shahi Idgah Intezamia Committee in 1968 and they are demanding to scrap this agreement. However, the Parliament has formulated this law in 1991 as per which whatever be the status of a place of worship as on 1947, should be kept as it is. The law is still in force. Despite this, we don't know how courts are holding hearings in such petitions. The strange thing is that in this connection, Muslim organisations have not approached the Supreme Court so far. What are they waiting for? Let's hope that the time doesn't slip out of our hand and we keep regretting it.

**Salar** (May 26) in its editorial said that the best way to seize any property is to bury a stone there and claim that a Shivling had appeared there. This way, even the land of Khabristan could be seized on the pretext of the manifestation of God. In Babri Masjid, some communal elements illegally placed some idols and finally grabbed the entire masjid. This is an old recipe which is tried again. Now this strategy is being adopted in Gyanvapi

masjid. The fountain in the ablution pond has been described as Shivling. Now an effort is on to seize the masjid with numerical strength and with the help of the government.

**Salar** (May 23) has published an article written by Zafar Agha in which it has been stated that preparations are on to seize the Gyanvapi masjid in Varanasi and the Shahi Masjid in Mathura in the same manner in which Babri Masjid was seized. It looks like as if we are watching an old film once again. The way in which everything was put on the shoulders of courts in Ayodhya, similar things are happening through the courts in Varanasi and Mathura. In the Gyanvapi case, the Supreme Court had taken the same decision that the court in Ayodhya had taken after Ramlala surfaced there. The namaz will continue, but the spot where the Shivling was found, will remain protected. In Babri Masjid also, the namaz used to be held like this till 1960. Later in 1992, the masjid was pulled down. The strange thing is that the Supreme Court had accepted all the contentions of the Muslim side, but despite this Babri Masjid was handed over for the construction of the temple. For the wise, a hint is enough. From the stand of the court itself it is clear what will happen in Mathura and Varanasi issues. It is clear that the entire Sangh Parivar including Narendra Modi will contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in the name of Kashi and Mathura. Modi ji will once again don the mantle of Hindu Hriday Samrat. This is because this is the only path left for BJP to come to power.

**Aurangabad Times** (May 19) reports that the Muslim Personal Law board has discussed in its meeting the claims made by communal elements in Gyanvapi masjid and in other masjids in the country and said that the communal forces are targeting the religious places of Muslims. Though it is the responsibility of the Central and state governments to



implement the Constitution and the laws, they have become mute spectators. Those political parties which claim to be secular and stand for justice are also silent. Hence these elements who are spreading disturbances in the society are getting encouraged. In the Gyanvapi masjid issue, the stand adopted by the courts is very sad. In the same way, it is not at all difficult to predict what will happen in the case of Mathura. The Muslim Personal Law Board has decided to form a panel of legal experts in order to argue these cases in the courts. The chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani has advised the Muslims not to take these issues to the streets and do not organise any kind of protests. The Intezamia Committee of masjids should strongly fight these cases in the court. He appealed to Muslim Ulema and leaders to keep themselves away from TV debates.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 15) has complained that a campaign has been unleashed to describe Aurangzeb once again as bloodthirsty and a fanatic. However, the world knows that the Akhand Bharat that the RSS speaks about was established by Aurangzeb. After Aurangzeb, the country never remained Akhand. He has been accused of destroying hundreds of temples and imposing Jazia on Hindus. He has been accused of destroying the temples in Varanasi and Mathura. However, many dozens of Hindu historians including B N Pandey, Satish Chandra and

Akhilesh Jaiswal, had given this clear statement that Aurangzeb had given land to many temples and in order to run them, pujaris were given cash money.

As far as the issue of destruction of Kashi Vishwanath Mandir in Varanasi is concerned, Pattabhi Sitaramayya has said in his book that Aurangzeb has ordered its demolition after some queens were raped in Kashi Vishwanath Mandir. As far as the Keshavdev Mandir in Mathura is concerned, it had become the centre of Jat rebels. Secret meetings used to take place there. Despite Aurangzeb issuing warnings several times, they did not heed to it and then an order was issued to demolish the mandir. Along with it, the subedar was also

directed not to inflict any kind of damage to the murti. The temple was demolished and the murti was shifted to Nathdwara with full honours.

The strange this is that people go to the mazaar of Aurangzeb, located in Aurangabad, for ziyarat. When Akhbaruddin Owaisi also went there, the entire media unleashed a storm against him. It is not wrong to go to the mazaar. Then why the atmosphere in Maharashtra is spoiled by giving political colour to this issue? The sad thing is that some mischievous elements have threatened to demolish this mazaar due to which the Archaeological department has imposed restrictions on entry to the mazaar.

## Ajmer dargah claimed to be a Shiva Mandir



**Inquilab** (May 28) reports that a Hindu organisation has made this claim that the famous dargah of Sufi Khwaja Gharib Nawaz situated in Ajmer was originally a Shiva temple and it was converted into a dargah. This claim was made by Maharana Pratap Sena and in this connection, the organisation has sent a letter to the Rajasthan Chief Minister and the Central government and sought an inquiry to be conducted into the dargah. National president of Maharana Pratap Sena,

Jaiwardhan Singh Parmar has claimed the Khwaja's dargah in Ajmer was initially a Shiva mandir and it was converted as a dargah and even today the swastik symbol is engraved on the walls and windows of the dargah. He has threatened that if no investigation is conducted on their demand, a nationwide mass movement will be organised. It will start from Ajmer where 2,000 activists will join the agitation. If necessary, we will also knock at the doors of the court. Following this claim, the

Ajmer administration became alert and the district magistrate and the police commissioner visited the dargah. Police Commissioner Vikas Sharma said that they have made all security arrangements from its side. An eye is kept on social media and we will not allow anyone to disturb peace. He urged people not to fall prey to such misinformation. Maharana Pratap Sena has published some photos of the dargah which shows swastik engraved on it.

**Etemaad** (May 28) reports that the Khadim of the dargah said that this claim is totally baseless and there is no such symbol on the dargah that establishes that it was an ancient Hindu temple. This dargah was constructed 850 years ago and till now nobody has raised any questions over it. This kind of questions has dealt a deep blow to the crores of devotees of Khwaja. The government has to take strong steps against such elements. Commenting on this claim, chairman of Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, said that such organisations are spreading the flames of hatred in the country.

**Aurangabad Times** (May 25) reports that a court in Delhi has decided to give its verdict on a petition seeking permission to do puja of Hindu and Jain devatas at Qutub Minar on June 9. The petitioners have claimed in a court in Saket that Masjid Quwwatul Islam was built by the commander of Mohammad Ghori, Qutubuddin Aibak, after destroying 27 Hindu and Jain temples. Many murtis of Hindu devi-devatas are located on its premises which also carries the symbols of Kalash and Kamal. He sought permission from the Central government to form a trust to look after the mandir and handover the temple to them and also do puja for the devi-devatas.

The petitioners said that till the next decision of the court comes, the two murtis of Bhagwan Ganesh will not be removed from the premises. It is being said that both the murtis belong to 12<sup>th</sup> century. The UNESCO had declared Qutub Minar as a World Heritage Site in 1993. The Archaeological Survey of India had

opposed giving permission to do puja for Hindu and Jain murtis on QutubMinar premises and said that nobody can be given permission to do puja or archana in this place. It is to be noted that as per the Act of 1958, whichever historical monument is in the hands of Archaeological Survey of India, nobody has the permission to do puja or namaz there. This report of the Archaeological Survey of India is a major setback to the petitioners. During the hearing, the judge told them that if the murtis were lying there without puja for the past 800 years, let it remain like that in future as well.

**Avadhnama** (May 23) reports that the Archaeological Survey of India has refuted the claim that the government has decided to do excavation on the premises of Qutub Minar. It is to be noted that the secretary of cultural department, Govind Mohan, had recently visited the Qutub Minar with a 12-member team and after that newspapers reported that the government had decided to do excavations nearly 15 metres away from the masjid on the southern side of Qutub Minar. Along with it, there is a plan to do excavations at Lalkot Fort. It is to be noted that earlier in 1991 also excavations were undertaken by the ASI on the premises and some murtis were found there. These murtis are currently kept at the National Museum.

**Dainik Chattan**, published from Srinagar, (May 28) has carried an article which has thrown light on the history of Qutub Minar premises. In 1926, the Archaeology department had conducted a survey of the premises and prepared a report, in which it had been stated that Masjid Quwwatul Islam was constructed on the foundation of an ancient temple. However, 27 other temples were destroyed. The report expresses doubt that the foundation of Masjid Quwwatul Islam is that of some ancient temple, on which stones were placed again. It was done so may be because the foundation of the temple has some ancient inscriptions and the stones were placed in order to hide them. Another historian Rana Safvi said

that the Qutub Minar was constructed by Muslims. In 1981, tourists were restricted from stepping on Qutub Minar because nearly 45 children were killed in a stampede there.

**Avadhnama** (May 18) has published a news which stated that a clash took place between two communities over installation of an idol of Hanuman near a dargah in



Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh. The police had to resort to lath charge to disperse the rioters. The newspaper also complained that they also got the news that the rioters had damaged a masjid in the region.

**Siasat** (May 19) has published a news in which it has been stated that the president of Hindu Mahasabha, Swami Chakrapani has written a letter to the Prime Minister complaining that the Jama Masjid in Delhi was built over an ancient temple and hence excavations should be held on the premises of the masjid and unravel the truth.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 16) has published a news which states that Narendra Modi Vichar Manch has written a letter to the district collector of Mandya in Karnataka stating that Tipu Sultan built the Jama Masjid in Srirangapatnam in 1784 after razing a Hanuman temple. It is being said that a man named Rishi Kumar had threatened that if the masjid is not returned to Hindus, they will organise an agitation. Following this threat, Rishi Kumar was arrested and police were deployed for the protection of the masjid.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 26) reports that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Mangalore has claimed that a masjid there was built over a Hindu temple. Many activists of Vishwa Hindu Parishad wanted to enter into the masjid and do puja/archana. The atmosphere has become tense due to this and the district administration imposed Section 144 of CrPC in the entire region and banned

anyone from entering the masjid. It is being said that when the maintenance of this masjid was undertaken, it came to know that a number of idols were present inside.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 22) reports that in a village named Pirana in Ahmedabad, communal tension arose over the

construction of a temple on the premises of a dargah, Imamshah Bawa, and Muslim organisations filed a petition in the court and demanded that the administration stop the construction of temple on dargah premises. It is also mentioned in the complaint that the mischievous elements have stopped people from offering namaz at the dargah. The administration has deployed policemen on guard to prevent any untoward incident.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 24) reports that there is a demand to conduct an investigation at the Bina Niv Ke Masjid, built near the banks of Shipra river in Ujjain as it was originally a Shiva temple which was forcibly converted into a masjid during the reign of Alauddhin Khilji. Similarly, Samskriti Bachao Manch has submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr Narottam Mishra and urged him to conduct excavations at Jama Masjid in Bhopal through Archaeology department.

As per another news, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena has claimed that two dargahs were forcibly built on the land of Puneshwar Mandir in Pune. General Secretary of MNS, Ajay Shinde, has announced that he is starting an agitation for the murti in this temple. Shinde has claimed that a commander of Alauddhin Khilji had destroyed two temples and constructed two dargahs in their places. He demanded that the dargahs be examined with the help of Archaeology department.



## Pakistan on the path of civil war



A clash has erupted between Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former Prime Minister Imran Khan due to which there is a fear that the flames of civil war will spread in Pakistan.

**Inquilab** (May 27) reports that the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf and former Prime Minister Imran Khan has arrived at the Red Zone in Islamabad and ended his long march and announced that if the Pakistan government does not make an announcement within six days to hold elections in the country, he would return to Islamabad with 20 lakh people. Addressing the participants of long march at Jinnah Avenue, Imran Khan said that the government has adopted every strategy to crush our protest. Hundreds of our activists have been arrested across the country, but due to public anger, the government has not succeeded in its efforts.

It is to be noted that the Pakistan government had deployed Army in the Red Zone or what is called the Parliament and Diplomatic zone, but Imran Khan did not clash with the Army. He said that our community has come out of fear and we will not accept any government thrust from above under any circumstances. He said that we will not hand over our community

into the hands of the culprits under any circumstance. He said that there are serious charges of corruption against the current Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son. He said that the police have killed many of our activists so far. The Supreme Court should issue a notice to police over its atrocities. Clashes continued between police and the followers of Imran Khan throughout the day. Earlier, Supreme Court has rejected a contempt of court petition filed against Imran Khan in the court at the behest of Pakistan government.

**Inquilab** (May 25) reports that the Pakistan government has started mass arrests across the country in an effort to stop the long march of Imran Khan. It is being said that the police have arrested more than 400 supporters of Imran Khan. The efforts of police to arrest former ministers and leaders supporting Imran have not succeeded so far because majority of the leaders have gone into hiding. The alliance government in Pakistan has deployed the entire police force of Pakistan on different roads and sealed them in an effort to stop the long march of Imran Khan. Even traffic between Lahore and Rawalpindi was stopped.

**Inquilab** (May 26) reports that violent clashes had erupted between the supporters of Imran Khan and police in different cities of Pakistan in which dozens of people were injured. The police used teargas shells in many places and also fired rubber bullets. All the roads from Rawalpindi to Islamabad were sealed using containers and fenced using barbed wire. The government has also stopped running of all buses and closed down schools and colleges. In order to stop protesters coming from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the borders were closed in Attock. The police also took hundreds of protesters into custody.



According to Pakistani newspaper **Dawn** (May 29), the long march started by Imran Khan from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, culminated at D Chowk in Islamabad where he had converted it into a dharna. Imran Khan declared that the government should dissolve the Assemblies of all the states within six days and announce elections in the country. He said that he reached Islamabad from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 30 hours. On the way, whatever the government did to stop his long march with the help of police and military have failed.

The newspaper has written that Imran Khan had taken out a long march like this in 2014 as well and after that a dharna was held in Islamabad for 126 days but this time instead of dharna, he had asked his followers to go back. Thanking the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Imran Khan said that the Supreme Court had given this clear direction to the government that it should not put any blockade on his path and do not use any kind of force against him. Those people who have been arrested should be released immediately. The Supreme Court also said that the government should not use force to stop the long march but it may ensure security to important buildings located at the Red

Zone in Islamabad like the Supreme Court, Parliament House, President and Prime Minister's House, Office of the Election Commission and various Embassies.

As per another report published in the same newspaper, the government imposed restrictions to stop the long march of Imran Khan, for which it had to spend more than Rs 15 crore as extra expenditure. This money was spent in the past five days. This expenses include the money spent on hiring 380 containers to stop the protesters, cranes and fork lifters. This apart, nearly 27 lakh were spent on deploying police and para military forces on main roads. The government also used 100 buses and 100 trucks. Nearly 41 lakh was spent for transporting police and para military personnel who were deployed on duty to stop the long march.

**Mashriq** (May 27), published from Peshawar, has published a news in which it has been stated that the Supreme Court of Pakistan has directed the government not to arrest Imran Khan and his leaders and neither raid their houses. If Imran Khan wants to organise peaceful protests in Islamabad, then the government should not impose any restrictions on it. Judge Ijazul Ahsan of the Supreme Court said that conducting raids or arresting people in order to stop protest march is illegal and the government has no right to stop the traffic on the roads and neither should it close down schools, colleges or markets. When the Attorney General of Pakistan government opposed this statement of the



judge, another judge, Mazahar Naqvi said that you don't have any information about the explosive situation in the country. The situation is such that since the roads were closed, very few employees of the Supreme Court were able to reach their office. Making its position clear on the issue, the Attorney General said that Imran Khan had threatened to undertake a bloody march. I am personally against closing down of the roads but the government has to protect the life and property of the people as well. How can permission be given to armed people in order to spread violence?

President of the Bar Council of Islamabad High Court, Shoaeb Shahin said that the police are arresting even lawyers after entering their houses. Former judge Naisra Javid was also arrested after raiding her house. On this judge Ijazul Hassan said that nobody has the right to take law into one's hand, but along with it the government has no such right to use these kind of powers to stop the protest marches. The synergy between the government and

the Opposition has been lost which is not good for the future of the country. On this, the Attorney General said that the Prime Minister wants this political controversy to be settled via talks instead of through court.

**Jang** (May 27) reports that the chief of Pakistan Democratic Front, Maulana Fazal-ur Rahman has said that if Pakistan fails to come out of its current crisis, its existence itself will be in danger. He said that the high inflation that the country sees today is due to the policy adopted by the government in 2018. Pakistan cannot be run under the current dispensation and it will be totally destroyed. Hence we need to bring a new administration in the country and there is only one way for it that is to conduct a free and fair elections in the country. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that we are not the kind who will get scared of such protests. This is a seasonal disease. Our government is not facing any danger. The Opposition is running a campaign against our government. They themselves will get tired of it. ■

## Taliban's first deficit budget

**Siasat** (May 16) reports that the first budget presented by Taliban in Afghanistan showed a deficit of 44 billion Afghani (50.1 crore USD). The government has not made it clear how this deficit will be overcome. The US had left Afghanistan

nearly a year ago but the financial situation there is getting from bad to worse. Majority of the European nations have imposed economic sanctions on Afghanistan and the US has seized huge money of Afghanistan government from the banks there. Due to



their cooperation shall be sustained, but till now the stand of foreign governments are not positive. He said that they had to cut down a lot on education, health and social welfare projects.

As per a news in **Mumbai Urdu News** (May 23), the Afghanistan government has directed all women television anchors that they wear purdah while presenting programmes in television and also use burqa.

this reason, the entire trade of Afghanistan is in doldrums and the economic situation is getting from bad to worse day-by-day. Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan Abdul Salam Hanafi said that in the budget, the country's income is estimated to be 186.7billion Afghani. Whereas the government expenditure during the same period was 231.4billion Afghani.

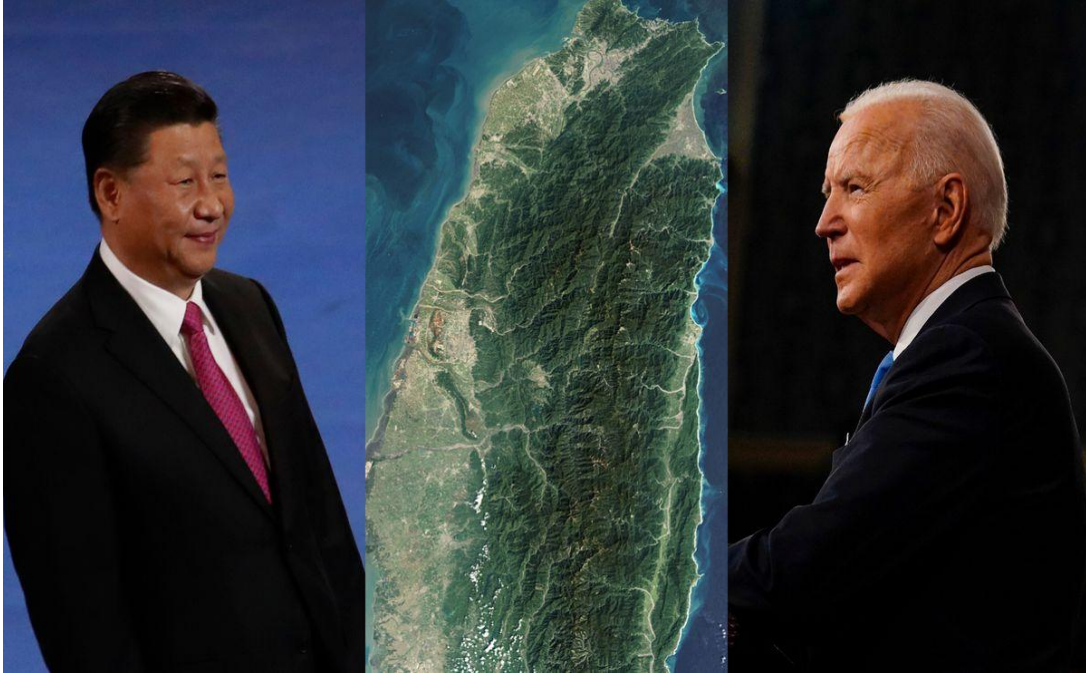
A spokesperson of finance ministry, Ahmad Wali Haqmal said the government is trying to see how the income could be increased. He said that in 2001, ever since the government was formed in Afghanistan with the cooperation of US, the entire economy of Afghanistan became dependent on the US. In 2021, the foreign soldiers left Afghanistan and soon Taliban captured power. Till now, nations across the world have not given recognition to Taliban government and hence it is not getting foreign aid. He said that they were trying to get help from foreign countries on humanitarian basis so that Afghan citizens do not face financial crisis. He said that the Taliban government has urged foreign governments that the developmental initiatives launched in Afghanistan with

However, anchors have refused to obey it and they are presenting programmes without purdah. The head of news of an Afghan Television said that majority of the women anchors are of the opinion that it was not possible to present programmes on TV channels without purdah and if they wear purdah and present their programmes, the government will end their jobs in the guise of unpopularity. It has come to know that various male anchors of different TV channels in Afghanistan also opposed the order of the Taliban government and said that in the present situation it would not be possible for women anchors to wear burqa and present programmes. It is to be noted that in November 2021, the Taliban had banned women from participating in television programmes and had directed women reporters not to go to public places without a burqa. This apart, the secondary schools and colleges have also been closed for women in Afghanistan. However, the US has been stressing that the Taliban open the doors of schools and colleges for women and students. Otherwise the financial help extended to them will be stopped.

## US committed to the defence of Taiwan

**Hamara Samaj** (May 25) reports that US President Joe Biden had said that if China attacks Taiwan, then the US would intervene in order to protect Taiwan. He said that the US is committed to its old policy and we will fulfil the responsibility

that we have taken for the protection of Taiwan. The defence ministry of China has condemned this statement of US President and said that China will not tolerate any kind of interference in the sovereignty of the country. This statement of the US was



unwarranted and Taiwan is an integral part of China. A spokesman of the White House said that it has not made any changes in its old policy and we are committed to the protection of Taiwan. He said that the government that is currently in power in China consider Taiwan as its part and it has been threatening for a long time now that it would once again occupy it. Recently, China has stepped up its military activities near Taiwan's island and added more ships in the South China Sea.

**Etemaad** (May 25) in its editorial has stated that the US is trying to open a new economic front against China which includes 13 countries including India. The aim of this alliance is to increase economic cooperation among them and thereby stop the growing business influence of China. The new economic front that has been opened against China includes Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Korea and Brunei. Earlier in 2015 also the US had made a plan called Trans-Pacific Partnership, but in 2017 the then US President Donald Trump had announced an end this plan. Today it looks like that in the changing circumstances, the US effort is to create an economic front of

different nations against the growing economic activities of China. It will give an opportunity to bring down the economic dominance of China as well as its domination in the Pacific region. There is a possibility that the US will put pressure on different nations that are part of this new alliance to increase trade among themselves in order to take on China financially. Since India has become a part of this economic front, there is a possibility of trade getting a boost in the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also extended support to this alliance. The domestic production of the 13 nations which are part of this alliance together enjoy 40% of the world's GDP. The US wants to financially corner China.

**Siasat** (May 21) has stated that the Chinese President has urged Pakistan to seriously implement the economic corridor project being built under China-Pakistan cooperation. This is because some people in Pakistan want to sabotage the increasing cooperation between China and Pakistan. This is the reason why they are creating hurdles in the financial projects being implemented in Pakistan by China and are killing Chinese experts involved in such projects. Pakistan's minister for planning

Ahsan Iqbal has assured Chinese media that the Pakistan government will make all efforts to ensure that economic cooperation between China and Pakistan are increased further. He said that there are some powers which are against the economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. They want to ensure that the projects

conceived through economic cooperation do not get completed and are hence killing Chinese experts involved in these projects with the help of terrorist organisations. He said that Pakistan would make all efforts to ensure that the Chinese experts staying in Pakistan get full security. ■

## Two Sikh traders killed in Pakistan

**Inquilab** (May 16) reports that in a town called Sarband near Peshawar, some unidentified assailants shot dead two Sikhs in broad daylight. Commissioner of Police, Peshwar, Ijaz Khan said the two Sikhs who were killed were 42-year-old Kuldeep Singh and 38-year-old Ranjit Singh. The two were shopkeepers and they used to trade Garam Masala. He said that an examination of CCTV cameras is being undertaken in the region in order to trace the attackers and the police and Frontier Corps are conducting search operations in



the locality. He said that it was a target killing. The assailants came on motorcycle and they used an AK-56 rifle. He said that Pakistan's enemy is promoting such

terrorist activities in order to give a bad name to Pakistan in the world. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had condemned this incident and directed the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that he takes strong steps to provide security to minorities and arrest those who killed the Sikhs as early as possible. ■

## Death sentence to those who killed minorities



**Inquilab** (May 20) reports that the International Criminal Court in Bangladesh has awarded death sentence to three persons who killed minorities at the behest of Pakistan in 1971. They were accused of killing many minorities publicly in Maulavi Bazar. This

punishment was given by a bench of Justice Mohammad Shahinur Islam after conducting the hearing for three years. Those who were awarded death sentence include Abdul Aziz, his brother Mohammad Abdul Mateen and another person, Abdul Mannan. The International Criminal Court had started an investigation against these three in October 2014 and two years later, a charge sheet was filed in the court. It is being said that during the liberation movement, these people killed several minorities and their women were gang raped in public. These people were working in Pakistan military as Razakars. ■

## Parliamentary elections in Lebanon



**Etemaad** (May 18) reports that in the recently concluded parliamentary elections in Lebanon, the domination of terrorist organisation Hezbollah and its supporters has ended. In the 128-member Parliament, Hezbollah and its allies got 61 seats, which, when compared to the dissolved house, is 10 seats less. Currently, Lebanon is in the midst of a huge financial crisis and the people of Lebanon are blaming the economic policies of Hezbollah and its supporting parties. In the recent elections, the largest political party of Christians, Nationalist Christian Lebanese Forces, has emerged as the biggest political party. This party is a strong opponent of Hezbollah and Islamic parties. The Interior Minister of Lebanon, Bassam Mawlawi, has claimed that Hezbollah and its supporters did not get even a single seat in the southern districts of Lebanon. Hezbollah leader and Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Elie Ferzli lost the elections. From 1992, Nabih Berri is the Speaker of the Parliament. The election of the Prime Minister will be held after the elections to the Parliament.

**Etemaad** (May 16) reports that this was the first time elections were held in Lebanon following the financial crisis and the huge blast that took place in Beirut

port. The surprising thing is that the jihadi organisation of Shias namely Hezbollah has suffered a huge defeat. Hezbollah has the support of Iran. There are several small parties active in the politics of Lebanon, hence it will be difficult to predict what will be the new nature of the Parliament. A 35-year-old woman, who came for voting in Beirut, said they want a liberal government to come to power in Lebanon who will be able to override the financial crisis of the country. Hence we would like to vote for independent candidates. South Lebanon is considered to be a stronghold of Shia terrorist organisation Hezbollah. A 30-year-old woman said that it is due to Hezbollah that they are facing this financial crisis but even now we will vote for Hezbollah because it is due to Hezbollah that the Israeli soldiers had to flee from Lebanon in 2000. We vote for an ideology. In our opinion, wealth does not hold much importance.

It is to be noted that Lebanon is in the grip of the biggest financial crisis ever since the civil war that took place from 1975 till 1990. The Lebanon currency suffered a huge devaluation and currently nearly three-fourth of the population of the country is caught in the quagmire of

poverty. In the 2018 elections, Hezbollah and its allies, which includes President Michel Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement Party, had won 71 seats in the 128-member Parliament. Due to this, the hold of Iran and Shias have increased in the politics of

Lebanon and the Saudi-supported Sunni lobby suffered a major jolt. The Sunnis are not participating in the latest elections. The leader of Sunnis, Saad Al-Hariri had announced a boycott of the elections.

## Restrictions on bringing Aab-e-Zamzam

**Salar** (May 19) reports that the Saudi Arabian government has banned the pilgrims who come for Haj and Umrah from carrying the Aab-e-Zamzam out of the country and has given strict direction to all pilgrims in this connection. This apart, all airlines have also been directed not to allow any passenger to carry Aab-e-Zamzam out of Saudi Arabia, otherwise stringent action will be taken against them.



It is worth mentioning here that Muslims consider Aab-e-Zamzam as holy as Gangajal. It is being said that when Prophet Hazrat Ibrahim along with his followers were in dire straits due to the lack of water, they spotted this water oozing from the ground. Since then this water from the well has been considered as holy. Muslims from world over who come to Saudi Arabia for Haj and Umrah return with the Aab-e-Zamzam like a holy prasad. It is not clear why the Saudi government has imposed a ban on carrying Aab-e-Zamzam out of the country. The Saudi government had also directed the Customs

department to strictly check the baggage of each and every person who leaves Saudi Arabia and do not allow anyone to carry Aab-e-

Zamzam out of the country. It is to be noted that earlier, every person who does Haj or Umrah had the permission to carry 10 litres of Aab-e-Zamzam to foreign countries. Later, the quantity was cut to 5 litres and now a total ban has been imposed on carrying it. It is to be noted that the well of Aab-e-Zamzam is located nearly 66 feet from Masjid Al-Harem in Mecca. It is being said that this well is nearly 5,000 years old. It was considered holy even before Islam. Those who undertake Haj and Umrah carry this holy water along with them and distribute them to their relatives as a gift.

**Siasat** (May 20) has published a news in which it has been stated that Saudi Arabia has not imposed a blanket ban in carrying Aab-e-Zamzam out of the country. This ban has been imposed only for a particular period.

## Turkey opposes induction of anti-Islam countries in NATO

**Etemaad** (May 21) reports that the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned the European Union and US that some countries like Finland and Sweden are promoting anti-Islam organisations. Turkey will not tolerate this under any circumstance. He said that these organisations, among which YPG is the

main one, are organising anti-Islam protests in Germany, Sweden and France. We have provided documentary evidence to US and European Union nations in this connection, but the Western nations have deliberately ignored our objections. In this connection, we have held talks with the governments of Sweden, Finland and Holland, but our





objections have been ignored. These countries are extending financial help to these anti-Islam organisations and are also providing them with weapon systems. He said that we will not allow these countries to take membership in NATO under any circumstance. Hence we are opposed to inducting Finland and Sweden also into NATO.

**Siasat** (May 16) reports that Turkey is an important member of the US-led military alliance NATO. The President of Turkey had stated it clearly that it is against admitting Finland and Sweden into NATO. Many Western nations have close relationship with Turkey and hence there are not in a position to ignore the objections of Turkey. Majority of the nations of European Union understand it very well that if they admit Finland and Sweden as members of NATO by ignoring the objections of Turkey, then a rebellious Turkey will walk out of the alliance. Currently, at a time when the Russian

attack on Ukraine is still on, NATO is not in a position to ignore Turkey. The President of Turkey had said in a clear voice that he is studying the whole situation and he made it clear to the US and its allied countries that Sweden and Scandinavian nations are supporting anti-Islam terrorists. However, Turkey is opposed to these terrorist organisations. The President of Turkey has made it clear that the mistake that it had made in 1980 by supporting the re-entry of Greece into NATO will not be repeated. Now the Greece has got so much courage that it is provoking other nations of NATO against Turkey.

It is to be noted that all the 30-member nations of the NATO alliance enjoy veto power as per which they could oppose the entry of any other nation into NATO. In such a situation, if Turkey opposes the entry of Sweden and Finland into NATO alliance, then it would not be easy for the US to induct these two nations into NATO alliance. Russia has been opposing the entry of Sweden into NATO alliance right from the beginning. Even looking into the background of Ukraine, it will be difficult for the US to induct Sweden into NATO by ignoring the resentment of Russia. Sweden is putting pressure on US to admit it into the NATO alliance after seeing the increasing danger from Russia.

## Israel government jolted by resignation of woman MP

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 21) reports that a fresh political crisis is brewing in Israel. Due to this reason, the possibility of Israel facing elections once again has increased. In the Israeli Parliament, the current government has the majority of just one MP, but recently, a woman MP, Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi had resigned from the House. It is being said that this MP is linked to Left-wing Meretz party. According to Israeli media, in a letter sent to Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett

and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, she mentioned about her decision to quit the Parliament and said that there is a growing influence of right wingers on the government. This apart, she said that she is against the harsh steps being taken against Palestinian Muslims by the Israel government. Especially, the action taken by Israel police on the namazis at Al-Aqsa mosque was a setback to her and recently, after seeing the circumstances under which a woman journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh

died, she decided to resign from the parliament.

It is to be noted that 11 months ago, a new government was formed in Israel following the formation of an eight-party alliance and it survives on the majority of a single MP. The ruling alliance includes Left, liberal and Islamic parties. Nowadays a kind of political uncertainty prevails in Israel. In the past three years, elections were held to the Parliament four times. However, not a single party got a clear majority in these



elections. Recently, Naftali Bennett formed this alliance only because he wanted to overthrow the government of Nethanyahu. There are several cases of corruption pending against Nethanyahu in courts. Before Zoabi, in April, a woman MP of right wing Jewish party, Idit Silman, had resigned from the Parliament. Idit was linked to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's Yamina party. She had resigned in protest against supply of food to hospitals during Jewish festivals.

## Two Shia leaders get death sentence in Saudi Arabia



**Avadhnama** (May 22) reports that the Supreme Court of Saudi Arabia has awarded death sentence to two rebel Shia leaders as part of the country's drive against Shia leaders. According to the newspaper, these two Shia leaders were citizens of Bahrain. The Saudi Supreme Court had awarded death sentence to these two leaders on charges of running anti-government activities in Saudi Arabia at the behest of Iran and they were provoking the people of Saudi against the

government. An organisation in Bahrain has condemned this decision of the Saudi Supreme Court and urged Islamic organisations across the world to exert pressure on Saudi government and get the punishment given to Sadeq Majeed Thamer and Jaafar Mohamed Sultan cancelled. Earlier, the Saudi government had hanged to death two dozen Shia leaders in the Shia majority region of Qatif because they were protesting the harassment of Shias by the Saudi government. It is to be noted that in the past six months, more than 200 anti-government Shias were given death sentence by the Sunni government of Saudi Arabia. According to sources in Iran government, the public anger against the Saudi government is rapidly increasing among the Shias there. The Shias are holding huge protests against the Saudi government which it is crushing with the help of military. Recently, nearly 500 Shias were arrested. They were kept in jails without registering any case.

## Rs 50 crore estimate for the maintenance of Jama Masjid



**Hamara Samaj** (May 27) reports that the Delhi Waqf Board has made an estimation of Rs 50 crore for the maintenance work at the historical Jama Masjid in Delhi. The responsibility for its supervision is likely to be handed over to National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage. It is to be noted that this masjid was built by Shahjahan in 1656 and it is spread over 23 acres of land. It has three gates. The Mughal Emperor used to offer Jumanamaz at this masjid. He used to enter the masjid through the East Gate. It is being said that a draft plan for maintenance was prepared during the time of V P Singh government itself as per which an estimated Rs 100 crore was to be spent for the maintenance of the Jama Masjid. But

the plan was thrown to the bin after the overthrow of V P Singh government.

In the past two years, the imam of Jama Masjid, Ahmad Bukhari, has been writing letters to the Prime Minister and other ministers over the dilapidated condition of Jama Masjid. This issue was also raised in both the Houses of the Parliament. Now the Delhi Waqf Board has taken the responsibility for the maintenance of the masjid.

Chairman of the Board, Amanatullah Khan said that the responsibility for the maintenance of this masjid was taken by the Delhi government and we will complete this. We have completed a survey in this connection. The maintenance work will soon begin. There are more than three dozen ancient historical masjids in Delhi. This include Masjid Kala, Moti Masjid, Sunheri Masjid, Nili Masjid, Masjid Sultangarhi, Masjid Nizamuddin Dargah and Old Masjid located in Purana Qila are worth mentioning. However, as far as its antiquity is concerned, Masjid Quwwat-ul Islam is considered as the most ancient one which was constructed by Qutubuddin Aibak after destroying 27 temples.

## Nawab Malik's wife and son likely to be arrested

**Aurangabad Times** (May 27) reports that the Maharashtra's minister for minority affairs Nawab Malik is in jail nowadays. Now the possibility of his family members too going to jail has increased. It is being said that the officials of Enforcement Directorate had summoned the family members of Nawab Malik for questioning in the money laundering case, but they did



not appear. According to government sources, Nawab Malik's wife Mahjabeen was called two times and his son Faraz Malik was called five times for questioning, but they did not appear. According to Enforcement

Directorate, Nawab Malik is linked to notorious terrorist Dawood Ibrahim and Nawab Malik's company had done huge business in the name of Dawood Ibrahim.

## Pasdaran-e-Inquilab in the list of terrorist organisations

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 26) reports that the US has decided to enlist Iranian militia Pasdaran-e-Inquilab in the list of terrorist organisations, because this organisation is linked to Iranian government. The US has announced that since Iran is extending support and promoting terrorist organisations Iran will not get any help from the US in future. Recently, Iran government had lodged a protest over the murder of an official of Pasdaran-e-Inquilab in the US. On the other hand, while supporting the decision of the US, Israel said that the US decision would help



in controlling the Islamic terrorism. It is to be noted that the network of Pasdaran-e-Inquilab is spread all over the world. They were also accused of murdering many important people.

## So far eight women from Rajasthan reach Rajya Sabha

**Hindustan Express** (May 25) reports that eight women from Rajasthan have so far won Rajya Sabha elections from the state. Out of them seven belong to Congress and one belong to BJP. The women from Congress who got elected to Rajya Sabha include Mukut Bihari Bhargav's daughter Sharda Bhargav, chairperson of Mahila Congress Prabha Thakur, writer Lakshmi Kumari Chundawat, wife of former chief minister Barkatullah Khan, Ushi Khan and Shanti



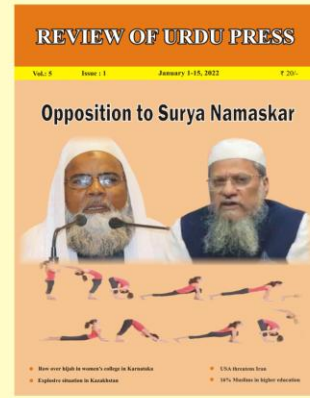
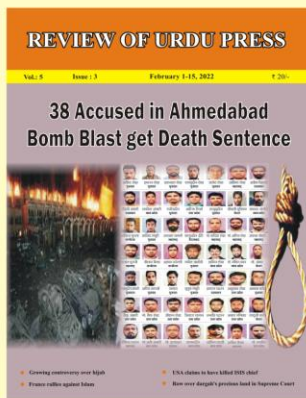
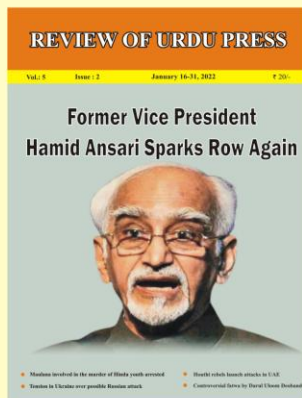
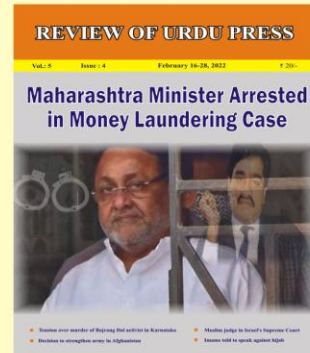
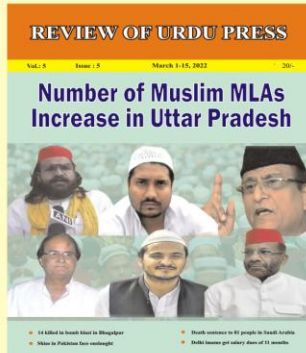
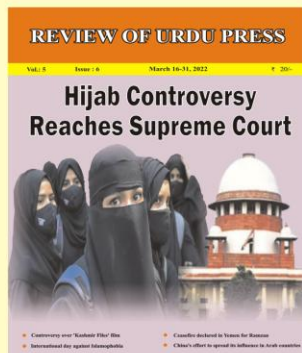
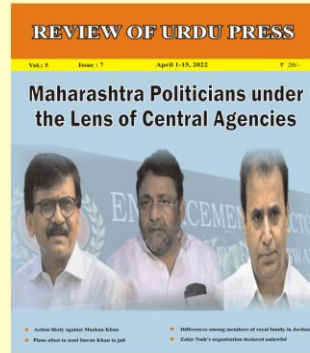
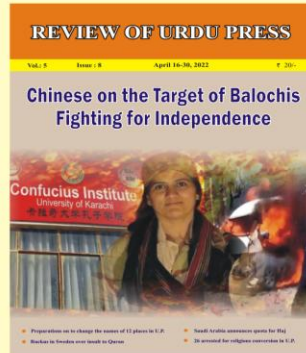
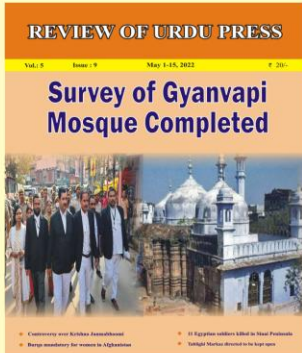
Pahadia, apart from Narayan Devi and Jamuna Devi Barupal. From BJP ticket, Najma Heptullah got elected. Sharda Bhargav got elected to the Rajya Sabha for maximum number of times---three years. She got elected for the first time in 1952. Where as Prabha Thakur adorned the Rajya Sabha two times. All the others have got a change for six years. Najma Heptullah was Rajya Sabha member from 2004 to 2010.

## Terrorism comes down in the Northeast

**Siasat** (May 23) reports that Union home minister Amit Shah had said that there is an 89% decrease in terrorist incidents after Narendra Modi government came to power. He said that this is due to the work of the BJP government. Before Narendra Modi came to power, this region was a hotbed of terrorist activities. He claimed that due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a solution has been



found for the issue of Bodoland. In Tripura, all terrorists have surrendered themselves. Talks are on to find a solution to the Nagaland issue. In the past 3 years, nearly 9,600 extremists in Northeast India had surrendered themselves and laid down their arms. He said that due to the efforts of Modi government, the North eastern states are moving fast on the path of development.



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