

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Urdu Newspapers' Role in Bihar Assembly Elections



- Karnataka HC stays order banning RSS activities
- Pakistan's conspiracy to create unrest in India

- Gaza ceasefire agreement in jeopardy
- Ban on burqa in Portugal

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## Summary

Most Urdu newspapers' analysis of Bihar Assembly elections is against the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). They claim that population of Muslims in Bihar is 18 percent and they are capable of ensuring victory of any party in at least 60 seats. However, despite this, neither of the two alliances has given enough seats to Muslims in proportion to their population. In the Assembly elections in 2020, Janata Dal (United) had fielded 11 Muslim candidates, but this time the party has given tickets to only four Muslim candidates. Similarly, the BJP did not give ticket to any Muslim candidate.

The Urdu newspapers in their editorials, while mentioning about Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar not opposing the Waqf Bill, claimed this act has exposed his claim of being sympathetic to Muslims. The Urdu newspapers complained that the Opposition grand alliance has made the president of Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) Mukesh Sahani a deputy chief minister candidate after overlooking the 18 percent Muslim population. This is grave injustice to Muslims.

The Congress government in Karnataka had decided to impose a ban on the activities of RSS in public places. Now the Karnataka High Court has ordered an interim stay on this decision of the government. This decision of the high court is said to be a severe blow to the Congress government in Karnataka. It is said that this ban has been imposed due to pressure from Mallikarjun Kharge's son Priyank Kharge.

Pakistan is not desisting from its anti-India policy. Recently, the Pakistani military officials had visited Bangladesh, Jordan and Turkiye. Pakistan's effort is to include these Muslim nations in its anti-India front. Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir's effort is to include other Muslim nations also in the military agreement that Pakistan had signed with Saudi Arabia. In this agreement, there is a provision that if any nation attacks either Pakistan or Saudi Arabia, it will be considered as an attack on both the countries and the two nations will jointly take military action against the attacking country. However, during the recent Pakistan-Afghanistan clashes, Saudi Arabia's stance did not meet Pakistan's expectations. Saudi Arabia did not take any action against Afghanistan. However, due to the efforts of Turkiye and Qatar, a ceasefire agreement has been signed between Pakistan and Afghanistan, though it would be difficult to say how long it will last.

Pakistan has tried to open a new front against India by placing its gun on the shoulders of Bangladesh. As per media reports, a special cell of Pakistan's notorious intelligence agency ISI has been set up at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka. Its goal is to incite the flames of terrorism and separatism in the east and northeastern states. In this connection, a few terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba recently travelled to Bangladesh from Pakistan. Their goal was to incite the flames of terrorism in India.

The agreement that US President Donald Trump has brokered between Israel and Hamas is in jeopardy. The Israeli attacks continue in Gaza region. Nearly 150 Palestinians have been killed in these attacks. Hamas had promised to lay down its arms, but now it is not ready to do so.



## Role of Urdu newspapers in Bihar Assembly elections



The Urdu newspapers have analysed the Bihar Assembly elections from a one-sided perspective. Most Urdu newspapers have an anti-NDA stance. These newspapers have urged Muslims in the state to get united for the Bihar Assembly elections and vote in favour of anti-NDA parties so that BJP could be kept away from power. The interesting thing is that the Urdu newspapers had done a similar campaign during the Maharashtra Assembly elections as well but it turned ineffective. The Muslim votes got divided in Maharashtra and the BJP got an unprecedented victory. Meanwhile, the Urdu media also have this complaint that no political party has given tickets to Muslims proportionate to their population.

It is worth mentioning that in Bihar, the population of Muslims is nearly 18 percent. Urdu newspapers claim that out of 243 seats, the fate of candidates on 60 seats is decided by Muslims. Some newspapers have complained in their editorials that the Opposition grand alliance has not declared any Muslim candidate as its Deputy CM face. The entire stress of Urdu newspapers is that all Muslim votes should go to the Opposition alliance. These Urdu newspapers have urged Muslims not to divide the Muslim vote by voting for All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen

(AIMIM), Jan Suraj Party and Aam Aadmi Party.

In this Assembly elections, the JD (U) has given tickets to four Muslim candidates. Similarly, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) of Chirag Paswan has also fielded a Muslim candidate, whereas the BJP has not given ticket to any Muslim candidate. On the other hand, Opposition party Rashtriya Janata Dal has given ticket to 18 Muslim candidates. Congress has also fielded 10 Muslim candidates, whereas the CPI (ML) has given ticket to two Muslim candidates. Asaduddin Owaisi's party AIMIM in its first list has announced the names of 25 candidates, out of which 23 are Muslims.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (October 23) in its editorial has expressed concern over the declining representation of Muslims in Bihar Assembly. The newspaper urged Muslims to forget mutual differences and get united and give votes to candidates capable of defeating anti-Muslim parties. The newspaper said the Muslims should vote in large numbers in the Assembly elections in Bihar in order to protect their rights. The newspaper claimed that in the Assembly elections held in Bihar in February 2005, 24 Muslim MLAs got elected out of the 243 MLAs, but when the Assembly elections were held again in





October-November 2005, only 16 Muslim candidates got elected. The newspaper expressed concern that Muslims have been deceived by Nitish Kumar's good governance. His stance has always been anti-Muslim. Similarly, in 2010, 19 Muslim MLAs got elected. In 2015, when a grand alliance of Lalu Prasad Yadav and Nitish Kumar was formed, the number of Muslim MLAs increased to 24, but in 2020, the number of Muslim MLAs declined to 19. Similarly, though there is 18 percent Muslim population in Bihar, their representation in Assembly had never been above seven percent.

The newspaper said that one reason for the declining representation of Muslims is that in the past two decades, no universally accepted Muslim leader has emerged in the state. In the northern and northeastern districts of Bihar like Kishanganj, Katihar, Purnea, Siwan and Eastern Champaran, Muslim voters play a decisive role but due to mutual differences they had always given their votes to Hindu candidates instead of Muslim candidates. AIMIM has also failed to find a leadership acceptable to all in Seemanchal region. Though Tariq Anwar, Shakeel Ahmad Khan, Mudasir Shams of Congress, Abdul Bari Siddiqui, Sayed Faisal Ali, Tanveer Hussain and Qari Suhaib of RJD are active in politics, they could not establish their presence among the Muslims. Similarly, there are several Muslim faces in JD(U) as well, but due to mutual differences they are unable to rise.

**Awadhnama** (October 26) in its editorial urged Muslims that they vote for

Mahagathbandan in the Bihar Assembly elections, because Nitish Kumar has formed an alliance with the BJP. The Muslim enmity of BJP is not hidden from anyone. The newspaper complained that the RJD has not done justice to Muslims and they did not give appropriate representation to Muslims. However, Muslims do not have any other option other than to get united and defeat the BJP.

**Siasat** (October 16) in its editorial has alerted Muslims over the Jan Suraj Party. The newspaper said that Prashant Kishore's links are with the BJP. Hence Muslims need to think before voting in the forthcoming elections. Muslims should keep themselves away from the smooth talk of Prashant Kishore.

**Etemaad** (October 29) said that AIMIM is contesting the elections in 32 seats. The newspaper said that the eyes of Congress, RJD and Samajwadi Party are stuck on Muslim votes. They want to amass Muslim votes by showing the fear of BJP. These parties do not have the strength to defeat the BJP and the JD (U) in the elections. Asaduddin Owaisi complained that these parties have not given tickets to Muslims proportionate to their population. However, there is 18 percent Muslim population in Bihar. If Muslims get united and give their votes to Muslim-sympathetic party AIMIM, then a Muslim man could become the chief minister of Bihar. Owaisi alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah is targeting Muslims on the pretext of infiltrators. Owaisi said that Amit Shah should say how many infiltrators have been identified during the SIR. Owaisi asked how infiltration is taking place despite the presence of BSF. Meanwhile, BSF itself is working under Amit Shah's ministry.

**Urdu Times** (October 23) in its editorial urged Muslims that they should be beware of the tactics of BJP in the Bihar Assembly elections. The newspaper said the BJP may take the benefits of internal differences in the Mahagathbandan. Overconfidence could dash the hopes of

Mahagathbandan. The newspaper urged the Muslims that they get united and give their votes to those candidates who are capable of defeating the BJP. Muslims should try to ensure 100 percent voting.

**Hamara Samaj** (October 29) in its editorial told Muslims to remain alert so that their votes do not get divided among different parties. Division in Muslim votes will benefit BJP. The newspaper criticised that the Mahagathbandan did not announce any Muslim name for the post of deputy chief minister. This has led to a growing feeling among Muslims that their votes help form governments, but they do not have a share in power. In order to divide Muslim votes, the BJP has fielded several so-called Muslim leaders. These leaders are visiting masjids and madrasas and are trying to mislead Muslims in the name of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas.'

The newspaper said the population of Muslims in the state is 18 percent and they play a crucial role in 60 seats. Muslim voters are in a position to change the political scene in Sitamarhi, Kishanganj, Purnea, Madhepura, Darbhanga, Araria and Bhagalpur. Last time, nearly 80 percent Muslims had given their votes to Mahagathbandan, but this time there is a threat of split in Muslim votes. Many Muslim organizations have sprung up like frogs in the rainy season. The hands of BJP are behind this game, who wanted to divide the Muslim votes and ensure the victory of its candidates.

**Hindustan Express** (October 28) in its editorial said that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has started portraying himself as a well-wisher of Muslims on social media. He is trying to make Muslims realise that if he comes to power again he will do complete justice to Muslims. The truth is that though Muslims are supporting secular parties, there is also a section among them who consider Nitish Kumar as a friend of Muslims and give their votes to him. Now since Nitish Kumar has formed an alliance with BJP, his Muslims



supporters are moving themselves away from him. Their claim is that Nitish Kumar has changed his stance due to pressure from BJP. This is the reason why he neither opposed the Waqf Bill in the House nor put pressure on the BJP to withdraw this bill. Now what has to be seen is whether the Muslim voters get united and ensure the victory of secular parties or get divided and bring NDA back to power again.

**Hindustan Express** (October 17) in its editorial criticised that the NDA has desisted from fielding Muslim candidates. The newspaper said that JD (U) has also not done justice to Muslims and it has fielded only four Muslim candidates. It is clear from this that Nitish Kumar and his allied parties want to keep Muslims on the fringes due to pressure from the BJP. The BJP did not feel the need to field even a single Muslim candidate in the fray.

**Hindustan Express** (October 20) in its editorial alleged that no party has done justice to Muslims during the distribution of seats. The BJP and Upendra Kushwaha's party, National People's Front, has not fielded a single Muslim candidate. Whereas JD(U) has fielded just four Muslim candidates. In 2020, the party had given tickets to 11 Muslim candidates. However, yet another allied party in NDA, LJPR, has certainly given one ticket to a Muslim candidate. Due to this, there is huge disappointment among the Muslims. Similarly, the Congress and Left Parties, which are part of the Mahagathbandan, have not given tickets to Muslims proportionate to their population. However, RJD has fielded 18, CPI (M-L) 2 and



Congress 10 Muslim candidates in the polls. Meanwhile, the new party which has entered into the political scene Bihar, Jan Suraj, has given tickets to a few Muslim candidates, but its links are with the BJP. This is the reason why it is playing the game to divide the Muslim votes.

The intriguing thing is that the Congress, which beats the drum of secularism, did not felt the need to give tickets to strong Muslim candidates. In Bihar, the population of Muslims is 18 percent, hence Muslims have a strong claim in at least 44 seats. Among the 243 seats in the state, the population of Muslims is more than 20 percent in 87 seats. Whereas in 47 seats, the percentage is nearly 15 percent. However, though it looks like Muslims are with the Mahagathbandan till now, due to the presence of Jan Suraj Party and AIMIM, their votes may get divided. If that happens, the status of Muslims in the politics of Bihar will be zero.

In an article published in **Inquilab** (October 31), Muslims have been urged to get united and vote 100 percent in support of secular parties. If their votes get divided, its direct benefit will be the BJP and an anti-Muslim atmosphere will be created in Bihar as well just like in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The masjids of Muslims will

be destroyed, madrasas will be locked and bulldozers will be run over the houses of innocents. The question is not about governance in Bihar, but about the existence of Muslims. Hence Muslims will have to unite under all circumstances and defeat the communal forces. Each and every voter, whether man or woman, will have to come out of his or her house and unitedly vote to save the existence of Muslims. Especially there is a need for the Muslim women to remain alert, because they are often not active when it comes to voting. Muslims will have to keep a close eye on the electoral situation in Bihar so that votes are cast and they are not stolen through collusion. It is said that this article was written by Mufti Mohammad Sanaullah, who is the deputy chief of Muslim organisation Imarat-e-Shariah.

**Qaumi Bharat** (October 20) alleged that Owaisi's party AIMIM has fielded 32 candidates in the Assembly elections in Bihar. The party's aim is to divide the Muslim votes. The newspaper alleged that Owaisi has no vision for the welfare of Muslims. The drama that he stages in the Parliament is of no benefit to the Muslims, instead it gives new life to anti-Muslim forces. In the elections in Bihar, a few political parties are out on the filed in the name of Third Front in order to divide the



Muslim votes which includes AIMIM, Jan Suraj Party and Aam Admi Party. It is clear that these parties have been fielded in order to divide the Muslim parties so that anti-Muslim forces come to power again. In order to oppose it, Muslims should get united and vote in favour of the secular parties. If Muslim votes get divided, NDA will come to power again.

**Inquilab** (October 30) criticised that in Bihar the population of Muslims is 18

percent, but the so called secular parties has not declared any Muslim face for the post of deputy chief minister. The Mahagathbandan has declared Tejashwi Yadav as its chief minister candidate. The surprising thing is that VIP chief Mukesh Sahani has been declared as deputy chief minister candidate overlooking the 18 percent Muslim population. It is clear from this that the intentions of Mahagathbandan regarding Muslims is not good.

## Karnataka HC stays order banning RSS activities



**Sahafat** (October 29) reports that the Congress government in Karnataka has suffered a major setback. The Karnataka high court has ordered an interim stay on the ban issued by the Karnataka government on the activities of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. A single bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna issued a notice to the state government, home department and Hubli police commissioner. An organisation named 'Punaschaitanya Seva Samasthe' had petitioned the court against an order of the state government issued on October 18 imposing a ban on the assembling of more than 10 persons. The order has imposed restrictions on the assembling of more than 10 persons in public places like roads, parks, grounds and lakes. The Congress government in the

state had described it as appropriate in accordance with Police Act.

In its order, the court said that the government cannot limit the rights under Article 19 (1) (A) (freedom of speech) and Article 19 (1) (B) (freedom for peaceful assembly) of the Constitution. The court said that no government order can override the Constitutional rights. The RSS got a major relief from this order of the court. Meanwhile, the next date of hearing in this case has not been fixed yet. BJP MP from Bengaluru South Tejaswi Surya, while criticising the Congress government, said that RSS had always organised its programmes and rallies in a peaceful manner. This decision of the state government is a conspiracy hatched by Congress leader Priyank Kharge.



It is worth mentioning that the Karnataka Cabinet on October 16 approved a new law to restrict gatherings and other activities in public places. Its goal was to impose a ban on the Shakhas of RSS and Pathsanchalans. This decision of the state government came to the fore when Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge wrote a letter to Chief Minister Siddharamaiah and demanded that a ban should be imposed on the activities of the RSS being run on government properties. The BJP alleged that this decision was taken due to political enmity. Whereas the Congress government in Karnataka claimed in its defense that the then BJP government in 2013 had issued a circular. It had been directed in it that school premises and public places shall be used only for educational purposes.

As per another news, a panchayat development officer, Praveen Kumar, took part in a programme organised by the Sangh by wearing Ganavesh on October 12. Taking action over this, the state government suspended Praveen Kumar. Praveen Kumar filed an appeal before the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal against this decision. A bench headed by judicial member of the tribunal S Y Watwati issued an interim order staying the suspension of Praveen Kumar.

As per another news, the tehsildar of Chitapur has refused permission to carry out Path Sanchalan on the occasion of the centenary year of RSS. Chitapur resident Ashok Patil questioned this decision of the



district administration before the Kalaburagi bench of the high court. Now the high court, while extending relief to the Sangh, has granted permission to take out Path Sanchalan on November 2. It is worth mentioning that this march was supposed to be taken out on October 12. However, even before that the government officials removed the saffron flags, poster and banner. It is worth mentioning that the Chitapur Assembly constituency is represented by state's rural development minister Priyank Kharge.

**Hindustan Express** (October 30) in its editorial said that the Karnataka High Court has cancelled the restrictions imposed on RSS and dealt a severe blow to the Karnataka government. The court's decision has thwarted the Congress government's plan to stop the expansion of the RSS. This ban has been imposed due to the pressure of Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's son Priyank Kharge. The newspaper said that this ban was questioned not by RSS, but another organisation.

## Two ISIS-linked terrorists arrested

**Inquilab** (October 25) states that the Special Cell of Delhi Police conducted raids in Delhi and Bhopal and arrested two terrorists belonging to notorious Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. They have been identified as Mohammad Adnan and Adnan Khan alias Abu Mohammad. According to police, Mohammad Adnan, who was

arrested from Sadiq Nagar in Delhi, came in contact with the present Caliph, Abu Hafs Al-Hashimi Al-Qurashi, through a handler based in Syria. The police have also seized a video in this connection. In this video, a person dressed as Mohammed Adnan is taking an oath to join this organization. The police claim that these



terrorists had made a plan to carry out suicide attacks across the country on the occasion of Diwali and Dussehra. The two terrorists, who got training via online from Iraq, have been recruiting youths to ISIS through social media.

Nineteen-year-old Mohammad Adnan alias Abu Muharib, son of Salim Khan, is a resident of Sadiq Nagar in Delhi. Whereas 20-year-old Adnan Khan alias Abu Mohammad, son of Gulfam Miyan, is a resident of Bhopal. Abu Mohammad told police that a person from Bhopal had recruited him to ISIS. The police raided the house of Mohammad Adnan in Delhi and seized three mobile phones. Materials linked to ISIS and photos were found in them. This apart, a remote detonation system, plastic bomb, instructions to manufacture Molotov Cocktail, one pen drive, hard disc and a flag of ISIS were also seized. It is said this gang had threatened to kill an Additional Sessions Judge of Varanasi along with his family on Instagram. It is said this judge had ordered a video survey of Gyanvapi.

**Qaumi Bharat** (October 25) states that Additional Police Commissioner, Special Cell of Delhi Police, Pramod Singh Kushwaha, said police have got information that some unidentified terrorists had threatened to kill an Additional Sessions Judge of Varanasi along with his family because he delivered

a verdict against the Muslim side in the Gyanvapi issue. Kushwaha said that Adnan Khan, who was arrested from Bhopal, had been arrested earlier by the Uttar Pradesh police on charges involvement in terrorist activities. These terrorists had received online training in bomb-making from the ISIS headquarters located in Iraq. Pramod Kushwaha said that a detailed interrogation of the accused is being undertaken. In this connection, a few other people may also be arrested.

**Sahafat** (October 31) states that the police produced the two accused in a court in Delhi. The court sent them to police remand for 15 days. The police claimed that this gang had made a plan to carry out terrorist attacks in other places including at a crowded shopping mall in south Delhi and at a public park on the occasion of Diwali.

**Qaumi Bharat** (October 23) states that Pakistani terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad has started recruitment of women for terrorist activities in India. This terrorist organisation of women has been named 'Jamiat ul-Mominat.' Sister of Maulana Masood Azhar, Saida Azhar, has been made the chief of this organisation.

**Sahafat** (October 22) states that the Punjab Police has foiled a conspiracy to conduct serial bomb blasts in different cities of Punjab at the behest of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. Two persons have

been arrested in this connection. They have been identified as Mehakdeep Singh and Aditya. Two rocket launchers and a few other weapons were seized from them. These weapons were manufactured abroad. According to police, the two accused belong to Harpreet Singh gang. The Punjab Police had arrested Harpreet Singh from

Firozpur last month. The two accused arrested from Amritsar told police that Harpreet Singh had recruited them for Pakistan's intelligence agency and he had brought rocket launcher from Pakistan and handed it over to them. A court in Amritsar has sent both the accused to 15 days' police remand.

## Row over namaz at historical Shaniwar Wada



**Urdu Times** (October 23) states that a controversy has erupted after a video showing Muslim women offering namaz at the historic Shaniwar Wada located in Pune city in Maharashtra had gone viral on social media. Following protests by Hindu organisations, the police registered a case against unidentified women on charges of offering namaz at this historical place which is being protected by Archeological Survey of India. It is worth mentioning that the Peshwa rulers used to reside at the Shaniwar Wada fort in Pune and now it is under the care of ASI. A few Hindu organisations under the leadership of BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Medha Kulkarni cleansed the place by sprinkling cow urine and offering puja where the namaz was offered.

Following the incident, a new controversy has erupted within the ruling Mahayuti alliance in the state.

Spokesperson of Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar group) Rupali Patil Thombre strongly criticised Medha Kulkarni. She demanded that the MP, who has been flaring up communal tension, should be reined in. She also demanded the police to register a case against Medha Kulkarni on charges of provoking communal tension. Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (Shinde group) leader Neelam Gorhe said Shaniwar Wada is under the protection of ASI and certain rules are applicable there. It is necessary to follow these rules. If anyone violates these rules, then the police and district magistrate should take action against him. No one should be under the misconception that because he is in power, he can do whatever he wants.

On the other hand, BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Medha Kulkarni said the place where Muslim women offered juma namaz





is a heritage building and it is under the protection of ASI. She said we have purified that place in protest against the activity of these Muslim women. Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant questioned the action of police. He said that Shaniwar Wada is not a religious place where objections could be raised over offering namaz.

**Hindustan** (October 21) states that Maharashtra Minister and BJP leader Nitesh Rane objected to some unidentified Muslim women offering namaz at Shaniwar Wada in Pune. He said that offering namaz at this historical place is condemnable. Rane said that some people of jihadi mentality are spoiling the atmosphere in the country. The law is equal for all. If Muslim women offer namaz here, tomorrow if any Hindu goes to Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai and recite Hanuman Chalisa or raise the slogan of Jai Hanuman, then Muslims also should not have any objection. Nitesh Rane said that Shaniwar Wada is a historical heritage of Hindu culture. When it is so, the atmosphere has been vitiated by offering namaz. He asked whether there is no other place to offer namaz? If these women wanted, they could have gone to any masjid and offered namaz there, but here they deliberately did so. Rane, while criticising Samajwadi Party leader Abu Asim Azmi, said he is giving communal colour to this issue due to political reasons so that the communal harmony of the state is disturbed.

The newspaper claimed that these Muslims offered namaz at the dargah of

Hazrat Khwaja Syed Shah located in Shaniwar Wada, hence nobody should have objections on it. The police claim that after the video of the namaz had gone viral, a Hindu organisation named Patit Pavan filed a written complaint. On the basis of this complaint, a case has been registered against unidentified Muslim women. The newspaper said the dargah where the Muslim women offered namaz is under Waqf Board. The surprising thing is that now the

organisations are demanding the removal of the dargah and the mazar.

**Urdu Times** (October 22) in its editorial said that a few Muslim women had gone for a stroll at the historic Shaniwar Wada fort located in Pune. Since it was namaz time, they offered the namaz there itself. Somebody made a video and made it viral. Hindu radicals made it an issue and demanded the arrest of the Muslim women while holding a protest. A few Hindu organisations under the leadership of BJP MP Medha Kulkarni cleansed the place by sprinkling cow urine and by doing puja. The newspaper said that it is beyond comprehension why the police filed an FIR against these Muslim women. Offering namaz did not increase pollution, create traffic jams or curb anyone's freedom. They why the protests? The newspaper said this was the constituency of state's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. He is the Guardian Minister of Pune district. He should have immediately intervened in this issue, but he remained silent. It is totally wrong to register a case over offering namaz and it is inappropriate interferences in the religious activities of a particular community. The newspaper alleged that BJP MP Medha Kulkarni is deliberately creating communal tension. This is not in the interest of the society.

**Hindustan** (October 22) in its editorial alleged that Muslims are deliberately harassed in states where the BJP is in power. Why is Muslim hatred being fuelled in Maharashtra too? In the

past days, NCP (Ajit Pawar group) MLA from Ahilyanagar (formerly Ahmednagar) Sangram Jagtap appealed to Hindus that they buy items only from the shops owned by Hindus during Diwali. Despite massive efforts by radical saffron elements in Maharashtra, they have so far failed to disturb the communal harmony of the state. However, they are trying to regularly incite the flames of hatred.

Recently, the offer of namaz by some unidentified Muslim women on the premises of Shaniwar Wada has been given a communal colour. The intriguing thing is that anti-Muslim minister Nitesh Rane has poured ghee into the raging fire. He has suggested recitation of Hanuman Chalisa at the Haji Ali Dargah located in Mumbai. During festivals, Bhajan-Keertan or puja-



worship are organised on roads and public places in several regions of Maharashtra, but till today no Muslim or Christian has registered any protest against it. The satisfactory thing is that the NCP, which is a part of the ruling Mahayuti alliance, has condemned this anti-Muslim campaign.

## Change in the name of Aurangabad Railway Station



**Qaumi Bharat** (October 27) reports that the South Central Railway has changed the name of Aurangabad Railway Station as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Railway Station. According to the railway department, this decision has been taken in view of the historical and cultural identity

of the state. According to Railway Board, this change has been officially implemented. All the signboards, tickets, announcements and the digital system of the station have been updated with the new name. It is worth mentioning that the Maharashtra government had issued a



notification on October 15 granting approval to change the name of Aurangabad Railway Station as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Railway Station. The state government took this step after getting approval from the Union Home Ministry. The names of both the city and the railway station have been named after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's son and the second king of Maratha Kingdom Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. It is worth mentioning that the name of Aurangabad district in Maharashtra was given during the Mughal rule. In the year 1900, the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad Mir Usman Ali Khan had constructed the Aurangabad Railway Station.

Earlier, the state government had changed the name of Aurangabad city as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv. A large community of Maharashtra had opposed this decision of the government. It is worth mentioning that Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had brutally killed Chhatrapati Sambhaji.

As per a news published in this newspaper on its October 26 edition, the name of Islampur in Sangli district in Maharashtra has been changed as Ishwarpur. The nod to change the name has been given by Union Home Ministry and the Indian archaeological department. It is worth mentioning that on June 4, 2025, the

Islampur municipal council had passed a resolution urging that the name Islampur shall be changed as Ishwarpur. Maharashtra Minister Nitesh Rane, while welcoming this decision, said that Islampur city in Sangli district will now be known as Ishwarpur. The people had organised a public protest demanding change of name. I had also taken part in this movement. He said that it is a day of proud for the people of Sangli and Maharashtra.

**Inquilab** (October 28) states that the name of Mustafabad town in Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh has been changed as Kabirdham. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had made this announcement during a ceremony held at Vishwa Kalyan Ashram on October 27. He said that the double engine government is undertaking rapid development of religious and cultural centres in the state. The previous government used to spend the hard-earned money of people on constructing boundaries for Kabristans, whereas, we are spending that money for the development of temples, ashrams and pilgrims centres. Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party and Congress opposed the politics of changing names. Secretary of Samajwadi Party, Hafiz Usman, said that the Yogi government is inciting the flames of communalism in the state so that the votes of the majority community could be collected.



## Pakistan's conspiracy to create unrest in India



**Qaumi Bharat** (October 30) states that Pakistan has started efforts to flare up terrorism with the cooperation of Bangladesh and promote separatist elements in East and Northeastern India. Pakistan has set up a special cell of its intelligence agency ISI at its high commission in Dhaka. This was set up by Pakistan's chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza following his four-day visit to Dhaka. General Mirza held secret talks with Bangladesh Prime Minister Mohammad Yunus and the chiefs of the three wings of the Bangladesh military. It is said that nearly a dozen senior officials of Pakistan military accompanied General Mirza during his visit to Bangladesh. They also discussed plans to strengthen the intelligence network in eastern and northeastern India and to counter terrorist infiltration. It is said that the Pakistani intelligence agencies contacted the separatist organisations active in these regions to incite separatist movements in these areas.

This newspaper has claimed in its October 28 edition that recently a dozen terrorists belonging to Pakistani terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba had arrived in Dhaka. They were led by Ibtisam Ilahi

Zahir, a close associate of notorious terrorist and chief of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hafiz Sayeed. Zahir is the general secretary of Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadis based in Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Taiba. This terrorist had arrived in Dhaka in a special aircraft from Islamabad on October 25. He also held a meeting with top leaders of Tablighi Jamaat and Jamaat Islami in Bangladesh. Later he visited the border areas of Rajshahi, Nawabganj, Chatgaon and Maulavi Bazar.

This was the second visit by the terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba after an interim government came to power under the leadership of Mohammad Yunus in Bangladesh. Information was also received that a few leaders of Ulfa, who were lodged in jails in Bangladesh, have been released and they were secretly sent to India. Lashkar-e-Taiba is making plans for terrorist attacks in Assam, Manipur and Tripura.

**Awadhnama** (October 25) states that Pakistan's Army chief Asim Munir made a three-day visit to Jordan. He met Jordan's King Abdullah II. As per a press release of Pakistan's Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), discussions were held on increasing military cooperation between the two countries. Asim Munir also held talks



with Jordan's Army Chief Major General Yusuf Ahmad Al-Hunaiti. As per informed sources, Asim Munir urged the King of Jordan that they sign a defence agreement with Pakistan on the lines of the one signed by Saudi Arabia so that if any country attacks either Pakistan or Jordan then the two countries could take joint military action against the offender nation. Jordan is said to have taken a positive stance on the proposal.

According to BBC, Asim Munir recently visited Turkiye as well. Munir held talks with Turkiye president Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the military officials there. Turkiye's foreign ministry indicated that the Army chief of Pakistan has expressed the desire to have a military deal with Turkiye on the lines of Saudi Arabia model. Turkiye's stand on this proposal by Munir was positive. Asim Munir also visited the factories that produce military equipment in Turkiye. Pakistan also expressed interest in buying more drones and rockets from Turkiye. It is worth mentioning that during the India-Pakistan clash, Pakistan had used the drones manufactured in Turkiye.

**Hindustan** (October 26) states that Palestinian organisation Hamas has

established its new centre in Pakistan. Nazi Zahir has been made its chief. He will work as special representative of Hamas in Pakistan. Recently there has been an increase in the activities of Hamas in Pakistan. Nazi Zahir has addressed several rallies in collusion with notorious terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. A huge rally

was organised in Peshawar on October 14. Hamas leader Khalid Mashal had addressed this rally through a video link. During this time, Nazi Zahir took part in a rally organised by Pakistan Central Muslim League, the political wing of Lashkar-e-Taiba. Here he raised anti-Israel slogans as well.

In January this year, Hamas's representative in Iran, Khaled Qaddoumi, had visited Pakistan. That time he had also addressed the Upper House of Pakistan Parliament namely Senate. This confirms a close relationship between Pakistan and Hamas. On February 5, 2025, on the occasion of Kashmir Integration Day, Hamas leader Nazi Zahir, Khaled Qaddoumi and the terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba addressed a massive rally. Top officers of Pakistan army and leaders of various political parties of Pakistan also took part in this rally. A similar meeting was organised at Rawalakot in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. It was announced here that the mujahideen of Kashmir and Palestine have become united. The two will together unleash an armed struggle to free Kashmir from India.

## Drive against Afghan citizens in Pakistan

**Hamara Samaj** (October 28) states that the Pakistan government has stepped up its drive to forcefully send back nearly 28 lakh Afghan-origin citizens staying illegally in the country to Afghanistan. Till now, more than seven lakh Afghan citizens have been

pushed back through the Afghanistan border. Pakistan government has issued an order that if any Pakistan man gives his house on rent to an Afghan citizen, he will get a punishment of 10 years in jail. This apart, if any individual keeps an Afghan

citizen on employment, then he will be given life-term in jail.

As per media reports, Pakistani army, police and intelligence agencies have launched a nationwide drive against Afghan refugees. The police have arrested lakhs of Afghan citizens and kept them in detention centres. In more than a dozen cities, the houses and shops of Afghan refugees have been demolished using bulldozers. Till now, five lakh buildings have been razed. According to the newspaper, these Afghan refugees were staying in Pakistan for the past 40 years.

The United Nations urged the Pakistan government that it suspend the evacuation drive of Afghan refugees for some time so that the Afghan government could make alternative arrangements for them. However, Pakistan government has refused to accept it. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the government has been issuing notices to these Afghan refugees for the past one year to expel them. Now they will not be allowed to stay in Pakistan under any



circumstance. He said that the Afghan refugees staying in Pakistan are not only taking part in anti-Pakistan activities but there is an increase in robbery and other crimes due to their presence. To ensure security of Pakistan, they will not be allowed to stay in the country. Recently, after the closure of Pakistan-Afghanistan border, more than nine lakh Afghan refugees were camping on the border. The Pakistan army kept them in camps. These Afghan citizens allege that the Pakistan army were not making food and other arrangements for them. They were living a hellish life under open sky.

## Preparations on to welcome Zakir Naik in Bangladesh



**Hindustan** (October 28) reports that the Bangladesh government has given permission for controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik to visit Bangladesh. Preparations are on to give a grant

welcome to Zakir. He will propagate Islam for approximately three weeks in Bangladesh. Zakir Naik will stay in Bangladesh from November 28 to December 20. During this period, he will deliver religious discourses in different parts of the country. It is worth mentioning that Sheikh

Hasina government had banned Zakir Naik from entering Bangladesh. Following the terrorist attack that took place in Dhaka in 2016, a ban was imposed on the 'Peace TV' channel of Zakir Naik. Soon after, he



fled from India. An attacker had told the then Bangladesh government that he got inspiration for the terrorist attack from the speech telecast on Zakir Naik's YouTube channel. There are several cases against Zakir Naik in India as well. The Indian government had declared him an absconder. Nowadays he stays in Malaysia. India had demanded Malaysian government several times that it hand over Zakir Naik to India so that legal action could be taken against him, but the Malaysia government has not done so. Zakir Naik had visited Pakistan as well. During this visit, he met several terrorists of banned terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba like commander Muzzamal Iqbal Hashmi, Mohammad Haris and Faisal Nadeem. Zakir Naik also addressed a massive public gathering at Badshahi Masjid located in Lahore. Later he left for Saudi Arabia from there.

**Chattan** (October 23) reports that the International Criminal Tribunal of Bangladesh (ICT) has sent 15 top officials of the army to jail. These officials have been accused of kidnap, murder and custodial torture during the regime of Sheikh Hasina. On October 11, the ICT had accused them of crimes against humanity. Later they were arrested. Chief prosecutor of ICT Mohammad Tajul Islam told correspondents that the tribunal had refused to grant bail to the accused. This was the



first time in the history of Bangladesh that serving military officers are sent to the jail. This apart, the chief justice of ICT Mohammad Gulam Murtaza Mazumdar had issued arrest warrant against 20 other people including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

**Urdu Times** (October 30) states that in an interview given to British news agency 'Reuters', the deposed prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina said she is leading an independent but cautious life in Delhi. She has no intention of leaving India at the moment, neither she wants to go to Bangladesh. As per information, she has been kept in an unidentified place in Delhi. In her interview she has refused to apologise to the families of those who were killed in police firing during the anti-government protests and said that these violent protests were organised by anti-national elements. She directed her followers to boycott the forthcoming elections.

## Ban on burqa in Portugal



**Qaumi Bharat** (October 19) reports that the Portuguese Parliament has passed a

new law as per which a ban has been imposed on wearing of burqa and naqab in public places across the country. This Bill was moved by right wing party 'Chega.' In this law, there is a provision to impose a fine ranging from 200 Euro to 4,000 Euro on those who wear burqa or naqab in public places. If any person violates this law for a second time, then he could be awarded a jail term of four years along with the fine. In this law, a provision has also been made that if any person forces any woman to wear burqa or

naqab then he will be awarded a jail term of three years.

It is worth mentioning that there is a ban on wearing burqa in several European nations like France, Belgium, Austria and Netherlands. Portugal Prime Minister Luis Montenegro said we are freeing our daughters and the next generation from the pressure of wearing burqa. On the other hand, the Left parties have opposed this law. They have described this law as an interference in the religious rights of Muslims. Socialist Party leader Pedro Nuno Santos said that no woman should be forced to wear burqa, but we also do not have the right to make laws and deprive Muslims of their religious rights. It is said that the Muslim population in Portugal is very less.

**Etemaad** (October 22) has criticised the ban on burqa in Portugal. The newspaper claimed that the goal of this law is to stop Muslim women from their religious practices. The newspaper expressed concern that there is an increase in anti-Islam atmosphere in Europe. It feels like that this law is a conspiracy to keep Muslims away from Islam. The newspaper



expressed satisfaction that human rights organisations, religious organisations and journalists are opposing this law. Human Rights Watch said this law by Portugal government will promote discrimination against Muslims. The newspaper has written that Islam is rapidly spreading in Europe. This has created a fear among the Christian governments there. This is the reason why they want to stop the spread of Islam by using such tactics. The newspaper has urged the United Nations and the Muslim nations in the world that they should get united to oppose the increasing sentiments of hatred against Islam in Europe. If they remain silent, then Muslims and Islam will be wiped out from Christian world.

## Former French President gets five years in jail



**Qaumi Bharat** (October 22) states that a court in Paris has awarded a five-year jail term to the 70-year-old former French

President Nicolas Sarkozy on charges of accepting bribe from the then dictator of Libya, Muammar Gaddafi. For the first

time in the history of France a President had to go to jail on charges of corruption. The special police of France had carried out investigations against Sarkozy. In the investigations, it was confirmed that in 2007, Sarkozy had secretly accepted 35 million Euro from Gaddafi during his election campaign. He spent this money in his election campaign. It is worth mentioning after the death of Gaddafi in 2011, his son Saif Al-Islam had revealed that his father had given a huge amount to the then President of France Nicolas Sarkozy.



Sarkozy told journalists that this allegation was totally false and was motivated by politics, but he will not file an appeal against it in the higher court and will go to the jail to protect the credibility of the court. Following this, he surrendered before the jail authorities. As per media reports, he has been kept in a special portion of the jail in Paris, which is described as VIP section. He will spend his five-year term there. The judge of the Paris court said the country's former President Nicolas Sarkozy has honoured the court.

He preferred to go to jail rather than challenge the decision in a higher court.

Just before going to jail, he told the correspondent of *La Tribune Dimanche* that he does not have any fear in going to jail. However, I have been accused of fake charges but I will not question this verdict in a higher court in order to protect the credibility of the court. If I do so, questions would be raised against the judicial system of the country and it will not be in the interest of the country's prestige. Earlier in 2011, the court had accused another former President of France Jack Shirak of corruption but he was not sent to jail in view of his health and age.





## Gaza ceasefire agreement in jeopardy



US President Donald Trump's tall claims about a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas in Gaza appear to be falling apart. Due to the stand of Israel and Hamas, this agreement has landed in trouble. The Israeli attack on Gaza still continue despite the ceasefire.

**Inquilab** (October 21) states that Israel resorted to heaving bombing on Gaza while violating the ceasefire. More than 150 Palestinians were killed in this bombing. Due to this, clouds of crisis are looming over the ceasefire agreement. As per the report of Al Jazeera, the people of Gaza say that in view of the aggressive stand of Israel they do not see the possibility of a ceasefire. After the ceasefire announcement, Israel has been continuously carrying out air strikes on Gaza. At least 150 people have been killed in these attacks. Israel claims that Hamas has killed one of its soldiers, hence it is necessary to take action against them.

Journalist of Al Jazeera Hani Mahmoud said thousands of bodies of Palestinians are rotting in the rubble. Hamas says the issue of disarmament is very complex, as there are serious differences among different groups fighting for Palestinians.

Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim

Al Thani claimed that Hamas is insisting on not laying down arms, hence Qatar is putting pressure on Hamas to abide by the conditions of ceasefire.

**Inquilab** (October 30) states that the Israeli army carried out more than 30 attacks on the military outposts of Hamas and other armed Palestinian organisations. Israeli fighter planes are continuously carrying out bombings in parts of Gaza, Rafah and Khan Younis. A spokesperson of Hamas said that in view of the offensive stand of Israel, he doesn't see any possibility of ceasefire. The Arab countries have condemned the recent Israeli attacks on Gaza. The mediating countries of this agreement namely Egypt and Qatar said that due to these attacks of Israel, the efforts for peace have landed in trouble. Whereas Jordan has described the attacks as against international laws. The Arab League demanded the United Nations to take immediate action to stop these attacks. Spokesperson of Turkiye's foreign ministry said this attack was an open violation of the ceasefire agreement.

**Inquilab** (October 28) states that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there is no need for him to take permission from anywhere to attack enemies. Israel is an independent nation and we know how to protect ourselves. He



this region, then instead of verbally pressuring Israel, it should take some credible step against Israel and immediately stop giving military aid to Israel.

**Siasat** (October 30) in its editorial has expressed concern over Israel violating the ceasefire agreement in Gaza. The newspaper expressed the fear that the flames of war could flare up again in this

region and its entire responsibility will be for the US along with Israel, because it has failed to implement the ceasefire.

**Hindustan Express** (October 25) in its editorial said that due to the aggressive actions of US and Israel, the Gaza peace deal is about to collapse. The newspaper alleged that Trump has drafted this peace agreement very cleverly so that after the disarmament of Hamas, the entire region could be merged into Israel. This plan is the first step towards Greater Israel.

**Etemaad** (October 23) in its editorial said that due to the aggressive policy of Netanyahu, the Gaza ceasefire agreement has landed in trouble. Despite the ceasefire agreement, the Israel military has been killing the innocent Palestinians by continuously attacking the Gaza region and the US has become a mute spectator.

said we will decide our fate. We don't need anyone to help us protect ourselves.

**Inquilab** (October 24) states that Israel has stepped up the campaign of arrests and demolition of residential areas using bulldozers in West Bank. The Israeli army imposed curfew in Ramallah locality. Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Yariv Levin confirmed that Israeli army has expelled 32 foreign citizens from West Bank because they have been inciting people to carry out attack on Israeli army.

**Inquilab** (October 24) in its editorial said the ceasefire in Gaza is in jeopardy. This is the reason why US Vice-President J D Vance had to visit Israel all of a sudden. It is clear from it that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is ready to implement ceasefire agreement due to pressure from the US. The newspaper stressed that if the US is serious about a permanent peace in

## Turkiye signs deal with Kuwait, Qatar and Oman

**Hindustan Express** (October 25) reports that Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has concluded his three-day visit to Gulf. During this visit, he signed 24 agreements with Kuwait, Qatar and Oman. According to Turkish media, Erdogan made this visit on an invitation from the rulers of the Gulf countries. Its aim was to strengthen Turkiye's trade and military ties



with these countries. The spokesperson of Turkiye's foreign ministry said that Erdogan started the visit from Kuwait.

Kuwait Emir Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomed Erdogan. The delegations of both countries stressed on strengthening mutual relations and increasing the feeling of brotherhood among the Muslim countries of the world. The President of Turkey also gifted an electric car manufactured in Turkiye to the Emir of the Kuwait. Kuwait will make huge investments in Turkiye and will also establish several new industries.

Later, the President of Turkiye visited Qatar. He met the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. During this meeting, discussions were held on stepping up cooperation in defence, trade, energy and investments apart from development of Palestine. The two leaders also co-chaired the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Turkiye-Qatar High Strategic Council. Several new agreements were also signed on this occasion. Strategic development

plan and defence industrial agreement were important among them.

Finally, Erdogan visited Oman. Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq welcomed Erdogan at the Al Alam Palace located in Muscat. In this meeting, several agreements were signed on cooperation in mineral exploration, military cooperation, industrial cooperation and collaboration in the field of science and technology.

**Etemaad** (October 23) states that a dozen agreements were signed to improve mutual cooperation in different sectors between Turkiye and Qatar. These agreements were signed by Turkiye's trade minister Omer Bolat and Qatar commerce minister Sheikh Faisal Al Thani. Another agreement was signed by Turkiye's chairman of the defence industry agency Dr Haluk Gorgun and Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

## Turkiye buys fighter planes from abroad



**Siasat** (October 28) states that Turkiye has decided to buy a huge number of fighter planes from Britain and the US. According to British newspapers, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is on a visit to Turkiye. On this occasion, he will meet President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan. This was the first official visit by Starmer to Turkiye after taking over as the

Prime Minister of Britain. Turkiye will buy 40 Eurofighter Typhoon fighter planes from Britain.

Turkiye's opposition countries like Israel and Greece are improving the capability of their respective air force. This is the reason why Turkiye wants to equip its air force with most modern planes. It is worth mentioning that the North Cyprus



region is a matter of confrontation between Greece and Turkiye for a long time. At one point of time, this region was under Greece influence. Later the Caliph of Turkiye had seized the northern region of Cyprus. In order to change the demographic balance of Cyprus, the Caliph of Turkiye forced Christians staying in North Cyprus to flee from there and settled Arabs in large numbers there.

After the First World War, when the Islamic Caliphate collapsed, the British handed over this region to Greece, but the 40 percent Arabs staying there were not ready to accept the suzerainty of Greece. The Muslim majority population in North Cyprus have their links with Turkiye. Turkiye is trying to increase its domination in this region. After Erdogan came to power, these efforts were stepped up. In order to counter the air power of Greece,

Turkiye is forced to focus on buying new fighter planes from foreign countries. Turkiye, which is part of NATO Alliance, is making efforts to buy most modern fighter planes from the US and Britain. Hence Turkiye is buying 40 Eurofighter Typhoon fighter planes from Britain. Meanwhile, talks are on to buy F-16 and F-35 fighter planes from the US.

As per media reports, Britain will soon provide 12 Eurofighter Typhoon fighter planes to Turkiye. Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait also have these planes. Whereas 28 new planes will be provided to Turkiye in the next three years. In this connection, an agreement was also signed between the two countries. The three other nations of Eurofighter Consortium namely Germany, Italy and Spain have also given their nod for the same.

## Saudi Arabia issues 40 lakh visa for Umrah



**Urdu Times** (October 24) states that Umrah season is currently on in Saudi Arabia. Foreign pilgrims are taking part in huge numbers in the event. According to the Ministry of Haj and Umrah, so far 40 lakh Umrah visa have been issued. The highest number of visa have been issued to Pakistani citizens. Whereas Indonesia is at second and India at the third position. Meanwhile, Iraq is at fourth and Egypt at

the fifth position. This year's Umrah season started immediately after Haj in June 2025. According to government spokesperson, online system has been made for Umrah visa. The Umrah visa is issued through Nusuk portal. Pilgrims from European nations are also taking a special interest in this year's Umrah. According to Saudi officials, majority of the travellers reach Jeddah or directly at Medina for



doing Umrah. From there they go to Mecca in a state-of-the-art train or bus. The Saudi government is hopeful that every year three crore people will arrive in Saudi Arabia till 2030 to offer Umrah.

**Etemaad** (October 17) states that the Saudi government has decided to develop a

huge complex in Mecca. This apart, the area for offering namaz at the Ka'aba is being expanded. In Mecca, an area of 12 million square metre (nearly 4.63 square mile) is being developed. This project has been named as 'King Salman Gate.' The aim of this project is to expand the accommodation area for those coming to offer Haj and Umrah. In order to make it easy to reach Masjid Al-Haram located in Mecca, this project has been linked to public transport network. The purpose of this project is to create more than three lakh jobs till 2036. It is worth mentioning that the Saudi government generates an income of 12 billion dollars every year from Haj and Umrah. In order to reduce its dependency on oil, the Saudi government is investing billions of dollars in tourism and basic infrastructure.

## 1,500 people killed in civil war in Sudan

**Siasat** (October 31) reports that 1,500 people have been killed in the latest attack by Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Al-Fasher city in the African country of Sudan. Those who were killed include women and children. Sudan Doctors Network told Al Jazeera that more than 14,000 people were killed in clashes between RSF and the government army in the past one-and-a-half years. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, Turkiye and Jordan have condemned the genocide taking place in the civil war in Sudan. Egypt has appealed to both sides to immediately stop the war so that the killing of innocent people could be stopped. Whereas Qatar and Jordan have appealed to United Nations to intervene immediately to prevent the situation in Sudan from turning worse.

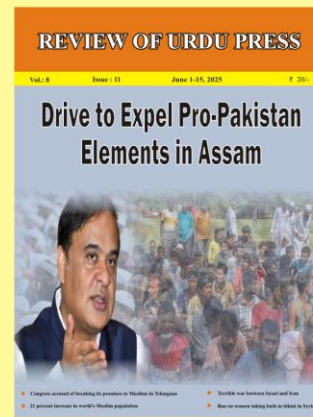
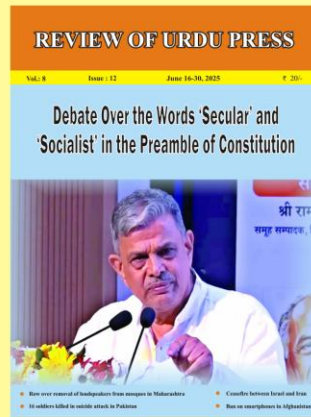
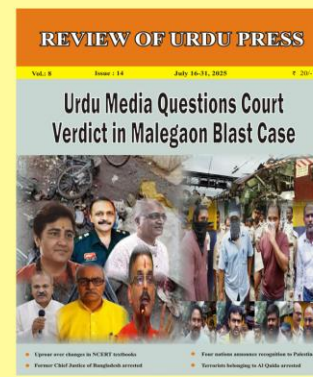
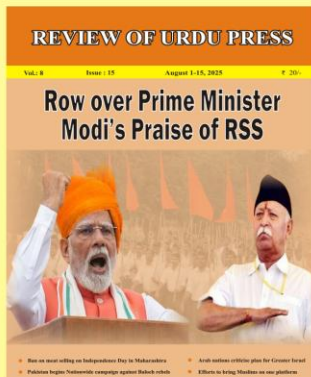
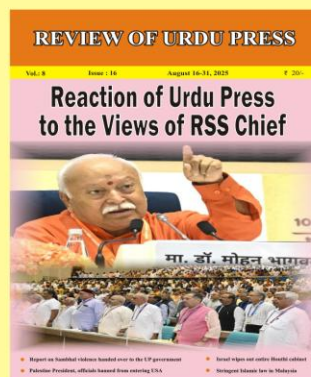
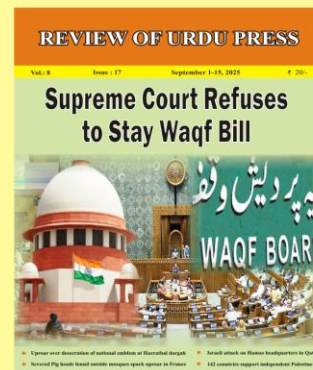
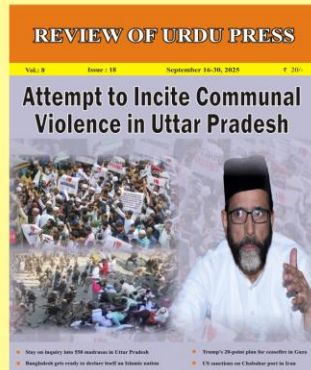
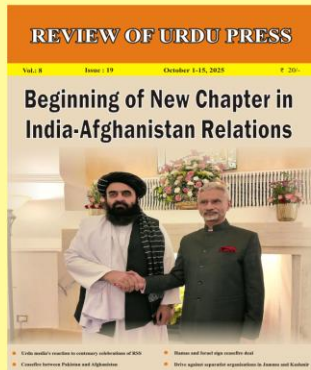
**Hindustan Express** (October 25) reports that the United Nations, while expressing concern over the incidents in Sudan, urged both sides that they immediately stop the war. In a statement, the United Nations said that nearly one-



and-a-half lakh children in Sudan are victims of starvation and nearly 10 lakh people have been forced to leave their homes. The Sudan army and the RSF are using fighter planes also in this war. It is worth mentioning that a civil war started in April 2023 due to mutual differences between Sudan army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan and RSF commander Hamdan Dagolo.

**Awadhnama** (October 24) states that a fierce war erupted between the two sides over the capture of airport in Sudanese capital Khartoum. Till now, 1,000 people have been killed in this war.





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