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Supreme Court's Mediation Proposal Regarding Disputed Places of Worship Rejected



- Death sentence of 38 convicts in Ahmedabad bomb blast upheld
- 30 Afghan women arrested for not wearing burqa

- Houthis carry out major attack on Saudi Arabia
- Palestinian Grand Mufti barred from entering Al-Aqsa

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Summary

The Supreme Court's effort to resolve the issue of the three disputed religious sites--the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir-Gyanvapi in Varanasi, the Srikrishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah in Mathura and the Sri Harihar Mandir-Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal--through a 'Samadhan Samaroh' of the Lok Adalat, has failed. Both the sides, while rejecting this mediation proposal, requested the court to resolve these disputes solely through legal channels. The argument of Muslim side is that after the implementation of the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991, no side has the legal right to change the status of these religious places or create a fresh dispute regarding the same. On this basis, the Muslim side demands that the cases pending in different courts in the country shall be immediately rejected. On the other hand, the Hindu side argues that they possess archaeological and historical evidence to prove that these three religious places were demolished on the basis of the *firman*s issued by invaders and mosques were built over them.

Last year, the Union government had made a provision to appoint at least two non-Muslim members in State Waqf Boards under the Waqf (Amendment) Act, which the Madhya Pradesh government has implemented now. A few Muslim organisations are strongly opposing this decision of the state government. Earlier these organisations had registered their objections with the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) as well, but despite that, the Parliament has passed the Waqf Act.

The US and Iran have stepped up attacks against each other following the collapse of ceasefire agreement in West Asia. US President Donald Trump announced the end of the ceasefire exactly the same time the events related to the funeral of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei were taking place in Iran. Later, the US Air Force carried out air strikes in different parts of Iran including Mashhad, in which several people were killed. The main reason for this fierce conflict is the control over Strait of Hormuz, where Iran's Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC) have imposed strict surveillance and restrictions on the movement of merchant ships. The US is opposed to this. The US fighter planes and drones carried out massive airstrikes on Iran's air defence system, coastal radar stations, missile bases and warships. In retaliation, Iran carried out attacks on US military bases, air defence systems and missile bases located in Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain.

In Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), the people are on the streets protesting against rising inflation, hike in electricity rates and a controversial electoral system, due to which the situation is turning volatile day-by-day. After the local police refused to open fire on own citizens, the Pakistan government handed over the responsibility to curb the public agitation to the Army. Several protesters were killed in the crackdown and firing by the army. However, there is divergent claims over the number of those killed. Due to this crackdown by the army, the anger and public sentiments among the local people against the Pakistan army and the government is increasingly becoming volatile.

National

Supreme Court's mediation proposal on disputed places of worship rejected



Inquilab (July 14) reports that the Supreme Court, while taking a major step, has referred the disputes of Kashi Vishwanath Mandir-Gyanvapi in Varanasi, the Srikrishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah in Mathura and the Sri Harihar Mandir-Shahi Jama Masjid dispute in Sambhal to a special Lok Adalat for resolution through mutual consultation. However, both the Hindu and Muslim sides have flatly refused to resolve their disputes through these Lok Adalats. The two sides said they want the final legal verdict by fighting the case in court itself.

It is to be noted that a number of petitions related to these three disputed religious places are pending in the Supreme Court. The Muslim side claimed that the Hindus do not have the right to raise these disputes before a court of law as per the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991 passed by the Parliament. On this, the Supreme Court wrote a letter to both sides and told them that they can resolve these disputes at the 'Samadhan Samaroh 2026' being organised by the Supreme Court through mutual talks and mediation. In the letter, the court also stressed that in

order to alleviate the burden of the lakhs of cases pending in various courts, this dispute should be resolved through the Lok Adalat.

It is to be noted that the Harihar Mandir-Shahi Jama Masjid issue is pending in the Supreme Court. In this matter, the masjid committee has questioned the verdict of the Allahabad High Court in which it had upheld the order of the Civil Judge (Senior Division) Chandausi to conduct a survey of the masjid. The high court, while rejecting the petition of the masjid committee, upheld the survey of the civil court.

It is to be noted that the petitioners of Hindu side filed a case in a civil court and claimed that the masjid was constructed there after demolishing the ancient Harihar Mandir located there in year 1526. The civil court appointed an advocate commissioner to conduct an inquiry into this matter, whose survey was opposed by the masjid managing committee and the local Muslim community. Violence erupted over this and the police had to use force to control the situation. Five persons were killed during



this clash. Later the Supreme Court issued an interim stay on the hearing of the case in the civil court and directed that status quo shall be maintained at the disputed site. A similar dispute is going on at the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir-Gyanvapi Masjid and the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Masjid in Mathura.

As per another news, the Supreme Court has agreed for an urgent hearing on the appeals filed against the verdict of the Madhya Pradesh high court in which the high court has accepted the contention that Bhojshala premises located at Dhar was originally the temple of Maa Saraswati (Vagdevi). The Kamal Maula Masjid managing committee has sought the Supreme Court to stay the verdict of the high court and demanded that permission shall be given to offer namaz on Friday (Juma) within the premises like in the past. The Supreme Court has refused to stay the verdict of the high court and restore namaz on the premises. However, the court directed the Madhya Pradesh government and the Dhar district administration to provide any suitable vacant space or alternative land temporarily in the vicinity.

Inquilab (July 6) reports that the effort of the Supreme Court to resolve the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Masjid dispute in Mathura has failed. The managing committee of the Shahi Idgah Masjid has refused to take part in the Lok Adalat programme being organised in Mathura on the directions of the Supreme Court. This Lok Adalat has been constituted under the chairmanship of Senior District and Sessions Judge

Surendra Prasad. In this programme of Lok Adalat, the representative of Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi and his lawyer were present, but no representative from the Muslim side or their lawyer were present. Lawyer for Hindu side, Mahendra Pratap Singh, said the petitioners of Hindu side had also agreed that if the Muslim side removes their building on

their own, then the Hindu side is ready to arrange an alternative land in any other place for them.

Hamara Samaj (July 15) in its editorial said the Muslim side is right in believing that there will be no benefit in resolving this dispute through mutual negotiations in the Lok Adalat. The newspaper said that the Parliament had passed a law in 1991 and made this clear provision that except the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue, the status of no other place of worship will be changed as of August 15, 1947 and neither a new dispute will be raised. If any person raises such a dispute, then there is a provision for a jail term and a fine for them. Despite such a clear law, why the Supreme Court is stressing on handing over the dispute to the Lok Adalat instead of strictly implementing it? The editorial expressed concern that such a judicial approach may erode the confidence of the Muslim community in the country's judicial system. The newspaper has written that a legal battle is going on in courts regarding the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir-Gyanvapi Masjid in Varanasi, Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah in Mathura and the Harihar Mandir-Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal. In the Gyanvapi issue, the Hindu side's claim is that in the 17th century, Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb destroyed the ancient temple located here and constructed a mosque in its place. On the other hand, the Muslim side says that the old status of this masjid shall be maintained and reject the claim of the Hindu side on the basis of

the 'Places of Worship Act (Special Provision), 1991. Similarly, on the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Masjid dispute in Mathura as well, the Hindu side claim that Aurangzeb had demolished the ancient mandir built on Bhagwan Sri Krishna Janmasthan, and Shahi Idgah Masjid was constructed in its place. Hence this structure shall be removed and hand over the entire land to Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust.



Similarly, the argument of Muslim side is that an agreement was reached between the two sides in 1968, where the Hindu side had accepted the existence of the Shahi Masjid. In the Sri Harihar Mandir-Shahi Jama Masjid dispute in Sambhal also the claim of the Hindu side is that during the period of Mughal Emperor Babar the ancient Harimandir was destroyed and a masjid was constructed in its place.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 14) in its editorial said that when the Supreme Court stressed on mediation to resolve this dispute, both the sides opposed the same. It is so because every side believes that their claim is strong as per the law and evidence and this dispute could be resolved through a court verdict. The newspaper said that the Indian Constitution gives the right for religious freedom to minorities and in this context, the Parliament passed a law in 1991. However, there has been a divergence in the views of various courts

its interpretation and implementation. In the year 2014, after the BJP came to power at the Centre, there has been huge increase in such disputes due to which the social harmony is in danger.

Aurangabad Times (July 14) in its editorial has welcomed the decision of the Muslim side not to take part in the efforts of the Supreme Court for mediation. The newspaper said that the claims regarding mandirs being located in place of masjids are currently pending in different courts, which should be rejected immediately because as per Places of Worship (Special Provision) 1991, the religious nature of the places of worship as on August 15, 1947 cannot be changed.

Urdu Times (July 15) said that even if the issue regarding these three historical masjids are resolved through mutual understanding, what is the guarantee that there will not be any new claim regarding any other masjid or dargah in the future? The newspaper said that the Supreme Court should take credible step to strongly implement the law passed by the Parliament.

Uproar over the nomination of Hindu members in Madhya Pradesh Waqf Board

Aurangabad Times (July 7) states that in the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 passed by the Parliament, there is a provision to nominate at least two non-Muslim members in the state waqf boards. Under this law, the Madhya Pradesh Waqf Board

has been reconstituted and 10 members were appointed in them, in which for the first time two Hindu members—Animesh Bhargav and Manoj Malpani—were included. Earlier, only Muslim members used to be nominated to state waqf boards.



The All India Muslim Personal Law Board opposed this decision of the state government. Their argument is that the Waqf board is a religious and social organisation of Muslims, hence any non-Muslim should not be made part of its management. A member of Muslim Personal Law Board said that the Muslim community never demanded that Muslims should be given representation in the management committees of Ayodhya, Mathura or Somnath mandirs, and hence there should not be any tampering with the religious nature of the Waqf Board.

Inquilab (July 7) states that Muslims gathered in huge numbers outside the Taj-ul-Masjid in Bhopal and staged a protest against the nomination of Hindu members in the Madhya Pradesh Waqf Board and demanded the state government to withdraw this decision.

Hindustan Express (July 11) urged the Muslims in the country to remain alert against the communal policies and intentions of the Central government. The newspaper said that the Muslim community should get united and put pressure on the government and raise voices against the decisions taken against Muslim interests. The newspaper expressed concern that the Central government has totally ignored the protests by prominent Muslim organisations like Jamiat Ulema, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Jamaat-e-Islami, Muslim Personal Law Board. It is clear from this stand of the government that it is not ready to listen to the justifiable

demands of Muslims and to protect their interests.

Aurangabad Times (July 8) criticised the decision of the Madhya Pradesh government to appoint Hindu members in Waqf Board. The newspaper said that the Muslim Personal Law Board and other Muslim organisations have questioned the Waqf (Amendment) Act passed by the Central government in the Supreme Court. When this matter is pending in the court, why the Madhya Pradesh government displayed such a hurry in

the reconstitution of the Waqf board? The newspaper asked is the government ready to include Muslims in the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerta Kshetra Nyas in Ayodhya? The newspaper alleged that the BJP government is violating the fundamental rights given to the Muslims by the Constitution.

Urdu Times (July 12) in its editorial said that after the nomination of Hindu members in the Madhya Pradesh Waqf board, this system has now started in other BJP-ruled states as well. Minister for Minority and Waqf department in Uttar Pradesh Danish Azad Ansari demanded that the Uttar Pradesh Waqf board should also be reconstituted and two non-Muslim members shall be included in it. It is clear from this statement by him that the government wants to slowly deprive Muslims of the management of the Waqf.

The newspaper claimed that this issue is not about the nomination of just two non-Muslim members in the Waqf board, instead it is a direct attack on Islamic civilisation and the Shariah system. In Islam, the concept of Waqf is that a Muslim dedicates their property in the path of Allah—permanently—to fulfill the objectives of the faith and social welfare.

Such property can neither be sold, nor can the heir of the person who created the Waqf lay any claim to it, nor can its religious status be altered. In the Indian subcontinent, thousands of masjids, madras, welfare institutions such as

khanqahs, orphanages, graveyards and Eidgahs are run on the income generated from these Waqf properties; therefore, for Muslims, the issue of Waqf is not merely administrative but is rooted in religion and Shariah.

The newspaper said that the manner in which the government is interfering in the matter of Waqf has created different types of danger. If the government really wants to protect the Waqf properties, then it has to first take action against those people who have illegally occupied Waqf properties for several decades. There is a need to digitise Waqf property, end corruption and in this context, there is a



need for the immediate disposal of cases pending in the courts. If the Muslim community wants their Waqf institutions to remain autonomous, then they have to keep this system free of corruption.

Death sentence to 38 accused in Ahmedabad bomb blast upheld



Inquilab (July 8) reports that the Gujarat High Court, while delivering its historic verdict in the Ahmedabad serial bomb blasts that took place in 2008, upheld the death sentence awarded to the 38 accused and the life-term given to 11 others. This is the first time in the judicial history of the country that the high court has confirmed the death sentence awarded to such a large number of people. It is noteworthy that a

special court in 2022 awarded death sentence to 38 accused and life-term to 11 others, which they questioned in the Gujarat High Court. A division bench of Gujarat High Court, comprising Justice A Y Kogje and Justice Samir Dave, rejected all the petitions filed against the verdict of the lower court. This apart, the court also directed the state government to provide a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the

next of the kin of those who lost their lives and Rs 1 lakh each to the over 200 injured in these blasts. The court said the money for the compensation shall be paid before March 30, 2027.

As per the chargesheet filed by the police in the court, this entire conspiracy had been hatched to take revenge for the riots that took place after the Godhra episode in year 2002. Mufti Abu Bashir had formed a sleeper cell of terrorists and gave them training to make bombs and handle them in the jungles in Vagamon in Kerala. Later these terrorists arrived in Ahmedabad from Kerala via train, while the explosives were brought from Mumbai to Ahmedabad via car, from where these were sent to Surat. In order to execute the blast, 13 cycles were brought, on which timer bombs were fitted. In order to implement the entire conspiracy, local sleeper cells were used. The result is that on July 26, 2008, a total of 21 serial blasts took place in 14 different places within a span of 70 minutes in which 56 people were killed and more than 200 people were seriously injured.

The case started in 2009 and the court hearings continued even during the lockdown in the Corona period. In this long trial that continued for 13 years, hearings against 80 accused were held. The trial was concluded in the court of special court judge A R Patel in which the statements of more than 1,100 witnesses were recorded and documentary evidence running into more than 6,000 were produced. A chargesheet running into 3,47,800 pages was filed in this case. Soon after the blasts, the police filed separate FIRs regarding all the blasts spots and over the bombs seized from Surat, which were later brought together and converted to 30 cases. In this case, a total of 82 accused were arrested, while three accused fled to Pakistan and one accused died in police encounter. During the investigation, the police established that the hands of banned terrorist organisations Indian Mujahideen



and Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) were behind these blasts.

The chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, Maulana Arshad Madani, has announced that they will question this verdict in the Supreme Court. He described this verdict as unexpected and disappointing. Out of the total 49 accused in the serial bomb blasts, 39 were given free legal aid by the legal aid committee of Jamiat Ulema Maharashtra. All these accused are in jail since 2008.

Inquilab (July 9) in its editorial wrote that the accused should now be hopeful of getting justice from the Supreme Court, because in the past also the Supreme Court had overturned several such verdicts of the high court in which people were given death sentence in terror charges. The interesting thing is that in the several incidents in the past, the Supreme Court has also severely reprimanded the investigative agencies for a biased and flawed investigation. There is no doubt that there are some such anomalies in our judicial system due to which innocent people remain in jail for 15-20 years and later they are acquitted after finding them innocent.

Hindustan Express (July 8) in its editorial expressed surprise over this verdict of the court. The newspaper said the verdict raises questions over the objectivity of the court. This case had continued for nearly 13 years and during these lengthy hearings, the court did not grant bail to even one accused. The newspaper said that seeing the current atmosphere in the country there is doubt in the minds of common people over the fairness of judiciary.

Madrasa reforms committee hands over report to government in Uttar Pradesh



Inquilab (July 6) states that preparations for comprehensive reforms in the educational system, administrative structure and the appointment of teachers in madrasas have been intensified in Uttar Pradesh. Informed sources say that in future, only those teachers will be appointed to teach modern subjects in these madrasas who hold B Ed degrees or have the prescribed educational qualifications. Various departments concerned of the state are holding detailed discussions on the draft of this report prepared by the Madrasa Reforms Committee. After completion of this review process, a detailed and comprehensive report will be submitted to the State Cabinet for further legal and administrative action.

It is noteworthy that major amendments have been recommended in the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004, and the Uttar Pradesh Non-Government Arabic and Persian Madrasa Recognition, Administration and Service Rules, 2016.

Necessary changes are being made in the law to provide service security to the

teachers of these madrasas on the lines of other government teachers.

According to informed sources, now if any teacher or employee is to be dismissed from the job, it is mandatory to obtain prior permission for the same from the Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Education Board. Later, the affected teacher could question the same in the court as well. A three-member committee would be formed to inquire into the allegations raised against the teachers. Apart from this, 50 percent of the posts of assistant teachers will be filled through promotion, while the remaining 50 percent posts will be filled through direct recruitment.

Official sources claim that the main aim of the reforms being brought in the madrasa system is to raise the education level and to protect the service of the teachers. General secretary of Teachers Association Madaris-e-Arabia Diwan Sahed Zaman Khan says that for the traditional syllabus of madrasas—Arabic, Persian and religious education---only qualified people educated from madrasas should be appointed. He stressed that the



government should not make any undue interference in the internal and religious affairs of madrasas.

Inquilab (July 3) states that the Allahabad High Court has rejected the petition filed against the inquiry being conducted by the ATS against the more than 4,000 non-recognised madrasas in Uttar Pradesh. A division bench comprising Justice Neeraj Tiwari and Justice Vivek Saran in its verdict made it clear that Initiating an investigation is not in itself a punitive action.

The purpose of the investigation is just to unravel the truth. The court also admitted that the state government is conducting this investigation on the basis of information obtained from different sources, hence there is no legal basis to stay the investigations at the preliminary level itself.

Etemaad (July 13) states that the West Bengal government has constituted an 18-member committee to review the functioning of unrecognised madrasas running in 12 districts in the state. This committee will visit different districts and study the system and the basic infrastructure in these madrasas. In the 12 districts where the investigation will take place include Cooch Behar, North Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Birbhum, West Medinipur, East Medinipur, Nadia, Hoogly, Howrah, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. Earlier, the state government had directed all the district magistrates that they send a detailed report regarding the financial resources, teachers

and managers of these madrasas functioning from their respective districts. The state government had also decided to shut down those madrasas which were illegally running in the state without any recognition.

Etemaad (July 16) states that the Uttarakhand government has decided to stop the government grants being given to 456 madrasas in the state from next year.

The state government has given its due recognition for the same. Under this new administrative structure, only those recognised minority educational institutions will be given grant, which have got recognition from the Uttarakhand State Minorities Education Authority.

Avadhnama (July 10) in its editorial criticised the decision of the Bihar government to launch an investigation into madrasas. Muslim organisations allege that efforts are being made to forcefully shut down madrasas in the name of the investigations. On the other hand, the chairman of Bihar Madrasa Education Board, Salim Parvez, claims that due to complaints received against several madrasas in the state over financial irregularities and appointment of fake teachers, it became necessary to conduct an investigation into all madrasas. The newspaper wrote that ever since the BJP came to power in Bihar, it has stepped up its effort to shut down the madrasas in one pretext or the other.

Mumbai Urdu News (July 15) in its editorial alleged that in the states where the BJP had come to power, it has started a campaign to erase the identity of Islam and Muslims. Various BJP-ruled state governments have stepped up bulldozer actions against masjids, madrasas and dargahs and madrasas are being forcibly shut down. The newspaper has also written that singing of Vande Mataram is being made mandatory, which is against the basic principles of Islam. In madrasas, the poor

children are not only given religious education, they are also given accommodation and food apart from free education. The newspaper alleged that the BJP wants to keep the new generation of Muslims away from Islam and education.

Qaumi Tanzeem (July 14) in its editorial alleged that as soon as coming to power in West Bengal, the BJP has started the work to create an atmosphere of hatred

against Muslims. The government has targeted the madrasas and started making preparations to shut them down. It is to fulfill this aim that the drama of survey of madrasas has been started in 12 districts in the state. It is clear from this that the new BJP government wants to keep the new generation of Muslims away from Islam, community and the Arabic-Persian education.

Singing of Vande Mataram mandatory in educational institutions in Tripura



Urdu Times (July 8) states that the Tripura government has made singing of national song 'Vande Mataram' and national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' mandatory in all educational institutions in the state. Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha said this decision has been taken to foster patriotism, national unity, integrity and a sense of respect for national symbols among the students. This decision has also been taken so that the cultural heritage could also be protected. This decision of the state government will equally be implemented in all government, aided schools, private schools and madrasas. As per the new law, the classes will begin with the complete rendition of Vande Mataram and thereafter national

anthem Jana Gana Mana in every school and madrasa.

The central government has issued fresh directives-guidelines to all state governments and Union Territories regarding the singing of national song 'Vande Mataram' and national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana.' The government has made it clear that in all government functions, the complete 'Vande Mataram' will be sung first, followed by 'Jana Gana Mana'.

In this connection, stress has been laid on strictly implementing the same while issuing the directions on July 9. The government has also made it clear that in states where there is a state song, there also

this law shall be strictly implemented. This is the second time in the past five months that the Central government has issued the same directions to the state governments. It has been said in these directions that during the singing of Vande Mataram, all those present there should stand in attention in honour of the song. However, if it is part of any film in cinema theatres, its mass singing or standing up is not mandatory.

Aurangabad Times (July 18) states that Union Home Minister Amit Shah indicated that the government will be tabling a bill in the Parliament to protect national pride. Under this law, anyone who disrespects Vande Mataram, deliberately refuses to sing it, or boycotts it will be punished with three years of imprisonment or a fine of Rs 1 lakh, or both. If this bill is passed in the Parliament, then India's national song 'Vande Mataram' will get the same legal status and protection as national anthem, national flag and other national symbols.

Akbar-e-Mashriq (July 13) states that West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari told journalists that the government is not in favour of any encroachment on the religious rights of any section of the society in the state, but there cannot be any compromise regarding the singing of Vande Mataram. He warned that strict action will be taken against those who do not join in the singing of Vande



Mataram and who stand silently. The chief minister accused other opposition parties including the Congress that they are spreading this misinformation in order to incite Muslims against the BJP that a ban would be imposed on offering namaz in the state. He said, "we are totally against interference in the religious affairs of any community. This is the reason why Bakrid and Muharram passed off peacefully this time in the state."

Some administrative steps have been taken to regulate entry to a mosque located within the Kolkata airport premises. He claimed that the statement given by former minister Siddiquallah Chaudhary in this connection is highly unfortunate. He stressed that the Kolkata airport is a sensitive and an International Airport, and is located near the Bangladesh border. Hence it is very much necessary to tighten its security and the government will not compromise on its security. All necessary steps will be taken to maintain the security and law and order of the state.

Urdu Media's reaction to Prime Minister Modi's foreign tour



Inquilab (July 8) reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stated that India and Indonesia had signed agreements for mutual cooperation in 16 key sectors—including defence, minerals, maritime security, technology, agriculture, and industrial development—thereby taking their comprehensive strategic partnership to new heights.

Due to these agreements, a new chapter has begun in the relationship between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi, during his three-day visit to Indonesia, signed on these 16 agreements in Jakarta with President Prabowo Subianto. Later, addressing a joint press conference, the two leaders said that today a new golden era has begun in the partnership between India and Indonesia. A historic and significant step has now been taken in furtherance of the strategic partnership agreement signed between the two countries in 2018.

This will further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries and a new era will begin in defence, security, and maritime relations.

The leaders also decided to expand mutual cooperation in the fields of natural disaster management and defence production to other areas as well.

Prime Minister Modi announced that India's digital payments system (UPI) will also be linked to Indonesia's payment system, which will greatly facilitate trade, tourism, and economic transactions. This apart, the two countries will jointly celebrate the centenary year of the historic visit of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to Indonesia. On this historical occasion, Indonesia honoured Prime Minister Modi with the country's highest civilian award. In order to further strengthen its coastal security, Indonesia has also given final nod for a deal worth 22 crore dollars to purchase BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from India.

Urdu Times (July 12) states that during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to New Zealand, the two countries signed 10 agreements on defence, maritime security, trade and to improve cooperation between the two countries in Indo-Pacific region. These agreements also include a military logistic support between the Indian Navy and New Zealand Defence Force. The two countries also agreed to increase their bilateral trade to reach seven billion dollars by 2030.

Urdu Times (July 12) states that India and Australia have given a new boost to their strategic ties by agreeing on 18 key



agreements, including uranium cooperation, defence, maritime security, cyber technology, energy, education and counter-terrorism cooperation.

Inquilab (July 8) in its editorial said that Prime Minister Modi's visit to Indonesia is an important step towards India's 'Act East Policy.' Indonesia is the world's largest country in terms of Muslim population. The agreements initiated between the two countries mark the beginning of a significant chapter in the context of global strategy. The warmth with which Prime Minister Modi was received at Jakarta was unprecedented. The decision to expand trade in the minerals sector will ensure a significant role for lithium, nickel, and other rare minerals in industrial development and modern technology. This decision will provide both countries with an opportunity to reach new heights in the industrial sector.

The newspaper has stated that a political aspect of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Indonesia is also worth noting. The two countries also stressed on granting recognition to Palestine as an independent nation, but the question that arises is that if India is really serious on the issue of recognising Palestine as a sovereign nation, then why Prime Minister Modi did not mention the same during his visit to Israel? Why did Prime Minister Modi maintain silence on the Palestine issue then? In this connection, the statement of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is also important, in which he described India as its biggest supporter. In such a situation, if India wants to keep its foreign policy

balanced, instead of changing its every now and then, India should adopt a clear, permanent and principled foreign policy.

Hindustan (July 10) in its editorial said that due to the recently increasing tension between China and the US, the political and strategic importance of Indo-Pacific region has substantially

increased. This is the reason why India also had to seriously think about increasing its relationship with other countries of this region. The diplomatic landscape has shifted in light of the intensifying rivalry between the US and China in global politics, the Russia-Ukraine war, and escalating tensions in West Asia. Especially due to the increasing role played by China in mineral sector, India also has been forced to give a new turn to its foreign policy. From Prime Minister Modi's recent foreign visit, a clear indication that comes is India is now searching for its new strategic partners in Asia. However, this has been started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru long time ago through his non-alignment policy.

According to the newspaper, the rare minerals available in Indonesia will greatly assist India in embarking on a new chapter of its economic and industrial development.

The historic agreement that India has signed to supply BrahMos missile to Indonesia is a clear indication that India is now rapidly growing in defence production sector as well. However, the fact that Indonesia has been an economic partner of China for a long time cannot also be overlooked. In this context, the agreement India has signed to develop the strategically crucial 'Sabang Port' in Indonesia is bound to increase China's concerns. This is why India needs to remain extremely cautious throughout this entire sequence of events.

Munsif (July 15) in its editorial mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the first prime minister who has made the highest number of foreign visits.



village should be at its highest level from the point of view of basic structure, but it does not seem so. In 2014, as soon as Prime Minister Modi took over power, he visited Japan where he claimed to have signed on different agreements for investments worth 35 billion dollars. Till today, no government official is ready to open his month to say how many projects have started out of it and how much investments

He has visited more than 85 countries so far, where he had spent 400 days and he received 35 highest honours from foreign countries. These figures indicate that he has a very positive personal image on the international stage. If the prime minister of a nation has been honoured by so many countries, then that country's image, currency, and passport should also receive the same respected status. However, here the situation is just the opposite.

The data of global index is quite shameful. India is at 102nd position in hunger index. In the issue of freedom of media, India's position is at 157th among 180 nations.

Whenever Prime Minister Modi visits any foreign country, the 'Godi Media' claims about big agreements and investments worth billions of dollars. In the past 12 years, he had signed agreements with several countries and every agreement was of billions of dollars. If it is seen from this point, today India's every town, every

have taken place.

In May 2015, Prime Minister Modi visited China and signed on a deal worth 22 billion dollars and in the same year signed an investment deal with United Arab Emirates for 75 billion dollars. This is a very long list. Recently, he visited Australia, Indonesia and New Zealand. However, there is no concrete evidence of these agreements contributing to the country's development. On the other hand, in many countries, Modi's distance from the media and the restrictions imposed on press freedom certainly became a subject of ridicule.

Even during the recent visit, the journalists in Australia and New Zealand hugely mocked at this weakness of Modi. It is clear from this that the Prime Minister's foreign visits have not enhanced the country's prestige and glory. On the contrary, the nation's pride has plunged into the abyss, which is certainly a serious situation.

Sheikh Hasina announces return to Bangladesh

Inquilab (July 11) states that Bangladesh's deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced that she will return to her country by the end of the year under any circumstance. She said that she would not step back even if she is arrested and put in jail or even killed. Sheikh Hasina clarified that she would go to Bangladesh along with

other senior leaders of her party Awami League and if any legal action is taken against her, she would surrender herself before the court. She said that she is not worried about her own life and she is determined to return to her country. It is to be noted that a court in Bangladesh had sentenced her to death in her absence.



Sheikh Hasina's decision to return to the country. It has been stated on behalf of the government that if she returns to Bangladesh, then she has to face the different cases being heard in the courts. It is to be noted that there has been strain in the relationship between India and Bangladesh after Sheikh Hasina was given refuge in India. Information advisor to

Commenting on these cases, Sheikh Hasina said that this entire matter is totally false and the government there registered them against her due to their political animosity. The aim of the government is to separate the people of Bangladesh from Awami League. Political observers believe that if Sheikh Hasina returns to Bangladesh a new phase of political upheaval could be on the cards, whose direct will also be on the India-Bangladesh relations as well.

Aurangabad Times (July 16) reports that the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has seized properties worth nearly 6.2 billion US dollars of deposed prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, her family members and of 10 industrial groups. According to officials, these assets are in Bangladesh and abroad. The head of BFIU Ikhtiyaruddin Mohammad Mamoon said that this action has been taken on the directions of the court following investigations into charges of illegal amassing of assets, loan default and money laundering.

Urdu Times (July 16) states that the Bangladesh government has welcomed

Bangladesh President Tarique Rahman Zahid ur Rahman said, "We welcome Sheikh Hasina's decision for return, because the people of the country want the her to undergo the punishment given to her. If Sheikh Hasina returns, she could bring the most illustrious lawyers from the world so that she could legally face these cases."

Siasat (July 11) in its editorial, while commenting on the decision of Sheikh Hasina to return to Bangladesh, said that Sheikh Hasina is playing the biggest political gambit of her life. Already, a special tribunal in Bangladesh has given her death sentence in a case. It looks like Sheikh Hasina took this decision after holding discussions with legal experts. There is also intense speculation that the new government in Bangladesh is continuously putting pressure on India to hand over Sheikh Hasina to Bangladesh. However, in the present situation, it would not be possible to clearly state that this decision of Hasina is a result of the diplomatic pressure being exerted on Indian government by the Bangladesh government.

30 Afghan women arrested for not wearing burqa

Aurangabad Times (July 16) states that Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzadah had recently directed all government departments that they strictly implement the Shariah law in

the country. Following this direction by him, raids were conducted in several places in Kabul and more than 200 women were arrested on charges of not wearing burqa and not covering the face while in public.

However, according to government sources, this number is said to be 30. Due to this stringent stand of the government, the women have stopped coming out of their houses due to fear and many families have stopped sending their daughters to schools and colleges due to insecurity feelings. They are scared that the Taliban police will arrest their daughters.



As per government reports, the Taliban has imposed stringent restrictions on the religious activities of Shia community on the occasion of Muharram, due to which the traditional procession of Muharram could not be taken out in various places in Afghanistan. This apart, the Taliban police have been taking

stringent action for not wearing Islamic dress and against men for trimmed beard. Recently, hundreds of men were taken into custody from different regions of Afghanistan for not having beard or having trimmed beard. It is to be noted that the Taliban government has also banned smartphone for government officials and employees citing security and information curbs.

Army brutality on citizens continue in PoJK



Inquilab (July 15) reports that it seems the massive protests taking place in Pakistan occupied Jammu-Kashmir (PoJK) under the aegis of Jammu-Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee against increasing inflation, increase the rate of electricity and

the controversial election system will not come to end anytime soon. In the latest incident, the Pakistan army opened fire in Motial Mera near Rawalacot in order to disperse the protesters in which at least nine persons were killed. It is to be noted



that more than 150 people were killed in this agitation so far which started in June 2026.

Even the Indian government has lodged a strong protest over the brutality unleashed by the Pakistan army on the citizens of PoJK. Spokesperson of India's External Affairs Ministry Randhir Jaiswal said, "the protests taking place in PoJK is in fact a result of the anger among the people there, because, for decades, they have been bearing the brunt of exploitation, lack of basic rights and administrative oppression. Instead of fulfilling the legitimate demands of the local residents, the Pakistan government started unleashing brutality through the police and the army. The administration targeted even the innocent women and children, stopped supply of essential items like food and medicines, cut-off internet and opened fire on unarmed civilians in which many people lost their lives. We hope that the rest of the world will hold Pakistan fully accountable for these grave atrocities and intimidatory actions."

According to foreign news agencies, the army has imposed curfew in the entire PoJK and internet and mobile services have

been shut down. The Awami Action Committee appealed to the world community that they immediately intervene in this explosive situation in PoJK. Due to curfew, all the markets are closed, the transport system has completely come to a standstill, due to which the people are facing a starvation like situation at their homes. A spokesperson of this organisation told BBC correspondent that the local police had clearly refused to exert too much pressure on the protesters. This is the reason why the Pakistan government has

handed over the entire region to the army and the paramilitary force Frontier Corps to deal with this explosive situation.

Chattan (July 14) states that a few unidentified gunmen opened indiscriminate firing at a barber shop and killed five employees who were working there in Washuk district in Balochistan. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti confirmed that the attackers selectively targeted innocent Punjabi workers.

Chattan (July 12) reports that security forces suffered huge damages in three major terrorist attacks in Ziarat district in Balochistan. Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ICPR) Lt General Ahmed Sharif Choudhary confirmed that a total of 42 people were killed including 27 police personnel, 11 soldiers and four citizens in these terrorist attacks that took place recently. Meanwhile, 54 terrorists were killed in retaliatory action by the security forces. He said the hands of banned organisation Balochistan Liberation Army were behind these attacks and the government has clear evidence to prove that the support of a neighbouring country has been received behind these attacks.

Rise in anti-Muslim sentiments in the US



Inquilab (July 16) reports that Syed Sohail Uddin, an employee of Valley Fair Mall in West Valley City in Utah state in the United States has been attacked with a knife. The 48-year-old attacker, Peter Michael Larsen, before executing the incident, asked the victim his name and religion. When he identified himself as a Muslim, the attacker stabbed him 15 times with his knife. A few common citizens on the spot, displaying presence of mind, overpowered the attacker and confined him till the arrival of police. Later the police took the accused into custody. During the police interrogation, the accused admitted that he targeted the victim due to religious hatred and he wanted to kill Muslims. The seriously injured victim has been admitted to hospital.

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) strongly condemned the

attack carried out due to hatred. A spokesperson of this organisation said the atmosphere has been tense due to the growing anti-Muslim propaganda among the American society for some time. CAIR has appealed to the leaders of the country to make robust arrangements for the Muslims in the US and their organisations.

Etemaad (July 17) reports that 37-year-old victim Syed Suhail Uddin is a resident of Hyderabad in India. Chief of All India

Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi expressed serious concern over this incident. He asked the US President Donald Trump and the US administration that they provide protection to the Muslims staying in the US and Indian citizens.

Urdu Times (July 17) states that a case has been registered against a 14-year-old minor in Britain for conspiring to carry out a terrorist attack. According to police, this boy was planning to carry out an attack on two mosques in south London. Earlier, the police had taken this boy into custody on charges of damaging a car. When the anti-terrorism police carried out a search at his home, a few suspicious documents and objectionable material were seized from there. The documents confirmed that he was preparing to carry out attacks on the masjid.

Former Supreme Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei laid to rest



Inqilab (July 11) states that after a funeral ceremony lasting six days, Iran's former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was laid to rest in Mashhad. According to Iranian media, more than 4 crore people participated in various phases of his funeral, while more than 2 lakh people took part in the final burial procession.

According to Iranian state television, such a massive crowd had never participated in the final rites of any religious leader in world history. On this occasion, more than 50 lakh people gathered on the streets of Iran's holy city of Mashhad, carrying banners with anti-US slogans and holding portraits of US President Donald Trump upside down. Leaders from over 100 countries across the world participated in the events to pay their respects to Khamenei.

It is noteworthy that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in the beginning of a joint war launched by the US and Israel. Five members of his family and three senior military commanders were also killed in this airstrike.

Ali Khamenei was not laid to rest for so long because the Iranian government feared that the US might target the crowd

by carrying out an airstrike during the funeral procession. Khamenei's three sons participated in his funeral, but his successor, Mojtaba Khamenei, was nowhere to be seen in person. Later, Iranian media claimed that Mojtaba was present on the occasion wearing a veil.

The broadcast of his presence was withheld due to fears that US and Israeli intelligence agencies might jointly assassinate him. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was buried in Mashhad inside the complex of the shrine of Hazrat Imam Ali Reza, the eighth Imam of the Shia community. Therefore, Khamenei's mortal remains were also taken to the holy places of Shias—Karbala and Najaf—located in Iraq. It is worth noting that the shrine of Imam Hussain is in Karbala and the shrine of the first Imam of the Shia community, Hazrat Ali, is in Najaf.

According to another news report, Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi, the chief of the Iranian Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC), stated, "We will, under any circumstances, take revenge for the assassination of Khamenei from US and Israel."

Etemaad (July 8) reports that Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, stated that the

final phase of revenge would be fulfilled by achieving the liberation of Jerusalem. He added, “We will not spare the killers of Khamenei under any circumstances and will hunt them down from any corner of the world to punish them with death.”

On this occasion, Iran’s foreign affairs minister Abbas Araghchi stated that the Iranian public and military are not afraid of any threat. Iran does not forgive any killer and will rest only after taking revenge.

Etemaad (July 7) reports that the Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in his message on this occasion, stated, “We will continue to walk on the path of Iran’s honour, progress, and glory, which was initiated by Ali Khamenei.” The head of the Iranian judiciary, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei, stated, “We will punish the killers of Khamenei with death, and no power in the world can stop us from doing so.”

Urdu Times (July 12) states that Iran’s Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, while addressing the nation after his father’s final rites, stated, “We swear to take revenge for the assassination of my



father and other people. This is not just a slogan; it is our religious and national duty, which must be fulfilled under any circumstances, whether we remain alive or not. We will achieve this goal at all costs and will not let the killers die in peace.”

Urdu Times (July 6) reports the crowd chanted slogans of “Revenge, Revenge” during the final rites. A large number of soldiers were deployed for the security of Khamenei’s funeral procession. A black *Amama* (turban) was placed on top of Ali Khamenei’s coffin, which symbolised his lineage to the family of the Prophet. Behind this coffin were other coffins of his relatives, who were killed in the same airstrike.

Series of attacks between Iran and US intensify again

Etemaad (July 9) reports that US President Donald Trump has announced that the temporary ceasefire agreement reached with Iran has now ended. Along with this, the US and Iran have intensified a series of attacks against each other.

Urdu Times (July 14) reports that Iran has condemned the fresh US attacks on its country, stating that these military actions by the US have been rendered futile and failed all diplomatic efforts ongoing for the past several months. Iranian foreign

ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the ceasefire with the US is now over. He further added that US’s recent attacks are an open violation of the basic values of the UN Charter, international rules, and sovereignty. On the other hand, the US Central Command stated that the main objective of these attacks is to neutralise commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. The Iranian army is keeping a

close watch on activities and is fully committed to giving a crushing reply to the enemy.

Inquilab (July 11) states that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while issuing a warning to Iran, said, “The dispute with Iran is not over yet and Israel is fully prepared to deal with any situation. We are reorganising our military strength. Our policy is absolutely clear. We will not allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons under any circumstances. If Israel had not taken action at the right time, Iran would have reached a position very close to acquiring nuclear weapons.”

According to **Inquilab** (July 14), US President Donald Trump has once again announced the implementation of a blockade on Iranian ports. The objective of this blockade is to stop the movement of ships. On the other hand, a spokesperson for the Iranian army said, “We will not allow the US to interfere in the Strait of Hormuz under any circumstances and will foil its every attempt.”

According to another news report, the US Central Command has claimed that it has started targeting various military locations in Iran since July 12. In this connection, Iran’s air defence system, coastal radar, missile bases, vessels, and other military sites are being targeted. In this operation, US fighter aircraft and drones are taking part.

On the other hand, according to the Iranian news agency, IRNA, the Iranian military has claimed that it targeted US military bases, air defence systems, and missile sites located in Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain, and these attacks will continue. Meanwhile, the chief of the Kuwait military has announced that the campaign to foil Iranian missiles attacking Kuwait is continuously going on.

Inquilab (July 13) states that Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz. According to the IREG, Iran targeted a commercial



vessel that had turned off its automatic identification system.

According to another news report, India has condemned the Iranian attack on the Cyprus-flagged vessel ‘GFS Galaxy’ off the coast of Oman. There were 11 Indian sailors on this ship, out of which 10 have been safely rescued, while one has died.

Urdu Times (July 13) reports that Qatar has announced the suspension of all its maritime activities in view of the increasing military attacks. Condemning the Iranian attacks, Qatar said that Iran is violating international laws.

According to another news report, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in West Asia and blamed Iran for it.

According to the Pakistani foreign ministry, Pakistan’s foreign minister Ishaq Dar spoke with Saudi Arabia’s foreign minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan about this deteriorating situation in West Asia.

Urdu Times (July 17) reports that Iran has made it clear that it has no intention of starting a war with its neighbouring countries or with Muslim countries in this region, but if the US continues this series of attacks on Iran, new fronts of war could open in several other countries as well.

Analysts say that Iran is trying to assure the Muslim countries of West Asia that it is not against them. On the other hand, it is also sending a message to the US



that if it continues the series of attacks, the fire of war could flare up in other countries too.

Meanwhile, other Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, have announced that they will unite to counter Iranian attacks. The United Arab Emirates has also announced that if any military alliance of Gulf countries is formed, it will also join it.

Etemaad (July 17) reports that the US has approved the supply of weapons worth two billion dollars to Saudi Arabia. The US State Department said in a statement that this decision has been made to strengthen the security of a friendly nation. Under this agreement, Saudi Arabia will receive rocket launchers, warheads, spare parts, missiles, and state-of-the-art precision weapon systems.

The US State Department has also announced that in addition to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait is also being given a \$484 million defence package to strengthen its air force. This decision will improve the defence system of both countries. The US has taken this decision at a time when there is a danger of the fire of war flaring up between Saudi Arabia and Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

Akhbar-e-Mashriq (July 16) in its editorial criticised that the US announced the end of the ceasefire at a time when Iran was mourning its Supreme Leader. The US's enmity toward Islam can also be gauged from the fact that it did not even hesitate to target the grieving people participating in the funeral procession with

its airstrikes. The newspaper stated that the reality is that so far, the Muslim countries of West Asia have not united to protect Islam, the Prophet, and the Quran. The US and Israel are taking advantage of their mutual differences, and they are in this entire region. They want to realise the concept of Greater Israel.

Urdu Times (July 17) wrote in its editorial that the terrible shadows of war have once again started hovering over West Asia. The newspaper has alleged

that despite the ceasefire agreement, first Israel and later the US started attacks on Iran. Pakistan and Qatar had tried to avert this war, but it could not be possible due to the US's aggressive stance.

When the US started attacks on Iran, in response, Iran attacked all those Muslim countries that have allowed the US to establish military bases on their land. The newspaper says that US President Trump has had a double-standard policy.

On one hand, he claims peace, while on the other hand, he fuels war. Trump has got a hint that he is on Iran's target, so he has threatened that if an attempt is made to assassinate him, the US will destroy Iran. This threat has had no effect on Iran. Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has threatened that they will avenge their father's assassination at all costs in the near future.

The newspaper has strongly condemned the fact that some Muslim countries are acting like Mir Jafar (traitors) and are dancing like puppets at the behest of the US. Because of this, Islamic unity is in danger. Muslim countries must remember that if they do not support Iran this time, in the coming days, the US will destroy Muslim countries one by one and hand them over to Israel, so that it can fulfill its dream of Greater Israel.

Hindustan (July 13) stated in its editorial that this war between the US and Iran is becoming a riddle that is very difficult to understand. While on one side

efforts for war prevention and agreements are being made, on the other side, the US President, true to his habit, is taking a U-turn, announcing the termination of this agreement.

The unfortunate part is that when the funeral rites of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei were being performed in Iran, exactly at

that time, the US carried out indiscriminate bombings, in which around two dozen people attending the funeral were killed. The newspaper has appealed to Muslim countries to support Iran. Otherwise, Islam will be wiped out from the world, and the dominance of Jews will be established over this entire region.

Major Houthi attack on Saudi Arabia



Avadhnama (July 15), Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen targeted Abha International Airport, located in southwestern Saudi Arabia, using ballistic missiles and drones. The Houthi militia issued a press statement warning airline companies worldwide that if they route towards Saudi Arabia, their aircraft would be destroyed.

A Houthi spokesperson claimed that Saudi Arabia had carried out an airstrike on Sanaa International Airport, and this action was taken in response to that, stating that this series of attacks would continue. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) strongly condemned this attack on Saudi Arabia. GCC secretary-general Jasem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi said in his statement that this attack by the Houthis is an open violation of international laws. He has demanded the United Nations to pressure Iran to stop these attacks because innocent civilians are being killed in them.

Urdu Times (July 15) reports that Saudi Arabia has threatened to teach the Houthis a lesson after this attack. Saudi Arabia has said that if these attacks by the

Houthis are not stopped, Iran would be targeted.

Prior to this, the Houthis had also targeted Saudi Arabian aircraft with their missiles. The top Houthi leadership claims that this attack has caused heavy damage to the fighter aircraft of the Saudi Air Force. Following Saudi Arabia's threat, the Houthis have tightened security arrangements at their airbases. According to *Al Jazeera*, the Saudi government supports the internationally recognised government of Yemen. The spokesperson of Saudi-led International Military Coalition Major General Turki al-Malki has claimed that the Houthis are pushing this region towards war. Their actions could trigger a new war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree stated in a response that the Houthis will continue to target Saudi airports, military bases of the Saudi army, and the air force. He alleged that Saudi Arabia is acting as a puppet of the US, tearing apart the dream of Arab unity.

Siasat (July 6) reports that the Houthi rebels in Yemen attacked a government army camp, killing at least 14 soldiers. According to the French news agency AFP, this attack took place in the Al-Hudaydah area of Yemen's western province. A high-ranking official of the Yemeni government stated that government soldiers gave a fitting reply to this attack by the Houthis. This conflict lasted for several hours, in which more than two dozen Houthi rebels were killed.

Hamas withdraws from Gaza administration



Aurangabad Times (July 17) reports that Palestinian organisation Hamas has, after 19 years, dissolved its administrative units located in the Gaza Strip and vacated its headquarters. This decision of theirs is considered an important step towards the resolution of the Gaza problem.

Hamas took control of the Gaza's administration after seizing power from the Fatah movement in 2007. During last year's ceasefire, Hamas had indicated that it was ready to step away from administrative matters, but its military infrastructure and weapons stockpiles would remain in Gaza.

A statement issued by the Gaza government media office said that Mohammad Al-Farra, head of the government's emergency committee, has resigned from his post and dissolved the administrative committee to ease the process of agreed administrative changes.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said Hamas decided to step away from the Gaza administration so that Israel would have no excuse to take military action against Gaza. He said that now the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) will get the opportunity to take over the civilian management of Gaza.

Etemaad (July 11) reports that the Israeli army has continued to violate the

ceasefire in various areas of Gaza. More than 50 people have been killed in attacks by Israeli artillery and air forces. Six Palestinians were killed in an Israeli drone strike on a vehicle near Al-Abbass Chowk.

Moreover, at least 40 people have been killed in attacks targeting refugee camps, which includes two dozen Palestinians killed in the Khan Younis camp. According to figures from the Palestinian health ministry, since the ceasefire in October 2025, the Israeli army in Gaza has killed more than 2,200 Palestinians, and over 4,000 people have been injured.

Qaumi Tanzeem (July 17) reports that the Israeli army has claimed that it killed a commander of Hamas's military wing through a missile attack in central Gaza. The killed commander is identified as Umar Ahmed Abu Kasim, who was the main operative of the attacks on Israel.

Hindustan Express (July 9) in its editorial termed Hamas's decision to leave the Gaza administration a major administrative change. The newspaper said that due to several years of war, Gaza's basic infrastructure, economy, health, and education system have been completely destroyed.

In such a situation, to rebuild Gaza and win the confidence of the international



community, Hamas has decided to hand it over to an independent and technical committee so that the work of international financial assistance and reconstruction can start in a transparent manner. However, Israel has termed this declaration of Hamas inadequate. Israel says that the real

problem is Hamas's military infrastructure and stockpile of weapons. Until Hamas is completely demilitarised and it hands over its weapons to an international agency, until then the reconstruction of Gaza is not possible.

According to the United Nations, billions of dollars are needed for the reconstruction of Gaza, which is possible only after the trust of the Palestinian groups' solidarity and the international community. In this entire scenario, along with Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, it is a major responsibility of the entire Arab world, as well as the US and the European Union.

Ban on Palestinian Grand Mufti's entry into Al-Aqsa



Etemaad (July 12) reports that after the Israeli government took the Grand Mufti of Palestine, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein, into custody, a ban has been placed on his entry into the Al-Aqsa compound. This step is part of Israeli actions against Palestinian religious leaders. Israeli security forces took him into custody during a sermon in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and took him outside the compound. He was released later, but his entry into the mosque was banned.

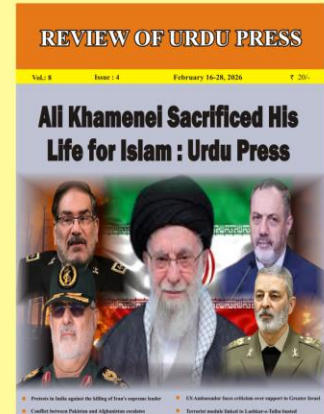
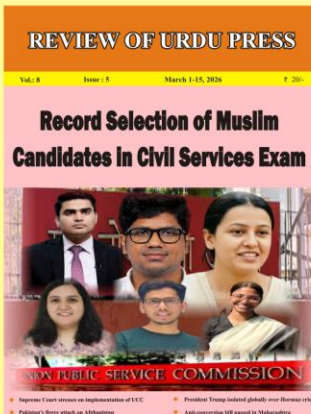
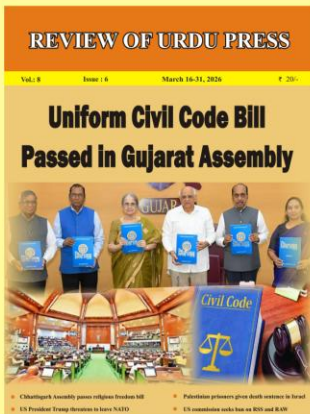
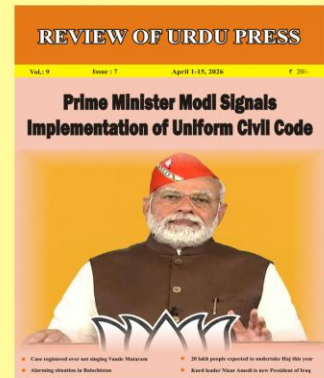
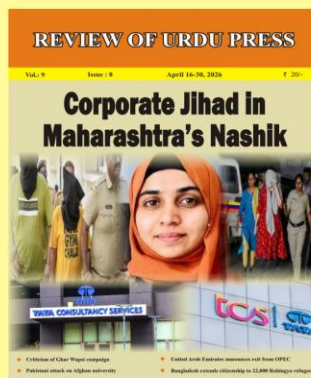
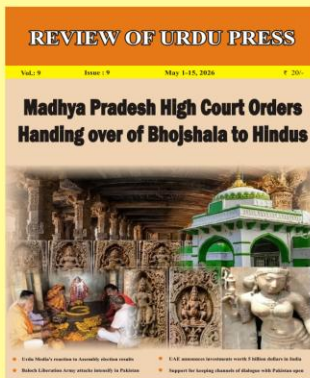
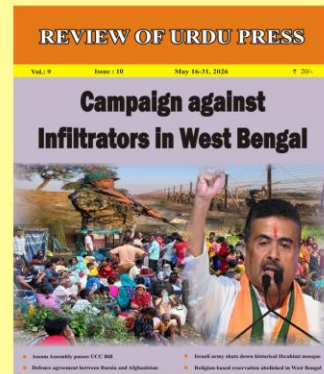
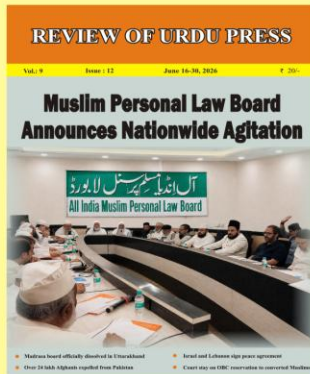
It is said that the Grand Mufti was arrested because he had prayed for Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks and

demanded the immediate release of Palestinians held captive by the Israeli army. Before this, former Grand Mufti Ekrima Sa'id Sabri was also taken into custody in a similar manner.

According to the Palestinian Waqf and ministry of religious affairs, from the month of June until now, the

Israeli army has entered the Al-Aqsa compound 26 times and arrested people.

Urdu Times (July 17), Israel's ruling Likud Party has demanded that the Al-Aqsa Mosque be permanently closed to the entry of Arabs, and Jews should be settled in larger numbers in that area so that Jews can enter the Temple Mount complex and pray without any restriction. The responsibility for the safety of Jews in this regard should lie with the Israeli army. Preparations are also underway to bring a motion regarding this in the Israeli Parliament.



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