

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

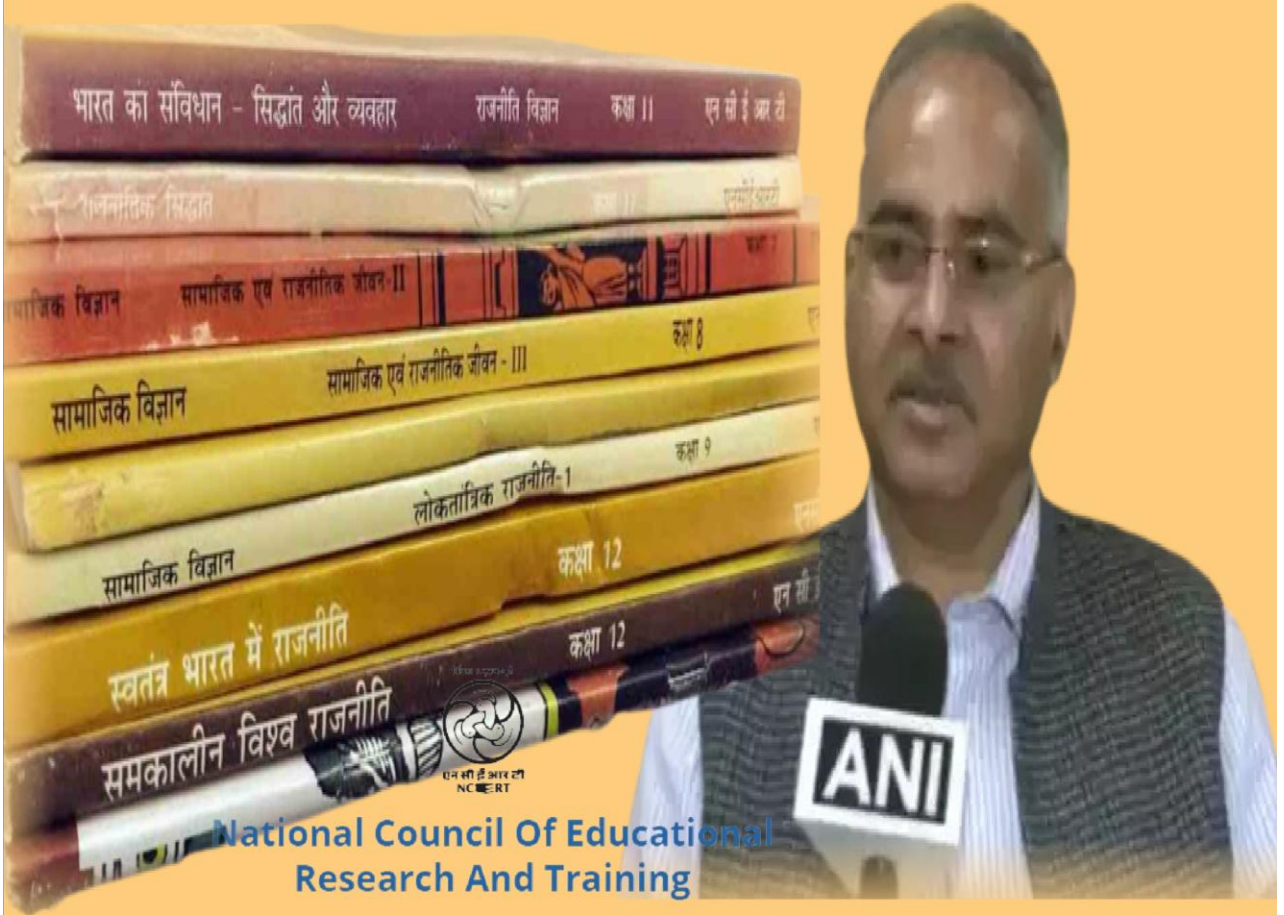
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Row Over Changes in NCERT Syllabus



- All accused acquitted in Maliana massacre case
- China releases 11-point policy document on Afghan issue
- Protest against Israeli attack on Masjid Al Aqsa
- 800 fake schools in Maharashtra

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Summary

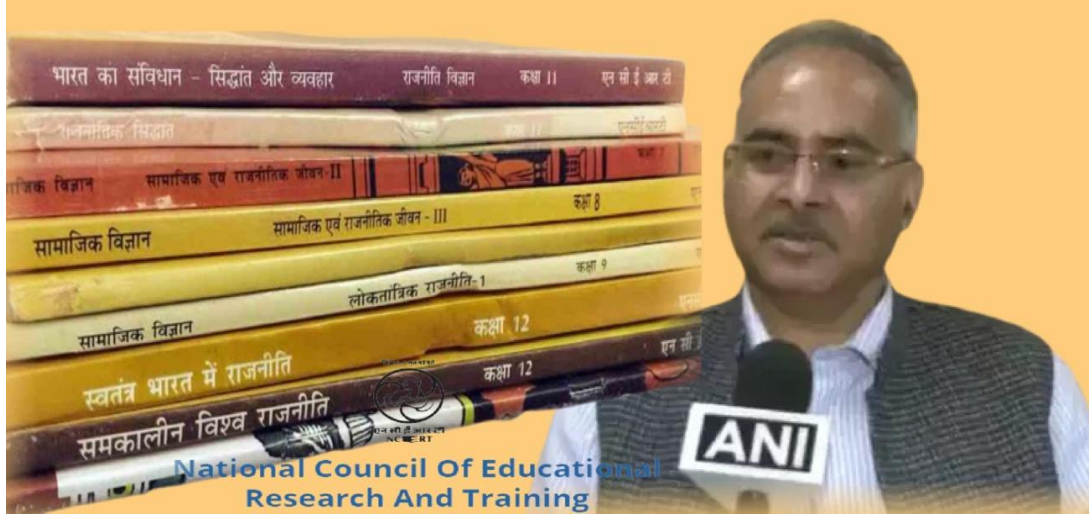
Several Muslim organisations, Left and secular parties have launched an attack on the government on the pretext of the recent curriculum revision carried out by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). However, NCERT director Prof Dinesh Prasad Saklani said that last year, following the Corona pandemic, an expert committee was formed for each subject to reduce the pressure of the syllabus on children. The expert committee looked into the syllabus of all subjects and decided what chapters could be removed. He said that all these have been done as part of the educational process and the work to revise and improve the syllabus is being done in accordance with the National Educational Policy being introduced by the Union government in 2020.

Controversial Islamic religious preacher Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui has been released on conditional bail after spending nearly one-and-a-half years in jail. There is a competition among several Muslim organisations to take credit for his release from the jail. It is to be noted that the Maulana has been running several organisations from Phulat village in Muzaffarnagar. The Uttar Pradesh ATS had accused Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui of converting people to Islam by force or by offering money through these organisations, for which he had been getting huge money from abroad.

China is rapidly increasing its influence in Arab world. It is due to its backdoor diplomacy that the two old enemies in Islamic world, Saudi Arabia and Iran, have now joined hands. The civil war that has been taking place in Yemen for the past one decade has also taken a fresh turn. It is also said that Chinese hands were behind the ceasefire declaration between the Sunni government of Yemen and the Iran-supported Houthi Shia rebels. The US and Israeli position in the Islamic world suffered a major setback due to the diplomatic efforts of China. For the past 100 years, initially Britain and later the US held sway in the Muslim world in Middle-East. It was the policy of all rulers in this region to extend their support to the US.

The Chinese influence is now rapidly growing even in Afghanistan. Recently, China announced an '11-point policy' on Afghanistan for the first time. After Pakistan, now it looks like China is making efforts to rapidly spread its influence in Afghanistan. May be this is the reason why China has given the indication of providing a huge amount as loan to Afghanistan. The growing friendship between China and Afghanistan may also become a cause of trouble for India in future. Nowadays, China is also trying to resolve the growing differences between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This is because in case differences between these two countries increase, then the Chinese plans to maintain an economic dominance in the region may suffer a huge setback. The Pakistan's charge is that majority of the terror incidents taking place in the country are linked to the Islamic terrorist organisations active in Afghanistan. Pakistan's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister had openly stated that as long as Afghanistan's land is used against Pakistan, it is impossible to establish peace in Pakistan.

Row over changes in NCERT syllabus



Salar (April 4) states that the NCERT has introduced some changes in the Class XII History, Civics and Hindi syllabus. The newspaper alleged that the Modi government at the Centre is fulfilling the dreams of the RSS about Hindustan. According to the newspaper, the chapter on Mughal Sultanate has been removed from the book on History. This apart, many chapters like the US hegemony in world politics and the Cold War era have been removed from the book on Political Science. From the book on Indian politics in the post-Independence period, portions on the rise of mass movement and the era of one party dominance have been removed.

The NCERT has also brought some changes in the Hindi syllabus as well, as per which the writings of Firaq Gorakhpuri, Suryakant Tripathi Nirala and Vishnu Khare have also been removed. This apart, many chapters have been removed from the books for Class X and Class XI. For example, from the Class XI book 'Themes in World History', chapters like Central Islamic Lands, Clash of Cultures and Industrial Revolution have been removed. In the same way, chapters like Democracy and Diversity, Popular Struggles and Movements and Challenges of Democracy

have been removed from the book Democratic Politics-2 for Class X. This change in syllabus will be applicable on all schools and students where the NCERT texts are part of the syllabus.

Inquilab (April 14) states that the name of country's first education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has disappeared from the syllabus of NCERT. This apart, the mention about Jammu and Kashmir's voluntary merger with Indian Union has also been removed. The newspaper said that in the first chapter in Class XI text book on Political Science, 'Constitution: Why and How,' the name of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was removed even from the session of the Committee on Constituent Assembly. Now the changed stance is on the lines that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel and Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar used to preside over these committees. Earlier, the name of Maulana Azad also used to be mentioned. It is written in the chapter that there were eight major committees to discuss different subjects in the Constituent Assembly which were generally presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad or Ambedkar.

The newspaper said that these people used to differ a lot on various issues.



Policy formulated by the government in 2020.

Siasat (April 10) reports that more than 250 educationists in the country have condemned the changes being brought in the NCERT syllabus. They include people like Romila Thapar, Jayati Ghosh, Mridula Mukherjee, Apurvanand, Irfan Habib and Upendra Singh. They launched a signature campaign opposing the

Maulana Azad played a prominent role in 1946, as he led the Congress in preparing a draft of the Constitution and in the election to the new Constituent Assembly of the country. He also led a delegation for talks with the British Cabinet Mission during his six-year tenure as the Congress President. It is to be noted that last year, the Ministry for Minorities Welfare had stopped the Maulana Azad Fellowship as well.

Roznama Sahara (April 4) states that the changes being brought in the syllabus will be applicable in the country from this year. Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad Dibyakant Shukla has confirmed the changes being brought in the syllabus. Secondly, Director of NCERT, Prof Dinesh Prasad Saklani, said that whatever being published in newspapers in this connection are totally wrong. He said that the changes being brought in textbooks will not affect the information being provided to the students. The claims being made about removing the portions on Mughals are also wrong and misleading. This step has been taken to fill the gaps in the studies of the students that took place during the Corona pandemic.

It is to be noted that in the past also many chapters were removed from the syllabus of Class XII, one of which was related to the riots that took place in Gujarat. The director of NCERT said that we are working as per the New Education

changes and said that the changes being brought in these textbooks have exposed the communal agenda of the government. These changes are against the Constitution and the culture and they shall be withdrawn.

Inquilab (April 13) states that the Democratic Teachers Front also held a protest against these changes in Jantar Mantar in Delhi and demanded their withdrawal.

Etemaad (April 7) has alleged that the BJP government wants to fill the minds of young generation in the country with hatred by portraying the heritage and history of the country in a wrong manner and this is quite dangerous to the Ganga-Jamuni culture and the unity of the country. Whether it does any damage to any particular community or not, it will definitely create a huge mess in the country. As soon as the elections approach, the government takes such steps to amass the votes of Hindus.

Salar (April 8) in its editorial has claimed that the Mughal period was a glorious part of India's history and it cannot be overlooked. But now, in order to achieve political purposes, this important era in the Indian history is being removed. A section of Hindu community are victims of the inferiority complex with regard to Mughals and hence the syllabus has been changed.

All accused in Maliana massacre case acquitted



Roznama Sahara (April 3) reports that nearly 36 years after more than 60 people were killed during a riots in Maliana in Meerut in 1987, the verdict in the case has come. The court of Additional District Judge has acquitted 39 accused in the case. Another 40 accused had passed away during the course of hearing. Those who passed away included Dr P N Malhotra, who conducted the post-mortem of those killed in the riots. The verdict was delivered by Additional District and Sessions Judge Lakhwinder Singh Sood.

As per the report, the court said in its verdict that the police did not produce any solid evidence against the accused in the case. It is to be noted that 14 accused were acquitted by various courts in the past. It is being said 68 people were killed and more than 100 were injured in the anti-Muslim riots. The riots took place on May 22, 1987 in Hashimpura and on the next day in Sher Khan mohalla in Maliana during which rioters set fire to houses and looted them. A resident of the mohalla, Yakoob Ali, filed a report with the police the next day about the riots in which 93 people were named. In the FIR, it was alleged that rioters launched an attack on the people residing in the locality and killed them and set fire to their houses. There were 74 witnesses in

the case among which only 25 are alive today.

Lawyer for the accused C L Bansal said the court has acquitted all the accused due to lack of evidence. It has been argued in the court that the police booked the accused after going through the voters' list, he said. However, these people have nothing to do with this case. The killing took place in Maliana a day after the Hashimpura incident in Meerut. Yaqoob, who filed the case in the court, alleged that PAC personnel carrying weapons came and threatened that the killing that took place in Hashimpura will take place here also. Later they started opening fire in which 68 people were killed.

As per reports, Yaqoob had alleged that in this case, Salim handed over the voters list to the SHO of TP Nagar and entered the names. A day later, my signature was taken, though I did not see the report, he said. Later it has been established in the court that the police have wrongly booked people in the massacre case.

As per a news published in **Inquilab** (April 7), preparations are being made to question the decision of the district judge in the high court. The newspaper said the accused in the Hashimpura and Maliana



massacre cases managed to escape because the investigation was not properly done in them.

Salar (April 3) states that a court in Gujarat has acquitted all 26 accused in the different cases registered in the 2002 riots case in which more than 12 Muslims were killed and women were gang-raped. In this case, there were a total of 39 accused, among which 13 died during the course of hearing. Panchmahal district Additional Sessions Judge Leelabhai Chudasama acquitted all the accused in the latest verdict.

These people were accused of being part of a mob that organized the bandh following the aftermath of the Godhra incident on February 27 in which Sabarmati train was set on fire and were also part of the communal riots that took place on March 1, 2002. An FIR was filed against the accused at Kalol police station on March 2. The prosecution had produced 190 witnesses and 334 documents in this case. The court said that there are huge

differences in the statement of witnesses. This apart, the documents presented in the court also did not establish the charges. Hence all the accused in the case has been acquitted.

Salar (April 3) in its editorial said that two such horrifying incidents have been published in today's newspaper in which the Muslims hoped

that they would definitely get justice at the earliest. However, their hopes were dashed when news came from both the places that those accused of killing Muslims and raping Muslim women were acquitted on the pretext that no evidence was presented against them in the court. How can one forget the way the state government had released the rapists of Bilkis Bano from the jail a few months ago? Even the efforts of Zakia Jafri have failed to get justice. This has resulted in demoralisation among Muslims.

The newspaper said that it has been clearly stated in a report published in New York Times on March 29, 2023 that Modi has established a firm grip on government institutions and a scared administration and people do not raise any voice against the Modi government. Seeing the current situation, one could understand in which direction Hindustan is going. Hence the Muslims need to adopt a new strategy to face this situation.

Ban imposed on Islamic channel in Kerala lifted

Inquilab (April 6) states that in an important verdict, the Supreme Court has scrapped an order of the Central government in which a ban had been imposed on broadcast by a Malayalam news channel in Kerala, 'Media One.' This channel has been run by Madhyamam Broadcasting Limited. The government had alleged that the broadcast of this channel

was a threat to the unity of the country. The government had argued that Jamaat-e-Islami's money has also been invested in this channel. However, a division bench of Chief Justice of India Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli has termed baseless all the charges framed against the channel by the government and announced the lifting of the ban imposed



produce any solid evidence or report of intelligence agencies to substantiate its claim. Even a sealed report has been presented in the Kerala High Court also and claimed that the report of the Intelligence Bureau could not be made public as it would be detrimental to

on it. Along with it, the Union Ministry for Information and Broadcasting has been directed to renew the licence of the channel within a month. The court said that just because the channel criticises the government, it cannot be said that its functioning would be a threat to the unity of the country.

It is to be noted that the channel has criticised the government during the protests over the Citizenship Amendment Bill and NRC and had published objectionable news in this connection. Following this, the Union Ministry for Information and Broadcasting had refused to renew its licence and contended that the report of the home ministry and intelligence agencies are not in favour of the channel. The channel also filed an appeal in Kerala High Court against this decision. A single bench of the high court upheld the decision on the basis of a sealed report of the Central government. Later, the channel filed a review petition in the high court. However, the high court once again upheld this decision of the Central government.

Later, the Media One channel filed an appeal in the Supreme Court and alleged that the Central government had imposed a ban on the broadcasting of the channel on frivolous charges and had also refused to renew its licence. The channel told the Supreme Court that the Central government had declared it as a threat to the country. However, the Central government did not

the unity and integrity of the country.

The Supreme Court had issued a stay order on the decision of the government and the high court on March 15, 2022. Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli said that threat to national security cannot be raised out of nowhere. It should be based on concrete claims and evidence. The Supreme Court also criticised the high court. It is said in the verdict that a free media is very important for a democratic nation. It is the responsibility of the media to speak the truth about the government and provide correct information to the people. The court also described as baseless the allegation of the government that the money of Jamaat-e-Islami is invested in the channel.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 7) in its editorial, while mentioning about the lifting of the ban imposed on the news channel, said that all sacred institutions in the country have lost their sanctity and objectivity. However, the judiciary has saved its pride which is a ray of hope in the prevailing darkness. From this decision, it is hoped that the government's plan to silence the Opposition ahead of the 2024 elections, has fallen flat. But currently the Opposition parties are a disappointed lot. This is because a petition filed by 14 Opposition parties in the Supreme Court against harassment of the Opposition at the behest of the government has been rejected. However, the present chief justice has

definitely given some judgments which uphold the supremacy of the Constitution and the law.

In 1975, the late Indira Gandhi had imposed Emergency in the country, but had to lift it later. She was also thoroughly defeated in the election. However, today's atmosphere is totally different and the situation in the country is worse than that of 1977. The government has forced a section of media to toe its line through allurements and intimidation. A major section of the media is involved in singing peans to the government and those who have tried to keep their head high have been silenced through intimidation or brought over. The Parliament has got adjourned over the Adani issue and every voice against it has been branded as a case of treason. All types of gimmicks have

been adopted to stop the likelihood of an opposition victory in the polls. Files are being readied against leaders of all political parties, forcing them to remain silent. Even Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are being questioned. Now everybody's eyes are on the Supreme Court.

Salar (April 8) in its editorial said that the Supreme Court order to lift the ban imposed on Malayalam channel 'Media One' is a welcome step. In its order, the Supreme Court said that any refusal to renew the licence of a channel is crushing freedom of speech. No ban can be imposed on any channel or media just because it publishes news which is against the government. It is the duty of media to create awareness about the policies of the government and this strengthens the democracy.

Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui's bail approved



Mumbai Urdu News (April 7) states that the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court has granted conditional bail to Islamic preacher Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui in a conversion case. The Maulana is lodged in Lucknow jail for the past 18 months. The Uttar Pradesh ATS had arrested Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui from Meerut in September 2021 on charges of forced conversion. Later he was sent to jail after registration of a case. The bail

application of Maulana had been adjourned several times. This time also the ATS opposed the bail. However, the lawyers of Maulana managed to secure his bail. A lawyer of the Maulana said the efforts of Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui's legal panel were successful.

It is to be noted that 17 others have also been lodged in jail along with Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui, out of which three managed to get bail. One among them was

given bail by the Supreme Court while the two others were granted bail by the high court. The lawyers of Maulana said that the efforts being made to give the credit for Maulana's bail to one organisation are totally wrong. It is to be noted that Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui, who belongs to Phulat village in Muzaffarnagar runs the Shah Waliullah Trust. This apart, he is also the chairman of the Global Peace Foundation. During the time of the arrest, the police claimed that the Maulana was involved in conversion activities and he gets financial help from abroad. The investigating agencies also said the Maulana is running the country's biggest conversion syndicate and he converts non-Muslims by misleading them and also through threats. Before Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui, Maulana Umar Guatam and Jahangir Alam were arrested on same charges.



Commenting on the bail of Maulana Siddiqui, the newspaper said that what is needed is that the Muslims need to adopt a concrete policy to address the hatred being unleashed against Muslims in the country. However, the debate is over who has managed to secure bail for Maulana

Kaleem Siddiqui and who has not. Before this, when four youths were acquitted in the Jaipur bomb blast case, then also this kind of a debate took place. On both the occasions, efforts were made to launch an attack on Jamiat Ulema stating that Jamiat has nothing to do with the case. In one issue, fingers were pointed against Maulana Arshad Madani while in the second case these were pointed against the Jamiat Ulema headed by Maulana Mahmood Madani. However, isn't it a fact that the way Jamiat Ulema comes forward, no other organisation does it. Jamiat Ulema has saved several people from death row and from life-term in jail. The newspaper said that Maulana Kaleem did not need any kind of legal help. He could fight his own case, whereas those poor Muslims who are lodged in jails on fake charges of terrorism need such legal help.

Islamic scholar Maulana Mohammad Rabe Hasani Nadvi passes away



Salat (April 14) states that the chairman of All India Muslim Personal Law Board and

the chief of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulema, Maulana Mohammad Rabe Hasani Nadvi, has passed away. His death has created a wave of grief among Muslims in the entire world. For the past few days, there was a news that his health was deteriorating and he was brought from his ancestral place Rae Bareli to Lucknow for treatment.

He passed away in a hospital in Lucknow on April 13. He was 93 years old. He was buried in his ancestral place. Lakhs of people were present during the burial. Maulana was born in 1929 in a renowned religious family in Takia Kalan in Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. His father's name was Syed Ahmad Hasani. He received his education from Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulema. Later he taught at Darul Uloom Deoband and at International Islamic University in Saudi Arabia. In 1999, after the death of Maulana Syed Abul Hassan



Nadvi, he was appointed as the head of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulema. In 2002, when the chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Qazi Mujahidul Islam Qasmi passed away, he was unanimously elected as the chairperson of Muslim Personal Law Board.

The news of his death was prominently published in Muslim newspapers in both the country and abroad. The Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Syed Sadatullah Hussaini described the Maulana as a precious gem of the community and said that the Muslim world will never forget his contributions to the religion and the community.

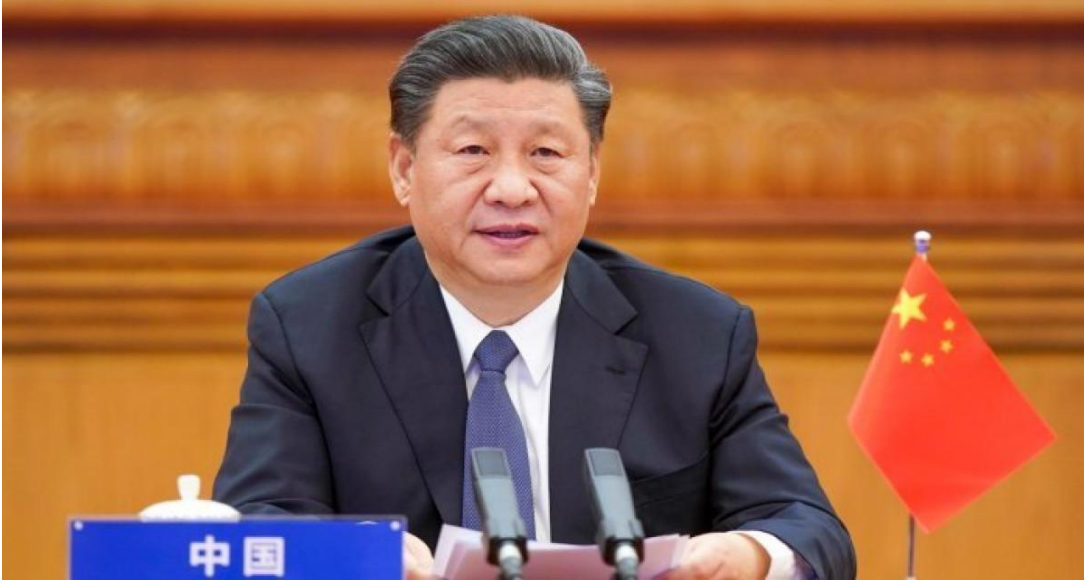
The chairperson of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi described the death of Maulana as a huge void for the country, religion and the community that would never be able to fill. The Muslim Personal Law Board said in a statement that the Muslims world over used to treat Maulana with great respect. He was a unique personality. In the present times, when the Islamic community is facing a

crisis, the passing away of Maulana is a great loss.

Former Union Minister and Congress Leader K Rahman Khan said that people like the Maulana are born only once in thousands of years. He was carrier of national unity and a spokesperson of Islam in the true meaning of the word. The void that has been created in Muslim world due to his passing away can never be filled.

The chief of Jamiat Ulema, Mahmoud Madani, said the personality of Maulana Nadvi was his scholarship. He was a great preacher of Islam and scholar, and Muslims world over will continue to get educated from his books. While offering his tributes, Prof Akhtarul Waze said the Maulana was a symbol of purity, wisdom and high character. Former MP Mohammad Adeb said that he lost his spiritual guru. The chairperson of Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Firoz Ahmad described the passing away of Maulana as such a loss to the community and Islamic world that it would never be able to fill that void.

China's 11-point policy document on Afghanistan issue released



Inquilab (April 14) states that China has released an 11-point policy document on Afghanistan. The title of this position paper released on behalf of the Chinese foreign ministry is 'China's policy on Afghanistan issue.' In this document, China states that instead of the geo-physical game between different nations on the Afghanistan issue, there should be a platform for cooperation. China supports all the plans and the steps taken towards finding a political solution to the Afghanistan problem. As per this document, China respects Afghanistan's freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity, right of the Afghanistan people for free elections, and the religious beliefs and national customs.

It is stated in the document that China will never interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Neither would it make any effort to influence Afghanistan for its own vested interest. China supports a moderate and an intelligent governance system in Afghanistan and hopes that Afghanistan will create a broad political framework and will adopt a moderate and visionary domestic and international policy. This apart, the Afghanistan

government shall protect the fundamental rights and interests of all citizens including women, children, minorities and ethnic groups. China will continue to extend full support to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan and will fulfill the assurances of help. This apart, China will regularly improve its financial-commercial relations and investments and will extend full cooperation in healthcare, poverty alleviation, agriculture, natural disasters and on other issues.

Citing terrorism, it is being mentioned in the statement that China hopes that Afghanistan will take strong steps against all terrorist forces, including East Turkestan Islamic Movement, and will extend full protection to citizens, institutions and the development projects started by China and other countries in Afghanistan. China has urged the world community that it cooperate in stopping the two-pronged and multi-targeted terrorism and in strengthening the security system and provide necessary equipment and technical help to Afghanistan.

China has also appealed to the world community that it fully cooperates in the



war against terrorism and separatism in Afghanistan and take strong steps to stop financial aid to terrorists, recruitment of

terrorists and cross-border terror activities. China has asked the US to fulfil its old assurances and responsibilities to Afghanistan because the current problems have arisen due to them. China has also stressed that different countries need to set up base in Afghanistan or its neighbouring countries in order to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan. China has also given its assurance to cooperate in finding a solution to the refugee problem in Afghanistan. This apart, it has also extended support to Afghanistan in its war against narcotic substances.

More than 100 killed in military bombing in Myanmar



Inquilab (April 13) states that the military junta in Myanmar has launched massive aerial attacks on the centres of political activists who are fighting against the martial law in the country, in which hundreds of people have been killed. According to news agencies, the warplanes and helicopters of Myanmar military bombed nearby areas of Yangon. This region has emerged as the largest pockets against the military government in Myanmar in the past two years. A huge number of women and children were also killed in this attack. Initially, the military government did not make any comments on this attack. Later, while confirming the attack in a press note, it said that the region

where the attack was carried out was a recruitment centre of terrorists.

Commenting on the death of innocent citizens in the attack, the military said the terrorists brought them forcefully to their organisation. Since they were staying in their pockets, they also became the victims of military attack. As per a report of Al Jazeera, the

attack took place when an inaugural function of an administrative office was being organized and a huge number of people were attending it. It is to be noted that the Myanmar military had captured power in February 2021 after overthrowing the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and arrested all leaders of the country including Aung San Suu Kyi. Since then there is a massive protest against military dictatorship in the country. More than 5,000 people, including several police officers, have been killed in the military action aimed at crushing the protests in the country. Till now, 47 police officers have been confirmed dead in the clashes that took place with protesters.

More than one dozen prominent leaders associated with protests for human rights have been hanged to death. According to government sources, in the past two years, the military administration used warplanes at least 600 times to crush its opponents.

More than 10 lakh people have been rendered homeless in Myanmar due to violence, mass protests and military operations. The Western nations have imposed several kinds of sanctions on the top officials of military administration.

Tension between the US and France

Inquilab (April 14) states that the relationship between the US and France became tense following a statement by French President Emmanuel Macron about Taiwan. French President Emmanuel Macron said that an alliance with the US doesn't mean that we have become their slaves. Macron is still adamant on his statement on Taiwan. Addressing a press conference, he had stated that France was in favour of maintaining status quo in Taiwan and it also supports the One China policy. He said they want a peaceful solution to this controversy.



Macron has given birth to a new controversy by demanding that European Union need not remain under Washington and Beijing on the Taiwan issue. According to diplomatic sources, this controversy erupted when China launched military exercise to increase pressure on Taiwan. According to foreign news agency Reuters, the Taiwan foreign affairs ministry

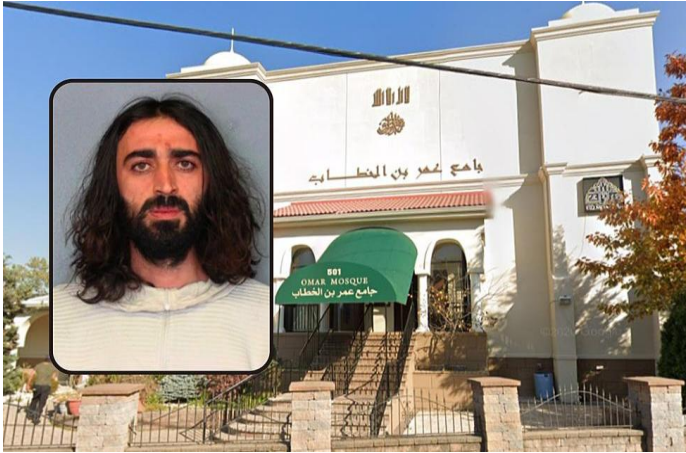
stated that the statement given by the French President on Taiwan was annoying.

It is to be noted that in a recent interview, Emmanuel Macron demanded the European Union that it reduce its dependence on the US and build a third bridge on international issues apart from Washington and Beijing. The chairman of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, Tsai Ing-Wen, while commenting on the statement of French President, said he was very much surprised over his statement. France has no diplomatic relationship with Taiwan. But it definitely has an office in Taipei.

Attack on imam of masjid in the US

Roznama Sahara (April 11), quoting US television channel CNN, said the imam of Omar Masjid, located in Paterson in New Jersey, Sayed Elnakib, was injured in an attack by an assailant. His condition is stated to be out of danger. A spokesperson of the masjid said the assailant had entered the masjid and was doing namaz. Later all of a sudden he attacked the imam with a knife. After this incident, the attacker tried

to flee from the spot. However, the namazis caught him and handed him over to the police. According to the spokesperson of the masjid, when this incident took place, more than 200 namazis were present in the masjid. After this incident, the mayor of the city went to the hospital and met the injured imam. He said that the condition of imam is out of danger. Mayor said that the assailant has been arrested but there is no



clarity regarding the background of the attack. He said that this is a holy month for Muslims. We want security to be given to those who come to the masjid to offer namaz.

According to the newspaper, in Canada, due to Islamophobia, a man

driving a car drove his vehicle over a few people offering namaz in a masjid in which dozens of namazis were injured. Later, the police arrested the man driving the car. The car driver had been identified as 28-year-old Sharan Karunakaran. The Canada government has condemned this attack.

Inquilab (April 12) states that the assailant who attacked the imam in the US

has been produced before a court. He has been identified as 32-year-old Sharif Zorba. An attempt to murder case has been registered against him. According to the government lawyer, the attacker may get a jail term for 26 years. The injured imam has three children.

China's apex court judge awarded punishment for graft



Inquilab (April 13) states that a judge of the Chinese Supreme Court has been awarded a 12-year jail term on charges of accepting 2.27 crore Yuan (33 lakh US dollars) over a period of 20 years. This apart, a fine of 20 lakh Yuan has also been imposed on him. Former director of Enforcement Bureau of Supreme People's Court Meng Jiang has been charged with accepting 33 lakh US dollars between 2003 and 2020. This 58-year-old judge has been accused of favouritism in his judicial verdicts and misusing his position on

awarding contracts for construction of farms. It is to be noted that this person started his career as a clerk nearly 30 years ago and later he climbed to the position of the judge of the Supreme Court.

As per another news published in **Inquilab** (April 11), two prominent social activists have been sent to jail on charges of treason in China. These two persons were detained in their houses for the past three years. A lawyer named Ding Jiayi has been awarded a 12-year-jail term. This apart, another social activist and lawyer Xu Zhiyong has been sent to jail for 14 years. The hearing in both these cases were held behind closed doors in 2022 and they were taken into custody in 2019. According to foreign newspapers, both these social activists played a role in the anti-government protests in Beijing in 2013.

Protest against Israeli attack on Masjid Al Aqsa



Salar (April 6) states that the Israeli Army entered the third holiest place in the Islamic world, masjid Al Aqsa, and made thousands of Rozedars and the managers of masjid Al Aqsa their target of violence for the third day. The Israeli Army has launched an assault on masjid Al Aqsa in which hundreds of namazis were injured and at least 400 namazis were arrested and taken to undisclosed locations. As per news received from Jerusalem, heavily armed Israeli soldiers entered masjid Al Aqsa and forced the namazis out of the masjid and fired teargas shells at them. Earlier also, the Israeli Army had launched attacks on masjid Al Aqsa and forced namazis out. There were sharp reactions against this attack from across the world.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 7) states that the Arab League has condemned the Israeli Army's raid on masjid Al-Aqsa and said the Israeli Army and police have desecrated the place which is considered holy by both the Muslims and Jews. On the other hand, the Israeli police said that it had to enter the masjid premises because the namazis had come there with lathis and stones and tried to collect weapons inside the masjid. Egypt's foreign ministry also condemned this attack.

As per another news, the correspondent of Al Arabia has given the news of heavy deployment of Israeli police

in the old city of Jerusalem and alleged that the Israeli military has been stopping Muslims who are less than 40 years of age, from doing namaz in the masjid. The military fired teargas shells and attacked the Moroccan gate and arrested hundreds of namazis offering namaz in the masjid.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 8) reports that after an entire night of Israeli violence in Gaza, the Hamas retaliated by firing rockets into Israeli territories. According to sources, at least 44 rockets were fired at Israeli settlements. Earlier, Israeli military aircraft attacked several places in Gaza. A spokesperson of Israeli Army said they will not allow any terrorist of Hamas to enter Lebanon. For the rockets being fired from Lebanon, the Lebanese government will be responsible. According to Palestinian security sources, Israeli planes attacked several training camps located on different regions in Gaza Strip. Hamas appealed to Muslims across the world to unitedly oppose the Israeli attacks on masjid Al-Aqsa and Gaza.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 8) has claimed that the Lebanese Army has destroyed a rocket launcher facility, which was used by Israeli Army to bomb Lebanon. According to Israel, at least 34 rockets were fired on Israeli territory from south Lebanon, five of which fell on residential areas. Israel has held terrorist



of Islamic countries, called an emergency meeting, in which Muslims have been urged that they publically oppose the attack and launch a united diplomatic campaign against Israel across the world.

Etemaad (April 7) states that the world's biggest Islamic educational institute, Jamia Al Azhar, has described the Israeli Army's attack on the

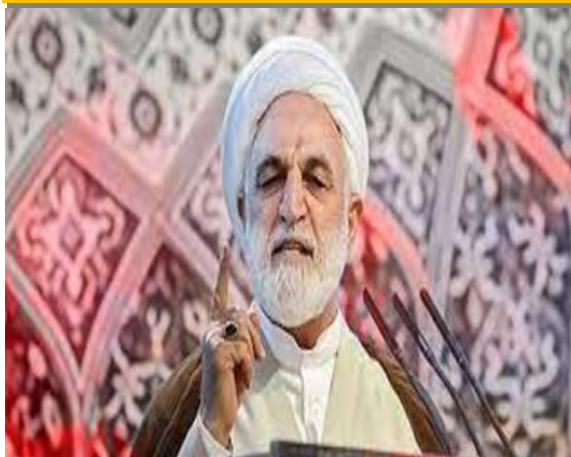
namazis at masjid Al-Aqsa as a terrorist incident and said that it has hurt the religious sentiments of crores of Muslims. Al Azhar urged Muslim nations across the world and the people to unitedly oppose this incident.

Etemaad (April 8) in its editorial has condemned the attack that took place on masjid Al-Aqsa and described it as a violation of Palestinian people's fundamental right to religious freedom. The newspaper alleged that the Jews wanted to sacrifice animals there to celebrate their festival, which is against the sanctity of Ramzan.

organisations like Hamas and Islamic Jihad responsible for these attacks.

Hindustan Express (April 7) in its editorial has condemned the attack on masjid Al-Aqsa by Jewish police. According to Palestine's government news agency 'Wafa', Israeli soldiers entered the premises of masjid Al-Aqsa when hundreds of Muslims were offering the Ramzan namaz. The newspaper alleged that the Jews wanted to sacrifice goats to celebrate the Passovar (Fasah) festival on the premises of masjid Al-Aqsa, which the namazis opposed. Saudi Arabia and Egypt condemned this incident. Taking note of the incident, Arab League, an organisation

Threat of stringent action in Iran for not wearing hijab



Hamara Samaj (April 3) states that the chief justice of Iran had announced that stringent legal action would be taken against those women who do not wear

hijab in public places. According to news agency Reuters, Chief Justice Gholam-Hossein Mohseni made this statement at a time when the home ministry had also

given a direction in the beginning itself that every woman should mandatorily wear hijab. However, the chief justice did not make it clear what kind of punishment would be given to the women who violate the rule on hijab. The chief justice said that it is the duty of all officials who implement the law that they report to the judiciary about those who violate the rule on hijab in public places and arrest the accused.

It is to be noted that on September 13 last year, the Iranian police arrested a 22-year-old Kurd woman, Mehsa Amini, on charges of not properly wearing hijab

and she died in police custody. Following the incident, massive protests broke out in different parts of Iran and it continues even now. The number of people killed in these protest rallies are said to be between 30,000 and 35,000. Meanwhile, lakhs of people have been taken into custody.

It is to be noted that after the Islamic Revolution that took place in Iran in 1979, it became mandatory for Iranian woman to wear hijab as per the Islamic law implemented in the country and those who violate this law are being given harsh punishment.

Oil prices go up in OPEC nations



Hamara Samaj (April 4) reports that ever since the Saudi Arabia-led oil producing nations reduced the production of oil by 10 lakh barrels per day, the prices of oil have gone up by 6 percent. West Texas Intermediate has registered a price of \$80 per barrel. Whereas the price of petrol in Saudi Arabia has been registered at 84 dollars per barrel. It is to be noted that the process of producing less oil by Saudi

Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Kuwait, Algeria and Oman will continue till the end of this year.

This is the second largest reduction in the production of oil since last year when the OPEC countries made a reduction of 20 lakh barrel per day in the production of oil. Russia has also decided to reduce the production of oil by 5 lakh barrel per day. According to financial experts, due to this decision, the inflation will go up and there will be more pressure on central banks to increase the rate of

interests. Saudi Arabia has announced a reduction of five lakh barrel per day in the production of oil from next month till the end of this year.

Siasat (April 4) states that the US has criticised the decision to reduce the production of oil and said that this will create a fresh problem of price rise in the world and it will also destabilise the entire economy.

Ceasefire in Yemen

Inquilab (April 12) states that along with beginning of a new chapter in the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia, there is a possibility of the civil war in Yemen, which has been going on for

the past eight years, coming to an end. The Houthi rebels in Yemen and the government have declared a ceasefire. The Saudi Arabian Ambassador in Yemen visited an important centre of Houthi rebels

in Sanaa in order to strengthen the ceasefire and take the process of negotiations to a further level. Saudi Ambassador Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Jaber said he is visiting Sanaa with a representative of Oman so that the ceasefire is strictly implemented. This apart, the transfer of prisoners will also be considered.

These efforts are being supported by the military being constituted under the leadership of Saudi Arabia and said the tension and enmity between the two sides have come down. The official period for the ceasefire had ended in October last year itself. However, following this, both the sides decided to extend it for another six months. The government television channel of Saudi Arabia had shown Saudi Arabian Ambassador Al-Jaber shaking hands with the leader of Houthi rebels Mahdi al-Mashat.

It is to be noted that nearly 50 lakh people were rendered homeless in the eight-year-old civil war in Yemen in which thousands of people were killed. News agency Reuters has given the indication that following the talks held between Saudi Arabia and the rebels in Yemen, there is a plan to reopen the airport in Sanaa and other ports. This apart, talks are on to expel foreign soldiers from Yemen. Recently, Saudi Arabia has released more than a dozen prominent Houthi rebels. It is being said that the indirect hands of China are behind these talks.

Siasat (April 11) in its editorial, while commenting about the ceasefire in Yemen, said that from this one could see the possibility of unity being established in the Islamic world once again. Initially,



North and South Yemen were two different nations and Saudi Arabia played a major role in its unification. Before the unification of Yemen, while the one part was occupied by Sunnis, the other was occupied by Shias. Later, due to growing tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran, the tribe of Houthi rebels became active against the Sunni government of Yemen and a civil war broke out between the two sides. It is to be noted that the civil war in Yemen started in 2014. Later, the Houthi rebels captured Yemen capital Sanaa and the Sunni ruler of Yemen was forced to flee the country and take refuge in Saudi Arabia.

Etemaad (April 13) in its editorial expressed happiness over the peace talks between Saudi and Houthi rebels and said that this has created a new hope for peace in the region. Both the sides have assured Yemen that they are ready to end the civil war in the country. Government sources in Yemen claimed that the period of ceasefire could be extended by another two years. This apart, both have started the initiative to release the prisoners of war from their respective sides. As per latest reports, the ports under the control of Houthis have been reopened so that commercial activities could begin soon.

Appeal for the Muslim world to unite against Israel



Inqilab (April 9) reports that Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iran President Ebrahim Raisi have urged Muslims across the world to unite against Israel. Following the attack on Masjid Al Aqsa, both the presidents held lengthy talks over the phone. They urged the international organisations of Muslim countries, especially OIC, and the United Nations that they take steps to maintain status quo at the holy religious places.

Both the Muslim presidents expressed concern over the increasing public sentiments against Islam, Prophet and the Quran in European nations and said that there should be strong protests

in Islamic world against the way Quran was burnt outside the Turkiye embassy in Sweden recently. Recently, a few big leaders of Hamas held lengthy talks over phone with the Special Representative of Russian President in Middle East and Africa and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia about the increasing aggressive activities of Israel. It is being said that they stressed that in order to reduce the influence of US among Muslim nations, Russia has to take more interest in the issues of Muslim nations so that peace and stability get a fresh lease of life in the region.



Over 800 fake schools in Maharashtra



Mumbai Urdu News (April 10) states that nearly 800 schools have been found fake in Maharashtra. These schools are either unregistered or they have been operating without licence. Among them, action has been taken against 100 schools and they have been closed down permanently. There is also a possibility of action being taken against 700 other schools soon. Till now it has not been clear what action will be taken against these schools. As per information, some CBSE, ICSE, and IB schools are among these fake schools.

It is to be noted that 1,300 schools have been investigated, out of which

discrepancies have been found in the documents of 800 schools. Among them, Pune alone has more than 43 fake schools. Across the state, 800 such schools have been found, which are being running on some illegality or the other. If a No-Objection Certificate or the certificate to start the school from the department concerned is not found in school records, then such schools will be identified as fake and closed down. The state government has issued notices to 1,300 schools after finding their documents suspicious. Directions have also been given to admit the students from such schools to other schools so that they do not suffer.

Muslim girls emerge victorious in UPSC exams

Mumbai Urdu News (April 12) states that the results of Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) have been declared. Five Muslim girls have got selected in the exam. For the first time, three Muslim girls who cleared the exam will be appointed as SDM while two other Muslim girls will be appointed as DSPs. Three of these girls are among the 15 candidates who topped the

exam. Those who have been selected to the post of SDM are Saltanat Parveen of Lucknow, Mohsina Bano of Indore and Farheen Majid of Banda. Those who have been selected as DSPs are Asma Wakar and Reshma Aara. Three Muslim youths who have been selected as DSP are Fahad Ali, Shahrukh Khan and Shakeel Mohammad.

400 tonnes Aab-e-Zamzam distributed from Masjid-e-Nabawi daily



Mumbai Urdu News (April 2) reports that every day, 400 tonnes of Aab-e-zamzam

are being distributed to the faithfuls at Masjid-e-Nabawi in Medina. Nearly 520 employees have been put on duty to distribute it. Aab-e-Zamzam is filled in containers and taken to Masjid-e-Nabawi. This apart, this holy water is being made available in the compound and the terrace of Masjid-e-Nabawi. So far, more than 14,000 containers of Aab-e-zamzam has reached Masjid-e-Nabawi.

Christians upset over Hyderabad being called Bhagyalakshmi Nagar

Siasat (April 10) states that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Hyderabad recently. On this occasion, while addressing people, he described Hyderabad as the city of Bhagyalakshmi Mandir. Yellareddy's Christians opposed this statement of the Prime Minister. A special rally was taken out in Yellareddy on the occasion of Good Friday which was flagged off by the chairman of the Municipal Corporation, K Sathyanarayana. He accused the Prime Minister of spreading communalism in the country and said that Hyderabad is the city many mandirs, churches, masjids and dargahs and limiting



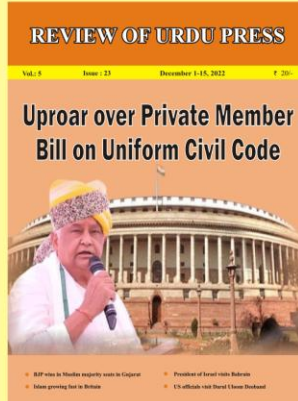
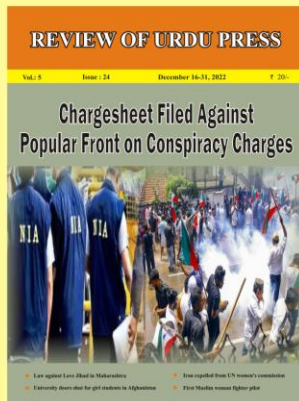
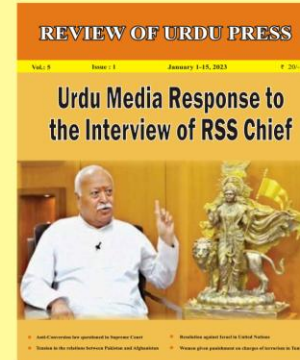
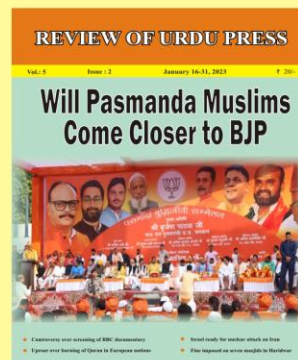
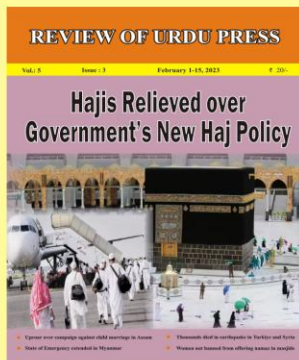
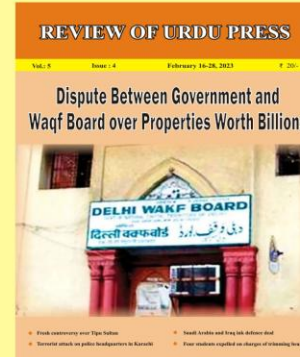
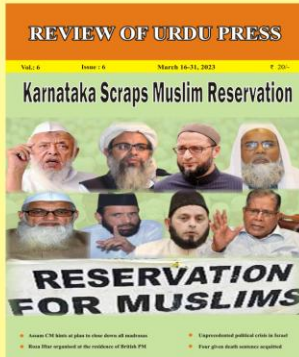
it to one mandir is totally wrong, which is also against the secular tradition of Hyderabad city. On this occasion, several Christian priests were also present.

Egyptian Man kills wife for not purchasing fruits

Inqilab (April 11) states that a 22-year-old nurse in Egypt, Fathima Sayeed, was knifed to death by her husband. It is being said that Fathima had sought some money from her husband Mohammad Hatim to purchase fruits during Ramzan and the husband gave her money as well. However, instead of buying fruits from the market, Fathima



brought some other items and returned to the house. On seeing this, her husband got enraged and killed her. The deceased Fathima has been working with Children's Hospital Abu El-Reesh in Cairo. Their marriage took place five months ago. The police have arrested her murderer husband.



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