

REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

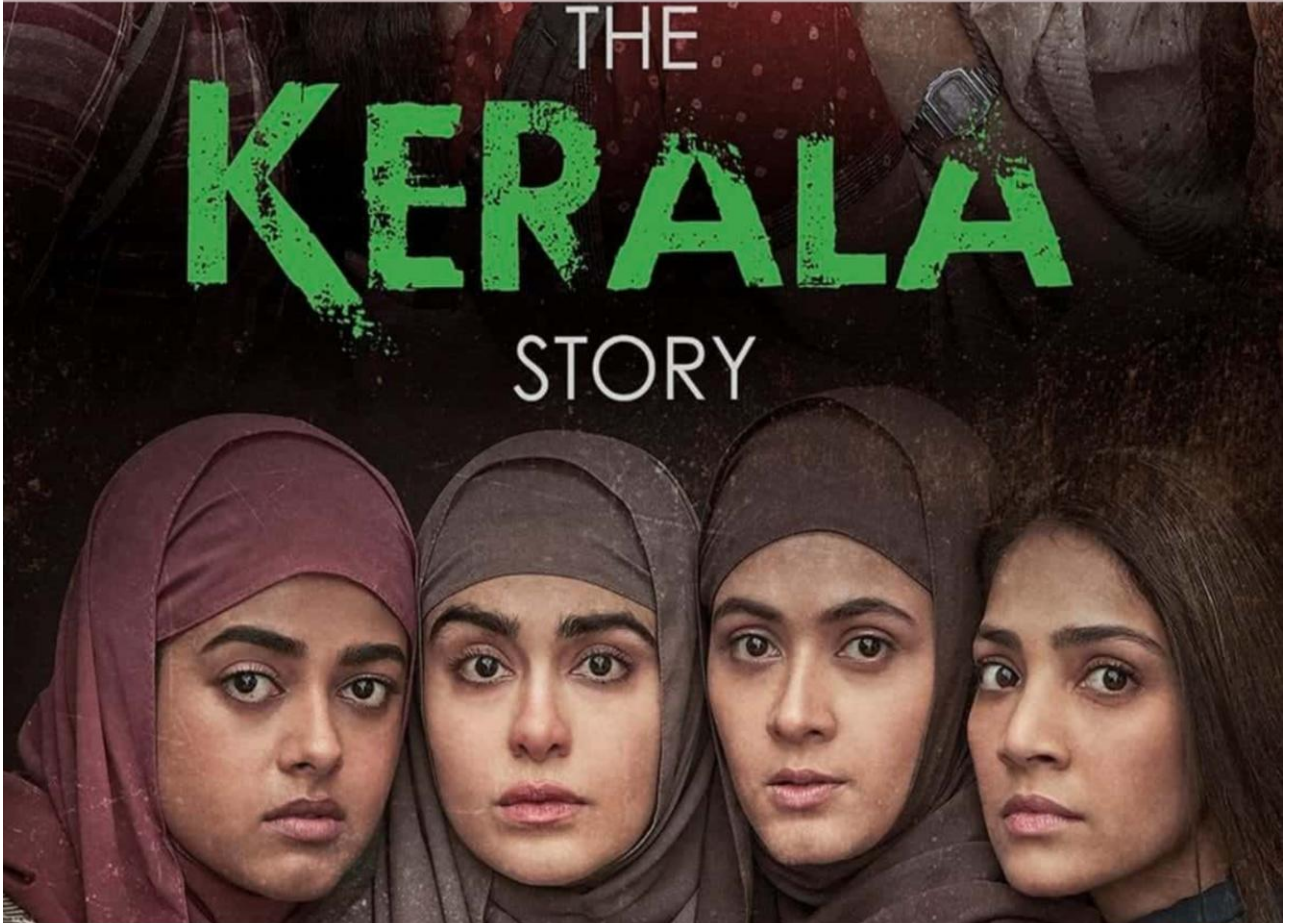
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Controversy Over Film 'The Kerala Story'



- Ruckus over acquittal of Gujarat riots accused
- Pakistan on the brink of civil war

- Fierce civil war in Sudan
- Waqf Board to keep control on properties

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Summary

The situation in Pakistan is turning explosive with every passing day. For the first time in the history of Pakistan, the people have openly come out on the streets against the army. Mobs have been attacking uniformed soldiers across the country and military establishments have been vandalised. The army has not taken any action against these elements so far because it is scared that such an action would result in the death of a large number of people. There was a time when Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan was a blue-eyed boy of the army. But ever since he refused to tread on the path shown by the army, he has become an eyesore for them.

Currently, more than 80 cases have been registered against Imran Khan in Pakistan. Interestingly, in the past also many Pakistani presidents and prime ministers were given punishment by the army over corruption charges. However, such a large number of cases was never registered against any leader in the past. The people of Pakistan are currently very much worried over increasing inflation and unemployment. While one kilogram of Atta is sold for Rs 150-175, the price of tomato is more than Rs 200 per kilogram in the country. However, it is also a fact that the spiraling inflation began after Imran Khan came to power. But during the regime of Shehbaz Sharif, inflation has crossed all limits. This is the reason why Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is becoming very popular in Pakistani media. The people there are demanding a ruler like Narendra Modi in that country. They say that Narendra Modi has a very honest image. On the other hand, majority of Pakistani leaders are drowned in corruption charges and that is why Pakistani rulers have failed to control the increasing inflation till now.

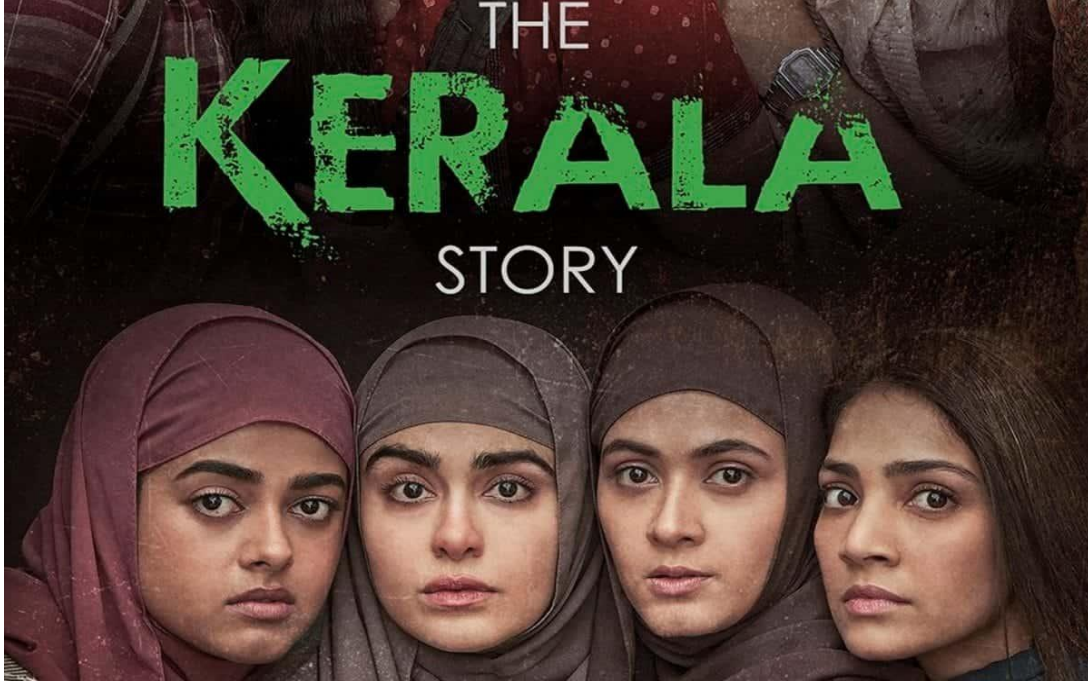
As soon as the film 'The Kerala Story' was released, Urdu newspapers launched a well-planned campaign against it. The Urdu newspapers allege that the film is a part of Sangh Parivar propaganda and its aim is to tarnish the image of Muslims among public. It is surprising that if the film is about Hindu and Christian girls being misled into converting to Islam and recruited to terrorist organisation ISIS, why are ordinary Muslims worried about it? Earlier, some groups had unleashed a propaganda against the film 'The Kashmir Files.'

A section of Urdu newspapers has been running a campaign to incite Muslims against the government for quite some time. Recently, when a campaign was launched against illegal constructions in national capital Delhi, many places of worship were razed to the ground. However, the Urdu newspapers have been deliberately highlighting only the news related to razing of masjids, mazaars and dargahs.

In Sudan, the civil war has taken a fierce turn. It is being said that more than 1,000 people have died in the civil war and more than 10,000 people injured. The main reason for this war is the battle for supremacy between the chief of Sudanese Army, General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, and the chief of paramilitary forces, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Some Urdu newspapers have discussed the possibility of a US hand behind the civil war in the country.



Row over film 'The Kerala Story'



Ever since the film 'The Kerala Story' has been released, a section of Muslims has unleashed a strong campaign against it. The film has even been dubbed as a propaganda by the Sangh Parivar against Muslims.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 5) states that a petition filed in Kerala High Court by a few Muslim organisations like Jamiat Ulema seeking to impose a ban on 'The Kerala Story' has been rejected by the court. However, a bench comprising Justice N Nagesh and Justice Sophy Thomas directed the maker of the film that they remove the controversial portion in the film where it had been stated that 32,000 girls from Kerala had adopted Islam and joined ISIS.

It is to be noted that the film shows girls belonging to Hindu and Christian religions being converted to Islam. The judges were shown a trailer of this film and after watching it, they said that they did not find anything objectionable in it. The bench said the film is against ISIS and not against any religion. The lawyer of the petitioners told the court that the film was made

keeping in mind a particular community, due to which there is a possibility of the religious feeling of the people getting hurt. This apart, an effort has been made to give a bad name to Kerala and Muslims. The lawyer told the court that the film maker had admitted that the film was based on fictional ideas. However, it was inspired by truth. He said the maker had claimed that 32,000 girls had joined ISIS. However, not even 32 girls have joined ISIS and neither anybody has been forced to join Islam.

Before this, the petitioners had knocked at the doors of the Supreme Court seeking to impose a ban on this film. The Supreme Court has refused to hear petitions against this film and said they approach the Kerala High Court instead.

As per another news published in this newspaper, the Jamiat Ulema has filed a petition seeking to impose a ban on the film 'The Kerala Story' before the Kerala High Court as directed by the Supreme Court. The chief of the legal aid committee of Jamiat Ulema, Gulzar Azmi said the Jamiat Ulema had urged the court that it

impose a ban on the screening of this film and remove the controversial scenes and dialogues. He said that the film may disturb peace in the country and increase communal tension. The film shows thousands of Hindu and Christian girls in Kerala coming under the influence of Muslim boys and converting to Islam and it has also been mentioned that these girls had joined ISIS. However, the Indian government has never confirmed this.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 1) states that Kerala Chief Minister P Vijayan described it as a false propaganda by Sangh Parivar and said that due to this, the religious harmony will be destroyed and ruined. He has appealed to the people of Kerala to boycott this film.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 2) states that Kerala Muslim Youth League said in a press conference that if anyone provides proof for the allegation in the film that 32,000 girls had converted to Islam and joined the ISIS, they will give him a reward of Rs 1.11 crore. A lawyer in Kerala, C Shukkur, claimed that if anyone provides bona fide evidence to prove that even 32 women were converted to Islam and joined the ISIS, he will give Rs 11 lakh as reward. He said that incidents of just three women joining the ISIS have come to the fore. The chief minister of Kerala said that it is clear from the trailer that the purpose of the film was to create communal divisions in the country. He said the investigating agencies, courts or the Union government have not confirmed even a single case of Love Jihad in the country. He said that the only aim of this film is to extend political benefits to Sangh Parivar.

Aurangabad Times (May 3) reports that the Jamiat Ulema has urged the Supreme Court to impose a ban on the release of the film The Kerala Story, on



which the court has told them to approach the Kerala High Court.

In an article published in **Salar** (May 6), Ram Punyani has expressed the opinion that The Kerala Story was not a film, instead a weapon to propagate the saffron agenda.

Salar (May 4) has claimed that that The Kerala Story is a new agenda of Sangh Parivar. Its aim is to spread hatred in society and create an atmosphere of animosity against Muslims.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 24) has claimed that after Kashmir Files, the Sangh Parivar has now come up with The Kerala Story in order to bring a bad name to Muslims. The protest against the film started even before the release of the film. The Communist Party of India (Marxist), which is in power in Kerala, and the Opposition Congress have demanded a ban on this film.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 9) reports that a ban has been imposed on the release of The Kerala Story in West Bengal. Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee said the film has been made to malign a particular community at the behest of Sangh Parivar.

Inquilab (May 3) states that Vivekanand Vichar Manch has screened the film The Kerala Story on the premises of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Condemning the screening, SFI has burned the effigies of BJP and RSS.

Ruckus over acquittal of accused in Gujarat riots



Mumbai Urdu News (April 21) reports that a special court of S K Bakshi, hearing the SIT cases, has acquitted 86 accused including former minister and BJP leader Maya Kodnani and Bajrang Dal leader Babu Bajrangji in a case related to the Naroda Gam communal riots in Gujarat. Following the verdict, a crowd raised slogans of Jai Shriram and Bharat Mata ki Jai outside the court. Lawyer arguing for the victims of the riots, Shamshad Pathan, said they were not satisfied with this verdict and would question it in the high court.

It is to be noted that a communal riots broke out in Naroda Gam in Gujarat on February 28, 2002 in which 11 people were killed. Nearly 86 people were mentioned as accused in this case among which 18 died during the course of the hearing. During the hearings, the prosecution produced 187 witnesses while the defendants produced 57 witnesses in the court. Six judges heard this case. In September 2017, Amit Shah appeared in the court on his own to depose as a defence witness for Maya Kodnani.

Kodnani has claimed that she has nothing to do with the riots. She was present in Gujarat Vidhan Sabha and later at civil hospital during the time of riots. It is to be noted that Kodnani was a minister in Gujarat.

Awadhnama (April 22) states that the Supreme Court has granted bail to eight convicts who were serving life-term in jail on charges of setting fire to Sabarmati train

in 2002. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha, while accepting a petition seeking bail, said that the accused persons are in jail for 17 to 18 years and it will take a long time to hear their appeal. The court has clearly refused to grant relief to four accused who have been serving life-term in jail in this case. It is to be noted that a lower court in Gujarat had awarded death sentence to these four accused which had been converted into life-term by the Gujarat High Court.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 19) reports that during the hearing of a petition in Supreme Court against the release of the accused in the Bilkis Bano case, the Gujarat government did not produce in the court the files related to the decision to release the accused. The Supreme Court criticised this stand of the government. Apart from rape victim Bilkis Bano, public interest petitions were also filed in the court on behalf of social activist Subhashini Ali and Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra. Through this petition, it has been demanded that the Gujarat government decision to release 11 accused involved in the murder of Bilkis Bano's family members and her rape shall be scrapped.

Meanwhile, Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar, during a function organised in Mumbai, described the decision to release the accused in the Naroda Gam massacre as a murder of justice. He said that if these accused did not take part in the killing, does it mean that such an incident did not even take place?

Siasat (April 21) in its editorial has alleged that it looks like the prosecution in Gujarat is not serious in getting punishment to the accused. May be due to this reason, the matter was not properly argued in the court and the prosecution may have intentionally omitted such issues so that the accused could benefit from it and get acquitted by the court.

Waqf board to keep control of properties worth billions of rupees



Inquilab (May 4) reports that the Delhi High Court has accepted the Waqf board's administrative control over 23 properties worth billions of rupees in Delhi. However, the court has directed the Central agencies they can conduct necessary survey and inspection of these properties. They have to keep in mind that their interference shall not affect the administrative power of the Waqf board.

The newspaper said this issue of Waqf properties is running since 1911 and in this connection, the then Central government had formed several committees as well. But neither any public decision has been taken regarding these properties nor they were totally handed over to the Waqf board. The controversy continued due to this. In 2014, the UPA government at the Centre handed over these properties to the Waqf board just before the elections. However, as soon as the government changed at the Centre, a two-member committee was formed to decide on this issue. The Delhi Waqf Board questioned the constitution of this committee in the court. The Waqf Board said that the report of the old committee was not shared with the Waqf board. The issue became more

complicated when the L&DO department of Central government issued a circular in February 2023 dispossessing the Waqf board from all these properties and also refused to entertain the administrative powers of Waqf board over these properties. All these properties are located in the posh localities of Delhi and majority of them are masjids, kabristans, dargah and karbalas.

This became a controversial issue in 1911 when the British made Delhi as the national capital in place of Kolkata when properties were acquired on a largescale and these Waqf properties were also acquired along with them. However, there was strong opposition to this decision and hence the acquisition was stopped. However, the L&DO department, which was earlier known as Sarkar Daulat Madar, have been handling these properties as Waqf land in their documents right from the beginning. In the column regarding the ownership, no Waqf organisation's name has been mentioned, instead it has been described as government land and hence the L&DO department got an opportunity to stake claim over the property. The next date of hearing in the case is on November 6.

Inquilab (April 26) reports that the Waqf board, while arguing in the high court on the issue of these properties, claimed all of them to be its properties and also produced some documents in this connection. The government's claim is that it had taken over all these properties in its custody in 1911 and this has been mentioned in the government documents. From this it is established that all these properties belong to the Central government. In this connection, several documents were presented before the court.

Lawyer for Waqf board, Wajeeh Shafiq, described this decision of the government as wrong and misleading in the court. He said that just because

nobody has staked claim to the ownership of the property, it cannot be described as a government property. He said that as per the Waqf law, the power to take decision on any Waqf property is with Waqf tribunal. As per the Waqf Act, if any property has been described as Waqf property once, then it will always remain as a Waqf property.

It is to be noted that these properties had been classified as Waqf properties in the survey held in 1970, 1974 and 1980. The Central government had declared these properties as that of L&DO department which was questioned in the high court by the Waqf board on February 20, 2023 claiming them to be Waqf properties.

Interim stay on caste census in Bihar



Roznama Sahara (May 5) states that the caste census being undertaken by Bihar government in the state has been questioned in Patna High Court. The court has stayed the census till the next date of hearing. Now the case will be heard on July 3. The decision has rendered a huge blow to the Bihar government. The court, apart from staying the caste census, also directed that the data collected in this connection shall be kept safely. The petitioners, while questioning the decision to undertake census by the state government, described it as unconstitutional and said that Rs 500 crore is being illegally spent on this process

and the state government has not created any manual in this regard. The petitioners also said that apart from the information regarding the caste of the people, details of their job and capability are also being collected which is a violation of personal privacy. On the other hand, it has been contended on behalf of the government that this survey is being done in public interest and no privacy has been violated in this connection.

Inquilab (April 29) states that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had said that it is not a crime to undertake caste census and it will not create damages to anyone. Despite this, some people are opposing it. He said that we are not conducting a census on the basis of caste, instead doing a counting on the basis of caste. It is not our duty to undertake census, it is the responsibility of the Centre to do so.

Inquilab (May 7) states that Rashtriya Janata Dal said that the decision to undertake caste census in the country

was taken through consensus in 1996 and during that time the H D Deve Gowda government at the Centre had decided that in the 2001 census, the castes shall also be counted. However, in 1999, a government led by BJP came to power at the Centre. The government was anti-people and hence it did not include this issue in the census. Addressing a press conference, national vice-president of RJD Uday Narain Choudhary and other leaders of the party said the BJP has imposed a permanent ban on this census as part of a conspiracy. However, in 2010, at the initiative of Lalu Prasad Yadav, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Sharad Yadav, the UPA government at the Centre accepted the demand for a caste census and also started working on it. However, when the BJP formed the government at the Centre in 2014, the issue got vanished. National secretary of Janata Dal (United) Rajiv Ranjan said that the stand of BJP on caste census is like 'Muh Mein Ram, Bagal Mein Chhuri.' From the outset, its leaders keep supporting caste census. However, internally they are opposed to it. The BJP does not want the backward classes to progress and hence it is opposing caste census. Legislators of RJD, JD-U and CPI said that census should be undertaken and it should not be stopped. Former chief minister of Bihar Lalu Prasad Yadav has also supported caste census. He said that similar voices have been raised in

Uttar Pradesh Assembly also and hope that this issue will get more momentum.

Salar (April 18) states that national president of Congress party Mallikarjun Kharge has supported caste census and in this connection he wrote a letter to the Prime Minister demanding that there should be a caste census in the country. This is because the data of census is incomplete for social justice programmes in the country. He said that caste censuses were also held on financial and social basis in 2011-12, during which 25 crore houses were surveyed. However, after BJP came to power in 2014, this issue got into trouble.

Salar (April 20) in its editorial has supported the demand to conduct caste census. Congress leaders say that if the BJP has any love for OBCs, then it should not be limited to words and whatever work had been done in this connection in the 2011 census, its data shall be released.

Hamara Samaj (April 18) in its editorial asked why the biggest messiah of backward classes Lalu Prasad Yadav did not start any work to conduct such a census when he was in power? The newspaper said that during the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, it has come to light that along with OBC voters, Dalits, Mahadalits and Adivasi communities also voted for BJP in huge numbers and the main reason for this is the free grain distribution scheme.

Drive against terrorists



Inquilab (May 7) reports that the Uttar Pradesh ATS has raided several places in

14 districts like Lucknow, Varanasi, Meerut, Gorakhpur, Bahraich and Muzaffarnagar in search of the activists of Popular Front and took into custody at least 50 people. Additional Director General of Police Prashant Kumar claimed that the ATS arrested two activists of PFI carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 from Varanasi. Chairman of Rihai Manch in Lucknow, Mohammad Shoeb has also been taken into custody. However, he was released after questioning. According to sources in Uttar Pradesh

police, the interrogation of those belonging to banned organisations who were taken into custody is currently on.

Earlier in September 2022, after Popular Front was declared a banned organisation, more than 200 people were arrested. Following this, two dozen other people were also arrested. The ATS arrested nine persons from Lucknow, three from Barabanki, two from Bahraich, one from Belrampur, two from Deoria, eight from Varanasi, three from Azamgarh, two from Kanpur, ten from Ghaziabad, four from Meerut, one from Bulandshahr, 11 from Shamli, three from Muzaffarnagar, five from Bijnor and three people each were arrested from 11 districts.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 8) states that the Anti-Terrorism Squad in Uttar Pradesh has taken into custody 70 people and two PFI activists who were absconding from Varanasi, Pervez Ahmad and Rais Ahmad, were also arrested. The police allege that they were abetting terrorism. In Varanasi, 211 people were taken into custody so far. Thirty special teams were formed to conduct raids and electronic equipment were being utilised to keep a tab on the activities of the suspected people on social media.

Mumbai Urdu News (April 26) states that two days after the Eid, the NIA



raided 18 places belonging to banned organisation PFI and its affiliated institutions across five states in the country. The states where the raids were conducted include Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Punjab. The raids were held in 12 places in Bihar, two in Uttar Pradesh and two places each in Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Goa. The raids were held in the houses of Dental doctor Satriq Raza and SDPI secretary in Singhwara, Mahboob Alam. In Motihari, a man named Shahzad was arrested. Shahzad had arrived recently in India from Dubai. Intelligence agencies allege the PFI used to get money from foreign sources through him. The NIA team raided the houses of district chief of PFI Mohammad Sanaullah and Mohammad Mustakim and many sim cards, Chinese mobiles and secret documents were seized from his house.

Campaign to incite Muslims against government

The Urdu newspapers have been running a largescale campaign to incite the Muslim community against the government.

Inquilab (April 28) states that a drive to run bulldozers over dargahs, madrasas and mazars is on in Delhi. In Ghazipur, Madrasa Darul Islam and an ancient mazar in front of Hasanpur depot have been bulldozed. This is the fifth mazar

in Delhi which has been razed in a single day. The Delhi Waqf Board said that it has approached the court in this connection.

According to the newspaper, the ancient mazar which was razed in Patparganj Assembly constituency, was a very old one. Whereas in Ghazipur, the walls of the madrasa which was destroyed, had been in existence since 1976. On



getting information about these incidents, the chief of Jamiat Ulema Maulana Mahmoud Madani sent a delegation to the spot. This delegation has rejected the government claim that the building was illegal or was built on government land.

The same newspaper has stated in its edition on April 27 that the mazar of Hazrat Syed Nanhe Mian at ancient dargah located in Mandi House was destroyed during the darkness at night. The khadim of this mazar (caretaker), Anwar Ali claimed that his ancestors have been serving the mazar for the past 250 years.

As per another news, the PWD has razed the mazar of Hyder Ali Shah located near Patparganj Depot using bulldozer. The *sajjadanashin* of this mazar, Sufi Islam, said that this mazar was 200 years old and no notice was even given before razing it.

Roznama Sahara (April 24) reports that the Dargah Jannati Baba at Kaka Nagar near Purana Qila was razed during night. The Waqf Board has condemned this incident. A meeting of the executive of

Jamiat Ulema was held under the chairmanship of Maulana Abdul Hannan Qasmi in which the campaign to destroy the places of worship of Muslims, the madrasas, maqbaras and dargahs, has been condemned and said that they would approach the court in this connection. He alleged that the government is deliberately targeting the religious places of Muslims.

Roznama Sahara (April 28) reports that an FIR has been registered at Bajaria, Babu Purva and Jajmau against 1,700 people for offering Eid namaz on the road in Kanpur. The police alleged that despite a ban, namaz was offered on the road on the occasion of Eid. Incharge of police outpost, Brajesh Kumar, said that the people had assured that they would offer namaz only in masjids and Idgahs on the occasion of Eid. However, violating this assurance, crowds of thousands of namazis gathered on the road, blocking the traffic. Due to this, the government had to take legal action against the accused.

Pakistan on the brink of civil war



Inquilab (May 13) states that the Islamabad High Court has given interim bail for two weeks to the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf and former prime minister Imran Khan in the Al Qadir Trust case. Imran's lawyer Khawaja Haris argued that Imran Khan was arrested on May 9. Following this, the report of Al Qadir Trust had suddenly been converted into an investigation. Khawaja Haris claimed that the NAB did not send them any questionnaire and sought only some information. In the Toshakhana case also a similar notice was sent, which was questioned in the court. The same court had described the notice as unconstitutional.

During an argument in the Islamabad High Court, the Advocate General said the army has been called under Article 245 due to the spread of violence in the country. Judge of Islamabad High Court Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb asked whether martial law has been imposed in the country? Government lawyer Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi said that Imran Khan never appeared before the Anti-Corruption Commission. However, his co-accused are cooperating with the investigation. The arrest of leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaaf is taking place throughout the country. It is being said that more than 30,000 people have been arrested so far in this connection. Informed sources claimed that the number of arrested could be even more than this. The Islamabad police has taken into custody PTI leader Dr Shireen Mazari. Pakistan's interior minister Rana Sanaullah said that until all those who set fire to government property, private properties and mohallas are arrested, the ban imposed on internet will remain.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 10) reports that the police entered the premises of Islamabad High Court and arrested former Prime Minister Imran Khan. According to Islamabad police, the former prime minister was arrested for land scam in the Al Qadir Trust case. As per the video, during the time of arrest, the Pakistani Rangers broke the glasses of Almirahs and caught Imran Khan by collar, dragged him to the car and took him away. As soon as his arrest was reported, properties across the country were vandalised. Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf Hammad Azhar said that Imran Khan was beaten up while being taken into custody. He appealed to the people that



they come down to the streets, otherwise no voice could be raised against the army in Pakistan.

As per a report in *Dawn*, internet had been banned across the country following the arrest of Imran Khan. Along with this, massive protests started across the country. In many places, government buildings were set on fire and police vehicles as well as the trucks of the army were attacked. The protesters entered the premises of Army headquarters in Rawalpindi and damaged the Commander House. In Peshawar, a radio station was also set on fire.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 11) states that Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has expressed the fear that the Army will kill him. He filed a complaint with the Pakistan's Supreme Court that he was not even allowed to go to the bathroom for 24 hours. Imran Khan's party has called for a nation-wide hartal due to which Pakistan's whole economy came to a standstill. It was being alleged that the protesters shot dead more than eight policemen. Pakistan's interior minister Rana Sanaullah accused Imran Khan and his colleagues of targeting even the uniformed soldiers and taking active part in terrorist activities by wearing a political mask. He said that the Pakistan government will not tolerate bullying under any circumstance.

Salar (May 11) in its editorial said that the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan has removed all the illusions about democracy. There was a debate about his arrest for a long time now. However,

whatever has been done to him during the time of his arrest on the court premises is shameful to a country which claims to be a democratic one. Now, Imran Khan's troubles have increased as a sessions court in Islamabad has found him guilty in the Toshakhana issue and he was sent in the custody of NAB for eight days. Following his

arrest, the entire Pakistan was on fire. At one point of time, Imran Khan used to be dear to the army. But now he has become their target. The entire Pakistan has been engulfed in the flame of violence. Dozens of people were killed. Section 144 was imposed in entire Pakistan and mobile, internet and twitter services were banned.

Imran Khan has been found guilty in the Al Qadir Trust issue. There are only two trustees in the trust and they are Imran Khan and his wife. Former prime minister Imran Khan is facing several corruption cases. Currently, more than 80 cases are being registered against him. After the general elections, the way Imran Khan's government was dismissed, there were voices of protest against the army in entire Pakistan. Support to terrorists, corruption at high-level and politics of revenge have taken Pakistan to an age of darkness, from where an escape will be a difficult one. Not just Imran Khan, there is a lengthy list of former presidents and prime ministers of Pakistan, who have been convicted in corruption cases.

After Imran Khan came to politics, there was a belief that he will bring freshness to politics and Pakistan may come on the right path. However, due to politics of revenge and political immaturity, he failed on various fronts. Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari joined hands. Poverty is increasing daily and inflation has broken all previous records. Pakistan is considered as a prominent wheat producing nation. However, today

the Atta or wheat is sold for Rs 150-200 per kg. Even the price of tomato has crossed Rs 250 per kg in the country. Meat is sold for Rs 600 to Rs 700 per kg.

Today, the image of Indian Prime Minister Modi has shot up among the people of Pakistan. Every Pakistani is asking if Atta is Rs 30 per kg in neighbouring country, why the same is sold for Rs 150 per kg in Pakistan? Recently, more than two dozen innocent people were killed in a stampede during the distribution of government Atta.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 12), while commenting on the situation in Pakistan, said that Pakistan is passing through one of its most dangerous phases in history. There is a civil war taking place across the country. Violence is increasing and vandalisations are taking place. Political leaders are making accusations against each other. Violence is not a new thing in Pakistan. But what is happening now, there is no parallel to it in the past. After Imran Khan came to power in 2018, the political and financial turmoil started.

However, the situation turned destructive when Imran Khan was removed from power and Shehbaz Sharif became the Prime Minister of the country. Now the situation is neither in the hands of police, nor in the hands of paramilitary forces. It happened for the first time in the history of Pakistan that the Pakistan Army is at the receiving end of people's anger. Till now, the control of Pakistani government was always in the hands of the army, whether directly or indirectly. Imran Khan had to pay a heavy price for trying to come out of the clutches of the army.

It is for the first time in the history of Pakistan that the people are openly attacking the Army and its offices. If the Army takes action against the protesters, there is a possibility of hundreds of people getting killed. This is why the army has restrained itself from taking any strong action. In the past 75 years, not a single prime minister of Pakistan has survived without the crutches of the army. If any leader had dared to question the Pakistan army, he had been removed from his post.

Terrorists kill 80 people in Burkina Faso

Siasat (April 25) states that in a village in western African nation Burkina Faso, terrorists wearing military uniform killed more than 80 citizens. The government has announced an inquiry into the incident. This country in western Africa is considered as a very instable and poor nation. There is a regular increase in the attacks by Islamic terrorists in the country. It is being said that those linked to Al-Qaida and ISIS in the neighbouring country Mali are spreading terrorism in Burkina Faso. As per media reports, the citizens said that more than 100 people arrived on motorcycles and trucks and opened indiscriminate fire in which more than 80 people were killed.

It is to be noted that nearly a week ago, 46 people were killed in a similar attack. The military administration of

Burkina Faso has declared that the terrorists will be crushed at any cost. In this country, a civil war started in 2015, which continues even now. Burkina Faso's interim president Captain Ibrahim Traore has announced that nearly 40% of the regions which are under the control of the terrorists have been freed. He said that so far 10,000 people have been killed in the civil war that has been raging in the country while 20,000 people have been rendered homeless.

As per another news, a day after the incident, terrorists set fire to another village in the country. Those who tried to escape in order to save their lives were indiscriminately fired upon in which 33 people were killed and more than 100 were injured. Those who were killed included women and children.

Firing in school in Pakistan

Inquilab (May 5) reports that at least eight persons were killed when a few unidentified men opened fire in a school in Kurram in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa district in Pakistan. Those killed included seven teachers. The district chief of Parachinar, S Qaisar Abbas, said that an investigation is being conducted into the incident. He blamed terrorist organisations for the incident. Following this incident, all the schools in the region have been closed for an indefinite period and metric examinations have been suspended.

In North Waziristan, during a fight between terrorists and Pakistani soldiers, three terrorists and six soldiers of Pakistani Army were killed. The public relations department of Army has accepted that there



is an increase in terrorist activities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This year, more than 1,500 people have been killed till now. The terrorists carried out three attacks during the night in a town named Laki Mardan in which three soldiers and seven terrorists were killed.

ISIS prepares to launch attacks in USA, Europe and Asia



Inquilab (May 5) states that two years after the expulsion of US forces from Afghanistan, the country has become the base of Khorasan chapter of Islamic

Khilafat. It is from here that terrorist groups plan attacks in Europe and Asian countries. As per a document of US defence department Pentagon, the terrorists of ISIS are devising plans to target embassies, churches and shopping malls across the world. According to intelligence sources, so far they have made preparations for two dozen such dastardly attack. The intelligence sources say that ISIS have become experts in making chemical weapons and drones.

Recently, they made a plan to kidnap the officials of embassies in several European nations and release over 4,000 terrorists incarcerated in jails. The Biden administration has refused to comment on this information. However, it has also been stated that our campaign to end terrorism would continue. Recently, the US Special Forces killed several prominent terrorists of Islamic State group in an operation in Somalia.

Siasat (April 26) states that the Taliban government has expressed interest

in extending cooperation to US for its action against the ISIS. As per a report in *Dawn*, Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS is targeting Shias and other minority groups in a well-planned manner. So far this year, this Sunni organisation has killed more than 500 people. The US government is worried that a majority of the huge stockpile of weapons left behind by the US soldiers when they left Afghanistan have landed in the hands of ISIS, which it has been smuggling out to various other countries in the world.

Swaminarayan temple vandalised in Australia



Inquilab (April 24) states that Khalistani supporters have once again damaged a temple in Australia. This incident took place at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir located in Rozelle region in western Sydney. As per media reports, the Khalistanis attacked the temple and damaged its murtis. Later they also

installed the Khalistani flag on the temple. It is to be noted that in the past also Hindu temples were targeted several times in Australia. In the beginning of this year, the Khalistanis damaged six temples. The Indian government had urged Australia to take stringent action against the mischievous elements.

Fierce civil war in Sudan



Mumbai Urdu News (April 24) reports that the civil war has taken a fierce turn in Sudan. In the past two weeks, at least 1,000 people were killed and more than 10,000 injured in the bloody clashes that took place between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary force. Nearly 10 lakh people have been forced to flee their houses. The Sudanese population is nearly 3.25 crore, out of which 54 per cent are Arab Muslims. There are huge deposits of gold, platinum, copper, zinc, cobalt etc in Sudan. On the other hand, the US, European Union and United Nations had declared South Sudan as a separate nation. There are only 2.5% Muslims in this country. The rest are Christians and Adivasis.

Sudan's misfortune is that a civil war is raging in the country for the past 30 years in which at least 20 lakh people have been killed so far. From May 1986 to 1989, Ahmed Al-Mirghani was in power. But in 1989, Army chief Omar Al-Bashir captured power through a coup and he remained the dictator of Sudan for 30 years. Later, following public anger, protests and hartals, the Army overthrew the government in 2019 and the chief of

Sudanese Army, General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan captured power and made the commander of paramilitary forces General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo as the Vice-President of Sudan.

Awadhnama (April 18) reports that a war is on between the army chief of Sudan, General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan and the commander of paramilitary forces General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. It is being said that the fight started when differences emerged between the two commanders, Burhan and Dagalo, on the issue of merging the paramilitary force RSF with the army. Due to the riots, the entire economy of Sudan got shattered and there is a huge increase in inflation. Food and essential items have gone out of stock in the country.

Siasat (April 20) states that both the groups have declared a ceasefire. However, despite that, the war is on at different places. In Sudanese capital Khartoum, the Sudanese air force targeted the bases of RSF. The foreign embassies have evacuated their staff from Sudan.

Awadhnama (May 6) states that US President Joe Biden had urged both the

commanders of Sudan to immediately declare a ceasefire, otherwise the US has to impose various kinds of sanctions. The US President has also signed a decree in this connection.

Hindustan Express (April 20) reports that the United Nations has condemned the attack on the embassies of different nations and stressed on stopping it immediately.

Etemaad (April 22) reports that the US and the United Nations have appealed for a ceasefire on the occasion of Eid. However, despite it, a war has been raging in the country in which many people were killed. The chief of Sudan Army, General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, said he was keen on a ceasefire. However, it is not



possible to hold talks with rebel group HDK on the issue of ceasefire. He accused the group of not adhering to the ceasefire. He claimed that clashes are on in Khartoum between the two groups. However, all the 18 states in the country are in the control of the Army.

Stampede during distribution of aid in Yemen



Mumbai Urdu News (April 21) reports that at least 85 people were killed and more than 300 injured in a stampede that took place in Yemen during the distribution of aid material. According to news agency 'Reuters,' it is the biggest incident of stampede in the past one decade. The incident took place just two days before Eid. Thousands of people gathered to

receive a cash assistance of 5,000 Yemeni Riyals in Yemen, the poorest nation in the Arab world. The stampede took place while receiving this financial aid.

The home ministry has claimed that the accused in the case have been arrested. According to the chief of the supreme revolutionary committee of Houthis, Mohammad Ali Al-Houthi, the reason for the tragedy was the huge crowd at the distribution centre for cash assistance in a school located in a narrow lane. It has also been alleged that some people opened fire to control the crowd, which further deteriorated the situation.

Trade agreement between Syria and Iran

Siasat (May 5) states that a number of agreements were signed between the presidents of Iran and Syria in order to strengthen the economic relationship between the two countries. According to Iranian news agency, Iran President Ebrahim Raisi held talks with Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in Damascus. This is the first ever visit by an Iran President to Syria after 2010. In order to take part in the talks, a delegation of economic experts also accompanied President Ebrahim Raisi during his visit to Syria. According to the government media in Syria, a number of agreements were signed between the two countries in many areas like oil, agriculture, railway and in financial sector. Iran's government rail company is keen to widen its network in Iraq and Syria so that it could link its rail network to the ports of Syria located in Mediterranean Sea and thereby increase trade.



With the new agreement with Iran, Syria's economic development will get a special boost. This is because due to the civil war in Syria, there is a huge increase in inflation rate and prices have also shot up. The value of currency is rapidly decreasing in Syria. In an interview to Arab TV channel Al Mayadeen before arriving in Damascus, Ebrahim Raisi said that Iran will make efforts for the reconstruction of Syria and bring back people who were rendered homeless due to the civil war.

ISIS chief killed in Syria

Inquilab (May 5) states that Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had said that Turkish security forces had killed the chief of terrorist organisation ISIS, Abu Hussein Al-Qurashi, in an undercover operation in Syria. He said that the then chief of this terrorist organisation, Abu Ibrahim Al-Hashimi Al Qurashi, was killed in an operation in November 2022. Following this, Abu Hussein Al-Qurashi was selected as the chief of ISIS.

In an interview, the President of Turkiye said that Turkey's national intelligence agency MIT should be given the credit for killing this man. The

intelligence agency of Turkey has been tracking this terrorist for a long time. He said that we would continue with our campaign against terrorists. He claimed that this terrorist was killed in an encounter at a farmhouse, which was being run under the guise of an Islamic madrasa, after receiving information from intelligence sources. This area was located near the border of Turkiye.

In the year 2014, the ISIS under the leadership of its chief Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi had declared an Islamic Khilafat. Later, they seized huge tracks of land in Iraq and Syria. However, Iraq and



Syria had driven them out of these regions, with the support of Russia and Iran, apart from US help. In 2019, Baghdadi was killed in an operation.

Meanwhile, the back of ISIS was broken. Despite all this, this terrorist organisation is still active in Syria and many of its neighbouring countries.

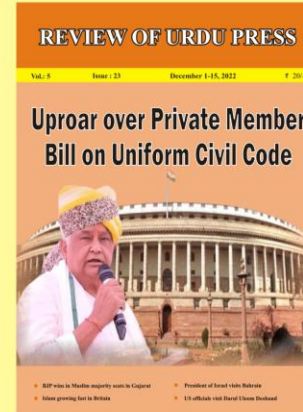
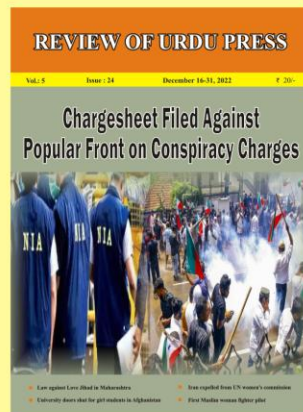
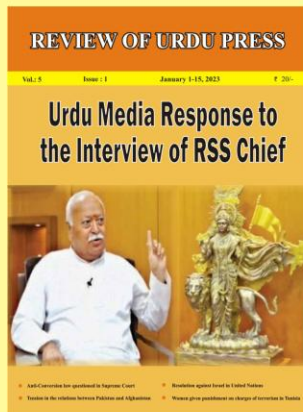
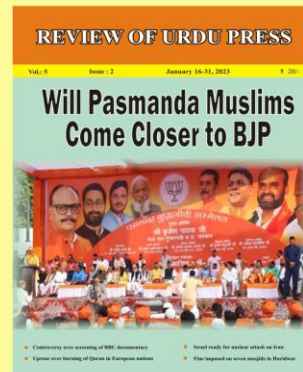
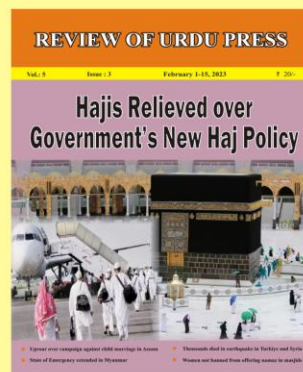
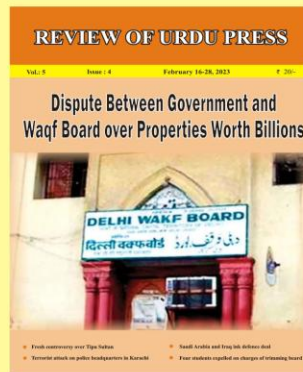
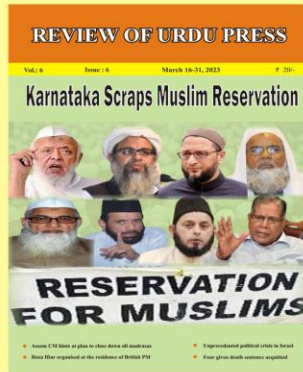
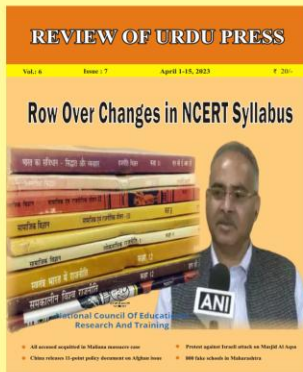
164 aircraft of Saudi Airlines allocated for Hajis



Roznama Sahara (May 6) reports that Saudi Arabia has allocated 164 planes of Saudi Airlines for the services of Hajis for this year's Haj. Saudi aircraft companies have started operational programmes. This year, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Flyadeal and private Saudi Airlines have allocated seats for more than 12 lakh Hajis from across the world. Those interested in Haj can travel from more than 100 airports and 14

designated airports. Nearly 8,000 pilots have been put in the service of Hajis. Special arrangements have also been made for the religious programmes and information regarding the Haj. Arrangements have also been made for recitation of Quran for 600 hours. Apart from Arabic, the Islamic programme will be presented in English, Indonesian, Chinese and 50 other languages.

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