

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 8

Issue : 1

January 1-15, 2026

₹ 20/-

Resounding Victory for BJP-led Mahayuti in Maharashtra Civic Elections



- Masjids and madrasas under strict surveillance in Jammu-Kashmir
- Explosive situation in Iran
- US suspends visas for 75 countries including Pakistan
- Chargesheet filed against Chancellor of Al Falah University

Editorial Advisor
Dr. Kuldeep Ratnoo

Editor
Manmohan Sharma

Translation from Hindi Edition
K.S. Kumar

Editorial Assistance
Shiv Kumar Singh

Office
D-51, First Floor,
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi-110016
Tel : 011-79687620

E-mail:
info@ipf.org.in
indiapolicy@gmail.com

Website:
www.ipf.org.in

Printed and Published by Manmohan
Sharma on behalf of India Policy
Foundation published at D-51, First
Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-
110016. Printed at Sai Printo Pack
Pvt. Ltd., A-102/4, Okhla Industrial
Area, Phase-II, New Delhi - 110020

Contents

Summary	03
<u>National</u>	
Resounding victory for BJP-led Mahayuti in Maharashtra civic elections	04
Criticism over Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam not getting bail	06
Chargesheet filed against Chancellor of Al Falah University	09
Masjids and madrasas under strict surveillance in Jammu-Kashmir	11
Tablighi Jamaat becomes active as election preparations begin in West Bengal	13
<u>World</u>	
US suspends visas for 75 countries including Pakistan	15
Jamaat-e-Islami and student leaders enter into alliance in Bangladesh	17
Joint defence agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye	18
Taliban appoints its Ambassador in India	20
Zohran Mamdani takes oath by placing hand on Quran	21
<u>West Asia</u>	
Explosive situation in Iran	23
Ceasefire violated in Sudan	26
Yemen Prime Minister resigns	27
War between Kurds and government soldiers in Syria	28
Action against illegal Haj mafia in Egypt	29

Summary

The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance has secured a resounding victory in the municipal corporation elections held in Maharashtra recently. The ruling Mahayuti alliance registered victory in 25 municipal corporations out of the total 29 in the state. This includes the country's richest Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The BMC was under the control of Shiv Sena for the past 30 years. The Urdu newspapers claimed that the BJP has reaped huge political benefits from the seeds of division it sowed in Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). In this elections, Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi's party, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, received more success than expectations. While 129 councillors of AIMIM got elected, the Samajwadi Party, the hitherto beneficiary of Muslim vote bank, has been completely wiped out. Similarly, in Maharashtra's Muslim majority region of Malegaon, the newly formed Muslim party 'Islam Party' has displayed spectacular performance. This time, 30 Muslim corporators got elected in the BMC elections.

The US has suspended the issuance of visa to citizens of 75 countries including Pakistan. Majority in this list are Muslim countries. US President Donald Trump claimed that the citizens from Muslim nations arriving in the US are becoming a threat to the American culture. Recently, despite strong opposition from Trump, Muslim leader Zohran Mamdani has been elected as Mayor of New York. Mamdani is the first Muslim mayor of New York. He displays his Islamic identity with assertiveness and proud. He took the oath of office by placing his hand on the Quran.

Due to increasing inflation and economic hardship, the flames of public discontent are flaring up in Iran. The value of one US dollar has reached 14 lakh Irani Riyal in Iran. The entire economy of Iran has collapsed due to this. The protests in Iran began with a strike by the traders which later escalated into demands for regime change. It appears that the Iranian people are fed up with the system of governance based on Islam and Shariah and that is why they are targeting masjids and dargahs as well. The Khamenei government in Iran is trying to crush this public anger with the help of the army and the police. The Iran government has admitted that more than 3,000 people have been killed in these protests. Whereas international human rights organisations say that more than 25,000 people have been killed in these protests. The practice of detaining protesters and then hanging them by special courts continues. US President Trump has threatened that if the practice of hanging protesters to death is not stopped, he will order the US military to attack Iran. Urdu newspapers claim that Trump wants to overthrow the Islamic government in Iran and install exiled prince Reza Pahlavi as the King of the country. The most surprising thing is that the Urdu press in India is openly supporting the dictatorship of Khamenei.

National

Huge victory for BJP-led Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra civic elections

Etemaad (January 17) states that the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance has registered victory in 25 out of 29 municipal corporations in Maharashtra, whereas, 30 Muslim candidates have also got elected in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation election.

Urdu Times (January 17) states that Uddhav Thackeray, Raj Thackeray, Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar suffered a huge jolt in the municipal corporation elections in Maharashtra. Similarly, the Samajwadi Party also had a disappointing performance. The newly constituted Islam Party has won 35 seats out of total 84 seats in the Malegaon Municipal Corporation. Asaduddin Owaisi's party All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) got 21 seats. Whereas Shiv Sena (Shinde group) got 18, Samajwadi Party 5, Congress 3 and BJP got 2 seats.

The 25 municipal corporations where the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance have registered victory include Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Nagpur, Navi Mumbai, Nashik, Solapur, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Nanded-Waghala, Jalna, Kalyan-Dombivli, Kolhapur, Panvel, Ulhasnagar, Dhule, Jalgaon, Ahilyanagar, Ichalkaranji, Mira Bhayandar and Sangli-

Miraj-Kupwad. In the BMC elections, the Mahahuti alliance achieved absolute majority by registering victory on 118 seats. Out of them, the BJP won on 89 seats. Whereas the Shiv Sena (Shinde group) registered victory on 29 seats. Their opponents, Uddhav Thackeray's party won on 65 seats and Raj Thackeray's party won on six seats. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has described the election results as historic. He said the Thackeray family has been controlling the BMC for the past 30 years. This victory by Mahayuti has ended the domination of Thackeray family.

In the BMC elections, 30 Muslim corporators also got elected. In the elections, 13 Muslim candidates of Congress, seven of AIMIM, 3 of NCP (Ajit Pawar group), 3 of Shiv Sena (UBT), 2 of Samajwadi Party and 2 Muslim candidates of Shiv Sena (Shinde group) have got elected.

Etemaad (January 17) states that 129 corporators of AIMIM have won in the Maharashtra municipal elections. The party has registered victory in the highest number of 33 seats in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. Whereas in Malegaon, it won on 21 seats, 15 in Amravati, 14 in Nanded-Waghala, 10



in Dhule, eight in Mumbai, eight in Solapur, seven in Nagpur, five in Thane, three in Akola, two in Jalna, two in Ahilyanagar and one seat in Chandrapur.

Etemaad (January 18) states that AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has described the victory of his party as historic. He said that AIMIM is not a party of any particular community. In the Maharashtra municipal elections, several Hindu candidates have also been elected on AIMIM ticket. He said the Opposition parties target AIMIM describing it as the 'B team' of BJP. Owaisi said our party neither supports BJP and nor keeps any relationship with Opposition INDIA alliance.

Hindustan (January 17) in its editorial said that nobody had expected that the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi will be swept away in the wave of BJP and its ally Shiv Sena (Shinde group). Once the Maharashtra capital Mumbai and cities like Nagpur, Pune, Nashik and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar were considered as the forts of Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP, but now they have been wiped out from these places. The newspaper said this election results will have its impact in the next Lok Sabha and Assembly elections as well. Earlier, nobody had expected that the Shiv Sena would be wiped out in Mumbai.

Hindustan (January 18) in its editorial alleged that suspicions of

corruption and fraud had been raised in all the big and small elections held in the past one decade. A one-sided victory of BJP and its allied parties makes it feel like that something is wrong. The Election Commission has failed to conduct the elections in a fair and honest manner. The surprising thing is that despite a disappointing performance in the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP and its allied parties got a spectacular victory in the state Assembly elections. It is shocking how the mood of the state's voters changed so dramatically in just six months.

Hamara Samaj (January 19) in its editorial described the results of Maharashtra municipal elections as disappointing for Muslims. The newspaper said that although AIMIM has emerged as a powerful force, the educated class among Muslims feels that AIMIM, at the behest of the ruling party BJP, has played a significant role in dividing the Muslim vote. The result is that secular parties like Congress, NCP and Samajwadi Party have been wiped out and the BJP is its direct beneficiary. It is a fact that the Muslims are rapidly being marginalized in the country's politics. They are continuously weakening their political existence. Now time has come for Muslims to look within themselves and formulate a strategy. If that does not happen, we will simply remain spectators in politics.



Akbar-e-Mashriq (January 18) said that due to the successful election strategy of BJP, there is a huge division in the votes of Opposition parties. In this elections, despite the uncle-nephew coming together, the NCP has been almost wiped out. The BJP had ensured a split in the two opposition parties in Maharashtra namely Shiv Sena and the NCP, due to which it has emerged as a strong power in Maharashtra. The newspaper said that the opposition parties' failure to unite has put their existence at risk.

Siasat (January 17) in its editorial said the BJP has for the first time succeeded in capturing the country's

richest municipal corporation namely the BMC.

Etemaad (January 18) said that Samajwadi Party was once the main centre of Muslim politics in Mumbai. Now it has been limited to just two seats. The so-called secular parties should think on this election results why the importance of communal parties like the BJP is increasing?

Inquilab (January 18) in its editorial said the Congress has been wiped out and the Shiv Sena's dominance has come to an end following the election outcome. The entire credit for this victory goes to the strategic skill of BJP, which employed every tactics and divided the Shiv Sena and the NCP. The question is, is there any opportunity left for secular parties now, or have they lost their ground forever? However, Congress party has definitely got some seats, but the party high command should find out the reason for its losses in the state Assembly and municipal elections despite a huge success in the Lok Sabha elections.

Criticism over Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam not getting bail



Inquilab (January 6) reports that the Supreme Court has rejected the bail application of the accused in the Delhi riots case, Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam. It is said that the two are in jail since 2020. A

bench comprising Justice Arvind Kumar and Justice N V Anjaria has granted bail to five other accused in the Delhi riots namely Gulfisha Fatima, Miran Haidar, Shifa Ur Rahman, Shadab Ahmad and Mohammad

Salim Khan on stringent conditions. The Supreme Court also said that Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam can file a bail application again a year after this order or after the examination of witnesses is completed. The advocate of Khalid, Kapil Sibal, expressed concern during the proceedings in the court that in case Umar Khalid is not granted bail, he may have to spend another three years in the jail. The court said that each accused person's bail application has been considered separately. The case of Khalid and Imam are different from other accused. The court said that an initial examination of the evidence suggests that Khalid and Imam were involved in planning the Delhi riots.

Advocate for Delhi Police, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had said in his argument that the Delhi riots were premeditated. He said it was clear from the speeches of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam that they want to break the unity of this country. The Delhi Police had also claimed that these two accused were traitors because the two had conspired to overthrow an elected government through violence. Though the court has granted bail to five accused in the Delhi riots, it also imposed 11 conditions on them.

1. Each accused person will be released upon furnishing a personal bond of two lakh rupees and two local sureties of the same amount.
2. The accused will stay in Delhi only and will not leave Delhi without prior permission of the court.
3. The accused shall surrender his passport and if he does not have a passport, he will file an affidavit in this connection.
4. The accused shall submit his current address or the email to the investigating officer and the court. The accused shall not change his address or phone number without



giving prior intimation to the investigating officer and the court at least one week in advance.

5. All the accused will have to appear in person two times in a week before the office of the Commissioner of Police.
6. The accused shall not directly or indirectly establish contact with any witness or any other person related to this case and he will neither associate with any group or organisation in connection with this case.
7. The accused shall not issue any statement in print, electronic or social media in connection with this case.
8. The accused shall not take part in any programme till the hearing in the case is completed and will neither address any rally or meeting.
9. The accused shall not publish or distribute any kind of post, handbill, poster, or banner.
10. The accused will cooperate in the case and will present himself in the court on date of hearing.
11. If the accused violates any of these conditions, his bail will be revoked.

As per another news, the father of Umar Khalid, Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas, expressed dissatisfaction over his son not getting bail. He described it as extremely worrying and unjust. Ilyas said our lawyer made a very strong argument for bail, but the court did not consider his arguments. Though his bail has been rejected by using



terms like “intellectual terrorism,” but it has not been stated what exactly his crime is? Senior lawyer Siddharth Dev said that our client is not a traitor or a terrorist. Till now, no court has awarded him any punishment, but he has been declared as a traitor and terrorist. This is not right. Umar Khalid during a talk with his close woman friend Banajyotsna Lahiri said that now being in jail is his life.

Inquilab (January 7) states that senior lawyer of Supreme Court Dushyant Dave said in an interview that the Supreme Court has made a mistake by not granting bail to Khalid and Imam. Under the UAPA Act, they should have been granted bail. Another lawyer, Sanjay Hegde said this verdict of the Supreme Court is not limited to these two accused instead, it raises a fundamental question: does everyone have the right to hold dissenting opinions in a democracy?

Hamara Samaj (January 7) in its editorial said that the most terrifying aspect of this whole case is that now the court is also becoming a part of this game, which is being played at the behest of the communal government. It is not just a coincidence that Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam are Muslims. Under Modi government’s rule, if any Muslim opens his mouth or launches a protest, the government will immediately declare him as conspirator, traitor and one who breaks the country into pieces. This politics has made Indian Muslims a second class citizens. This is the reason why the Modi government’s policy has transcended national borders and become the focus of international debate. Now, voices have come up from different parts of the world

in support of Umar Khalid and his colleagues.

The newspaper said that it is strange that the government which claims to be all powerful looks scared of a few students and the questions raised by them. This is why the case of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam is no longer a legal problem.

This has become a matter of the government's prestige and a symbol of majoritarianism, which seeks to suppress the rights of Muslims. If Khalid and Imam had been granted bail, it would have been proof of the government's policy failure. Therefore, by keeping them in jail, the government is sending a message to the world about the consequences of questioning the government. Now, in India, the democracy has been limited to casting the vote. Freedom of speech and raising voice against the government has become a crime.

Urdu Times (January 13) in its editorial, while criticising the decision of the Supreme Court, said that the court is playing in the hands of the government. This has endangered the country's democracy and the fundamental rights of the people enshrined in the Constitution. The newspaper, while mentioning the conditions imposed by the court on the bail granted to Gulfisha Fatima and other accused, stated that although these accused will now be out of jail, their lives will be even worse than being in prison. Their voices, thoughts, and rights have been permanently confined to an invisible prison. The question is under what pressure did the court impose such stringent conditions. The newspaper said the basic principle of bail is that the accused shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and until the verdict is delivered, the accused has the right to live their life in complete freedom. If such conditions are imposed in the name of bail, then it clearly means that this country has become an open jail for the accused.



Mumbai Urdu News (January 16), while criticising the decision of the Supreme Court, said that due to this decision of the court, the justice-loving people across the world suffered a huge jolt. It is the legal right of every accused to obtain bail. Keeping the accused in jail for an indefinite period is a violation of their rights. This gives an opportunity to the people to question the fairness of the court.

Hindustan (January 11) said that India is said to be a democratic country. The justice system here runs as per the Constitution. It is claimed that the constitution and the law are equal for everyone, but it seems that justice and equality are nowhere to be seen for a certain section of society. Looking at some of the court's decisions, it's unclear in which direction our judiciary is headed. At one level, the bail application of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam is rejected. On the other hand, despite the court finding guilty, Asaram and Ram Rahim get bail time and again. Despite being punished by

the court; the accused are being released from jail stating that they are 'cultured.' However, the same court refused to grant bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam. Just the opposite, there are also some countries in the world where there is no democracy, but only Islamic Shariah. There every individual gets justice from the courts. This is the reason why there is a desire among the people in India to go to the Muslim countries.

Etemaad (January 13) in its editorial said that there is a need to review stringent laws like the UAPA. The strange thing is that the government that vows on democracy is consistently making this law more stringent on the pretext of eliminating terrorism. This is why Muslim youths imprisoned in jails are being deprived of their legal right to bail. The surprising thing is that the Congress party which had given approval to the UAPA law is raising their voice against its misuse. Recently, the Congress had alleged that the Modi government has been using this black law to suppress the voice of the opponents.

Akbar-e-Mushriq (January 7) said that today, communalism is rampant at every level in the country. The hatred being incited against Muslims by the ruling party has now even affected the courts. The newspaper alleged that Muslims are being targeted across the country and they are being deprived of basic Constitutional rights.

Chargesheet filed against the chancellor of Al Falah University

Inquilab (January 17) states that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet against Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, chairman and chancellor of Al Falah University located in Faridabad in Haryana, and the Al Falah Charitable Trust at a special court in Delhi. This chargesheet has been filed in the money laundering case registered in connection with the blast that

took place outside the Red Fort Metro Station on November 10, 2025. The chargesheet contains evidence for the misappropriation of university funds by Siddiqui and his relatives. Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is also investigating how much money the Al Falah University has received from abroad to spread the flames of terrorist activities.



According to official sources, Siddiqui's son Afham Ahmed and daughter Afiya Siddiqui are British citizens.

A top official of ED said that the close relationship of several terrorists with the Al Falah University has been confirmed, hence a detailed investigation is being conducted in this connection. The source of the money being received for the construction of a medical college and hospital on the premises of Al Falah University located at Dhauj village in Faridabad is also being investigated. It was constructed by a firm named Diyala Construction and Developers Private Limited. The two children of Siddiqui have 49 percent share each in this firm. Whereas the two percent shares are with an employee. Similarly, the contract for hostel catering has been given to Amla Enterprises. In this, Siddiqui's wife Usma Akhtar has a 49 percent share. His son Afham Ahmed also has a 49 percent share. It has also been found during the investigations that a charitable institution belonging to Siddiqui Tarbia Education Foundation has purchased land at Madanpur Khadar in Delhi. For this, university funds have been inappropriately used. It is being said that this trust is linked to a trust formed in Britain namely Ennobale Education and Training Limited. Initially, the son and daughter of Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui had their share in it. Later it was given in the name of a close associate of Siddiqui based in Britain.

Urdu Times (January 12) states that the government is thinking about attaching

the premises of Al Falah University. It is to be noted that more than a dozen people belonging to this university have been arrested on charges of terrorism. Later, Dr Umar Un Nabi belonging to this university carried out a suicide blast outside the Red Fort metro station on November 10, 2025. Fifteen people were killed in this blast. The Jammu-Kashmir police and the NIA have so far arrested 16 people in connection with this terrorist group, out of which seven were doctors. Among them, four were found to belong to Al Falah University.

It is being said that while admitting students, the Al Falah University had claimed that it has recognition from University Grants Commission. However, later it was found that this claim by its managers was fake and baseless. The Al Falah Trust has extracted more than Rs 415 crore from students in a fraudulent manner on the basis of fake recognition. The Enforcement Directorate is investigating into the movable and immovable properties of all educational institutions and other organisations belonging to this trust.

The newspaper said that the biggest trouble due to this is for the students studying in Al Falah University. Earlier it was thought that these students shall be admitted to other institutions so that their studies could be completed. However, there are several technical issues, hence the government is now thinking to seize this property and hand over its operations to some government authority so that there shall not be any hurdles in the studies of the students of this university.

Strict monitoring of masjids and madrasas in Jammu-Kashmir



Etemaad (January 14) states that following the arrest of a gang of terrorist doctors in Jammu-Kashmir, the government has started a detailed investigation into masjids, madrasas and people associated with them. National Conference MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi and a Muslim organisation in Jammu-Kashmir Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema strongly criticised this decision. They described it as against the religious freedom enshrined in the Constitution of India. According to government sources, the government has issued a circular to all gram pradhans. In this circular, they have been directed to provide a detailed information regarding the masjids, the management committees of the masjids, imams, madrasas, teachers of madrasas and about the Muslim ulema in their respective areas. Along with this circular, a questionnaire has also been sent. In this, a detailed information has been sought regarding the people concerned including their name, father's name, address, Aadhaar card, PAN card, Voter ID, driving licence, ration card and passport. This apart information regarding details of the property, the model of mobile phone, IMEI number, email ID, website number and social medial profile have also been sought. In this questionnaire, information has also

been sought regarding the concerned person's sect like Barelvi, Deobandi, Hanafi or Ahle Hadis.

A top official has confirmed that this step has been taken to prevent terrorist incidents in the state. It is to be noted the hands of Maulavi Irfan Ahmed were behind organising the gang of terrorist doctors who were caught recently. Irfan is an imam of a masjid. MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi said that the CID, IB and the paramilitary forces have already been monitoring several places. Now targeting religious places separately sends a dangerous message. He alleged that the hands of BJP and RSS were behind this. Mehdi said that it looks like now the imams of the masjids will be ordered what to talk or not talk during their kutba (speech).

The biggest platform of Islamic religious organisations in Jammu-Kashmir, Muttahida-Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), has expressed concern over this new campaign by police. MMU said that the police are collecting a detailed information regarding the religious leaders of Muslims. This move violates religious privacy and personal freedom. Masjids are religious places. We will not tolerate any kind of monitoring or interference regarding the masjids. Jammu-Kashmir Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah said that this decision was taken by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha. Abdullah said that the Lt Governor did not consult the elected government of the state before taking this decision.

Chattan (January 14) states that under the 'zero tolerance' policy towards terrorism in the Kashmir Valley, five government employees have been dismissed from service on the orders of Jammu-Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha. They were found to be involved in terrorist activities. Those who have been dismissed include teacher Mohammad Ishfaq, laboratory technician Tariq Ahmad Rah, assistant lineman Bashir Ahmed Mir, an employee of forest department Farooq Ahmed Bhat and a driver of health department Mohammad Yusuf. All these people were found to be linked to Islamic terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen.

Teacher Mohammad Ishfaq had been in touch with Pakistani terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba's commander Mohammad Amin alias Abu Khubaib. According to police, Abu Khubaib had given the quotation to kill a police officer in Doda to Ishfaq in 2022. However, even before the murder could be carried out, Ishfaq was arrested. He has been turning the prisoners into radicals while staying in the jail. Meanwhile, Tariq Ahmad Rah has been appointed at Bijbehra hospital in Anantanag. He was influenced by his uncle and a divisional commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, Amin Baba. In 2005, Tariq Ahmad had helped Amin Baba flee to Pakistan. Lineman in PHE wing Bashir Ahmed Mir was arrested in 2021. That time two terrorists were killed at his house during the raid. He has been providing



accommodation and food to the terrorists for a long time.

During the investigation, it has been found that Farooq Ahmed Bhat of the forest department had illegally used his official identity card to enable a few Pakistani terrorists to pass the check posts. He was also in touch with a former MLA. This MLA had been in touch with Hizbul Mujahideen. Car driver in health department, Mohammad Yusuf, was also in touch with Hizbul Mujahideen. He had provided weapons and money to the terrorists.

Chattan (January 14) states that the Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi claimed that there has been an improvement in the terrorism situation in Jammu-Kashmir. He claimed that now the fresh recruitment of terrorists has almost stopped. This is a positive sign for the peace and order of the state. Addressing a press conference, he said that last year, only two persons were found to have joined terrorist organisations. Whereas the Army has killed 31 terrorists in separate operations. Among them, 65 percent were Pakistani terrorists. He said that during 'Operation Mahadev' three terrorists involved in Pahalgam attack were also killed. This has dealt a huge blow to the terrorist network.

Tablighi Jamaat becomes active as poll preparations begin in West Bengal



Akbar-e-Mashriq (January 5) states that a four-day ijtema of Tablighi Jamaat has been organised at Puinan village in Hooghly district in West Bengal. In this ijtema, apart from Muslims from different states of the country, a large number of foreign Muslims also took part. According to government sources, more than 20 lakh people took part in this ijtema. Whereas, according to non-government sources, more than 50 lakh people took part in this ijtema. Policemen were deployed in large numbers to maintain law and order. Despite shivering cold, people offered namaz under open sky. Due to the gathering of lakhs of people, the mobile towers in this area were overloaded. Due to this, mobile data services were severely disrupted.

The head of Tablighi Jamaat Maulana Saad Kandhlawi and other people addressed this ijtema. In this, prayers were done for Islam, Muslim world, the society and the country.

Akbar-e-Mashriq (January 6) states that the Muslims who took part in this ijtema begged Allah for forgiveness for their sins. They also prayed for the guidance and well-being of Muslims.

Maulana Saad, while addressing the ijtema, said that Muslims should not use mobile to recite Quran because mobile has dance-music and obscene items in them. He urged Muslims that they get united so

that Islam prevails in the world. According to informed sources, the purpose of this ijtema was to display the power and unity of Muslims. As per the information received, 20 ijtema were organised in different parts of the country last year, but the ijtema organised in Hooghly was the biggest. It has been claimed that 10 lakh people took part in the ijtema organised in Nuh in Haryana. Following this, another ijtema was organised in Bhopal. Over 20 lakh people took part in this ijtema.

Background: Tablighi Jamaat was established in Muzaffarnagar in Kandhla town in 1926 by a Muslim scholar, Maulana Mohammad Ilyas Kandhlawi. Maulana Ilyas had obtained education from Muslim educational institution Darul Uloom Deoband. He was a propagator of the Wahabi ideology of Islam. The first Tablighi ijtema in India was organised at Masjid Shakur Khan in Bhopal in 1949. In Arabic language, the meaning of ijtema is to assemble together. It is being said that Tablighi Jamaat was establishment as a reply to the Shuddhi Movement of Arya Samaj. Maulana Ilyas started the activities for Tablighi Jamaat from Mewat. The motto of this jamaat is ‘O Muslims, be true Muslims.’

In the initial seven decades, this jamaat had three Amirs. They all belonged to one family. In 1944, following the death

of Maulana Ilyas, his son Mohammad Yusuf Kandhlawi took over as the Amir of Tablighi Jamaat. In 1965, after the death of Yusuf, Inamul Hasan became the third Amir of the jamaat. Inamul Hasan passed away at the age of 77 in 1995. Following his death, a controversy erupted over the post of Amir in Tablighi Jamaat. This dispute started between the great grandson of

Maulana Ilyas, Maulana Saad and the grandson of the second Amir Yusuf's grandson Maulana Zubair Al Hasan. In 2014, Maulana Zubair Al Hasan passed away. Following this, a major section of the jamaat refused to accept Maulana Saad as the Amir. Following this, the opponents of Saad constituted Majlis-e-Shoora and decided that in future the Tablighi Jamaat will be run through Majlis-e-Shoora.

In November 2015, a meeting of the opponents of Maulana Saad took place at Raiwind located near Lahore city in Pakistan. In this meeting, it has been decided that in future the functioning of Tablighi Jamaat will be as per the directions of Majlis-e-Shoora. A total of 13 people have been appointed in them. Maulana Saad refused to accept this decision of the ijtema held in Raiwind and he issued a video stating that "I am the Amir. Amir of all. If you do not agree, go to hell." Currently, the situation is that the Tablighi Jamaat is divided into four groups. The headquarters of one group is at Raiwind near Lahore in Pakistan. Whereas the headquarters of the second group is at Tongi in Dhaka. Whereas the third group is being run by the Tablighi Markaz in Navi



Mumbai. All these three groups agree that the Tablighi Jamaat shall be run as per the Majlis-e-Shoora constituted at international level and in future the jamaat will not have any Amir.

Whereas the fourth group belongs to Maulana Saad. The headquarters of this group is at Banglawali Masjid located at Hazrat Nizamuddin colony in Delhi. Saad claims that he is the Amir of the Jamaat and the Majlis-e-Shoora was constituted in an illegal manner. A few months ago, the Bangladesh Tablighi Jamaat and the Saad group organised separate ijtema at Tongi in Bangladesh. During this time, a bloody clash also took place between the two groups. Several people were also killed in this clash. Following this incident, the Bangladesh government expelled Maulana Saad from Bangladesh.

Tablighi Jamaat claims that it is the world's biggest Islamic organisation. Its branches are spread across 140 countries in the world. The number of its followers are said to be 8 to 10 crores. The surprising thing is that nearly a dozen Islamic countries including Saudi Arabia have imposed a ban on the activities of Tablighi Jamaat.

US suspends issuing visa to citizens from 75 countries including Pakistan



Qaumi Tanzeem (January 16) states that the US State Department has suspended issuing of visa to citizens of 75 countries. These countries include several Muslim nations like Pakistan. A spokesperson of US State Department said the decision has been taken to prevent people from these countries taking undue advantage of the public welfare schemes run by the American administration. According to 'Fox News,' the US State Department has directed the US embassies in different countries to immediately stop issuing visa to the citizens of these countries. Until the screening and investigation into citizens of these countries are completed, this ban will remain. This decision will be effective from January 21, and will remain indefinitely. The ban will be applicable on the citizens from 75 countries including Somalia, Russia, Afghanistan, Brazil, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Nigeria, Thailand, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Yemen. Recently US President Donald Trump has terminated the 'temporary protected status' given to the citizens of Somalia and ordered their expulsion from the US. It is said these people have been misusing the public

welfare schemes run by the US administration.

As per another news published in this newspaper, Iranian citizens are entering Turkiye in large numbers. These citizens, who have sought refuge in Turkiye, are reportedly linked to the nationwide protests in Iran. As per media reports, due to increasing inflation and depreciation of Riyal, people are leaving Iran. The US State department has advised its citizens that they leave Iran via Turkiye or Armenia, because Trump is preparing to take strong action against Iran. The chief of Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami said that Iran is ready to give a befitting reply to any foreign attack.

As per media reports, those who are fleeing from Iran are reaching the eastern parts of Turkiye. This region is near to Iranian border. Turkiye's interior ministry said these people have been allowed to enter the country on a humanitarian basis.

Inqilab (January 14) states that ever since Donald Trump came to power, the visa of more than one lakh foreign citizens have been cancelled. This includes 8,000 student visas and 2,500 specialists



work visa. They have been accused of violating the American law. A spokesperson of US State Department said the visa of these foreign citizens have been cancelled taking into consideration the security of US. These people will soon be expelled from the US. The reason for cancelling student visas is the stand of foreign students who support Palestine and oppose Israel. A spokesperson of US State Department said that an investigation is being held into the background of nearly 5.5 crore visa holders staying in the country.

Etemaad (January 15) states that US Senator Mark Warner alleged that the Trump administration is responsible for Islamophobia in the country. Due to this, the atmosphere in the US is becoming anti-Muslim day-by-day. He condemned Trump for describing Somali origin citizens staying in the US as 'garbage' a few days ago. Trump had stated we would throw out the Somali citizens from our country. Warner described this statement of Trump as disgusting, inhuman and against the American culture. He urged the people of the US to strongly oppose the anti-Muslim policy of Trump.

Siasat (January 15) states that the US has declared the organizations linked to Ikhwanul Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood) active in Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan as terrorist organisations. According

to the newspaper, the US Treasury department has declared the organisations associated with Ikhwanul Muslimeen active in Egypt and Jordan as 'specially designated global terrorists.' This apart, the US State Department has declared 'Al Jama'a Al-Islamiyya' active in Lebanon as a foreign terrorist organization. The US administration stated that this Islamic organization is linked to terrorist organisations like Hamas and Hezbollah and are taking part in anti-Israel activities.

The US Treasury department alleged that the Ikhwanul Muslimeen claims to be a social organization, but behind the scenes, it extends support to terrorist organisations. The caretaker Amir of Ikhwanul Muslimeen in Egypt Salah Abdel Haq condemned this decision of the US. He said they will question this decision in the US court. He alleged that the US took this decision due to pressure from Israel.

It is to be noted that Ikhwanul Muslimeen was established in 1928 by a radical Muslim Hasanul Banna in Egypt. Its branches are present in almost all Arab countries. Ikhwan's sister organization 'Al Jama'a al-Islamiyya' has even representation in Lebanon's parliament. Whereas its political party Islamic Action Front secured victory in 31 seats in the 2024 elections in Jordan. Meanwhile, the Egypt government had imposed a ban on Ikhwanul Muslimeen in 2013 itself.

Tie-up between Jamaat-e-Islami and student leaders in Bangladesh



Urdu Times (January 4) states that a tie-up has been confirmed between Bangladesh's radical party Jamaat-e-Islami and the student organization that deposed former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, National Citizen Party (NCP). This has given a new direction to the anti-India atmosphere in Bangladesh. It is worth mentioning that the NCP has close relationships with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. Recently, a special intelligence unit of ISI was set up at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka. The NCP has announced that it would enter into a tie-up with Jamaat-e-Islami for the elections. The elections are expected to take place in Bangladesh in February 2026. These organisations have already started issuing statements against India.

It is worth mentioning that Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh is supported by Pakistan. The Jamaat-e-Islami had openly supported Pakistan during the 1971 Bangladesh liberation struggle and had strongly opposed the freedom of Bangladesh. After the formation of Bangladesh, the then President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had imposed a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami and had arrested hundreds of its workers. When the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) came to power, it lifted the ban imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami and released all its activists from jails.

After Awami League under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina came to power, a ban was imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami once again and a tribunal was formed and again arrested its leaders and activists. In this tribunal, a case for war crimes has been registered against several leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and several of its leaders were hanged to death.

Jamaat-e-Islami announced that it would enter into a tie-up with NCP in the forthcoming elections in Bangladesh and the two parties will jointly fight the elections. Last month, NCP leader Hasnat Abdullah demanded that the Dhaka-located Indian high commission should be shut down because India has given refuge to deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and it is not prepared to hand over her to Bangladesh. Election analysts say that the Jamaat-e-Islami and ISI had actively participated in the nationwide violent protests against Sheikh Hasina. It is being said that the NCP has entered into an electoral alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami due to pressure from Pakistan. It was said that several student leaders have opposed the decision of NCP to ally with Jamaat-e-Islami. More than a dozen student leaders resigned from NCP in protest against this decision.

Political analyst in Bangladesh Dr Mubashar Hasan says that currently there is an anti-India atmosphere in Bangladesh.



This alliance wants to take political benefit out of it. Senior journalist in Bangladesh Altaf Parvez said that in South Asia and across the world, Jamaat-e-Islami is known as a radical Islamic organization, which wants to run a government based on Shariah. After overthrowing Sheikh Hasina, an anti-India atmosphere prevails in the country. In the forthcoming elections, Jamaat-e-Islami and its allied organisations may get political mileage out of it. Meanwhile, the radical student leaders who joined NCP have no political background. He said that Pakistan is taking an active role in the politics of Bangladesh. This will cause political loss to the BNP.

Urdu Times (January 3) states that BNP's senior leader Nasrul Islam Khan alleged that Awami League and Sheikh Hasina were responsible for the death of former prime minister Khalida Zia. Talking to journalists, he said that the Sheikh Hasina's government had sent Khalida Zia to jail on February 8, 2018. In the jail, she was given poison due to which

her health deteriorated. Despite this, she was denied permission from going abroad for treatment. This is the reason why she passed away.

Hindustan (January 3) states that it is being speculated that no party is likely to get a clear majority in the forthcoming elections in Bangladesh, and hence it is predicted that a coalition government is likely to come to power. It is to be noted that Jamaat-e-Islami is taking part in the elections after a gap of 17 years.

Last time, the party was in government between 2001 and 2006 as part of its alliance with BNP. Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Shafiqur Rahman said he wanted a stable government in Bangladesh. For this, he is ready to have an alliance with any party.

As per another news published in this newspaper, the former prime minister of Bangladesh Khalida Zia had married an officer of Pakistan Army, Ziaur Rahman in 1960. After the liberation of Bangladesh, Khalida Zia remained in jail. In 1981, after the murder of Ziaur Rahman, she took over the command of BNP as an opposition leader and a joint alliance comprising seven parties were formed under her leadership. This alliance ran a campaign against the military dictatorship of General Hussain Mohammad Irshad. Due to this campaign, General Irshad had to abdicate power in 1986. Khalida Zia became the prime minister of Bangladesh from 1991 to 1996. Later she became the prime minister once again in 2001.

Joint defence agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye

Etemaad (January 11) reports that Turkiye has been preparing to join the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defence alliance. If this deal takes place, it will change the balance of power in Asia and West Asia. Following this, the enemy nations of these countries will have to rework their strategy.

Pakistan's minister for defence production Raza Hayat Harraj confirmed that talks between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye for a joint defence deal have been completed. The agreement is likely to be signed soon. The Pakistan minister said this agreement will be different from the



agreement signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia last year.

In the past days, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Türkiye Hakan Fidan confirmed that the talks being held by Türkiye regarding the joint defence agreement with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were positive. The agreement will be signed soon. He said that if these three countries stand together, there will be a new turn in the balance of power in this region. This will also give a boost for the formation of a joint military of Islamic countries.

It is worth mentioning that earlier a joint defence agreement had been signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. A provision had been made in this that if a country attacks any of these two nations, it will be considered as an attack on both the countries and the two countries will jointly take on the attacking nation. It is worth mentioning that Pakistan is the only Muslim country in the world which has nuclear weapons. It also has several ballistic missiles, most modern technology and human resources. This will benefit all three nations. Whereas Türkiye has a long experience in manufacturing military equipment. All Islamic nations will benefit if they join this agreement.

The BBC said that Pakistan and Türkiye are trying to jointly develop war drones. This apart, Pakistan and China had jointly developed JF-17 Thunder fighter

jets. Now Pakistan is trying to sell these planes to several other countries with the help of China. They include Bangladesh as well. Recently the chief of air staff of Bangladesh Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmud Khan started holding talks on purchasing JF-17 Thunder bolt fighter jets from Pakistan. Pakistan has already sold these planes to Azerbaijan, Myanmar and Nigeria. Whereas talks with Iraq and Libya are still on.

Munsif (January 19) in its editorial, while discussing the proposal to create an Islamic military alliance by Muslim nations on the lines of NATO, said that till now it remains a dream. If this plan is implemented, this will be a major victory for Alam-e-Islam (Muslim world). The importance of Turkey's military production in the world is increasing day by day. Whereas Pakistan is the only nuclear power in Muslim world and its soldiers have a long experience in fighting war. If Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries are ready to provide financial aid to an Islamic military alliance, it will be a new turn in the history of the world. However, due to the mutual competition between Shia and Sunni nations, Muslim countries cannot unite. Even major Islamic countries are fighting against each other instead of taking on non-Muslims.

The newspaper said that the enemy of Islam is not outside, but inside. This will not allow Islamic world to get united and



the foundation of unity crumbles like sand. The interesting thing is that even today the

Islamic nations are dependent on the Christian countries of the West. The Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries have become bonded labourers of the US. Whereas Turkiye is a member of NATO. In such a situation, it looks very difficult for Islamic nations to get united on the NATO model. If Iran, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Nigeria sign on a military cooperation on the basis of Islam, the domination of Islam will be established in the world and anti-Muslim forces will have to face defeat.

Taliban appoints its Ambassador in India



Siasat (January 14) states that for the first time after Taliban captured power in Afghanistan in 2021, it has appointed one of its senior officials in India. A top official of Afghanistan's foreign affairs ministry Mufti Noor Ahmed Noor has taken over as acting ambassador in the Afghanistan embassy in New Delhi. Though the Indian government has not granted official recognition to the Taliban government, this appointment gives an indication of growing relationship between the two countries. As per a statement issued by the Afghan embassy located in New Delhi, Mufti Noor Ahmed Noor has taken charge of his duty at the Afghan embassy in New Delhi. He also met several senior officials of India's external affairs ministry. In this meeting, various aspects of India-Afghanistan

relations were discussed. The Afghan embassy also issued a photograph of Mufti Noor Ahmed Noor with a top official of India's external affairs ministry Anand Prakash. The appointment of a senior diplomat in New Delhi is very important for the Taliban government, because it gives them recognition at the international level.

It is worth mentioning that Russia is the only country in the world which has given official recognition to the Taliban government and whose embassy is present in Kabul. Though China has also opened its embassy in Kabul, it has not granted official recognition to the Taliban government so far.

Urdu Times (January 1) states that the Taliban government has banned several



public books including textbooks at university level. This has had a negative impact on the studies of the students in universities and colleges. According to Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN), the Taliban government has imposed a ban on 670 books. These books are related to human rights, democracy, constitutional law, electoral system, sociology and moral philosophy. According to the newspaper, a ban has been imposed on the books written

by women writers and Iranian writers. In its report, the Afghan newspaper 'Hasht-e-Subh' said the government has imposed a ban on books related to history and politics. Due to this, it has almost become impossible to have academic research and independent studies. As per the report of Unicef, more than 21 lakh children in Afghanistan have been deprived of school education in 2025. Nearly 60 percent among them are girls.

Zohran Mamdani takes oath by placing hand on Quran



Etemaad (January 2) states that Indian-origin Zohran Mamdani has taken oath as the Mayor of US state New York by placing his hand on Quran. He will have a term of four years. He is the first Muslim Mayor of New York. According to US news agency 'Associated Press,' on this

occasion, Zohran Mamdani said that taking oath by placing hand on Quran was the greatest honour in his life. He took a simple oath on the platform of historical city hall subway station in Manhattan, as he has given the credit of his victory to the common people (working class). According to 'NBC News', he placed his hand on two copies of Quran while taking the oath.

One of the copies belonged to his grandfather and the second belonged to the Schomburg Centre of New York Public Library. On this occasion, Mamdani's wife and his mother-father were also present. Indian origin Zohran Mamdani was born in Uganda and arrived



in New York at the age of seven. Mamdani's father Mahmoud Mamdani is a professor in Columbia University. Whereas his mother Mira Nayyar is a renowned film-maker. Zohran Mamdani won with a huge victory despite strong opposition from US President Trump.

Siasat (January 2) states that Zohran Mamdani is the first Mayor of New York who has taken oath by placing his hand on Quran. However, it is not mandatory for the Mayor of New York to take oath by placing hand on any religious text. However, earlier several mayors used to take oath by placing their hands on Bible. Mamdani had stated during his election meetings that he is not among those who hide their identity. He is a Muslim and he is proud about that.

Avadhnama (January 3) states that the letter written by Mamdani in support of Indian student Umar Khalid has become a topic of controversy. Umar Khalid's father Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas said that Mamdani is mentally shaken by Umar Khalid's denial of bail. The BJP, while objecting to this letter, described it as an interference in the internal affairs of Bharat. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said that a foreign power has no right to

interfere in the internal affairs of India. He described Umar Khalid as a man with a mindset to divide Bharat.

Urdu Times (January 2) in its editorial welcomed Mamdani taking oath by placing his hand on Quran. It has been said in the editorial that currently more than 40 lakh Muslims stay in the US. Despite this, he has to face hatred. The Islamic identity of Muslims is being threatened. The happy thing is that the new generation of Muslims is getting important roles in the US politics and social structure. The newspaper expressed satisfaction that despite opposition from Trump, Mamdani has stuck to his Islamic identity. This incident is an example for Muslims all over the world.

Hindustan (January 3) in its editorial said that the new year has brought a good message to Muslims across the world. Despite strong opposition from President Trump, Zohran Mamdani winning the elections for the post of New York mayor is nothing short of a miracle. The happiest thing is that he started the new year in New York by placing his hand on the Quran and taking an oath. Mamdani has openly extended support to the people of Palestine.

Explosive situation in Iran



Nationwide mass protests are taking place in Iran from the last week of December 2025 to overthrow the Khamenei government. The Iranian army is strongly crushing these protests. Internet and mobile services have been shut down in Iran, hence estimating the actual situation has turned out to be extremely difficult. There is no precise information about the number of protesters killed by the army either. According to government sources, more than 3,000 people have been killed during these protests, while human rights organisations have claimed that the death toll could be anything between 20,000 and 25,000.

Siasat (January 20) states that amid growing tension and possibility of war between the US and Iran, the latter has sent a secret message to the former. After this, the plan for a US attack on Iran has been postponed.

According to the US newspaper 'Washington Post', the US had made full preparations to attack Iran. The US Central Command in this region has increased the deployment of naval and air force fighter jets. Considering this serious situation, Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi has sent a secret message to President Trump's

special envoy Steve Witkoff. It has been indicated by Iran that the government will reconsider the punishment of the arrested protesters.

Etemaad (January 3) states that on December 28, 2025, Tehran's traders started protests against rising inflation and the sharp fall in the value of the Iranian currency, Rial. Soon, this protest turned into a demand for regime change.

Siasat (January 2) states that the price of one US dollar has reached 14 lakh Iranian Rials. Following the falling prices of the Rial, Iranian Central Bank chief Mohammad Reza Farzin has resigned from his post. Initially, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's attitude was soft and he had instructed foreign minister Araghchi that they should hold talks with the protesters so that a solution could be found to the issue. Because of the US sanctions and falling Rial prices in the international market, Iran is unable to sell its oil.

Siasat (January 11) states that after anti-government protests in Iran and the activities of exiled Iranian Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi, the question is arising whether the Islamic regime of Iran is coming to an end? Is Iran moving towards implementing the monarchy system again?



It is worth noting that Iranian Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi has been living in the US for the past 46 years.

Because of public protests in 1979, his father Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had to leave the country's throne and flee abroad. Due to the 12-day war fought by Israel against Iran and US sanctions, Iran's economy has been ruined. Due to this, the public is troubled. This is the reason why anti-government protests are taking place in Iran.

Etemaad (January 12) reports that the Iranian media has claimed that more than 100 security personnel have been killed during the nationwide protests. The protesters are armed with foreign weapons and are targeting the army and police. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addressed the public and said that the countrymen should stop their children from supporting the rioters who are puppets of foreign countries.

The Iranian news agency has claimed that the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad and US agents are behind these protests. Officially, the number of protesters killed by the army is said to be more than 3,000, while human rights organisations say that the death toll could be between 20,000 and 25,000 while thousands of protesters have been detained.

US President Trump has threatened that if the Iranian army continues to kill protesters, the US will have to intervene.

Avadhnama (January 4) states that Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, while reacting sharply to US

President Trump's threats, said that Iran will never bow down before enemies. He accepted that if traders go on strike due to the economic crisis in the country, they cannot be blamed. It is the government's job to take appropriate action to resolve this crisis. He said that Iranian traders are patriots and will not be misled by foreign agents. Khamenei said, "Some foreign agents, under the guise of protests, are inciting the public against Islam, Iran and the Islamic regime. We will strongly crush such elements."

Urdu Times (January 15) reports that Iran's Chief Justice has announced that special courts are being set up across the country to hear cases against foreign agents. They will be tried in these courts and hanged within a week. He said that we will not show any leniency towards foreign agents.

Urdu Times (January 5) reports that Khamenei has instructed the soldiers to take stringent action against foreign agents creating unrest in the country. He said that we are ready to talk with our patriotic people, but there is no benefit in talking to the rioters. They will get such a punishment that in the future no foreign agent will dare to spread unrest in Iran.

Urdu Times (January 14) reports that a huge number of protestors attacked almost 1,500 mosques and set them on fire. The apart, attacks on government offices and dargahs are increasing day by day.

Etemaad (January 15) reports that Iranian defence minister Aziz Nasirzadeh has said we will defend our country until

the last drop of blood. Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, has alleged that the US is looking for an excuse for military intervention in Iran. In a letter to the UN Security Council, he said that US President Trump is inciting violence by creating political instability in Iran.



Etemaad (January 14) state that the series of counter-demonstrations in support of the government has intensified in Iran. Addressing a large rally in Tehran, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said the Iranian people will foil the conspiracies of foreign enemies. The Iranian nation is powerful and alert. It knows its enemies and knows how to destroy them.

Hamara Samaj (January 16) has blamed the US for Iran's current economic crisis in its editorial. The newspaper has accused the US of trying to destroy Iran, the biggest flag-bearer of Islam, and therefore Muslim countries around the world should stand by Iran to protect Islam.

Hindustan Express (January 3) in its editorial has expressed concern over the developments in Iran. The newspaper has said that the economic crisis in Iran did not come all of a sudden, but the US had been conspiring to create this crisis for a long time.

Due to rising inflation, the new generation has taken to the streets and is forced to raise slogans against the current Islamic system and in favour of the monarchy. The Iranian government has already announced a 62 per cent increase in tax revenue in this year's budget to improve the country's economy.

The newspaper has said the Iranian people, at the instigation of the US and Israel, are demanding the re-implementation of the monarchy in the country. They have forgotten that 47 years ago today, when there was a monarchy in

Iran, the public had to pay a heavy price for it. The newspaper has alleged that the Western media is adding fuel to the fire so that on this pretext, the US and Israel can get a chance to impose their puppet government on the people of Iran.

Hindustan (January 14), in its editorial, has said that there is an international conspiracy behind the ongoing protests in Iran. The US is also targeting those countries that have trade relations with Iran, in order to financially cripple Iran. Trump wants to isolate Iran from the world on this pretext so that they can take military action against it.

Qaumi Tanzeem (January 12) has expressed concern over the serious situation in Iran in its editorial. The newspaper has said that in the videos recently released by the BBC, the protesters have covered their faces with masks. It is clear from this that foreign agents are hiding among these protesters. The newspaper has said that public sentiment is being incited against the Iranian government. Hired protesters are setting government property on fire. It is clear from this that this is a war against God and Islam and its only punishment is death. The newspaper has said the Iranian government should take strict action against the protesters.

Akbar-e-Mashriq (January 14) has accused the US in its editorial that it wants to occupy Iran by inciting the flames of public outrage. It wants to impose the former king's son, Reza Pahlavi, as its puppet on the Iranian people.

Ceasefire violated in Sudan



According to **Inquilab** (January 14), the ceasefire achieved through the efforts of the United Nations in the North African country of Sudan is now in danger. Recently, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have restarted a series of attacks. At least 32 people were killed and more than 100 people injured in these attacks. According to government sources, the RSF carried out drone attacks on a military camp located in Sinja city in Sennar state of central Sudan. At least 27 people were killed and 73 others injured in this attack. A government spokesperson said the condition of most of the injured is serious, so the death toll may increase further.

Inquilab (January 12) states that the United Nations has expressed concern over the violation of the ceasefire in Sudan, saying that millions of people are likely to die of hunger and disease. According to the report, 21 million citizens in Sudan are victims of starvation. While more than 10 million people need immediate medical attention. Most of these people were injured during the civil war.

In Sudan, the civil war is going on, so it is not possible for the United Nations to arrange relief material for the affected people. Because of this civil war, 12 million people have been rendered

homeless and millions have been killed. The United Nations has appealed to Sudan's neighbouring countries to provide shelter on humanitarian grounds to those fleeing Sudan and not to close their borders to them.

The United Nations has expressed concern that despite repeated requests for assistance for Sudan, the attitude of various countries of the world is insensitive. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appealed to the countries of the world to provide maximum assistance for the people suffering from the civil war in Sudan.

Inquilab (January 6) reports that at least 114 people have been killed in clashes between the Sudanese army and the RSF in the Darfur region of western Sudan. The RSF has claimed that its army has captured Darfur city and the airport. While the government army has claimed that 51 RSF soldiers were killed in its drone attacks in the Al-Zuruk area. The government army also claimed that several members of the family of RSF commander Mohammad Hamdan Dagalo were killed in these attacks. These people were living in Al-Zuruk.

Chattan (January 6) states that the civil war in Sudan began in April 2023. Then armed conflict erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) over the seizure of power. Different countries of the world are fuelling this civil war, because Sudan has large reserves of oil and gold. Arms are being sold to the RSF by Arab countries in exchange for gold. Due to this, the situation of the country is becoming serious day by day.

Yemen's Prime Minister resigns

Inquilab (January 17) reports that Yemen's Prime Minister, Salem Saleh bin Braik, has resigned from his post. According to Arab media, the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) has accepted his resignation and the current foreign minister, Dr Shaya Mohsin al-Zindani, has been appointed as his successor. It is



reported that Dr Al-Zindani has extensive diplomatic experience. This government is supported by Saudi Arabia. Additionally, it has also received recognition from the United Nations. It is worth noting that a power struggle is currently going on between various factions in Yemen. One faction is supported by Saudi Arabia, while the other is linked to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The third faction has deep relations with Iran.

Urdu Times (January 11) reports that the UAE has announced that it is withdrawing its troops from Yemen.

Inquilab (January 4) reports that Saudi Arabian planes carried out airstrikes in many places in the southeastern region of Hadramout, Yemen. Many people were killed in these attacks. The UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC) claimed that due to these attacks, citizens have started fleeing the area. A spokesperson for the Saudi has said that the UAE is occupying oil-producing areas by violating the ceasefire agreement. The governor of Hadramout, Salem Ahmed Al-Khanbashi, has appealed to the STC not to target civilian areas. He has also claimed that government forces have captured many military camps of the STC.

Inquilab (January 3), a spokesperson for the Saudi Arabian government told the British news agency, Reuters, that the Aden airport located in southern Yemen has been closed. Recently, the STC had captured this airport. The transport minister of the Saudi Arabia-backed Yemeni government has said that

this airport has been closed so that the UAE cannot provide military assistance to its army in this region. Yemeni information minister Muammar Al-Iryani has said that the STC is continuously being provided military assistance from the UAE. We are determined to stop this. He said that if the UAE army does not immediately evacuate this area and the flames of war erupt in the region, then the UAE will be responsible for it.

Inquilab (January 8) reports that the Saudi government has confirmed military action in Yemen. The Saudi government has alleged that the head of the STC, Aidarus al-Zubaidi, instead of participating in the conference organised by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, has fled to an unknown location.

The report stated that al-Zubaidi had informed the Saudi government that he was coming to Saudi Arabia from Aden to attend the conference in Riyadh, but he disappeared on the way and went to an unknown location. The Saudi government has alleged that al-Zubaidi is preparing for a major attack and has started reassembling his army. To stop potential attack, the Saudi government has instructed its air force to resume attacks in Yemen.

According to another news report, the PLC has announced that Al-Zubaidi has damaged ceasefire efforts by not participating in the Riyadh conference, so he will be prosecuted for treason.

Hindustan (January 8) reports that a meeting of the Saudi cabinet was held under the chairmanship of Saudi King



Salman bin Abdulaziz. The latest situation in Yemen was discussed in this meeting. The cabinet welcomed the request of the

head of the Yemeni PLC, Rashad Al-Alimi, in which he had demanded a conference of all active groups in southern Yemen to be called in Riyadh.

A Saudi government spokesperson claimed that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has held talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif regarding the latest situation in Yemen.

War between Kurds and government soldiers in Syria

Inquilab (January 8) reports that at least five people were killed and several injured in a clash between Syrian soldiers and Kurdish rebels in the southern Syrian region of Aleppo (Haleb). Both sides have accused each other of starting the war.

According to the government news agency, SANA, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) killed a military officer, while a dozen people were injured. On the other hand, the SDF said in a post on the social media platform, X, that its fighters had targeted the government forces with artillery and missiles. It has been alleged that Kurdish rebels are violating the agreement made with the government army. This increases the possibility of a widespread war breaking out in the region.

Qaumi Tanzeem (January 10) reports that Turkiye has announced that if asked, it will cooperate with Syria in action against the terrorists. It is noteworthy that in the past few days, a series of fierce clashes had started between the Syrian army and the Kurds. Turkiye has said that the Kurds are terrorists, so strict action should be taken against them.

According to another news report, the Syrian government has announced that war has broken out between the

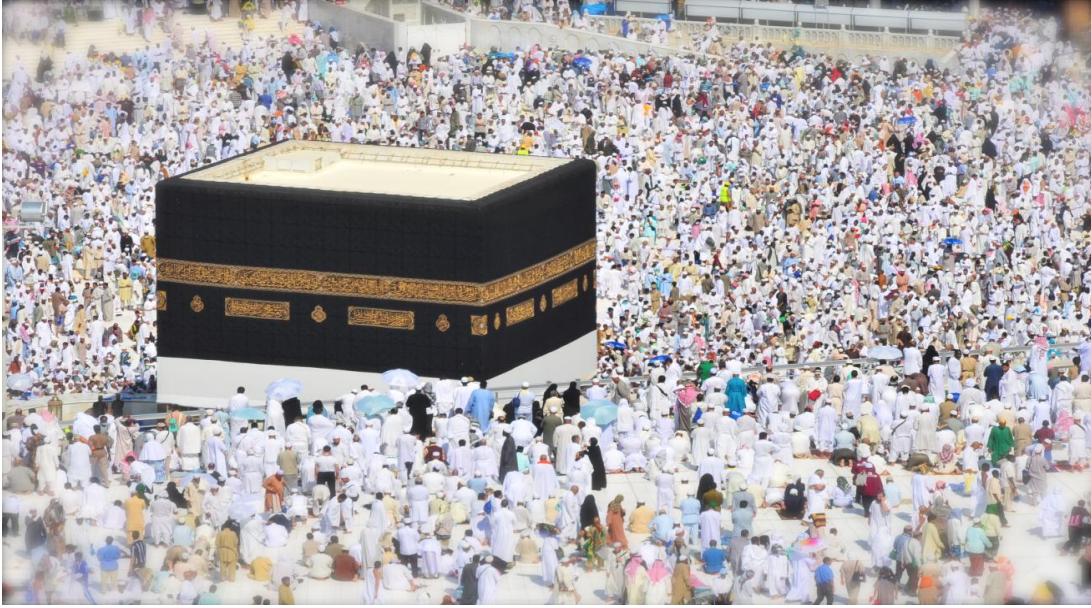


government army and the Kurds in Aleppo and its surrounding areas. SDF rebels are preventing local citizens from leaving the area and using them as human shields.

Etemaad (January 12) reports that following the conflict in the Aleppo region, the SDF has started evacuating the area. SDF commander Mazloum Abdi has said that a temporary ceasefire has been reached between the two sides after international efforts. This decision has been made so that local citizens can safely leave the area.

It is significant that since the civil war broke out in Syria in 2011, conflict has continued between the SDF and Syrian government soldiers. The Kurds have occupied a large area in the northeast of Syria and are running their parallel government from there. According to media reports, 1,40,000 people have been rendered homeless due to this war.

Action against illegal Haj mafia in Egypt



Inquilab (January 11) reports that the Egyptian interior ministry has launched a nationwide crackdown on fake Haj companies. A government spokesperson said that the government received information that these companies were defrauding citizens by promising Haj and Umrah services.

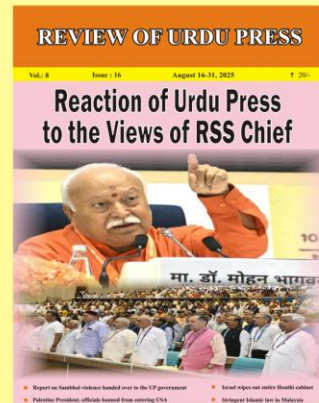
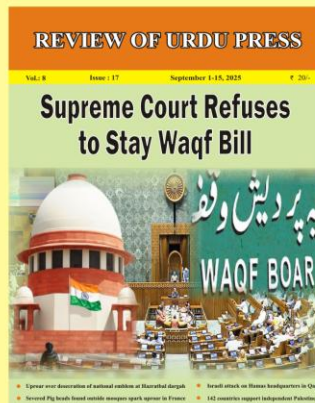
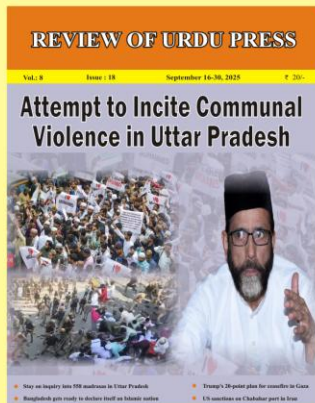
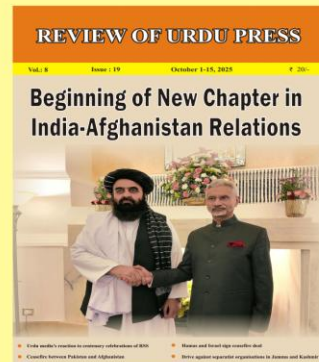
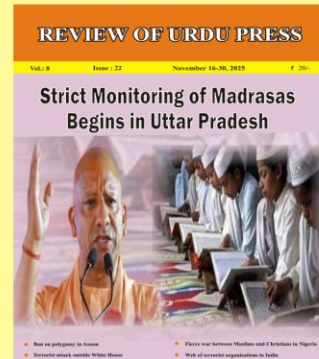
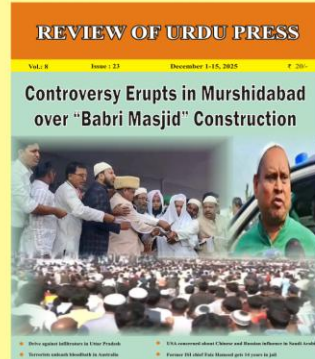
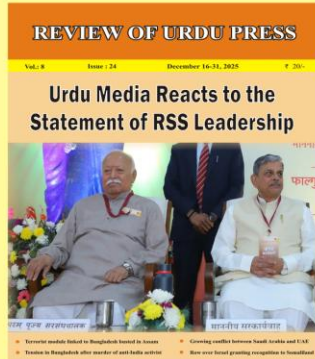
The spokesperson said that the government has decided to take strict action against those who loot citizens in the name of Haj and Umrah. According to the latest information, 25 illegal companies operating in various states have been shut down. Over 500 people related to these companies have been arrested.

The spokesperson said that these fake companies were claiming through newspaper advertisements that they were registered with the government, so people

interested in performing Haj and Umrah should contact them. These companies have looted more than 500 crore riyals from innocent citizens.

During police raids, seals, passports, receipts and fake Haj and Umrah visas were seized from the offices of these companies. In addition to this, action has also been taken against 19 other unlicensed tourist companies and more than 300 of their employees have been arrested.

In this way, 44 fake companies have been shut down so far. Along with this, the Egyptian government has also started publishing advertisements in the media. In this, citizens have been appealed not to fall into the trap of fake companies and to book Haj and Umrah only through government-recognised agencies.



भारत नीति प्रतिष्ठान
India Policy Foundation

D-51, First Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016

Tel : 011-79687620

E-mail : info@ipf.org.in, indiapolity@gmail.com

Website : www.ipf.org.in