

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

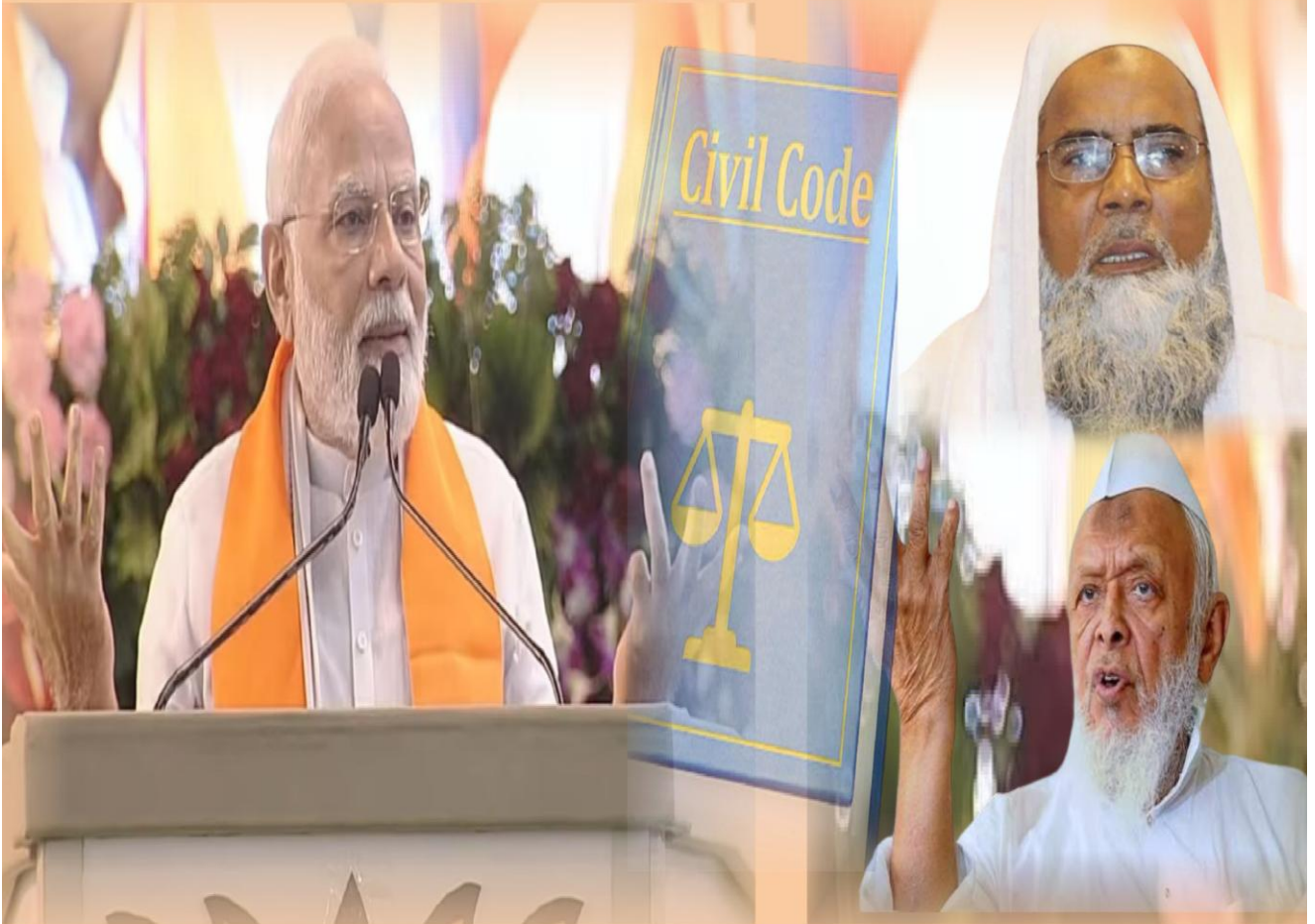
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Controversy over Uniform Civil Code



- Modi gets Egypt's highest award
- Massive riots in France after death of Muslim youth
- Turkey announces creation of new Constitution
- Live-in relationship declared *haram* in Islam

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Summary

A debate over Uniform Civil Code is once again in full swing in the country. In 2018, after seeking the opinion of people, the Law Commission had said in its report that currently there was no need to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country. However, the Law Commission had surely suggested some changes in the personal laws of all religions. Now the 22nd Law Commission has said that there is a need to rethink the issue of implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the changed circumstances. The Law Commission has sought the opinion of interested organisations and leaders on the issue within a month. The most interesting thing is that for the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing a public meeting in Bhopal, appealed to Muslims that they extend their support to Uniform Civil Code.

Meanwhile, there is no doubt that the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution directs the government to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country. But till today, no government has dared to touch this controversial issue. A section of Indian Muslims has been openly opposing it. Their argument is that the Shariah law is based on Quran and Hadith and hence changes cannot be brought in them. Majority of the Muslim leaders have said that the Uniform Civil Code is against the spirit of the Constitution and also against the Constitutional freedom given to all citizens to live as per their faith and interests. The interesting thing is that this time majority of the Muslim organisations have stressed that they would not come out on the streets to oppose the Uniform Civil Code but would give logical reply to the Law Commission in consultation with Constitutional experts and jurists.

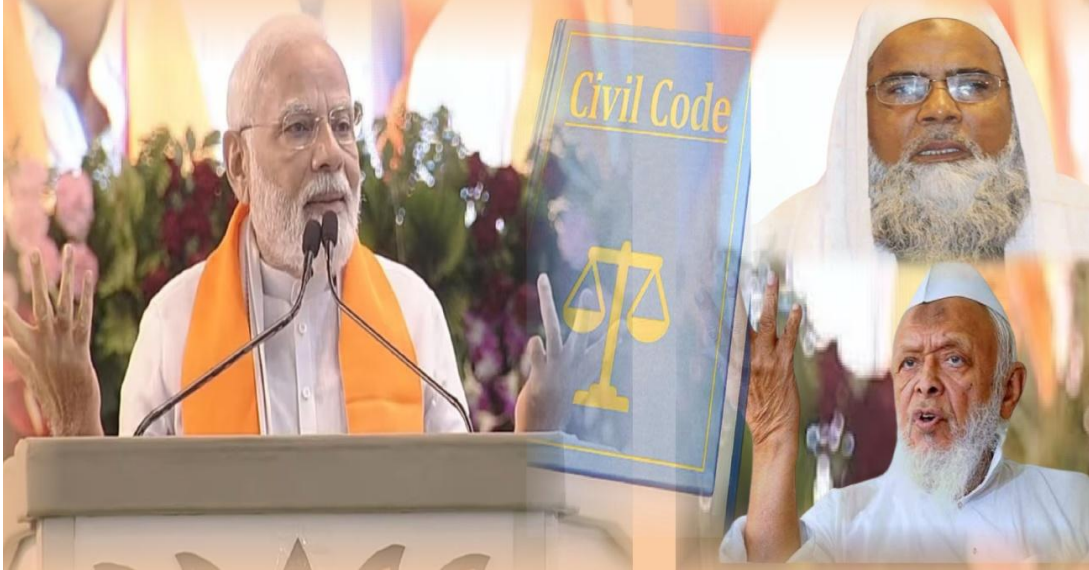
As far as political parties are concerned, except Bharatiya Janata Party and Aam Aadmi Party, all other parties have opposed it. However, the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab has opposed the Uniform Civil Code. The newspapers said that the promise made by the BJP in its election manifesto to implement the Uniform Civil Code will be fulfilled by the Modi government. However, Muslim leaders allege that the Modi government is hell bent on making it an election issue in order to hide its failures as it would benefit the BJP due to polarisation of majority community.

The interesting thing is that except in five countries, the Shariah law is not implemented in any Muslim nation in the world. Despite this, leaders of Indian Muslims are opposing the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country. The question here is why they are greatly interested in implementing the 1,400-year old Islamic law forcefully on the Muslim community?

The recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States has been touted as full of achievements. Prime Minister Modi got an unprecedented welcome in the US. However, he had visited the US six times in the past. But this time President Joe Biden had made his visit a state visit. Due to this reason, he was also given a 21-gun salute. Nearly 425 selected prominent citizens of US attended the state dinner hosted in his honour. As far as defence issues are concerned, India is still dependent on Russia for defence equipment. Now a cooperation has started with the US as well in the area of supply of arms and ammunition. India has also signed an agreement for purchase of US drones and manufacture of jet engines in India with US cooperation. Political observers believe that due to the improving relationship between India and the US there could be some success in curtailing the expansionist intentions of China.

A massive protest is on in France for the past one week following the death of 17-year-old Muslim teen of Algerian origin named Nahel M in police firing and the entire country is up in flames triggered by riots. The main cause of the aggression of the protesters is that more than 10 per cent of population in France consider themselves as Muslims. This is because majority of the population in the French colonies in Africa and other continents were followers of Islam. When they got freedom from the slavery of France, they were given the offer to become citizens of France after entering the country without passport and it is due to this reason that among European nations, Islamic terrorism has its biggest influence in France.

Controversy over Uniform Civil Code



Siasat (June 15) reports that the Law Commission has asked different political and religious organisations and common people to give their opinion on Uniform Civil Code to the Commission within 30 days. At political level, the Law Commission had sought the opinion of the people and the parties concerned on the sensitive Uniform Civil Code at least two times in the past. In 2016 also, the Law Commission had asked people to clarify their stand on the Uniform Civil Code. The commission had sought a reply on several issues except on the triple talaq, as per which 16 questions were asked. The Law Commission did not make any suggestions on issues like polygamy, nikah and halala. The commission had said that this issue was pending in the Supreme Court. However, the commission had recommended introduction of a special law to grant rights on property to illegitimate children.

The Law Commission had sought the opinion of stakeholders on changing the personal laws of three prominent religions—Hindu, Muslim and Christianity—but along with it, it had also been said that the Uniform Civil Code was not necessary in the current circumstances.

On August 31, 2018, the 21st Law Commission had suggested changes in the personal law of all religions and said that there were complexities in family law. Hence it is very much necessary to change the laws. However, the current circumstances are not favourable for that.

In 2018, the Law Commission, after the end of the three-year period to discuss about the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country, submitted a special paper in the Supreme Court in which it had been stated that perhaps there was no need to implement a Uniform Civil Code. The commission said that there are several personal laws for people following different religions in the country and they give the freedom to the citizens to live as per the religion of their choice. However, the Law Commission in this report, in an effort to provide justice to women, advised the government to bring a law to change the discriminatory rules in different personal laws, while mentioning about polygamy and triple talaq. This apart, it has also recommended changes in other religious, in which the number of personal laws of minorities are the highest. The commission said that in order to protect democracy, it is necessary to respect every

religion in an equal manner. The commission has described different religions as a symbol of secularism and said that every person in the country has the right to practice his or her own religion and propagate the same. However, along with it, the commission also said that there should be a common law for marriage, talaq, alimony and marriageable age in spite of personal laws and it should be implemented strictly. The commission, while recommending the creation of a law on triple talaq, said that due to this the women will get their basic rights. Hence laws prescribing equality could be promoted without tampering with the personal laws concerning different religions.



Salur (June 28) reports that Prime Minister Modi, while addressing a rally in Bhopal, urged the Muslim community and the intellectuals that they support the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country. He said that the Supreme Court had time and again called for the same. He also asked as how there could be one law for a person of one family and another law for another person of the same family. Addressing the Muslims, he said they should know which all parties are provoking them against Uniform Civil Code? He also targeted those who oppose the law on triple talaq and said that due to this, the entire family gets affected. However, some people who live on vote bank are opposing it.

Inquilab (June 8) reports that Aam Aadmi Party has also decided to support Uniform Civil Code. National general secretary of Aam Aadmi Party Sandeep Pathak said that the government shall take a decision in this connection only after holding discussions with political parties and non-political organisations. Article 44 of the Constitution supports Uniform Civil Code. However, the government should bring such a law only when all parties agree on it.

Shiromani Akali Dal, while opposing the Uniform Civil Code, said that

it is against the sentiments of religious freedom guaranteed in the Constitution for minorities and Adivasis. Akali leader Daljit Singh Cheema said that Akali Dal had always opposed the implementation of Uniform Civil Code and it will oppose the same before the Law Commission as well as in Parliament.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (June 28) reports that Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien has described the Uniform Civil Code as an 'untimely melody' and said the government instead of tackling unemployment, inflation and social violence, is sparking fire by creating new issues.

Avadhnama (June 19) reports that Janata Dal (United) has said that the demand for implementation of Uniform Civil Code is against the Constitution and while describing it as an election gimmick of the BJP, said the BJP knows it has no other issue to fight the 2024 elections. Hence it wants to create troubles in the country in the name of Uniform Civil Code. The BJP's aim is to disturb social harmony and polarise the votes.

Siasat (June 16) reports that Congress has opposed the press note issued by the Law Commission regarding the Uniform Civil Code and said that this press note was issued for fulfilling the political objectives of the BJP. Hence the commission needs to understand that national interest is more important than the interest of BJP. In a press note, Congress



leader Jairam Ramesh said that the 22nd Law Commission had made it clear through a press notification on June 14 that there was a need to take a review of the Uniform Civil Code in the changed circumstances. This is why the Law Commission has urged all stakeholders to give their opinion on the issue to the commission within a month. Ramesh said that earlier the 21st Law Commission, after a detailed study of the issue, had opined that there was no need for a Uniform Civil Code in the country currently. In such a situation, this is an effort by the Modi government to move ahead with its polarisation agenda and divert the attention of the public from the failures of the government.

Siasat (June 19) reports that the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Arshad Madani, said that they will strongly oppose the Uniform Civil Code. This is because its aim is to create a wedge between Hindus and Muslims and separate one from the other.

Etemaad (June 24) states that after the statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Uniform Civil Code, an emergency meeting of Muslim Personal Law Board was called where the statement of the Prime Minister was opposed and said we are against Uniform Civil Code and would oppose it. India is a nation where people of different religions and culture stay. Hence the Uniform Civil Code will affect Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Jain, Jew, Parsi and Adivasis. This is against the religious freedom guaranteed in the Constitution. The nation will not get any benefit from it, instead it will affect national unity. The Muslim Personal Law

Board said that Article 44, which speaks about implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country, should be removed from the Directive Principles of the Constitution.

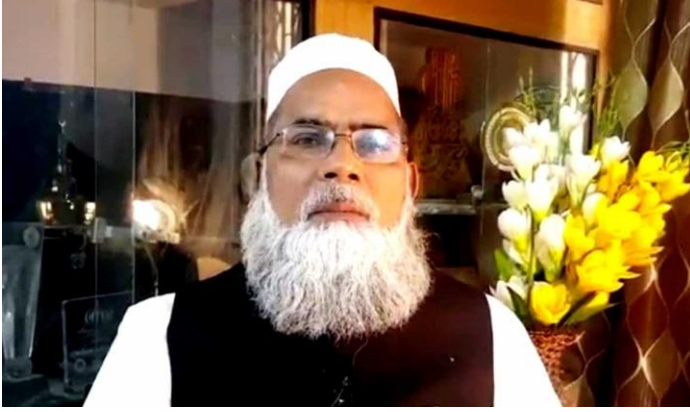
Salar (June 29) reports that the chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, said that Muslims would oppose Uniform Civil Code. This is because it is not acceptable to the

community and a danger to the nation. Mahatma Gandhi had assured at the Golmez conference that Muslim Personal Law will not be tampered with any other law. This apart, veteran Congress leader Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, while opposing the Uniform Civil Code, had said that Muslims will not accept it till the judgment day because it will end Muslim culture and Muslim identity in Hindustan. In 1935, Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act was passed in which Muslim Personal Law was made a part of the Constitution. Later in the Haripura meeting, the Congress had announced that the majority community will not make any effort to change the Muslim Personal Law.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 28) reports that Imarat-e-Shariah has appealed to Muslims across the country that they get united and oppose the Uniform Civil Code.

Salar (June 19) states that Muslim thinker Prof Akhtarul Waze said that Muslims should not react emotionally on the issue, instead should give a logical reply to the Law Commission and that Muslims should not take part in any debate on any TV channel.

Salar (June 20) reports that the chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, said that the ideological war in the country is not between Hindus and Muslims but between religious believers and the atheists. This war is not just against Islam but is against Hindu religion as well. Rahmani said that this message of the board regarding the Uniform Civil Code shall be taken to the ordinary Muslims through masjids, madrasas and Khanqahs.



Salar (June 21) reports that Maulana Saifullah Rahmani said in another statement that Muslims follow the directions of Shariah in kalma, namaz, roza, haj and zakat. In the same manner, they have to follow the Shariah in social issues like marriage, talaq, khula, iddat and virasat. This is because they are linked to Quran and Hadith and it is a basic part of the religion in Islam. The government deliberately wants to impose the Uniform Civil Code which is against the laws of Shariah. He said that the Muslim Personal Law Board is preparing its reply to give a logical answer to the Law Commission after taking the opinion of legal experts and jurists.

Salar (June 17) in its editorial, while criticising the Uniform Civil Code, urged Muslims that they handle this issue patiently and give their opinion to the Law Commission by showing their awareness. The Law Commission needs to understand that it is not only difficult to implement Uniform Civil Code in a multi-religious country like Bharat, but it is also impossible. If Muslims come out on the streets and oppose the Uniform Civil Code, then the biggest benefit from it will be for the BJP. Five years ago, in 2018, the 21st Law Commission in its report had said that currently there was no need for a Uniform Civil Code in the country.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 19) in its editorial said that Uniform Civil Code is not just an issue of Muslims, but of all religious minorities, which apart from Muslims include Sikh, Christian, Buddha

and Jain. The rituals of all these religions are different. The Constitution has given religious and cultural freedom to all communities in the country. Nobody can take away their constitutional rights. If anyone does it, they should be legally opposed. The state governments of a particular party have also unleashed the campaign for Uniform Civil Code for their

vote bank.

Etemaad (June 19) in its editorial described Uniform Civil Code as the latest weapon in the hands of BJP and said the BJP has fulfilled the promises to bring laws on the controversial issues made in the election manifesto before the general elections in 2014 and 2019 which included the construction of Ram Mandir, scrapping of Article 370 and a ban on triple talaq. Now there is only one controversial issue left, that is Uniform Civil Code. It could be assumed how important this issue is for the saffron community from the fact that from the time of Jan Sangh till BJP, they used to regularly harp on it. The BJP has been promising the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country for the past several years and in this connection, even a draft has been prepared in states like Uttarakhand and Gujarat for implementation. The newspaper said that implementation of Uniform Civil Code is an open violation of the Constitution. It is also against the religious freedom guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution.

In an article published in **Mumbai Urdu News** (June 25), Masoom Moradabadi said that Uniform Civil Code is an election gimmick of BJP. The government has opened the door for a discussion and controversy on the Uniform Civil Code at a time when the Northeastern state of Manipur is burning. Till now, more than 200 innocent people have been killed in a bloody war that erupted between two tribal communities there.

Prime Minister Modi's US visit in the eyes of Urdu newspapers



Inquilab (June 25) in its editorial said the Khabariya channel had presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to US as a one that cherished every moment. Many see it as a huge achievement for Modi and a testimony for the growing image of India. However, an analysis of the visit in the background of the promises, agreements and deals made between Biden and Modi unravels the US intentions and shows that Biden was able to kill two birds with one stone.

In India, Prime Minister Modi avoids himself from facing the media. In order to run the country, the Prime Minister has made people see golden dreams through slogans like Beti Bachao Beti Pathao, Make in India, Digital India, Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas etc and the people are not at all ready to come out of this.

Secondly, there is an atmosphere of hatred, extremism and violence against the minorities in the country. On the atrocities being committed against minorities in the country, even before the visit of Prime Minister, nearly 150 MPs of the US urged President Biden to question Modi about the hatred and violence against the minorities in the country. The US human rights

organisation has also expressing concern against the raw deal been given to democracy and minorities. During the joint press conference between Biden and Narendra Modi in the White House, India's external affairs ministry tried to ensure that Modi does not have to attend the press meet. However, when things did not work out, then a restriction has been imposed that only two questions should be asked to the Prime Minister Modi at the press conference. This is because the Prime Minister has been avoiding the media all the time. Here also, the effort was to ensure that he did not have to reply to the media.

Earlier, former president of the US, Barack Obama, while speaking to CNN, said that if he gets an opportunity to speak to the Indian Prime Minister, then he would draw his attention to the issue that in India, the rights of the minorities are not being protected and there is a possibility that a time may come when India would start disintegrating. The right-wing organisations in the country have expressed strong resentment on this comment of Obama. The question that the Prime Minister wanted to avoid was finally put forth to him by a woman journalist, Sabrina Siddiqui, who asked that Hindustan

considers itself as the biggest democracy in the world, but several human rights organisations say that your government has discriminated against religious minorities and tried to silence your critics. What is your government doing to improve the rights of Muslims and other minorities and to maintain free speech? On this, Prime Minister Modi, while cutting short the comment of Sabrina, said that I am surprised by your words. We are democratic and democracy is our soul. Democracy runs in our veins. We live in democracy and breath the same. If people do not have human rights, they cannot be called democracy. Prime Minister Modi said that in India, there is no scope for discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, faith, religion and sex.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 26) in its editorial said that the Prime Minister's visit to the US has concluded. This visit ended with full pomp and splendour. The agreement signed between the two countries for mutual cooperation will have far-reaching consequences. This apart, former US President Barack Obama has given a piece of advice to Modi on Muslims. A section of the parliamentarians of US Congress boycotted the speech of Modi and also raised the issues of Gujarat riots, issue of freedom for Umar Khalid and Sanjiv Bhatt. However, the advisors of Modi, hand in glove with Godi media, tried to make Prime Minister Modi a 'superman.' The newspaper said that China is a common enemy of Hindustan and America. If we ignore the objections of human rights organisations, then the US visit of Modi was an overall success. The newspaper said that India is a major buyer of US weapons. The big industries in US which manufacture weapons get huge orders from India and reap huge profits.

Siasat (July 3) in its editorial described this visit as a success while discussing about the friendly relationship between India and the US. The newspaper said that after the conclusion of the visit of Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar emphasised that due to the visit

of the Prime Minister and the talks, the US became aware about the original situation in India. He refused to make any kind of reaction to the comments made by former president Barack Hussain Obama regarding India.

It is to be noted that in 2005, the then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh had also visited US and he had addressed the joint session of the US Congress. However, this was the first occasion when an Indian Prime Minister had addressed a joint session of the US Congress for a second time. Jaishankar claimed that the world considers Narendra Modi as a trusted partner and they feel that whatever Modi says, that is always for India. US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, said India and the US will work towards preservation of peace and prosperity.

Etemaad (June 26) in its editorial, while publishing a speech of the chief of Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, claimed that the statement given by Modi in the US regarding Muslims is baseless and a lie. There is not a single Muslim among the 303 MPs of the ruling party and in the cabinet. Is this not discrimination? Owaisi said that Baba Aadam has first stepped his foothold in India and this is the land of our forefathers. Nobody will dare to evict us from here. There is a need to stop communalism in the country. The people need to keep the war going for democracy. He said that we will follow the religion as per the Constitution and will keep the masjids occupied. Will never accept Uniform Civil Code and will strongly oppose it.

In the editorial of **Etemaad** (June 26), the articles in US media are mentioned in which concern has been expressed on the organisations meant for protection of human rights after Modi came to power, promotion of Hindu terrorism in the country and the fall of democratic institutions.

Hamara Samaj (June 24) in its editorial said that all the actions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his nine-year-rule are a kind of mocking at the face of



democracy. On the other hand, the Godi media has declared the visit of Modi as the greatest feat in the world. Even in domestic politics in the country, the success of Modi is in his working style where he has isolated the minority communities, especially Muslims, from the majority community. The BJP government has been continuously accused of not only oppressing the minorities under its rule, but even violating human rights. The country's media has been kept in his clenched fist and thereby stopped the real news from reaching people. During his period, Modi has never displayed the courage to face the media. The one-sided interviews he had given were fully organised by the government. Ten organisations that keep a tab on human rights in the world have emphasised in their report that during the period of Modi, the minorities were heavily harassed and democracy was thrown to the winds. But the prime minister, while rejecting it, seems to say that nothing of that kind took place in Hindustan and all such reports and surveys were being brought to give a bad name to India.

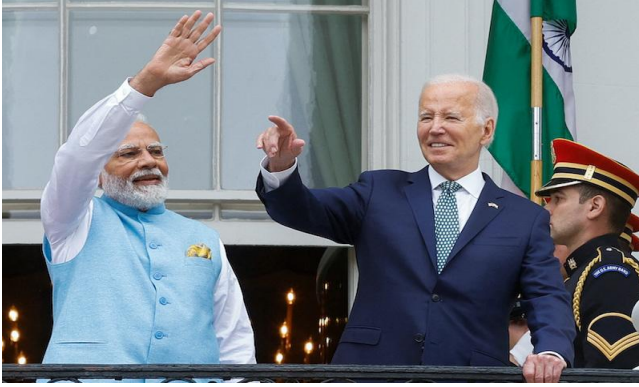
Sahafat (June 26) in its editorial has described the US visit of Modi as a golden and historical one and said that due to this visit, the relationship between the two countries got strengthened. However, it is not possible to comment on the benefits incurred. Only the future can give a reply. Many US companies are giving cooperation in the economic development of the country. The newspaper said that the surprising thing is that one section within the country puts the credit for every success on the head of Modi. However,

what is happening today in the country used to happen in the past as well. India should further strengthen its relationship with the US.

Etemaad (June 23) in its editorial has accepted that Modi has got an unprecedented reception in the US. The newspaper said that the relationship between the US and India was always not that great. During the Ukraine war, Russia has emerged as the biggest oil exporting country for India. However, the US media had always expressed concern over the plight of democracy in India and for infringing the rights of minorities. Modi is visiting the US at a time India's relationship with China has become very tense. This situation has forced New Delhi to work with the US so that it could take on the aggressive intentions of China.

The newspaper said that the US, in order to strengthen its front against China, has improved its relationship with Australia and South Korea. Now the US's friendly relations with India will help contain the expansionist intentions of China. There is also the possibility that both the countries cooperate together for the manufacture of modern weapons. The agreement that has been signed with a US company for the manufacture of engines for military aircraft in India could be termed as a milestone in the friendship between the two countries. The US effort is to ensure that Indian military is adequately equipped with most modern weapons to take on China. At one point of time, India was dependent on Russia for the supply of arms and ammunition. But now the supply of arms and ammunition has become weak. Hence, if India has to modernise its military, then it has to give more importance to the US for cooperation in the defence sector. This is the reason why Narendra Modi has visited the US six times so far, starting from 2014. However, the visit this time has been given more importance than the ones in the past.

The Prime Minister took part in the International Yoga Day function at the UN headquarters situated in US along with 180



other nations, and while describing his visit as an unprecedented one, patted himself on the back. This apart, some media persons from Hindustan are working day and night to describe Modi as the most successful prime minister till late and make India a Vishwaguru. However, these media persons do not show such news which have got Modi government a bad name in the world. The lawmakers in the US have expressed concern over increasing religious intolerance, curbs on the freedom of press and control over the internet and urged President Biden that he raise the issue of harassment of minorities to Modi.

The newspaper said that Modi is the third such leader in the history of Independent India whose visit to the US has been given the status of state visit. Before this, such a status was given to President S Radhakrishnan in 1963 and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in 2009. It is evident that in the present circumstances, if the US has decided to give so much importance to the visit of Prime Minister Modi, then that is not without a reason. There is no doubt that the relationship between India and US is moving forward to new heights. In general terms, the agreement that has been signed for the manufacture of fighter jet engines in India by the US and the purchase of US drones by India will start a new era in defence deals and now India's dependence on Russian defence equipment will come down to a certain extent. India's independent role in Ukraine war has been a cause of trouble for the US right from the beginning. Their effort was to make India

openly condemn Russia. The good thing is that both the countries are making efforts to improve mutual cooperation while respecting each other's views. On the other side is China, whose increasing aggressive stand is a threat to both the US and India. If the cooperation between the US and India increases, then that will help in containing the aggressive stand of China.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 21) in its editorial said that Prime

Minister Modi's visit to the US started as a grand affair, as per Indian media. Prime Minister Modi even celebrated the yoga day at the headquarters of UN. From this, his supporters got an opportunity to say that Modi has made India a Vishwaguru. However, 75 MPs of US President Joe Biden's Democratic Party wrote a letter to their President and urged him that when he holds a meeting with the Indian Prime Minister, he raise the issue of human rights and discrimination against minorities in India.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 24) in its editorial said that Modi's US visit was a success. The reason for this is that India, apart from being a regional, financial and military power, is also a huge market which the multinational companies in US want to tap. Hence for US, the importance of India has gone up very high. This is the reason why President Biden welcomed Modi as a state guest and the US government did not leave any stone unturned in welcoming him. Meanwhile, there was also opposition to Modi's US visit and some people had even opposed his speech. Probing questions were thrown at Modi on issues ranging from Gujarat riots to arrest of Umar Khalid and the situation in Manipur. Obama did the right thing by completing it by saying that Modi should protect the human rights of Muslims. One more thing is that Modi-supporting media is trying to cash in on the success of Modi's US visit in the next elections. On the other hand, Opposition parties have gathered together in Patna to give warning to Modi.

Inquilab (June 29) in its editorial has described the recent visit of Modi to US as a huge success and said that very few people had received the kind of welcome that Indian Prime Minister got in Washington. This visit of Modi was a state visit and hence he was also given a 21-gun salute. The state dinner hosted by the US President in his honour was attended by 425 elite people in the US. Modi also got the opportunity to address the joint session of US Congress for the second time. From this visit, it has also become clear that the kind of deep friendship that Modi had with Republican President Donald Trump has got deeper with Biden. The joint statement of Modi and Biden has given the message



to the world that the partnership between India and the US extends from ocean to the sky. Considering the way China has been questioning the domination of US, India could play a major role to help the US in this connection.

Prime Minister Modi gets Egypt's highest honour



Hamara Samaj (June 26) states that after the visit to the US, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Egypt. This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Egypt in the past 26 years. He was honoured with Egypt's highest government award, Order of Nile, presented to him at

capital Cairo by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. In Egyptian language, 'Order of Nile' is known as 'Kiladat el-Nil'. This award was started by Sultan Hussein Kamel in 1915. This award is given to those who had given their contributions to the country. After Egypt became a



democratic country in 1953, it has been named as 'Order of Nile.' This award has four categories.

Roznama Sahara (June 26) reports that Prime Minister Modi and Egypt President Al-Sisi have signed on documents for a strategic partnership where it is mentioned that the two countries are starting a strategic partnership. Prime Minister Modi also visited the Heliopolis memorial which was built in memory of Indian soldiers who were martyred during the First World War. This was constructed by Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It has been inscribed with the memorials of 3,799 martyrs.

The newspaper said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi stayed in Egypt for two days. There he was welcomed by Egypt President Al-Sisi. The Prime Minister also met people of Indian origin in Cairo. In this occasion, Indian Ambassador to Egypt Ajit Gupta said that the trade relationship between India and Egypt is 4,000 years old and due to the visit of Prime Minister Modi, it will get strengthened further. An Egyptian woman, Jena, wearing a saree, sang the song 'Yeh Dosti Hum Nahi Todenge' from the film Sholay for Modi. For the first time after 1997, an Indian Prime Minister visited Egypt. Earlier, on the occasion of Republic Day in India, Egyptian President Al Sisi was invited as the chief guest. The trade relations between India and Egypt in the year 2021-22 was of 7.26 billion dollars,

which, compared to the previous year, was more than seven per cent. Now, Modi and Al-Sisi have decided to make the trade between India and Egypt worth nearly 12 billion dollars.

Siasat (June 21) reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also visited the Al-Hakim mosque built in the 11th century. This historic masjid is located in Egyptian capital Cairo. Its

foundation was laid by the fifth Caliph of Fatimid Khilafat Al Aziz in the year 990. The construction work of this masjid was completed in the year 1013 during the rule of Al-Aziz's son and the sixth Caliph, Al-Hakim. The masjid has been named after the sixth Caliph, Al-Hakim. This historical masjid suffered damages in the massive earthquake that hit Egypt in the year 1303. Later it was rebuilt. It is considered as the fourth most important masjid in Egypt. In the 1970 decade, this masjid was rebuilt by the Dawoodi Bohra sect in India.

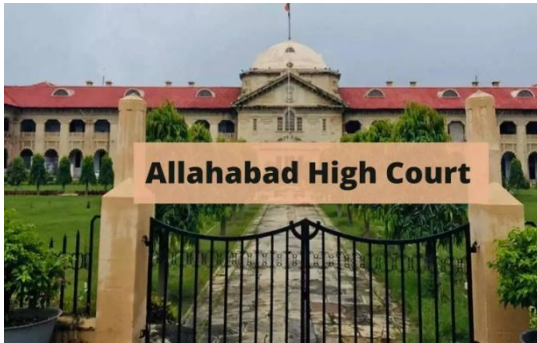
Roznama Sahara (June 27) in its editorial, while discussing about the relationship between Egypt and India, said the relations between Hindustan and Arab countries is quite old. Arab traders used the sea route to India for thousands of years. Following the recent visit of Prime Minister Modi to Egypt, a new chapter has begun in the relationship between India and Egypt. In this connection, it is also necessary to mention that the then President of Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Yugoslavia President Marshal Josip Tito and Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had presented before the world a framework for the group of non-aligned nations. Recently, China has questioned the domination of US in Arab countries. China has not only brought Iran and Saudi Arabia closer, but is also trying to resolve the Palestine issue in order to improve its image among Muslim nations. Taking

advantage of this, China is likely to further trouble Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang province in China.

It is to be noted that China is an expansionist nation which believes in tricking the allied country into a debt trap and not in friendship. Recently, it has lured

Pakistan and Sri Lanka into this trap. For the US, the Middle East is of huge importance right from the beginning and this region played a major role in making the US a super power. However, due to the rising influence of China in this region, the position of US has weakened recently.

Live-in relationship *haram* in Islam



Inquilab (June 25) reports that the Allahabad High Court, while refusing to grant relief to an inter-faith couple in a live-in relationship, said that Islam does not recognise physical relationship before marriage and hence they cannot be given permission to live together and neither they could be given protection. The court rejected a petition complaining about police harassing this couple. The couple had filed a petition before the Allahabad High Court and sought protection from the court. A bench comprising Justice Sangeeta Chandra and Justice Narendra Kumar Johri said in its verdict that in Islam physical activities like kissing, cuddling and staring are totally prohibited before marriage. While hearing a petition filed by a 29-year-old Hindu woman and a 30-year-old Muslim man who are in a live-in relationship, the court said that Islamic law does not permit physical relationship without marriage.

The court said that in Islam, there is no permission for physical relationship during a live-in relationship and this is considered as a kind of rape. In its decision, the court said that the Shura An-Nur of

Quran Majeed also mentions about the punishment being given for rape. As per the Shura Number 24 (An-Nur), the punishment being given for physical relationship between an unmarried man and woman is hundred lashes. However, if a married man or woman maintains physical relationship with persons other than his or her wife or husband, then the punishment is given as per the Hadith where the accused person is half buried on the ground and people stone him to death.

It is to be noted that in this particular case, the mother of the Hindu woman was upset over the live-in relationship and she filed an FIR with police against the couple. When the police started troubling the couple, they filed a petition before the Allahabad High Court and urged that they were being harassed by the police and the court should provide them protection. In this connection, the petitioners also mentioned about a verdict of the Supreme Court, commenting on which the court said that the comments made by the Supreme Court in live-in relationship was not aimed at promoting such incidents. The court said that the law is in favour of traditional marriages because under it the married persons get different rights and facilities. Hence it is necessary to uphold the tradition of marriage and to promote it. The court said that this couple did not even express the intention to even get married. In such a situation, keeping the facts of the Islamic law in view, the physical relationship between the two without marriage cannot be accepted under any circumstance.

Drive to enlist Muslims as 'Modi Mitra'

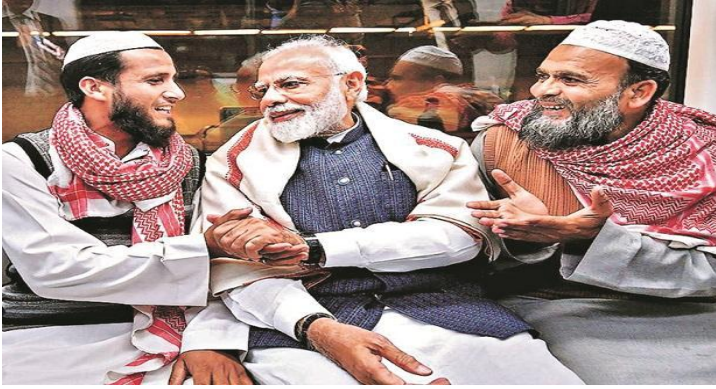


Aurangabad Times (June 23) reports that the BJP, in order to win the 2024 elections, has started making massive preparations at all fronts. A special programme has been launched to attract minorities towards BJP and Prime Minister Modi. As part of this, a group of Modi Mitras belonging to Muslim community are being readied through BJP's minority morcha in order to highlight the vision of Prime Minister and his empathy and stand on the welfare of minorities. Recently, this campaign was launched in Deoband in Uttar Pradesh. There, a function was organised in which 150 Muslims were presented who claimed that they fully benefitted from the various programmes launched for the welfare of minorities.

The BJP minority morcha has selected 65 Lok Sabha constituencies which favour Modi. These Lok Sabha constituencies are in 10 states and in one Union Territory. In all these constituencies, the population of Muslims is more than 30 per cent. A special programme has been launched which will run for four months to keep a close relationship with the voters of these constituencies. National president of BJP's minority morcha, Jamal Siddiqui, said that a cadre of Modi Mitras is being prepared to create awareness among

minorities about the welfare programmes of BJP and Modi government. They include people from different walks of life like lawyers, accountants, journalists, writers, educationists, doctors etc who may not be a part of BJP but who appreciate Modi. This campaign is being run by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and under this campaign, he will create awareness about the benefits of Modi government to minorities especially Muslims.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 26) reports that the national president of All India Pasmanda Muslim Samaj, Javed Malik, visited Darul Uloom Deoband and he provided detailed information about the various welfare programmes of the Union government for minorities. In this connection, he urged the students of Darul Uloom Deoband and leaders of other Muslim communities to take the special literature being prepared in Urdu and other languages to the masses. Javed Malik said that the minority morcha is running a special campaign on the achievements of Modi in which the achievements of his nine years will also be presented. He said that no communal riots took place in the country after 2014 and today the country is moving forward in the path of development.



fearlessly come out of their houses. The Modi government has given special attention to the welfare programmes of the poor and backward classes. He also said that the Modi government has been working to empower backward Muslims on social, political, financial and educational level. Modi government has been

There is an excellent peaceful atmosphere in Uttar Pradesh and women and weaker sections of the community

working on the agenda of 'Sabka Saath aur Sabka Vikas'.

Raids at the houses of those linked to Popular Front



Darbhanga district and took along with them nearly a dozen suspected persons for questioning. Five among them were released later.

One of the youth who was caught was working as an instructor in a madrasa. This man is being considered as an expert in translating Arab language. As per the information received so far, this man is believed to be linked to ISI. Computer, laptop and other items were

Roznama Sahara (June 30) reports that National Investigation Agency and ATS have jointly raided dozens of places in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat in search of leaders and activists belonging to Popular Front of India. In Patna and Darbhanga in Bihar, nearly a dozen places were raided. The raid continued for nearly eight hours. A team of National Investigation Agency also conducted a raid at Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. The team also raided Ghaziana village under Behera police station and Chhotki Bazar in

seized from those who were arrested along with them. The team of National Investigation Agency also raided a book shop of Mohammad Riazuddin Kasmī located near Imarat-e-Sharia in Phulwari Sharif in Patna. It is being said that this raid was conducted on the basis of the information received after questioning a suspected person named Mumtaz Ansari who was caught from Tamil Nadu. It is being said that Mumtaz Ansari is a resident of West Champaran district in Bihar.

Huge riots in France after death of Muslim youth



Inquilab (July 4) reports that an incident in which a 17-year-old boy of Algerian origin, Nahel M, was killed in police firing in French capital Paris resulted in massive nation-wide protests and this situation continued for the past one week. Seeing the explosive situation, French President Emmanuel Macron urged all his ministers to make maximum effort to normalise the situation. French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin said that more than 45,000 police personnel including armoured vehicles were deployed to control the riots.

The United Nations, while condemning the killing of Nahel by Paris Police, said that the youth is a victim of racial violence by French police. A spokesperson of United Nations Human Rights office, while addressing media persons in Geneva, said that we were concerned about the murder of an Algerian origin teenager in France. The France has to think seriously on the issues of racism and apartheid and find a solution to them.

Inquilab (July 3) reports that strong violence took place in many other cities of France apart from Paris. The rioting protesters also set on fire the house of Mayor. The protesters were not willing to listen to the appeals of the government. The

police were unable to restore peace till now.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 1) states that a massive protest is raging for the past five days following the killing of a Muslim boy named Nahel in police firing in Paris. The rampaging mob has set on fire public properties, schools and offices.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 3) reports that huge protests are raging across the country for the past one week. So far, more than 2,000 protesters have been arrested. More than 200 policemen were also injured in these clashes. The protesters have also set on fire more than 1,500 vehicles and more than 300 residential houses and the looting of shops and trade centres continued till late. Internet services have been suspended in majority of the cities in France. Paramilitary forces have been deployed across the country in order to control the situation. Seeing the explosive situation, the French President cancelled his proposed visit to Germany.

Inquilab (June 29) states that after the killing of a Muslim teen, Nahel M, in police firing in France, violent protests erupted in the country. According to news agency AFP, the incident where police shot a boy who stopped at traffic light has shook



him that now a bullet will be fired at his head. The video shows the police officer firing at the vehicle as soon as it leaves the spot. Following this, the car soon met with an accident and the car passenger dies.

Following this incident, massive protests erupted in many cities of France including in Paris.

the entire country. The French leaders expressed grief and anger on the incident.

According to the newspaper, on June 26, a 17-year-old Muslim teen, Nahel M, was caught by two police officers on charges of violating traffic rule. The police had said in the beginning that a police official fired at this youth because he wanted to crush the police officer with his car. But as per a video that went viral on social media, two police officials were standing near a parked car and one of them while pointing his gun at the driver tells

Many cars were set on fire and even a school was blown up. The police fired teargas shells to disperse the mob. French President Emmanuel Macron described this incident as unpardonable and said that the way a teen was killed cannot be overlooked or neither the accused could be pardoned. Captain of French men's football team Kylian Mbappé in his tweet said that as a French, he was ashamed over the killing of Nahel. This situation is intolerable for me and it is necessary to oppose it nation-wide.

Islamic terrorists attack school in Uganda



Roznama Sahara (June 18) reports that at least 40 children were killed and dozens of teenagers were kidnapped after an attack by terrorists in a school located near the border between Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo. Before this, the terrorists set fire to the school and looted all food items. More than a dozen children, who were staying in the school hostel, were

suffocated to death in the smoke due to the fire. More than 60 bodies were found in the school. Whereas the condition of nearly a dozen others are serious.

A military spokesperson of Uganda said that 17 students died after caught in the fire. The military is trying to trace the terrorists. The injured have been admitted to different hospitals. It is being said that the hands of Islamic terrorist organisation Allied Democratic Forces (ATF) is behind the attack, which is a rebel organisation in Uganda. The rebels are active in this region for long time now. As per information, this terrorist organisation linked to ISIS was formed in 1996. The United Nations had declared this organisation guilty for the killing of hundreds of citizens in 2014.

26 killed in clashes in Somalian Assembly



Inqilab (June 22) reports that at least 26 people were killed and more than 30 others were injured in clashes between soldiers and rebels in Garowe, the capital of Somalia's autonomous state Puntland. According to newspapers, during a debate in the Assembly over an amendment of the Constitution, clashes erupted between soldiers and the rebels. In this attack, guns, mortars and machine guns were openly used. The clash erupted when 34 members

out of the total 35 voted in favour of an amendment in the country's Constitution. Following the amendment, the chief of the state, Said Abdullahi Deni, got the right to extend his term.

An armed conflict is currently on between different groups in this Somalian state for a long time now in which hundreds of people have been killed. African Union Transition Mission has withdrawn their more than 2,000 soldiers from Somalia and handed over a prominent military base located in Somalian state Hirshabelle to the Somalian Army. It is to be noted that African Union Transition Mission was established after the civil war in Somalia and its aim was to support the military of the interim government that came to power following the civil war in Somalia.

More than 300 Pakistanis die in boat capsizes in Greece

Roznama Sahara (June 22) reports that it has been feared that more than 300 Pakistanis were killed in a boat capsizes in Greece, out of which nearly 100 people belonged to Gujranwala alone. It is being said that these Pakistanis were trying to illegally enter Europe. This apart, a number of Pakistanis were also reported missing which included people from Sialkot, Gujarat and Mandi Bahauddin.

Roznama Sahara (June 20) reports that in connection with the boat capsizes that took place in Greece, members of a gang involved in illegal trafficking of people to Greece were arrested from Gujarat town in Pakistan. It is being said that nearly 400 Pakistanis, 200 Egyptians and 150 Syrians were travelling in the boat which included a number of women and children. The Pakistan government has announced a national mourning over the



incident and also organised a namaz for the peace of the soul of those who died.

Pakistan's Federation Investigation agency, which has arrested the chief of the racket which was involved in the illegal human trafficking, has identified him as Waqas Ahmed. It is being said that he belongs to Wazirabad. It is being said that he used to collect Rs 10 to 23 lakh per person to take the Pakistanis to the coast of Greece in an illegal manner. The police have been raiding places in Pakistan and Africa in search of other members of the

gang. Till now, more than two dozen people have been arrested in this connection.

Another member of this gang, Sajid Mahmood, was arrested when he was

trying to flee Pakistan. It is being said that Sajid Mahmood belongs to Mandi Bahauddin. He was also collecting crores of rupees in return for taking Pakistanis to Europe in an illegal manner. ■

Chinese projects on the target of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan



Hamara Samaj (June 25) reports that banned terrorist organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has declared that it would destroy the projects of China-Pakistan economic corridor (BRI Project). As per a website called Nikkei Asia, the TTP is targeting various development projects set up in Balochistan with the cooperation of China. This region is the centre of different development projects being run by China for the past several years and these projects are consistently being targeted by Balochistan National Army and TTP.

As per Nikkei Asia website, the TTP is making preparations to establish its parallel government in this region which includes approximately 40 per cent part of Balochistan including 760 kilometre of coastal area. Nearly a month ago, this banned organisation attacked a number of projects involved in exploring oil and natural gas with the cooperation of China in North-Western Pakistan in which many dozen Pakistani and Chinese experts were killed. Following this attack, China is

rethinking about its investments in various projects in this region. China is demanding security guarantee from Pakistan government for its projects.

China has so far spent a major portion of 50 billion dollars in the economic corridor being jointly developed by China and Pakistan. Seeing the increasing danger to its projects in this region, China is hesitant to make more investments and stopped making investments in these development projects during the regime of Imran Khan. However, after Shehbaz Sharif came to power, seeing the increasing inflation and huge depreciation in foreign exchange reserve, the Pakistan government has been pressuring China to once again start making investments in the region in order to save Pakistan from economic crisis. TTP could create an economic crisis for Shehbaz Sharif government by being a threat to the Chinese projects in the region. This apart, TTP could also become a threat to the oil pipeline passing to China through this economic corridor. This could create

hurdles for the Iranian supply of oil to China.

Due to the growing activities of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Balochistan's autonomous organisations, China has almost stopped making investments in the development projects in this region. In the past one year, regional separatist organisations had targeted

Chinese citizens and the projects being implemented by them. However, there is no clarity on the mutual relationship between TTP and the supporters of Independent Balochistan, but the Pakistan's federal government is an enemy to both these organisations. It is being said that these organisations have connections with the Khorasan chapter of ISIS.

UN cuts one billion dollar in aid to Afghanistan



Inquilab (June 28) reports that due to the restrictions imposed on the education of women and their employment by the Taliban government in Afghanistan, the United Nations standoff with the Taliban government is still on. The UN has made a cut of one billion dollars in the humanitarian aid that it has extended to Afghanistan and its effect will be on the aid given to the people of Afghanistan. It is to be noted that the United Nations in March this year had started a 'humanitarian response plan' for extending aid to Afghanistan. Under this plan, the donors

have been urged to provide 4.6 billion dollar aid to more than 2.3 crore needy citizens of Afghanistan.

Earlier in December, the Taliban government had imposed restrictions on Afghan women from working in UN offices and also in receiving education from them. Following this, the UN made lot of changes in its plans and it made a reduction of one billion dollars in the aid being extended to Afghanistan. Now the United Nations has urged the donors to provide 3.2 billion dollars to Afghan citizens.

More than 25 lakh people from 160 countries take part in Haj ritual



Salar (June 25) reports that 25 lakh Hajjis from 160 nations performed the Haj ritual this year. This time, there was scorching heat in Saudi Arabia. However, driver-less self-driving buses were provided to take Hajjis to holy places. The entire Saudi Arabia was seen brimming with Hajjis wearing white-coloured Ihram and sandals. Haj is one among the five mandatory duties in Islam. More than 25,000 buses were used to transport people from Jeddah airport to Mecca and 17 trains were also used for the purpose. Every year Saudi Arabia gets an income of 12 billion dollars due to the Haj pilgrimage. Nearly 1.36 million cubic metre of water had also been arranged for Haj yatris. More than 20 lakh people spent the entire night on the grounds of Mina and together pelted stones at three pillars of Satan. Following this, 40,000 animals were sacrificed. Special arrangements were made to preserve the meat of the sacrificed animals. A few years ago, 2,500 Hajjis had died as fire broke out in Mina. Hence this time fire-proof tents were also made available.

Avadhnama (June 28) reports that while delivering the Haj sermon from Nimrah masjid in Arafat, Sheikh Hussian bin Abdul Aziz Al Sheikh said that it is

Allah's instruction that all Muslims shall remain united. The Satan wants differences among Muslims and hence one should tightly hold on to the rope of Allah. If there are any differences, then resolve them with the help of Quran and Sunnah. It is the instruction of Allah that Mohammad is the Prophet of Allah and hence obeying his order is obeying the order of Allah. Muslims should keep themselves away from Kufr (disbelief) and Batil (falsehood). The Haj sermon was digitally translated to 25 languages in the world.

Inqilab (June 28) reports that the Eid namaz was performed at 3,500 masjids in Mecca and Medina. A separate provision has been made for the namaz of women. Saudi Arabia's in-charge for religious matters, Dr Salem bin Hajj Al-Khamri said that among them, 2,500 masjids are in Mecca and approximately 500 masjids are located in Medina. After completing the Haj ritual, all Hajjis tonsured their head and removed the white-coloured Ahram.

Etemaad (June 17) reports that 103-year-old Raby Ali, the oldest woman who resides in the Kurdistan region of Iraq and the youngest child, whose age is around one year, have also undertaken Haj this year.

Aurangabad Times (June 17) reports that this time the cleaning process at Ka'aba Sharif was undertaken by robot. Special arrangements were made at airports for the Hajis and immigration process were completed in 20 minutes' time. The bottles of Aab-e-Zamzam were distributed to Hajis using robots who work for 12 hours. According to government sources, 17 lakh people had arrived for Haj via planes. Whereas 5 lakh came by road and the rest came by sea route to Saudi Arabia. On the occasion of Haj, 42 special hospitals, 290 Ambulances and 52,000 medical staff were deployed for the service of Hajis.

Salar (June 27) states that a Haj pilgrim begins his Haj by wearing a white-coloured Ahram (an unstitched cloth). After this, he does circumambulation of the

Ka'aba and then moves towards Mina. Then he goes to the ground in Arafat where he does a one-day 'Waqf Al-Arafat.' This day is also known as 'Youm-e-Arafat' and on this day, he listens to 'Khutba-e-Haj.' This is considered as the most important part of the valedictory of Haj programme. After this, the Haji pelts stones at Satan and does the circumambulation and returns to Mina. In the end, he once again does a circumambulation of Mecca and after tonsuring of the head, removes the Al-Ahram and ends the Haj ritual by wearing ordinary clothes.

Roznama Sahara (June 25) reports that 600 special markets were opened in Saudi Arabia for the Hajis and 550 modern slaughter houses were set up for the sacrifice of the animals.

Turkey announces creation of new Constitution



Siasat (June 17) reports that Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced the creation of a new Constitution for the country. It is to be noted that Erdogan was elected as the President for the third term last month. He said that the new Constitution will be civilian in nature and all the communities in Turkiye will be given representation. Addressing the new cabinet, Erdogan said that his aim is to make Turkiye among the world's 10 most advanced and strong economy. The first meeting of Turkiye's new cabinet met for nearly eight hours under the chairmanship of Erdogan. He said that on the second centenary of the establishment of democratic Turkiye, we

want the country's journey to be on a Constitution useful for civilians, liberals and everyone. He defended the Presidential rule imposed in 2018 (as per which the post of the Prime Minister has been ended) and said that in the general elections held in the country this time, the people have refused to bring back the old system and all debates in this connection have also come to an end.

It is to be noted that the founder of modern Turkiye, Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Kemal Attaturk) had declared Turkey as a democratic nation on October 29, 1923 and he had become the President before that. On March 4, 1924, he had announced the end of Khilafat in Turkiye. In the same year, the first Constitution of the democratic Turkey was formulated in which Islam was given the status of state religion. However, in 1928, the status of state religion for Islam was withdrawn and this Constitution continued for 30 years. Later in 1960, a military coup took place in the country and a new Constitution came into being from 1961. Though the country

was handed over to elected representatives following the elections, military's interference in administration continued for four more years. In the same way, a military coup took place for the second time in Turkiye in 1980 and two years later, a new Constitution was created and this Constitution continues to remain in force in Turkiye till now. Till now, 19 amendments have been made in this

Constitution. The last amendment was made in 2017 during which the rights of citizens were improved and the rights of military were reduced. This amendment was made following a failed coup in 2016. In 2017, the Constitution was amended and the post of Prime Minister was removed and all the powers were shifted to the President. Later the powers of the President were increased.

Israeli plan to expand Jewish settlements in West Bank

Etemaad (June 20) reports that the Israel government has started the work of settling new Jewish colonies in the West Bank region. Despite US pressure, Israel has set up 4,560 residential units in different regions of West Bank and out of them more than 1,000 have already been constructed and are ready. Whereas the construction of other houses is taking place in different places. Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said that we will continue with the construction of new colonies so that Israel's control over the region gets further strengthened. It is to be noted that Smotrich is also an in-charge defence minister of Israel.



Israel had captured West Bank during the 1967 war. The issue over these Jewish colonies play an important role in the Israel-Palestine conflict. The Palestinian Authority has opposed this decision of Israel and it has announced boycott of the meeting of joint financial committee with Israel. Opposing this decision of Israel, Islamic terrorist organisation Hamas also said that it would not allow legal sanctity for Israel's illegal occupation of our land and we will strongly oppose it. Meanwhile, Jewish groups have supported this decision of Israel and said that this is a correct step by Israel.

Inquilab (June 27) reports that the chief of Palestine land and building protection committee has alleged that after 1948, Israel had destroyed one lakh

buildings of Arab Muslims in Palestine occupied region. He alleged that among the new colonies being established by Israel for Jews in this region, more than 80 per cent of them do not have the requisite permission. This apart, the houses of the Palestinians in the region were not given recognition letters by Israel and they are not included in the Israel occupied maps. In the 48 regions occupied by Israel, more than 5 lakh Palestine people are deprived of building permit on the houses built on their own land. He said that nearly 90 per cent of houses owned by Palestine Muslims have been demolished. Whereas even the illegal houses of Jews are being given recognition. Inside Israel, nearly 60 per cent Palestine Arabs do not have any land. Whereas the Israel government razed one lakh houses of Palestine Arabs and these were built by the Palestinians in their own land. It is the Israel government's policy to force Muslims flee from Israel-occupied Palestinian regions.

“Enemies restless over growing relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia”



cause of concern for every Muslim. The solution to these problems could be found through the friendship between the countries in the region. There is no need for external forces in this issue.

As per Iran’s government news agency IRNA, the diplomatic

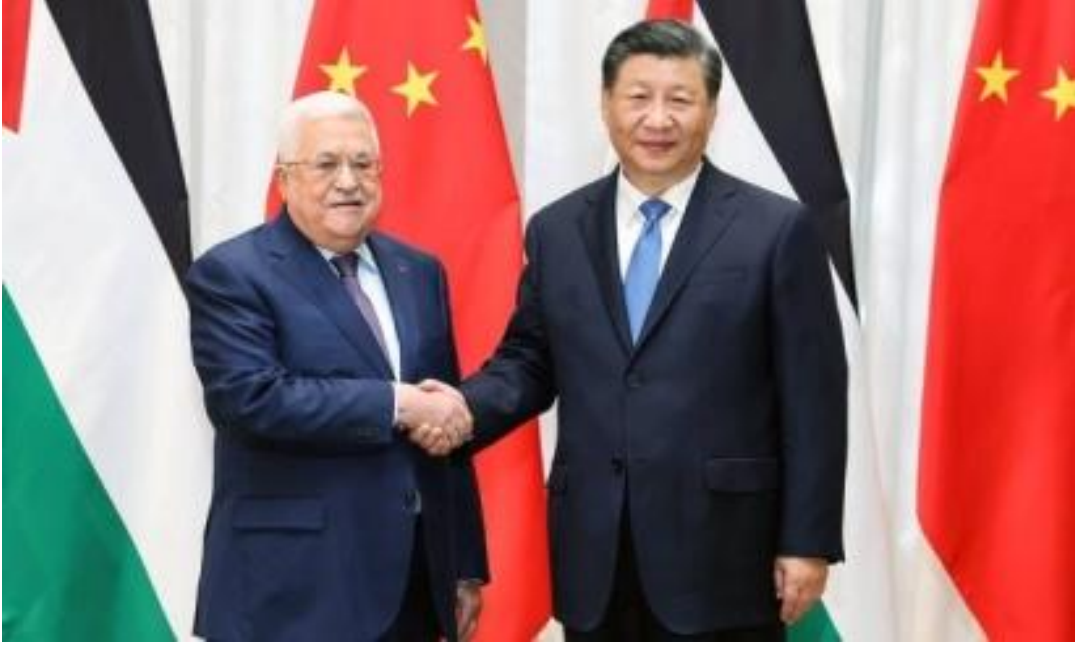
Etemaad (June 20) reports that Iran President Ebrahim Raisi said that due to the growing cooperation and improvement in the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the enemies of Islam are feeling like a snake crawling on their chest. Recently, Saudi Arabia’s foreign affairs minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan visited Iran and held a meeting with Iran’s foreign affairs minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian. As per Iranian news agency ‘Tasnim,’ Ebrahim Raisi said that there is a beginning of a new chapter in the Arab world due to the growing ties between the two countries. Due to the growing cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the enemies of Muslims are getting restless. There are several problems in the region, which is a

relationship that has been established between Iran and Saudi Arabia due to Chinese efforts is a right step in the right direction. The news agency said that in order to strengthen the relationship between the two countries and also to promote cooperation between them in different sectors, this system of talks and agreements will be sustained. Saudi Arabia’s King Salman also termed the recent visit of Raisi to Saudi Arabia as a new turn in the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. It is to be noted that due to the efforts of China, Saudi Arabia and Iran have reopened their embassies in Tehran and Riyadh and there is a possibility of a consulate general to be opened soon in Iran’s Mashab.

China supports independent Palestine

Siasat (June 16) reports that for the first time, China has said that there is only one solution for the Palestinian issue and that is to establish an independent Palestine state. Chinese President Xi Jinping has assured Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas in Beijing that China supports the rights of Palestinians and also supports the peace talks to remove the bitterness that has come in the wake of Palestine’s relations with Israel. The Chinese President said that

unless Israel vacates the occupied land of Palestine, it is not possible to find a solution to the Palestinian issue. He said that the basic solution for the Palestinian issue is to establish an independent Palestine state based on the borders of Palestine in 1967 and make Eastern Jerusalem as its capital. China wants to strengthen its friendship and cooperation with Palestine.



The newspaper said that the Palestinian issue started during the First World War when the Ottoman Empire had to face defeat, being an ally of Germany. Following this, the control of Palestinian region went into the hands of Britain. During that time, there were very few Jews in the region. On the other hands, the Arab Muslims had the majority. The relationship between the Jews and Arabs broke down when the British foreign affairs minister announced in 1917 that Britain will support establishment of an independent Jewish state in Palestine and will provide necessary cooperation for it. However, Arabs opposed it.

Between the First World War and the Second World War, on the initiative of Britain, Jews from across the world were brought to Palestine region. Due to this Balfour Declaration, the United Nations conducted a voting to divide Palestine into two parts. The aim of this voting was to divide Palestine into a Jewish majority state and an Arab majority state. However, it was of no avail. This is because the Jews accepted the results of the voting while the Arabs refused to accept it. The United Nations presented this plan that if two separate states were created, then Jerusalem will remain an international city. However, after cancellation of the voting, the issue

could not be carried forward. The British rulers left the place after 1948 without finding a solution to the problem. As soon as they left, the Jews became active and they announced the creation of a Jewish majority nation named Israel. However, Palestinians opposed it. In the clashes, lakhs of Palestinian Muslims were thrown out of their houses and their lands were seized by the Jews who announced the formation of a new nation called Israel. The Palestinians who were rendered homeless were not allowed to return to their homes. After this, parts of Palestine also became part of Jordan and Egypt.

In the Arab-Israel war of 1967, Israel captured Golan Heights and Gaza Strip from Syria and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt apart from Eastern Jerusalem and West Jordan. This means that parts of Jordan and Egypt were captured by Israel in the war. But after the talks held following the Arab-Israel war in 1973, Israel handed over Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt. However, despite this, no solution could be found on the Palestinian issue between Arabs and Israelis till now. The Chinese point of view is that unless an independent Palestine state is established in this region, and an independent Palestinian nation comes into being, till then it would not be possible to have permanent peace in the region. ■

Saudi Arabia's plan to attract Indian tourists

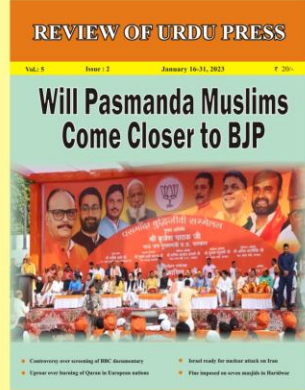
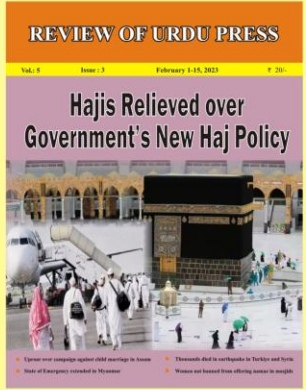
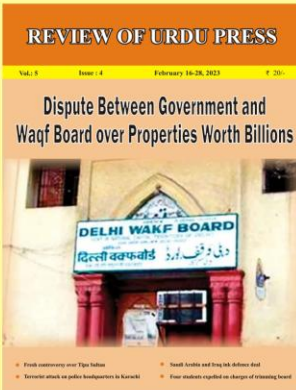
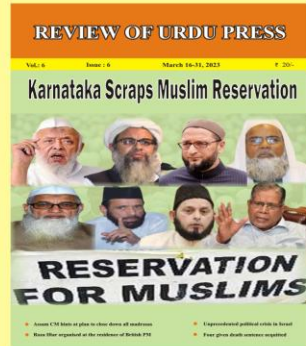
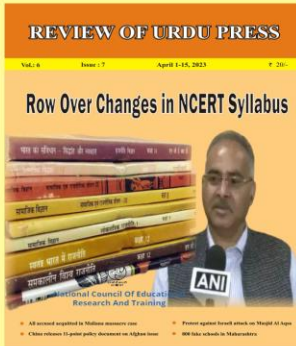
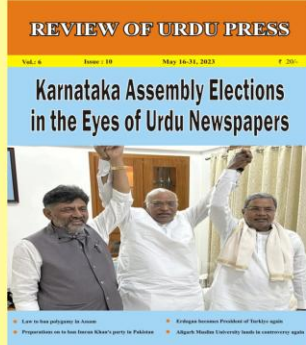
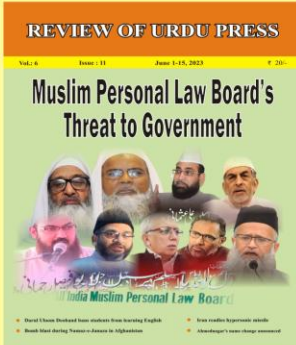


Siasat (June 19) reports that the Saudi Arabian government has made a special plan to attract Indian tourists to visit different places in the country. Last year, 10 lakh Indian tourists had visited Saudi Arabia. Now the Saudi Tourism Authority has fixed a target to double this number. According to Arab News, after Eid, the number of flights between India and Saudi Arabia are being increased. The chief of Asia-Pacific region of Saudi Tourism Authority said that in the first quarter of this year, four lakh Indian travellers had arrived in Saudi Arabia. The target is to make this number reach 12 million by the year 2030. After Eid, direct flights from India to Saudi Arabia is being increased from 243 per week to 290 per week.

Inquilab (June 28) reports that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman said that through the Neom city project, we are adding a new chapter in the world's civilisation. Mentioning about the project on Neom

city being shown by Discovery channel, Mohammad bin Salman said that the population of Saudi Arabia is likely to increase from 33 million to 50-55 million by 2030. The current civic infrastructure is inadequate for the increasing population. Hence it is necessary to build new cities so that the increasing population could get space and employment.

Mohammad bin Salman said that we want the economy of Saudi Arabia not to depend entirely on oil exports, but become multidimensional. We are presenting new city models for the mountains, valleys, coastal regions and deserts of Saudi Arabia. The new cities will be built as per most modern techniques and will be in tune with future requirements. In coming times, Saudi Arabia will emerge as world's first class commercial and industrial centre apart from being a class one tourist centre. Hence we are trying to give a fresh face to the entire economy of the country.



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