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Uniform Civil Code Bill Passed in Gujarat Assembly



- Chhattisgarh Assembly passes religious freedom bill
- Palestinian prisoners given death sentence in Israel
- US President Trump threatens to leave NATO
- US commission seeks ban on RSS and RAW

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Summary

The Gujarat Assembly has passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2006. With this, Gujarat became the second state after Uttarakhand to implement the UCC in the country. After a debate lasting more than seven hours in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, the bill was passed by a majority. Adivasis have been kept out of the ambit of this law. In order to draft this bill, a high level committee headed by retired judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai was constituted. Recently, addressing a public meeting in Assam, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that if the BJP comes back to power in Assam, the UCC will be implemented there also. Muslim organisations have been strongly opposing the implementation of the UCC and All Indian Muslim Personal Law Board have announced that it would oppose it in the court.

Recently, the Chhattisgarh Assembly passed a comprehensive bill to curb illegal religious conversions carried out through inducement, coercion, and the lure of marriage. Under this law, a provision has been made to award a jail term ranging from seven to 10 years and a fine of minimum Rs 5 lakh on those found guilty of illegal conversion. In case the victim is a woman, minor, belonging to Scheduled Caste or Schedule Tribe or other backward classes, the punishment will be from 10 years to 20 years in jail and the fine will be minimum Rs 10 lakh. In the case of mass conversions, a provision has been made to award life-term and a fine of minimum Rs 25 lakh.

The effort for a ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan on the occasion of Eid has failed. Pakistan's air force violated Afghan air space and bombed settlements in which citizens were killed in large numbers. Pakistan claimed that its army seized more than a dozen outposts located on the border. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced that Pakistan would continue with the attacks.

The US had hoped that after the killing of the top leadership of Iran, the country would surrender, but it did not happen. Iran has become even more aggressive than before, inflicting severe damage on Israeli and US interests. Due to the failure of his plans, US President Donald Trump forcibly retired Army chief Randy George. This apart, several top military officers were also sacked. President Trump, while warning Iran of fierce ground attack, declared that it would send Iran back to stone age.

On the other hand, Israeli military confirmed that the Iran-supported Houthi rebels in Yemen targeted southern Israel and launched missile attack. A Houthi spokesperson warned that if the US and Israeli attack on Iran does not stop, it would target its military bases located in this region. Those in the know of things believe that if the Houthis get totally involved in this attack, the scope of the clash will get widen, because it has the capacity to attack both Israel and Saudi Arabia from Yemen.

For the first time in Islamic history, the Israeli army has kept the doors of the third holiest place of worship of Muslims, Masjid Al-Aqsa, closed for more than a month now. No one has been allowed to offer namaz inside the masjid or do sacrifice on the occasion of Eid. Arab countries have strongly opposed the decision of Israel to keep this important masjid locked.

Gujarat Assembly passes Uniform Civil Code Bill



Urdu Times (March 25) states that the Gujarat Assembly has passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026 with a huge majority. Reacting to this, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that it is the policy of the government that the law shall be equal for every citizen in the country. He claimed that even the Supreme Court had given directions to the Parliament several times in this connection. Shah said the BJP-ruled state governments under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi are making consistent efforts in this direction. He congratulated Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and his cabinet colleagues for this revolutionary step.

As per media reports, a seven-and-a-half hour-long debate took place on this Bill in the Gujarat Assembly. Later it was passed in the House through a majority vote. The legislators of Congress and other Opposition parties staged a walkout against the Bill. It is to be noted that a high-level committee headed by retired judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai was constituted to prepare the draft of this bill. Earlier, the UCC was implemented in Uttarakhand also in February 2024.

Hindustan Express (March 26) reports that Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, while addressing the House, said the

strongest side of this law is the empowerment of women. It has imposed a ban on halala and the polygamy system. However, in this law, the minorities have been given permission to continue marriage relationship with their relatives, because the purpose of this bill is not to interfere in the religion of anyone. Patel said that the system of halala is against the dignity of women, and hence a ban has been imposed on it. In the discussions that took place in the House, BJP legislators stressed on the matter that once this Bill is passed, Muslim women will get legal security and they will get equal rights. This apart, they will also get relief from the notorious system of child marriage and the talaq. The interesting thing is that this law will not be applicable on the 15 percent Adivasi population of Gujarat. Congress legislators, while criticising the government, said that keeping Adivasis out of the ambit of this law is against the right to equality. The opposition members also criticised the fact that before preparing the Bill, no discussion of any kind was held with the representatives of minorities.

Deputy Chief Minister of the state Harsh Sanghvi described this law as historic. He said that this law enables all the citizens in the state to get equal rights.

In this law, a provision has also been made that if any person dies without a Will, then the mother-father, children and wife will get equal share in the property. In the state, the same laws will now apply to people of all religions regarding marriage, inheritance and other civil matters.

Once this law comes into effect, it will be mandatory to register every marriage. If any individual does not register his marriage, the marriage will be deemed as illegal and he will have to pay a fine of Rs 10,000 to 25,000. As per this law, there is no need to register old marriages. However, registration of live-in relationship has now been made mandatory. If the age of the person concerned is less than 21 years, he will have to inform the parents regarding the marriage. It has been made mandatory to give a 30-day notice for the registration of live-in relationship. If any person stays in a live-in relationship for more than one month without registration, then he may get a punishment of three months in jail and a fine of Rs 10,000. Children born out of this relationship will be considered as legitimate. If any man in a live-in relationship abandons the woman, then the woman will be eligible to seek maintenance from the man.

After the implementation of UCC in the state, old private laws belonging to all religions will be deemed as infructuous. Now, divorce may be sought only on grounds such as abuse, religious conversion, insanity, or having been missing for seven years.

If the husband-wife have been staying separately for more than one year, they could obtain divorce through mutual consensus. After the court issues the order for divorce, it would be mandatory for the sides concerned to register the same with the registrar within 60 days. Under this law, a complete ban has been imposed on polygamy. No individual can go for a



second marriage if his or her husband or wife is alive.

Congress legislator Imran Khedawala described it as an anti-Muslim Bill. He said that the government through this bill has made unconstitutional intervention in the personal law of Muslims. Khedawala warned that this law will be questioned in the court.

Hamara Samaj (March 28) reports that the chief of Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hind Maulana Mahmoud Madani has strongly opposed the UCC Bill passed by Gujarat Assembly. He said this Bill is an inappropriate interference in the Shariah law of Muslims. Madani argued that as per the Muslim Personal Law (Shariah) Application Act, 1937, Muslims have been given the guarantee that the government or the court will not make any kind of interventions in their Shariah law. He announced that a special panel of lawyers have been constituted to question this law before the Supreme Court.

Avadhnama (April 4) in its editorial has strongly criticised the implementation of UCC in Uttarakhand and Gujarat. The newspaper said that the decision of both the state governments is against the basic spirit of the Constitution because it affects the principles of religious freedom, equality and personal freedom of minorities. It has been argued in the editorial that as far as the question of UCC in the Directive Principles of the Constitution is concerned, the courts cannot give direction to any

Assembly to formulate laws in this connection. Only the Parliament has the right to make a law in this connection. Under Article 44 of the Constitution, if any law is being passed, then it should be implemented equally among all the citizens of the country. Recently, the Bill that was passed in Gujarat Assembly is neither implementable in the entire country nor it will be equally applicable on all the communities in the state. In such a situation, calling this law a fully Uniform Civil Code is equivalent to misleading people.

The newspaper said that in the Constituent Assembly, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar had assured that no law would be forcibly imposed on the citizens of the country and the opinion of people would be sought before implementing it. Under this principle, the 21st and 2nd Law Commission had sought the opinion of the people. All India Muslim Personal Law Board presented itself before the commission and opposed it and the signature of nearly 4.5 crore people were presented in support of its claim. Following this, the Law Commission made it clear that the implementation of the UCC is neither necessary nor appropriate in the present

circumstances. The newspaper expressed concern that the law that has been implemented in Uttarakhand is totally against the laws on nikah, talaq and inheritance in Shariah. The interference of government in the personal law is a violation of the religious freedom given to the minorities. Similarly, in the Gujarat law, only there is an interference in the religious rights, a provision to award punishment to those who follow Shariah has been incorporated in it.

The regrettable thing is that the religious rites-rituals of Hindus are forcibly imposed on Muslims. For instance, a ban on polygamy, declaring marriages between close relatives as illegal, and undermining Islamic values regarding divorce and inheritance are its key points. This is the reason why the Muslim Personal Law Board has questioned it before the Uttarakhand High Court. The board believes that this law has been brought in a hurry with the purpose of reaping political benefits in the forthcoming elections. Twelve Muslim organisations demanded that the legality of this law shall be examined by Constitutional experts, because it is a direct violation of the Shariah Application Act, 1937.

Chhattisgarh Assembly passes religious freedom bill



Inquilab (March 21) reports that the Chhattisgarh Assembly has passed the 'Chhattisgarh Religious Freedom Bill,

2026' after extensive discussions. The government has described this bill as a historic step towards social harmony and



cultural preservation. During the discussion on the bill, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma strongly criticised the walkout staged by Congress. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the Congress was not ready for a discussion on this issue in the House and that is why instead of taking part in the discussion, it staged a walkout from the House. He alleged that the Congress is engaged in vote-bank politics and has no concern for national interests. Sharma claimed that an amendment has been made in the law passed in 1968 to stop illegal religious conversion as per the current situation. He claimed that the old law had loopholes. This is the reason why there has been a massive surge in incidents of illegal religious conversion, whereas the current law is more stringent and explicit, thereby enabling an effective curb on such incidents.

Under this law, there is a provision to award jail term ranging from seven years to 10 years and a fine of at least Rs 5 lakh if found guilty of illegal religious conversion. If the religious conversion of a minor, woman, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or any person belonging to backward classes is done, then the accused will get a jail term ranging from 10 years to 20 years and a fine of minimum Rs 10 lakh. The punishment in case of mass conversions is more stringent in which there is a provision to award a jail term ranging from 10 years to life-term and a fine of Rs 25 lakh.

The government's main objective is to prohibit religious conversions carried out

through force, inducement, fraud, or on the basis of false information.

As soon as the bill was passed in the House, the legislators of BJP raised the slogan of 'Jai Shri Ram.' Meanwhile, the Opposition opposed the bill and staged a walkout. The Opposition stated that a discussion should have been held with the retired judges of Supreme Court and high courts apart from the legislators of all political parties. On the other

hand, home minister Vijay Sharma claimed that 50 meetings were held at different times in order to discuss the draft of this bill.

As per the provisions of this bill, if any individual had been found guilty of illegal conversions in the past and had undergone punishment and if he has been found involved in the crime again, then he will be awarded life-term as punishment. If any person helps in illegal conversion, he will be sentenced to a minimum of six months in jail and a maximum of three years in jail apart from a fine of Rs 2 lakh. It will be mandatory for a person interested in changing his religion to submit an application to the district magistrate 60 days in advance. This rule will apply not only to the person changing his or her religion, but also to the priests and maulavis conducting the conversion ceremony. They will also have to inform the administration two months in advance. If the conversion is done without any notice, it will be considered as illegal and the accused person will be arrested immediately.

In this bill, terms such as 'inducement', 'coercion', 'undue influence', 'mass conversion' and 'conversion through digital means' have been clearly defined.

It has also been made it clear in the bill that returning to ancestral religion will not be treated as religious conversion. Under the Bill, all future offenses will be cognizable and non-bailable, and will be

tried in special courts. In this bill, stringent provisions had been made to stop 'Love Jihad.' If any marriage is done with the sole purpose of 'love jihad,' the court could declare it as void. The couples interested in getting married should inform the district magistrate 60 days in advance, and its investigation will be done by the district magistrate himself. The government has imposed a complete ban on foreign funding for religious conversion. If any institution has been found involved in religious conversion through allurements or mass conversions, its registration will be cancelled and a huge fine will be imposed. Special courts will be set up in every district, where it will be mandatory to resolve these issues within six months.

Background: Currently, anti-conversion law is implemented in nine states in the country, which are Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh,

Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. In Chhattisgarh, it was found necessary to strengthen this law because in its tribal-dominated regions especially Bastar, Jashpur and Raigarh, the Adivasis are being converted into Christianity on a large scale. Violent clashes had also taken place between different groups of Adivasis on this issue several times. It is to be noted that in 2021, the estimated population of Chhattisgarh was calculated at almost 3 crore, out of which 93 percent were Hindu, 2.02 percent Muslim, 1.92 percent Christian, 0.27 percent Sikh, 0.27 percent Buddhists and the rest followers of other religions. There are nearly 900 churches in Chhattisgarh. The first church in the state was built in 1868. Meanwhile, Asia's second biggest Roman Catholic church is located in Jashpur, which was built in 1979.

Supreme Court rejects petition on Vande Mataram



Inquilab (March 26) reports that the Supreme Court has rejected a petition filed against mandatory singing of all the six stanzas of national song 'Vande Mataram.' The court stated that the directives issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding public places and government programs are not mandatory, but merely an advisory. The court made it clear that this petition against

the government notification has been filed before time. A division bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M Pancholi said that in the notification of the home ministry, there is no provision for any kind of sentencing or punishable action for not singing Vande Mataram. The court observed that this is merely a guideline,



and compliance with it depends on individual choice. The court also said that if a punishable action is taken against any person on this basis in future, then the court will take cognisance of it.

It is to be noted that this petition has been filed by Mohammad Syed Noori, chairman of Raza Academy located in Mumbai. Reacting to the comment of the Supreme Court, Noori said that, “Though our petition has been rejected, our objective has been fulfilled. The court has made it clear that singing of Vande Mataram is not mandatory, instead it depends on personal preference.”

It is to be noted that the Union home ministry had issued an order on January 28, 2026 that from now onwards all the six stanzas of Vande Mataram shall be sung at government functions, schools and other official events. During this time, all the people present there should stand up in attention in honour of Vande Mataram. The lawyer of the petitioners Sanjay Hegde argued in the court that although there is no explicit provision for punitive action in the event of a violation of this directive, pressure to sing 'Vande Mataram' could be exerted under the guise of this circular.

He expressed apprehension that the possibility of discrimination against those who do not sing it would persist. Hegde argued that even those who oppose singing 'Vande Mataram' for religious reasons can be compelled to do so. He also said that as per the notification, it has been made mandatory to sing national song before national anthem, which could reduce the importance of national anthem. For

example, recently the national song has been sung for three minutes 10 seconds at National School of Drama (NSD) due to which the importance of national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' was affected.

During the debate, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, taking strong objection to the petition, said that a person who argues that patriotism is not mandatory for everyone has no moral right to file such a petition.

On this, Sanjay Hegde said that this circular is merely a sham, whereas the Constitution is equal for all and does not depend on anyone's personal, political, or religious ideology. During the hearing, Chief Justice Surya Kant observed that if the government were to make the national song mandatory, then there might be some weight to the lawyer's arguments.

He made it clear that in this circular, neither Vande Mataram has been made mandatory nor there is any provision for punishment for not singing it. While describing it as just a protocol, the chief justice said that the fear of the petitioner is baseless, as no credible situation of discrimination has arisen till now. He said that in future, if any kind of punishment is awarded for not singing national anthem, or discrimination takes place then you could approach the court. Following this, the division bench rejected the petition.

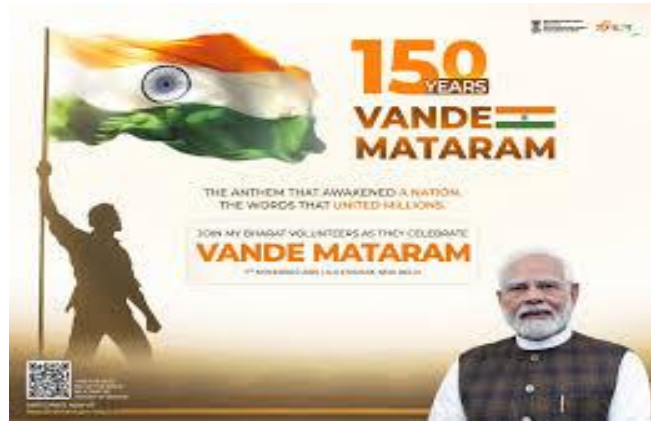
Hamara Samaj (March 26) states that the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmood Madani, claimed that singing of Vande Mataram is against the Islamic principle of 'Tauheen.' Hence no power in the world would be able to force Muslims to sing Vande Mataram. Madani said that Indian Constitution allows every citizen the fundamental right to adopt a religion of his choice and follow the same. He stressed that the government has no right to interfere with the faith and religious sentiments of any citizen.

Urdu Times (March 26) in its editorial said that the Supreme Court has

made it clear that the directions issued by the Home Ministry regarding the singing of all six stanzas of Vande Mataram is not mandatory. According to the court, it is a kind of advice. The court has made it clear that the judiciary is supreme in the country, and no individual can be compelled to sing 'Vande Mataram'. The newspaper argued that Vande Mataram contains an invocation of Hindu deities, whereas in Islam, the worship or invocation of anyone other than Allah is prohibited. With this clarification issued by the court, the controversy that has erupted over Vande Mataram may have been put to rest. This has given a huge relief to Muslims. However, there is fear still in the mind of Muslims. The reason for this is that the court did not give a clear assurance regarding the security of those who do not sing Vande Mataram. Further, the court has not directed the government to refrain from issuing any order in the future that runs contrary to anyone's religious beliefs. Further, no directives have been issued to the government to withdraw the existing orders.

The newspaper said that at the beginning of all the meetings of Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Vande Mataram is sung and every corporator has to stand up in its honour, which includes Muslim councillors as well. According to the editorial, the court should have clarified that those who want to sing it shall do it and those who do not want to sing should be allowed to be remain seated on their chair. The editorial has expressed concern that if any councillor does so and keeps sitting on his seat, he will soon be accused of treason. However, Vande Mataram is neither the national anthem, nor does it enjoy legal recognition of that stature. According to the newspaper, it contains certain words (Kufr) that are contrary to the faith of Muslims. Hence no true Muslim could sing it.

Hindustan (March 27) in its editorial said that Muslims have been



opposing Vande Mataram right from the beginning, because it goes against their fundamental beliefs. The truth is that the ruling party wants to forcefully impose this song on them due to its anti-Muslim politics. The BJP suddenly raised this issue; prior to this, it had orchestrated a lengthy discussion in Parliament on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of this controversial national song.

The issue of Vande Mataram is deliberately raked up at a time when Assembly elections are scheduled to take place in West Bengal. Through this issue, the BJP wants to prove that it is the sole nationalist party in the country.

The newspaper also alleged that the government has made this song written by Bengali writer Bankim Chandra Chatterjee as mandatory for all people in the country. In reality, Hindu Devi-Devatas are offered salutations in Vande Mataram, which is against the religious faith of Muslims. This is the reason why the Muslim community refuses to recite it and the BJP wants to reap political benefits out of it. The newspaper claims that when a discussion took place in the Constituent Assembly regarding this issue, a consensus was reached to recite only the first two stanzas of this song as national song, but now the BJP has raised the issue of mandatory singing of the entire song with the purpose of polarisation of votes of the majority community. The truth is that the Saffron Parivar wants to impose its concept of Hindu Rashtra indirectly on all the residents of the country.

US commission seeks ban on RSS and RAW



Siasat (March 17) reports that the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has strongly criticised the Indian government in a recent report. As per the report, there has been a regular violation of religious freedom in India due to which the situation has become a matter of extreme concern. The commission in its report claimed that the Indian government formulated several such laws in 2025 which were against the religious freedom of minorities. The places of worship of minorities and other institutions are being targeted through these laws. The government has become mute spectators to the attacks carried out by extremist Hindus on religious minorities. This apart, religious minorities are being arrested on a largescale and their citizenship is also being taken away.

In the report, it has also been claimed that hundreds of Bengali-speaking Muslims are being expelled from Assam after branding them as infiltrators and they are forcibly send to Bangladesh. The government has taken control of even the Waqf properties. Under the Waqf Act passed by the Parliament, a provision has been made to include non-Muslims also in the management committees of masjids, madrasas and kabristans. This apart, the madrasa board was dissolved in Uttarakhand. In this US report, a demand

has been made to ban Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the organisations associated with it. This apart, a recommendation has been made to impose a ban on Indian Intelligence agency 'Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)'. The report has suggested that the properties belonging to the people and institutions associated with RSS and RAW shall be frozen and a complete ban should be imposed on their entry to the US.

Urdu Times (March 17) in its editorial said that the recommendation made by the US Commission to impose a ban on the RSS is absolutely appropriate. The report of USCIRF on the alarming situation of minorities in India exposes a bitter truth. In the report, not only the RSS, even RAW has been accused of directly and indirectly violating religious freedom. This apart, the report has sought the US government to designate India as a 'country of particular concern.'

The newspaper said that it is clear from this report that the persistent atrocities committed against minorities in India are being monitored with meticulous scrutiny at a specialized level.

This is the reason why this commission has accused the RSS and the BJP of depriving the religious minorities of their rights. According to the newspaper, the minorities are being deprived of their

basic rights by making strong laws like Citizenship Amendment Act and Anti-Conversion Act.

The newspaper said that today the entire India is being scorched by the fires of religious hatred, and not a trace of social justice remains in the country. The judicial system is getting weakened day by day. This is precisely why unethical people and political criminals face no difficulty in securing bail, and upon their release, they continue to challenge the social fabric and harmony.

Conversely, innocent people have been imprisoned—including a large number of professionals, scientists and educationists. The commission in its report also said that several people including Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam have been imprisoned for the past five years without ever having faced trial. These persons had taken part in the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2020.

In the report, it was also alleged that Hindu nationalist mobs are targeting Muslims and Christians. Anti-Conversion Law is implemented in 12 states in the country. Minorities are given stringent punishment on the pretext of this law. This is a violation of the spirit of religious freedom, social harmony and equality.

Hindustan (March 17) in its editorial said that at a time when the RSS has effectively become the master of India, if—despite this—any international organization demands that a ban be imposed upon it, it is inevitable that elements supportive of the Hindutva ideology will become agitated. However, this is not the first time that a US organisation has come up with such a report. In the past also, different human rights organisations of US, Europe and other Western countries had issued dozens of such reports. According to the newspaper, if the minorities of a country that describes itself as the world's largest democracy are victims of insecurity, then it raises a very serious question. In the report,



it has been clearly mentioned that in India, Muslims are being targeted with violence in the name of cow protection. Hindutva organizations are persecuting Muslims, and the government is taking no effective action against such anti-social elements.

The organized structure of religious hatred in the country is not limited merely to the streets; rather, it is flourishing under the patronage of the ruling party.

The newspaper said that the real question is not what an American commission has said, or whether its recommendations will be implemented or not. Rather, the real question is: why is such a deep chasm emerging between India's constitutional assurances and the reality on the ground?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been continuously claiming that equal justice and a policy of equal development has been adopted in the country but the ground situation is just the opposite. If religious minorities do not get protection, and opponents are kept in jails for years and politics of hatred is given official patronage then the democracy remains just a slogan. Time has come for the Indian government to think about it seriously instead of rejecting the criticism as a foreign conspiracy. Because, if the justice system does not look like fair, then a sense of fear and distrust develops in the society. This could prove to be a warning bell for any democracy.

Hamara Samaj (March 18) in its editorial said that US organisation USCIRF

has warned, in its recent report, of the looming threat to religious freedom in India.

In this, for the first time a recommendation has been made to impose a ban on Hindutva organisation RSS and India's intelligence agency 'RAW.' The question is whether the US has actually imposed a ban on the entry of individuals belonging to the RSS? The truth is that the government there has not



taken any such decision till now. If this campaign against religious freedom in India continues, and attacks on Muslims persist in this manner, the United States and other nations will have to seriously consider implementing these demands.

The newspaper said that the demand of the US commission is extraordinary in itself, because RSS is a very influential organisation in the country. Its ideological connection with the present government is not hidden from anyone. Even the political training of Prime Minister Modi himself took place within the ambit of this organisation. This is the reason why when questions are raised about this organization at the international level, the government's policies also get caught in the crossfire.

The US commission has also warned that if the situation does not improve, then India will be included in the list of 'country of particular concern' (CPC). If India is included in this list, then the US will not be able to sell military weapons and defence equipment to India.

On the other hand, the Indian government has completely rejected this report. The home ministry said this report is misleading and one-sided. According to the government, India is a multi-religious and a multi-cultural nation, in whose Constitution every citizen has been given the guarantee of religious freedom. The government also claims that the RSS is a social and cultural organisation which works in the fields of social service and national unity. The newspaper said that the

Indian government may not have an idea that this US commission works under the supervision of US Parliament and the experts appointed there take cognizance of every excess committed on the minorities in any country. They are fully aware of the nature of the atrocities being committed against Muslims and Christians in India since Narendra Modi came to power, as well as the organizations actively behind the persecution they are facing.

The newspaper said that the question is: if credible organizations in the world's major democratic nations are consistently expressing the same concerns, is it appropriate to ignore them? In international politics, the credibility of any country's government is gauged not merely by its economic and military power, but also by its treatment of and attitude towards minorities.

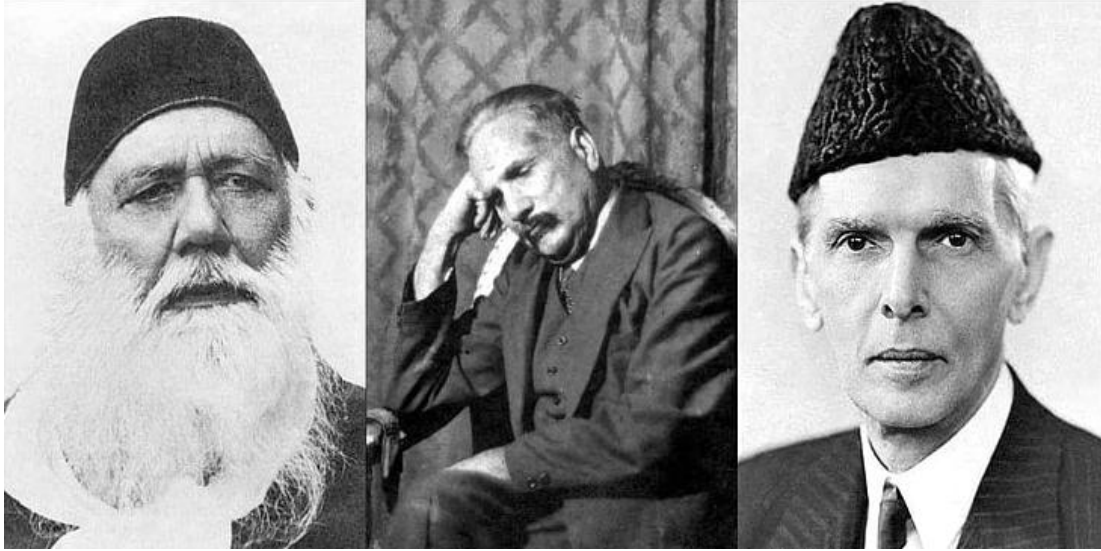
It is also a fact that the report regarding any country are not always entirely impartial; rather, international political interests also play a significant role in their preparation. In spite of this, if the issue of persecution of minorities and their insecurity is raised time and again, then concrete steps should be taken to resolve them.

The newspaper said that India claims to be the world's biggest democratic country and this claim can hold true only if followers of all religions residing in this country enjoy equal protection and equal freedom. If it is understood that the state government is working against any

particular community with a sentiment of hatred, then the unity of the country falls into danger and the image of the country will be spoiled at the international level. It will not be appropriate if the Indian

government still describes RSS just as a social organisation and overlooks the world opinion. In today's era, no country can remain isolated or cut off from the global community.

Recommendation to remove Iqbal, Jinnah and Sir Syed from the syllabus



Aurangabad Times (March 24) states that the committee constituted by Jammu University to review syllabus has recommended that the content related to Pakistan founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Aligarh Muslim University's founder Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Pakistan's national poet Mohammad Iqbal shall be removed from the syllabus of MA Political Science. It is worth mentioning that in the chapter 'Minorities and the nation' in the MA Political Science syllabus of Jammu University, the political thinking of Jinnah has been included, following which a controversy erupted. Holding a protest on the university premises, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) demanded the removal of these chapters. The ABVP's argument was that national sentiments and historical facts should not be disregarded in the name of academic freedom. ABVP secretary in Jammu Kashmir Sannak Srivats said that Jinnah was first mentioned in the context of 'two-

nation theory' where he was associated with the ideology of partition.

Now, in the revised syllabus, he has been presented as a leader of minorities under 'Minorities and the nation', which is objectionable.

Commenting on this controversy, general secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Congress Namrata Sharma said that the BJP has deliberately stirred up this controversy to gain cheap popularity.

She said that this chapter related to the ideologies of Jinnah, Savarkar and Golwalkar was included in the draft of the syllabus prepared in 2025, but no questions were raised on it for one year. Now, all of a sudden it has been made an issue. It is worth mentioning that this was not the first time that the political science department of Jammu University has landed in a controversy. Earlier in 2018, a huge controversy had taken place over a video of a professor in which Shaheed Bhagat Singh was described as a 'terrorist.'



The head of the political science department of Jammu University Professor Baljit Singh Mann said that at a meeting held on March 22 to revise the syllabus, it had been recommended that the content related to these three controversial persons shall be removed from the MA syllabus. He said that this recommendation has been forwarded to the Board of Studies for consideration, and its meeting is scheduled to be held shortly. In this meeting, a final decision was taken to remove the content after discussions. Prof Mann made it clear that Jinnah, Sir Syed and Iqbal were included in the syllabus with the sole aim of a comparative study of their principles which was in accordance with the guidelines of University Grants Commission (UGC). He said that in the chapters related to 'Modern Indian Political Ideology,' thinkers of different schools of ideology have been included, among which Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Bhimrao Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel are the important ones.

Inquilab (March 31) in its editorial said that radical Hindutva proponents are clamping down on independent thought in educational institutions. This runs counter to the spirit of freedom of thought and freedom of expression. The newspaper expressed concern that the university administration has succumbed to the demands of ABVP and recommended that the thought of these three thinkers shall be removed from the syllabus. It is astonishing that university administrations, succumbing

to pressure from communal elements, are unwilling to even introduce students to the philosophies of Muslim thinkers.

The newspaper said that India will never become Vishwaguru by putting restrictions on independent thought.

The newspaper said that whatever happened in Jammu University is a part of anti-knowledge mentality in the country and the politics of hatred being spread against Muslims. Earlier, the chapters related to the history of Mughals were removed from the NCERT textbooks and now a similar thing is being done in Jammu University. The editorial warned that if students from schools to universities are taught that this land follows only one religion and one culture, and the Muslims and other minorities are children of foreign invaders, then definitely this will create social and religious tension. This is harmful to the unity of the country.

The newspaper alleged that ever since the BJP came to power, it has been attempting to mold the country's history to align with its own ideology. The editorial asked whether the government's intention is to turn the country's new generations into 'frogs in a well'?

Seminars held in educational institutions are also being utilized to propagate a specific ideology. The government institutions and the people's money are improperly used to impose the ideology of communal elements on the people. The government is providing financial assistance for organizing seminars only to those institutions and organizations that promote its ideology.

US President Trump's threat to leave NATO



Inquilab (March 29) reports that US President Donald Trump got flared up after eight member nations of NATO alliance refused to send their warships to end the blockade in Strait of Hormuz. He threatened that if these countries refuse to stand with the US, the US will leave the alliance. Describing NATO as a 'paper tiger,' Trump said this alliance does not seem to be useful. He warned that if NATO nations do not join the US military operation to open the blockade of Strait of Hormuz, the US will leave the alliance. He said, "If they do not stand with us, why should we stand with them?"

Trump alleged that the United States had proposed forming a 'multinational naval squad' to safeguard civilian vessels and curb rising global oil prices—thereby enabling military action against Iran—but this coalition is now on the verge of collapse due to a lack of cooperation from NATO nations.

President Trump urged Saudi Arabia to join the 'Abraham Accord' and establish diplomatic relationship with Israel. He claimed that currently West Asia is standing at the juncture of a critical turning point in history. If all NATO nations take part in the military operations against Iran, then this entire region could be freed from a possible nuclear attack of Iran. It is to be noted that till now, more than six Arab

countries have become part of Abraham Accord.

On the other hand, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian made it clear that Iran will not take the initiative for war, but if Iran's basic infrastructure or economic centres are targeted, then a befitting reply will be given. He urged Arab nations not to allow anti-Iran powers to use their territory. Pezeshkian said that if these countries want peace and development in this region, they should not allow the US and Israel to use their land to launch attacks against Iran.

Urdu Times (March 31) states that Spain has closed its air space for US fighter planes. Earlier, the Spanish government had announced that it would not allow the US to use its military bases to carry out attacks on Iran. Spain's defence minister Margarita Robles said this war is totally illegal and unjustified. She had said in a stern voice, "It is our firm decision not to allow the US to use any military base located on Spanish territory for this war." Earlier, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said that war and bombings cannot be the solution to resolve any problem in the world.

Reacting to this decision of Spain, US President Donald Trump said the US will not do any kind of trade with Spain now. Expressing anger, he said that despite being a member of NATO, Spain did not

allow the US to use its two important military bases namely 'Rota' and 'Moron.' Due to this, the US had to forcibly shift its military aircraft and other resources deployed in these bases to other friendly nations. It is to be noted that France, Britain, Denmark and Sweden had refused the US to use its military bases located in their countries earlier itself.



Inquilab (March 28) states that French defence minister Catherine Vautrin made it clear that the war that is taking place in West Asia is not a French problem. She declared that France will not take part in any military operation there. Catherine said, "We believe that disputes shall be resolved only through talks and diplomacy. This is the reason why we had made it clear to the US that France will neither send any warships to lift the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, nor our military will take part in this war."

Inquilab (March 30) states that the US citizens have come out on the streets against the policies of US President Donald Trump, immigration laws and in protest against the attack on Iran. Protests named 'no kings' took place in nearly 3,300 places in all the 50 states of the US.

According to the US media, more than 80 lakh people have taken part in these protests so far. The protesters demanded that the war should be stopped immediately. A huge protest that took place in New York was led by renowned Hollywood actor Robert De Niro. A former soldier who took part in Vietnam war said that Trump, driven by his personal ambitions, has plunged the country into the flames of a devastating war.

The organisers of 'no kings' protests claimed that the series of protests will continue and the number of protesters will cross one crore in the coming days. On the other hand, US Vice-President J D Vance said the aim of the military action that the US has taken against Iran, has almost been achieved. Vance said that the main

objective of US President's strategy is to financially and militarily weaken the Iran government to the extent that it does not become any kind of threat to this region in future. The Vice-President accepted that there has been huge increase in prices at international level due to this war. However, the US citizens and the world do not need to get scared of it because this inflation is temporary.

Munsif (March 30) in its editorial said that the protests taking place in the US is a clear indication that the American people do not want to push their country towards destruction and ruin by becoming participants in this war.

The newspaper said the anger that has been rising among the people against the policies of Trump cannot be overlooked and President Trump will have to yield due to mounting public pressure. The participation of nearly one crore people in the 'no kings' agitation is an irrefutable evidence that the American public has now grown weary of Trump's destructive policies. These protests are a clear message to the entire world that the power of the people should never be underestimated. These widespread protests also confirm the truth that democracy is still alive in the world and there is no place for 'monarchy' and 'dictatorship' here.

Hindustan Express (March 31) in its editorial claimed that the assumption made by the US regarding the strength of Iran has been proved completely wrong. US President Donald Trump had the hope that after the killing of the top leadership of Iran, it would surrender before the US, but due to the feeling of Jihad-e-Islamia among

the Iranian people, the intentions of Trump did not succeed. Now the American people have become aware of the destructive policies of Trump. It is clear from the protests in which more than one crore people took part that the mask of popularity of the most powerful president of the world's wealthiest nation has slipped away. President Trump may not have ever thought that the US citizens will hold protest marches against his dictatorial policies. The US media has claimed that Trump has currently become the most 'hated person' in the US.

Etemaad (March 31) in its editorial said that all of US and Israel's designs against Iran have come to a naught. Despite non-cooperation from the Muslim countries of Arab world, Iran has been giving a befitting reply to the attacks of Israel and the US for the past one month. The conspiracy hatched by the US to break the backbone of Iran's nuclear energy policy has failed. There is no doubt that the US and Israel have jointly wiped out the top leadership of Iran, but despite this Iran's defence mechanism has not weakened. Just the opposite, other terrorist organisations including the Houthis, Hezbollah and Hamas have made life miserable for the United States in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Iraq.

It looks like that the US has made a wrong estimate of Iran's military strength.

Urdu Times (March 30) in its editorial claimed that Muslims in the world should feel proud about the power with



which Iran is giving a befitting reply to the US and Israel despite the non-cooperation of Arab countries.

This newspaper in its editorial on March 31 said that seeing the courage with which Iran is retaliating to the attacks by the US and Israel, the countries supporting the US and Israel also have refused to support them. History is witness that after the second world war, the relationship between US and Britain has been like 'two bodies, one soul.' London had always supported every foreign policy of Washington but, in light of Iran's audacity, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was compelled to make the blunt declaration: "Iran's war is not our war."

The strange thing is that along with France and Spain, nearly a dozen countries in the world have refused to support the US. At one time, these major powers of Europe only laid the foundation of Israel, but now they have refused to support the US. Now, even a strong nation like the US also looks isolated in the world. ■

War erupts again between Pakistan and Afghanistan

Urdu Times (March 27) states that the temporary ceasefire that has come into being between Pakistan and Afghanistan due to the efforts of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkiye has totally failed now. As soon as Eid concluded, a fierce clash erupted once again between the two

countries. Afghanistan's spokesperson for information and culture Ziaur Rahman Spinghar alleged that the Pakistan air force violated Afghan air space and started targeting Afghan citizens. He claimed that the Pakistan military carried out air strikes on



Afghanistan five times in the past three days, in which more than a dozen Afghan citizens were killed. He also said that more than three dozen soldiers were killed in the clashes between the soldiers of the two countries.

On the other hand, the spokesperson of Pakistan's defence ministry claimed that the Pakistan army has seized a few areas of Afghanistan and set up their outposts there. The spokesperson also claimed that due to Pakistan's attacks, the Afghanistan military retreated from 20 border outposts, which are now under the control of Pakistan.

Avadhnama (March 28) states that on the occasion of the conference of United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, the organisations of Afghan citizens held massive protests against Pakistan. Addressing the protesters, several speakers alleged that Pakistan has been continuously violating Afghanistan's air space and bombing Afghan citizens. More than 500 Afghan citizens have been killed in these attacks. The Pakistani air force targeted hospitals and ordinary citizens as well. The protesters handed over a memorandum to the United Nations General Secretary

Antonio Guterres and demanded that pressure be exerted on Pakistan to immediately stop its attacks on Afghanistan.

Aurangabad Times (March 29) states that spokesperson of Pakistan's foreign ministry Tahir Andrabi confirmed that Pakistani military broke the temporary ceasefire and started military action against Afghanistan again. The Pakistani military is targeting the terrorist camps and weapons depot in Afghanistan. The spokesperson said, "Our action will continue until our objectives are achieved. Now we will not tolerate the presence of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) within Afghanistan under any circumstance."

On the other hand, though the Taliban government did not officially react to the Pakistani claim, but confirmed that Pakistan army's artillery opened fire at several places in East Afghanistan. Ordinary citizens were also killed in this attack. Issuing a warning, the Taliban spokesperson said that Pakistan will be given a befitting reply for these attacks.

Siasat (March 30) states that Afghanistan's caretaker foreign minister Maulavi Amir Khan Muttaqi said that

Afghanistan supports peace and stability in the region. He held detailed talks with the foreign minister of United Arab Emirates Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on telephone regarding the Pakistani attacks. Muttaqi said that Pakistan's allegation that Afghanistan's territory is being used for terrorism against Pakistan is totally baseless. He alleged that such baseless allegations are

being made in order to cover up the illegal attacks being carried out by Pakistan on Afghanistan. The foreign minister of United Arab Emirates told correspondents that the flames of war that has erupted between Pakistan and Afghanistan are not in the interest of both countries. He advised that both the countries should find a solution to their disputes through talks.

Four Hamas terrorists sentenced in Germany



Chattan (March 27) reports that a court in Berlin has sentenced four terrorists belonging to Palestinian terrorist organisation Hamas to six years in jail on charges of buying weapons illegally and keeping them as a conspiracy to carry out attacks in future. According to the court, all these four terrorists are of Arabic origin. They have been given this punishment on charges of amassing weapons from several countries including Poland, Bulgaria and Denmark. It is worth mentioning that the European Union has declared Hamas as a terrorist organisation.

The government lawyer told the court that illegal weapons were seized in large quantity from these four terrorists. They purchased these weapons from Poland, Bulgaria and Denmark and collected them in Germany. Their intention was to target the Jews and Israel.

According to German police, they had devised a plan to attack the Israeli embassy located in Berlin. This apart, they wanted to attack a US military base located in Germany. Their plan was also to target three Jewish places of worship in Germany. According to the intelligence agency of Germany, these four accused were arrested in December 2023. Among them, two belong to Lebanon and one

an Egyptian citizen whereas the fourth is a resident of Netherlands, who originally belonged to Turkiye.

The government lawyer has sought life-term punishment for all of them and had argued that these terrorists were planning to commit mass murder of Jews. However, the court, while not accepting the request for life-term, awarded a jail term of six-years each. In its verdict, the judge said that from the evidence presented by the intelligence agencies, it has been proved that the four were linked to Hamas and they wanted to spread violence against US and Israeli citizens in Germany. The court also admitted that these terrorists had collected money to purchase weapons from a few Islamic terrorist organisations active in Germany.

Indiscriminate firing outside mosque in South Africa



managed to flee the crime scene on foot following the incident. The local police urged local residents that they should not hesitate to give any information to the police in this connection. Following the attack, the South African National Defence Force was deployed in the region. This force was constituted with the purpose of eliminating terrorism, which functions as a special unit of South

Urdu Times (March 17) states that eight unidentified attackers opened indiscriminate firing outside a mosque located in Johannesburg in South Africa. Two persons were killed and six others were seriously injured in this firing. According to the police spokesperson, this was a planned terrorist attack. However, the police have so far been unable to find out the attackers belonged to which terrorist organisation. The attackers

African police service.

It is to be noted that last year also, nine people were shot at outside a masjid in the same locality in which three persons died on the spot. A spokesperson of South African Home Ministry expressed concern that the incident could be a part of the increasing violent incidents between Muslims and Christians in African countries.

Punishment for spying on Azerbaijan and Pakistan missile projects



Chattan (March 18) states that a court in Azerbaijan sentenced a French citizen, Martin Ryan, for 10 years in jail on

charges of spying. Ryan has been accused of stealing secret information regarding the missile system installed by Pakistan



with Chinese help in Azerbaijan. The incident has increased the possibility of tension between France and Azerbaijan. It is to be noted that the relations between the two countries are already tense due to French support to the Christian government in Azerbaijan's rival nation, Armenia.

The government lawyer has told the court that this French citizen has collected secret information regarding Azerbaijan's military agreements with Turkiye, Iran and Pakistan. In this incident, a Muslim citizen of Azerbaijan, Azad Mamedli, was also found guilty, who was sentenced to 12 years in jail on treason charges. It is alleged that Ryan had given a huge amount to Mamedli to keep an eye on the activities of Pakistani military officials active in Azerbaijan and handed him over the responsibility to collect secret details of the missile factory being built with Chinese help.

It is to be noted that during India's 'Operation Sindoor,' Azerbaijan had openly supported Pakistan and provided it with drones in huge numbers which were used against India.

On the other hand, the French government has made it clear that Martin Ryan has nothing to do with French intelligence department and he is a

British citizen. France accused Azerbaijan that it is propagating Islamic fundamentalism among the Muslims residing in France and also providing them weapons. In this connection, a heated exchange took place between French President Emmanuel Macron and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev over phone during which Macron had threaten to cut off diplomatic relationship with Azerbaijan.

As per another news, Russia declared a diplomat posted at the British embassy in Moscow as 'persona non-grata' and directed him to leave the country within two weeks. According to Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), Second Secretary at British embassy Albertus Gerhardus Janse van Rensburg had given wrong information regarding his identity. It was found during investigation that he was keeping an eye on the activities of Turkiye in Russia and providing the information regarding the same to the British government. Russia's claim is that the Turkish government had given them information regarding this spying episode. Russian spokesperson alleged that Britain has been deliberately appointing spies as diplomats. Russia had flagged its protest regarding the same three times in the past. ■

US prepares for major attack on Iran



On the one hand, the US claims to be initiating talks with Iran through Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. On the other hand, President Donald Trump has started preparations for a large-scale ground attack on Iran.

Siasat (March 28) states that in view of the possible attack by the US, Iran has completed all preparations to send more than 10 lakh of its citizens to safe locations. In addition, Iran has also made tight arrangements for the security of its nuclear bases.

Urdu Times (April 3) reports that US President Trump has threatened that “we will start intense attacks on Iran in the next two-three weeks”. He admitted that due to the non-cooperative attitude of NATO countries, the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz could not be removed. Due to this, there has been a massive increase in oil prices worldwide, causing the economy of many countries to collapse.

Etemaad (April 4) states that the US Army Chief General Randy George was removed from his post. Apart from him, two other generals have also been dismissed from their posts. Promotions for about 30 senior military commanders have been put on hold indefinitely. These include commanders from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as the Marines.

In addition to General George, the high-ranking military officers who have

been dismissed include Major General William Green and General David Hodne. President Trump has also removed the homeland security secretary from his post.

According to the US media, there is also talk of the dismissal of several senior officials from the US’s two intelligence organisations, the CIA and the FBI. He has announced that further action may be taken against more US military officers. The US President took this decision to make the US military more effective and aggressive.

Prior to this, the US President had claimed that the US Air Force had destroyed Iran’s entire air defence system.

However, despite this, Iran has claimed to have shot down two advanced US aircraft. According to US claims, in recent attacks, several Iranian steel plants, military bases, and an important bridge located near Tehran have been destroyed. On the other hand, Iran has threatened to destroy eight important bridges in neighbouring countries as a retaliatory measure.

According to the Iranian ministry of health, 2,076 Iranian citizens have been killed and nearly 30,000 people have been injured in these attacks so far.

Iran’s Pasdaran-e-Inquilab (IRGC) has claimed, “We are fully prepared to deal with any US attack. We have destroyed all US strategic radar systems and warships located in this region. Additionally, 50



locations in Israel have been targeted with missiles.” On the other hand, US President Trump has threatened to destroy Iran’s civilian infrastructure, bridges and power plants.

Aurangabad Times (April 4) states that the Iranian government has announced that whoever captures the pilots of the destroyed US aircraft and hands them over to the Iranian administration would be given a reward of \$60,000. The US has claimed that it has rescued one of the two pilots and the search for the second one is ongoing. A spokesperson for Iran’s Khatam al-Anbiya military headquarters stated that the IRGC’s advanced defence system played a special role in shooting down both US aircraft.

Aurangabad Times (March 29) reports that following the failure in achieving targets in the war against Iran, differences have emerged between the US and Israel. Both countries are blaming each other for this. It is said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that the assassination of top Iranian leaders, including Ayatollah Khamenei, would lead to a rebellion in Iran. This claim was also confirmed by the US intelligence department.

Etemaad (March 30) reports that the US has despatched 3,500 of its soldiers to Iran for ground action. In addition to this, three new warships have been sent near the maritime area of Iran.

Various reports have discussed regional tensions and the strategic

movements of military assets. International observers continue to monitor the diplomatic relations and the potential for shifts in regional stability. Updates on these situations are often subject to verification by official government sources and international monitoring organisations.

Urdu Times (March 26) reports that the US Navy has suffered a major blow in the recent war against Iran. Out of its 11 aircraft carriers, only five are functioning properly, while the rest have been damaged in Iranian missile attacks.

Aurangabad Times (March 21) reports that 2,200 US soldiers have been sent to capture Iran’s Kharg Island on the instructions of the US President. The aircraft carriers that have departed for Iran include the USS Tripoli, USS San Diego and USS New Orleans. These three ships are part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. So far, these ships were in the Indian Ocean, and they have now been dispatched towards Iran.

Urdu Times (March 29) states that Iran has attacked Prince Sultan Air Base, the most prominent US military base in Saudi Arabia, using missiles and drones. In this attack, at least 13 US soldiers have been killed, while more than 300 have been injured. Iranian sources state that the AWACS centre was destroyed in this attack, and 22 US aircraft that were refuelling also suffered heavy damage.

Hamara Samaj (March 23) states that Saudi Arabia has announced the severing of diplomatic relations with Iran and ordered the Iranian officials based in Riyadh to leave. All embassy staff have been ordered to leave the country within 24 hours. According to the Saudi Arabian ministry of foreign affairs, this decision was taken due to ongoing attacks by Iran on Saudi Arabia.

Siasat (March 30) reports that a dozen Islamic countries have appealed to Iran to immediately stop the series of

attacks on neighbouring Arab countries. Additionally, Iran should immediately stop the supply of financial, military aid and weapons to its active militia organisations in various Arab countries. These countries have warned Iran to direct Hezbollah in Lebanon to stop its military activities immediately.

Etemaad (March 25) reports that the Iranian government has appointed Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr as the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. He has been brought in to replace Ali Larijani. Ali Larijani died in a recent Israeli attack. On the other hand,



Lebanon has also expelled the Iranian ambassador in Beirut from its country and announced the closure of the Iranian embassy.

Death penalty for Palestinian prisoners in Israel



Siasat (April 1) reports that the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) has passed a controversial law to award death penalty to Palestinian prisoners. Sixty-two votes were cast in favour of this law, while 48 votes were cast against it. One member of Parliament remained absent during the voting. Israel's internal security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, introduced this bill in the House.

This law includes a provision that individuals found guilty of attacks on Israeli citizens and security forces will be given the death penalty. The Parliament's

National Security Committee had already approved this draft. All objections filed against this law were rejected. Opposition parties in Israel have termed this new law undemocratic.

According to the new rules, different arrangements will be implemented for the West Bank and internal areas of Israel. However, under special circumstances, military courts have also been given the power to award life imprisonment. The strictest condition of this law

is that no appeal can be made in any higher court against the decisions of the lower courts, and the convicts will be hanged within 90 days of the sentence being pronounced.

Urdu Times (April 1) states that this law will primarily apply only to prisoners of Palestinian origin, while Jews have been kept out of it. Under this law, there is a provision to give the death penalty to Palestinians who kill Israeli citizens. According to the law, the death penalty will be mandatory for Palestinians of the West

Bank, while Israeli courts have been given the right not to apply it to Jewish citizens. This law will not apply to prisoners currently in jails on charges of killing Israeli soldiers and citizens.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not expressed any reaction to the passing of this law, while Israeli MP Limor Son Har-Melech has expressed happiness over its passage. It is noteworthy that in 2003, Palestinians killed Limor's husband. This law will be implemented across the country within 30 days.

As soon as this bill was passed, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel decided to challenge it in the Supreme Court. There is no provision for pardon for the convicts in this law, which is being considered against international human rights rules.

Etemaad (April 4) reports that Abdul Malik al-Houthi, the leader of Yemen's Ansarullah (Houthi group), criticised the law, saying: "This law is horrific, but it will not affect the spirit of our jihad. We will continue our campaign against Jews and Americans."

Urdu Times (March 26) reports that Hamas strongly condemned this law, calling it a 'terrorist move'. Hamas



claimed: "After the passage of this law, Israel has got a legal licence to put to death our heroes imprisoned in Israeli jails. Those who occupy our Palestinian land will have to suffer the consequences of this law."

Hamas has demanded that the United Nations and other international organisations pressure Israel to repeal this law.

Siasat (March 31) reports that four major European countries — France, Germany, Italy, and Britain — expressed deep concern over this Israeli law. The German foreign ministry said this law is discriminatory. Amnesty International said that under the guise of this law, Israel wants to crush the rights of Palestinians through the fear of the death penalty. The Council of Europe has demanded that Israel immediately repeal this 'black law'.

Al-Aqsa Mosque shut for over 35 days

Inqilab (April 4) reports that for the first time in Islamic history, prayers could not be offered in the third holiest site for Muslims, Masjid Al-Aqsa, for the last 35 days. The Israeli army has established a heavy blockade around the mosque and is not allowing any worshippers to enter.

Israeli forces have also arrested the mosque's preacher, Sheikh Ali Zawahari. According to Arab media, over 500 worshippers who tried to enter were detained and sent to unknown locations.

Due to the closure, hundreds of people offered Eid and Friday prayers on the streets surrounding Al-Aqsa. The Israeli army has also banned the call to prayer (Adhan) within the mosque.

Etemaad (April 4) reports that restrictions on Masjid Al-Aqsa have increased significantly in the first three months of this year. During this period, 9,373 Palestinians tried to enter the mosque, while 16,500 people tried to enter as tourists. These attempts were foiled by



Israeli soldiers who detained them all. This is the reason why permission for sacrifice during Eid was also not granted this year. Israel has kept the site closed since February 28, 2026.

The mosque has been kept completely closed. The report also alleged that during this period, the Israeli army arrested 419 women and children and demolished their houses with bulldozers. Around 106 people were injured in clashes between the Israeli army and Palestinians. These clashes mainly took place in the areas of Kalandia camp and its surroundings. Palestinians attacked the Israeli army 153 times, and to disperse them, the army fired bullets and lobbed tear gas shells.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 1) reports that eight major Islamic countries of the world — Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, and Qatar — have

issued a joint statement strongly condemning the closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israel. These countries have said that “the Israeli army is not even allowing Christians to go to the Holy Church, which is an open violation of human rights.”

Keeping the doors of Al-Aqsa Mosque closed during the holy month of Ramadan is like hurting the religious sentiments of crores (hundreds of millions) of Muslims around the world. This is a violation of international rules. The Islamic world will not accept any Israeli attempt to change the historical and legal status of Bayt al-Maqdis and the holy places located there. Jordan’s Waqf department is the legal custodian of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Israel has no right to interfere in its jurisdiction. These eight Islamic countries have demanded the United Nations to intervene in this matter so that Muslims can again offer prayers in Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Major Houthi attack on Israel

Hindustan (March 29) reports that the Israeli Army (IDF) has confirmed that Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen attacked Israel with missiles. An Israeli military spokesperson stated that air defense

systems have been fully activated to stop such attacks. Notably, this attack primarily targeted southern Israel. No detailed information regarding the damage caused by this attack has been shared officially yet.

According to Arab media, six other people, including two Lebanese journalists, were killed in an Israeli attack on southern Lebanon.

Avadhnama (March 29) reports that a Houthi spokesperson warned that if US and Israeli attacks on Iran continue, they will target their military bases located in this region. Experts believe that if



Houthi rebels fully join this war, the scope of the conflict will increase because they can easily attack both Saudi Arabia and Israel from Yemen. On the other hand, Iran has also threatened to tighten restrictions on the movement of ships in the Red Sea.

Additionally, the Iraq-based Iran-backed Islamic Resistance has also announced that it will target US locations in Iraq and Syria. Following this announcement, four missile attacks were carried out on US military bases in Baghdad. the US Central Command requested the Iraqi government to take strict action against these groups and has warned that the Iraqi government would be held responsible if US bases are harmed.

In response to these attacks, the US Air Force carried out airstrikes on Islamic Resistance locations, training camps and ammunition depots in Iraq and Syria. Central Command claims that these retaliatory strikes caused significant damage to at least 10 locations of this group.

According to another news report, Houthi rebels have announced that they have intensified ballistic missile attacks in response to Israeli and US attacks on Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian territories.

Houthi military spokesperson Brigadier General Yahya Saree told Al Jazeera that these attacks will continue until their designated goals are met and

Israeli and US aggression on all fronts is ended. He claimed that they possess ballistic missiles with a range of up to 3,000 kilometres, and even the US military base in Diego Garcia will not be safe from their attacks.

It is noteworthy that the Houthi rebels have occupied the northern regions of Yemen and the capital, Sana'a, since 2014. While they were previously indirectly involved in the Israel-Iran war, they are now attacking directly through limited strikes. However, these recent attacks have increased the risk of a new front opening in the Red Sea.

It is significant that approximately USD \$1 trillion worth of trade occurs annually via the Red Sea route. Due to Houthi attacks, the movement of ships on this route has already been affected, and cargo ships are having to take a long detour around Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

Qaumi Tanzeem (March 26) states that Iraq's defence ministry confirmed that seven US soldiers were killed and 13 injured in an attack on the Al-Asad airbase located in Anbar province. According to the defence ministry, this attack is a violation of international rules because it targeted US personnel involved in relief work, doctors and medical staff. Before this, 15 soldiers were killed in an attack on another military base. It is said that this attack was carried out by the Iran-backed militia group, Al-Hashd al-Shaabi.

US Ambassador's visit to Sri Lanka



Urdu Times (March 24) states that the newly appointed US ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, will make a sudden visit to Sri Lanka. Following this, he will also visit the Maldives. The ambassador's visit to these two countries is taking place at a time when tensions with Iran are rising, causing an increase in threats to US interests in this region. The US effort is to counter the growing influence of Iran in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

A solid strategy for the future should be prepared to tackle the situation. His visit is being considered a very important diplomatic signal. Before leaving for Sri Lanka, the US ambassador also held a lengthy discussion with India's national security adviser, Ajit Doval.

Notably, in early March 2026, the Iranian warship, IRIS Dena, returning from the Milan-2026 naval exercise held in India, was targeted by an US submarine in the Indian Ocean. More than 87 Iranian sailors were killed in this attack, while many others went missing. Upon receiving an emergency call, the Sri Lankan Navy and Air Force immediately launched a rescue operation and saved more than 30 injured Iranian sailors from drowning.

According to reports, the US pressured Sri Lanka not to hand over the surviving soldiers and the bodies of the

deceased sailors to Iran. However, the Sri Lankan government rejected this request from the US, citing its sovereignty and international humanitarian laws.


Urdu Times (March 23) reports that Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake informed Parliament that the Sri Lankan government had rejected a request from two US fighter jets seeking permission to land at Mattala International Airport. Prior to this, a request was made from a US military base located in Djibouti to land the planes at Sri Lankan airports, which the government turned down. The Sri Lankan President clarified that Sri Lanka is completely neutral in the current West Asia war and will not bow down to any international pressure.

The very next day after this announcement, US Ambassador Gore met the Sri Lankan President. It is reported that security of sea routes, protection of ports, and other strategic issues of common interest were discussed in detail during this meeting.

According to the newspaper, the Government of India is keeping a close watch on the activities of US Ambassador Sergio Gor. The US ambassador also visited Bhutan last week. During his visit to Sri Lanka, he inspected the Colombo port, naval base, and key military airfields.

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- Madrasas attack Madrasas in Bihar
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