

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

Vol.: 6

Issue : 10

May 16-31, 2023

₹ 20/-

## Karnataka Assembly Elections in the Eyes of Urdu Newspapers



- Law to ban polygamy in Assam
- Erdogan becomes President of Turkiye again
- Preparations on to ban Imran Khan's party in Pakistan
- Aligarh Muslim University lands in controversy again

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

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## Summary

Though the Urdu newspapers extensively covered the results of Karnataka Assembly elections, their coverage was a one-sided affair. Their entire focus was on glorifying Congress and Rahul Gandhi and target the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Majority of the Urdu newspapers did not even make an effort to objectively analyse the results of the election. The funniest part is that not even a single newspaper came out with an article or editorial in which the BJP's view point was also included. Majority of the Urdu newspapers stressed that now South India has been freed from the rule of the BJP.

This apart, the Urdu newspapers have predicted that the results of the Karnataka Assembly elections will also have an effect on the Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Assembly elections to be held towards the end of this year. Most of the Urdu newspapers have said that the campaign unleashed by the BJP against Muslims ahead of the Assembly elections have proved costly for the party. These newspapers have specifically mentioned about hijab, halal meat, Tipu Sultan and reservation issue and argued that the voters of Karnataka did not like communalism or the politics of hatred and instead adopted a secular point of view during voting.

Analysing the defeat of Janata Dal (Secular), these newspapers have concluded that a major section of voters was apprehensive that if the JD(S) wins a large number of seats, then it may join hands with the BJP to form government. Hence, due to the anti-BJP wave, the voters of JD(S) desisted themselves from giving votes to its candidates. The Urdu newspapers also concluded that the spell of invincibility around Narendra Modi has been completely broken and it has been proved that if Congress, the main Opposition party, gets united and organize the election campaign in the right manner then it would be able to keep BJP away from power.

The news of the victory of Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the presidential elections has been widely reported in Urdu newspapers. For the first time in the past 100-year history of Turkiye, the presidential election had to be conducted in two phases. This is because no candidate could secure more than 50% votes in the first phase of the presidential elections. In the second phase of the elections, the situation changed after one candidate declared his support to Erdogan and Erdogan won the presidential elections for the third consecutive time by securing 52% votes.

Interestingly, Turkiye is in dire straits from the economic point of view. However, despite this, a major section of the people there had voted for Erdogan. Erdogan is considered as anti-West and a supporter of Russia. After Erdogan's victory, three world powers have become active to exert their influence in Muslim world. They are the US, Russia and China. The 'Abrahamic Accord' launched by the US to strengthen Israel's diplomatic relationship with Arab nations has been destroyed by China.

The situation in Pakistan remains explosive till now. A tussle is on between former prime minister Imran Khan and the army. Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has given the indication that the Pakistan government is planning to ban Imran Khan's party, Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI). He said that Imran Khan is spreading terrorism in the name of politics in the country. On the other hand, Imran Khan's allegation is that the Pakistan army is putting pressure on the leaders of his party and the cadre that they sever their ties with him. This way, the ruling dispensation in Pakistan wants to finish off his party. He claimed that he is willing to shed the last drop of his blood for the 'real freedom' of Pakistani people.

## Karnataka Assembly elections in the eyes of Urdu newspapers



Almost all Urdu newspapers have widely covered the results of Karnataka Assembly election. Majority of the Urdu newspapers, while welcoming the election results, claimed that the BJP has now been erased from South India and the invincibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity has also totally broken. This apart, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim to be always victorious has also been exposed. The Urdu newspapers say that the results of Karnataka Assembly elections have given the indication that a drive to wipe out BJP from the entire country has started. The trump card of Hindutva, in which an atmosphere of hatred was being created by the BJP, also did not work in this election.

**Roznama Sahara** (May 19) Group Editor Abdul Majid Nizami in his article stated that the model prepared for 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi proved to be a success. There are 21 Assembly constituencies in the state where the convoy of Bharat Jodo Yatra passed through. Out of them, the Congress

won in 16 Assembly constituencies. The newspaper also claimed that with the victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections, a bright future for Congress has also begun.

**Inquilab** (May 18) in its editorial claimed that the results of the Karnataka Assembly elections have proved wrong the claims of media that Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi would not be able to bring votes. In Karnataka, the Congress has come to power with 43% votes. It has been widely publicized that 'victory will only be Modi's' and there is no substitute for him. However, it was just a propaganda.

In this edition of **Inquilab**, Pervez Hafiz in his article claimed that the election results in Karnataka is a cool breeze for the Congress. The writer said that even if the credit for the victory in Karnataka is not given to Rahul Gandhi, the responsibility for the defeat should definitely be given to Prime Minister Modi. This is because Modi was the face of the BJP's high profile election campaign. The way the Congress

assurance to impose a ban on mischievous organisations like Bajrang Dal has been turned around as a ban on Bajrang Bali by Modi is a major evidence of his political malfeasance.

**Inquilab** (May 17) in its editorial has claimed that the people of Karnataka have buried every claim of the BJP machinery. This apart, the Karnataka election results have proved many assumptions wrong. The first assumption was that if non-BJP parties want to win the polls, then they have to specially take care that no such voices come from their side which the BJP could distort and use it to their political advantage. The same way Prime Minister Modi had totally turned around the election atmosphere to his advantage with terms like 'Maut ka Saudagar,' 'Chaiwala' or 'Neech'. In Karnataka, the Congress has proved that this was just an imagination. The other thing is that the election results has exposed the truth about the influence of the RSS's election machinery. Even though the swayamsevaks of Sangh held a house-to-house campaign, they failed to collect votes. The third assumption which was proved wrong was that the booth management of BJP was a perfect one. The fourth belief that there was no damage to the magic and charisma of Modi has also been proved wrong.

**Roznama Sahara** (May 19) in its editorial has claimed that the truth about the BJP's claim to attract women and Muslim voters have been publically exposed. From the election results, it has also been proved that the policy prepared by Muslim Rashtriya Manch to wean away minorities, especially Muslims, towards it has failed. Now, a special training camp is being organized in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal to prepare a cadre of Muslims in which the patron of the Manch, Indresh Kumar, will also take part.

**Inquilab** (May 16) in its editorial has said that it has been proved from the



Karnataka election results that the people there had rejected Hindutva. However, there are many reasons for this. One thing is that there is no communalism in the blood of the people of this state. That is why the people there had never given a clear majority to BJP. In order to polarise Hindu votes, the efforts made by Sangh Parivar to create a controversy over Tipu Sultan, apart from the issues of hijab and halal, have failed. The newspaper said that now the BJP has to think about a different election strategy.

**Siasat** (May 14) has claimed that the Congress has created a new record by winning 136 seats in the Karnataka Assembly elections. In the past 30 years, the Congress had never won these many seats. In the 2018 Assembly elections, the Congress had won 80 seats. In the 1999 Assembly elections, the Congress had got 132 seats and its vote percentage was 40.84 which has now increased to 42.9 percent. In this election, the BJP got 36% votes and the party won 65 seats. H D Kumaraswamy's party JD(S) got 13% votes and 19 seats.

**Siasat** (May 14) in its editorial has congratulated the people of Karnataka for freeing south India from BJP and said that from this it is clear what is written on the walls of country's political future. The newspaper also claimed that the attempt made by the BJP to create hatred in society in order to win the elections in Karnataka has totally failed. While congratulating

Congress, the newspaper said that for the first time in the past nine years the Congress has unitedly fought an election in any state and the leaders kept their differences aside and strongly fought for the victory of the party.

**Siasat** (May 14), while commenting on the elections in Karnataka, said the Congress has succeeded in getting a clear majority in the state and the dreams of the JD(S) to be the kingmaker has been shattered. However, the BJP has managed to become the biggest opposition party.

Analysing the election campaign of different leaders, the newspaper in another editorial claimed that it was being said about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah that they are the trump cards of the party in amassing votes. However, in the Karnataka Assembly elections, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi have relegated them to background. Narendra Modi had done election campaign in 42 Assembly constituencies. However, his candidates won in only 20 seats. On the other hand, Amit Shah had done election campaign in 30 Assembly seats. However, only 11 of his candidates managed to win from these seats.

On the other hand, in the 22 Assembly seats where Rahul Gandhi had campaigned, the Congress had won 16 of them. In the same way, Priyanka Gandhi campaigned in 27 Assembly seats, among which Congress won 17 seats.

**Siasat** (May 21) in its editorial has opined that the tug-of-war between Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar for the post of chief minister after the victory in the elections is not a good sign for the Congress party. The government needs to undertake a special campaign to get rid the state of communal mindset. Special focus should be given to end corruption because the Congress had cornered BJP by keeping its target on corruption. The new government has to give special attention to end the efforts made by BJP to create an atmosphere of hatred in the society on the pretext of halal meat, hijab and Tipu Sultan and has to make special efforts to maintain

communal harmony in the state. This apart, employment opportunities will also have to be created.

**Aurangabad Times** (May 14) has published many news items on its front page and the headlines were 'Modi's magic did not succeed', 'Muslims came forward and voted for Congress', 'Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra and Priyanka Gandhi as well as Kharge's efforts bear fruits,' 'Bumper victory for Congress,' 'BJP totally wiped out from south India,' and 'Rahul Gandhi likely to emerge as the future prime minister in the next year's Lok Sabha elections.' In another news in the same edition, the newspaper said that nine Muslim MLAs had won the elections this time. Whereas in the Assembly elections held in 2018, seven Muslim candidates had won. All the candidates who won were from the Congress party.

**Aurangabad Times** (May 18) reports that 97% of the 224 candidates who won this election are crorepatis. On the other hand, criminal cases have been filed against 55% of these MLAs. This time, 4% women have managed to win the elections.

**Avadhnama** (May 14) in its editorial has said that in the Karnataka Assembly elections, 'Love has won.' The newspaper said that Karnataka has a tradition of changing the hands of power every five years. In the state, since the BJP has especially harassed Muslims, they just closed their eyes and voted for Congress. The newspaper said that in Karnataka, the BJP's politics of hatred has failed. Reacting to the issue, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that it was a victory of love over hatred.

**Avadhnama** (May 16) in its editorial has claimed that due to the defeat of BJP in the Karnataka Assembly elections, the possibility of BJP getting defeated at the Centre in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections has increased. Prime Minister Modi has also congratulated Congress for its victory. On the other hand, the leaders of BJP claim that our vote percentage is intact and since the number



of seats got reduced, the votes that had gone to the Opposition did not get divided.

The newspaper said that the credit for the victory goes to the Muslims, who cast their votes to protect democracy, brotherhood and Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb and uproot the party which has been sowing the seeds of communalism from power. The newspaper said the Congress has to make special efforts to collect the votes of Muslims in the general elections in 2024. Before this, Assembly elections will be held in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Depending on the success of the Congress in these states, it would be clear who will get power in the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

While analyzing the Karnataka elections in its editorial, **Avadhnama** (May 22) said that the Congress has strengthened its organizational structure in these elections and did not allow infighting between the leaders to come to the fore. If such an atmosphere is maintained, the Congress would be able to regain its lost ground. For this, the Congress has to make efforts to resolve its internal differences in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

**Avadhnama** (May 17) has expressed concern over the internal struggle in Congress over the chief ministership in Karnataka.

**Avadhnama** (May 25) has thanked Rahul Gandhi for making a Muslim MLA,

U T Khader, as the Speaker of Karnataka Assembly.

**Siasat** (May 15) in its editorial has advised Congress that after the victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections, it has to keep the party away from self-obsession and has to maintain organizational unity. The victory in Karnataka also gives the message that for the success of the Congress party in any state it is necessary that the leaders there have a sense of unity and they have to keep themselves away from cutting

the roots of each other. The victory in Karnataka should not lead to complacency and it has to take a closer look on everyday situations. In the states where the Congress directly fights the BJP, it is necessary to specially keep an eye on the strategy of the BJP. In Rajasthan, the quarrel between the two leaders, Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot, is not a good sign for the future of Congress.

**Siasat** (May 17) in its editorial has said that after the victory of Congress in Karnataka, there is a change in the viewpoint of Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, and she stressed that wherever Congress directly fights the BJP, there the other opposition parties should support the Congress and strengthen the party. Whereas in the states where the regional parties are in power, the Congress should support those parties so that BJP could be defeated in the elections.

**Etemaad** (May 14) in its editorial has claimed that in Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrogance has drowned the BJP. The newspaper said that our warning that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah would not be able to show their faces to the people after the defeat in the polls has been proved correct. The huge economic resources and projects worth billions of rupees for future development have failed to attract the voters towards BJP. Media

management also failed to deliver success to the BJP.

The newspaper said that in the next Lok Sabha elections, the possibility of Opposition parties becoming strong has increased. This time, all the nine Muslim MLAs who won belong to the Congress. There are 13% Muslim voters in the state and the JD(S) had fielded 23 Muslim candidates in the fray in order to attract Muslim voters towards the party. However, none of them could win. In the 2008 Assembly elections, 9 Muslim MLAs won the elections, whose number increased to 11 in the 2013 elections. In 2018 also 9 Muslim MLAs won. All of them belonged to the Congress.

**Avadhnama** (May 14) has claimed that the results of Karnataka elections will have an effect on the politics of Telangana and there is a possibility of a large number of Congress candidates winning from there. The Muslim population in the state is 13% and out of the 119 Assembly seats, there are 40 seats where the key to the victory is in the hands of Muslims. In Hyderabad, the population of Muslims is 17 lakh, which is 43% of the total population of Muslims in the state. There are 24 Assembly seats in Greater Hyderabad out of which there are 10 seats where the Muslim voters play a significant role in the victory or defeat of any candidate. The newspaper claimed that in case the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), which is in power in the state, succeeds in getting a major portion of the votes of the Dalits and Muslims, then it will easily come back to power for the third consecutive time in the state.

**Etemaad** (May 15) reports that the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, expressed hope that now the Congress will fulfill the promises that it had made to the people of Karnataka.

The same newspaper in its editorial on May 15 said the aim of the BJP to make the state as a centre of its power in south India has been foiled in the Karnataka elections. The BJP leaders thought that nobody would be able to defeat them in the

elections. That is why they openly started saying that they did not need Muslim votes. Now after this defeat, their eyes should open. This is because the votes of Muslims play a significant role in the politics of any state and it should not be ignored.

**Etemaad** (May 21) has published an article written by Masoom Muradabadi in which it has been stated that the blind followers of BJP are blaming the secular Hindus for the defeat of the BJP in the elections in Karnataka and they have been described as more dangerous than Muslims. However, the victory of Congress in Karnataka is a victory of secularism. The BJP has failed to capitalize even on the construction of Ram Mandir in place of Babri Masjid. The newspaper said that the election results have also proved that the people of this country love secularism and they do not like the 'politics of hatred' of the BJP.

**Etemaad** (May 21) has expressed happiness that South India has been freed from BJP. In Karnataka, the BJP had raised issues like hijab, halal, love jihad, land jihad and Tipu Sultan in order to polarize the votes of Hindus. In order to economically marginalize Muslims, a special campaign was unleashed in 2022 to boycott them financially and it has been propagated among Hindus that they should not buy anything from Muslims. In order to win the elections, Narendra Modi himself had urged to the people that they watch the film 'The Kerala Story.'

Not only that, instead of filling the minds of people with poison, the Congress has highlighted the failures of BJP government and tried to win the hearts of people by publicising the 'five guarantee yojana'. The Congress has promised 200-unit free electricity to all families, monthly allowance of Rs 2,000 to the woman head of all families, monthly allowance of Rs 3,000 to unemployed graduate youths, Rs 1,500 for two years to unemployed diploma holders (18-25 years), 10 kg free rice to every member of poor families who are below the poverty line and free travel for women in public transport buses.

Making fun of these promises, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had described them as ‘Muft Ki Revdi.’ But this fun has proved costly for him. Seeing the possible defeat, the BJP had accused Sonia Gandhi of running a campaign to separate Karnataka from the rest of the Bharat. The newspaper said that in the past nine years, Modi ji could not make a Congress-free Bharat. But the south India has definitely become Modi and BJP-free.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 14), while publishing news, has given the headlines, ‘BJP’s hatred got defeated and Congress’ love has won.’ ‘Hijab, azaan, halal meat, Tipu Sultan, Bajrang Bali and reservation issue have failed.’ ‘Magic of Modi, Yogi and Amit Shah did not succeed in this election.’ ‘Dreams of JD (S) to become kingmaker lies shattered.’

**Hindustan Express** (May 14) in its editorial has stated that ‘accha din’ has come for the Congress and the Modi magic had no effect in Karnataka. This is because people have got to know the truth about the promises made by Modi.

**Salar** (May 14), while publishing the election results in Karnataka as its main news, headlined them as ‘United voting of Muslims bring success.’ ‘Congress becomes the King in Karnataka, BJP wiped out.’ ‘Even kingmaker wiped out in strong wind.’ The newspaper claimed that the BJP is slowly being wiped out from the entire country. Before the 2014 elections, BJP was in power in six states, which got increased to 19 states by 2018. Now, the BJP is in power in 15 states either on its own or as a coalition partner.

In another news in the same edition, **Salar** has claimed that south India has become BJP-free and in the five states in south India, BJP is not in power in any of them. There are 130 Lok Sabha seats in these states, among which BJP had won in 29 of them.

In an article published in **Salar** (May 14), Zafar Agha has claimed that from the defeat of the BJP in Karnataka, the BJP’s winning streak has started subsiding. This election has a very important political

significance. The first thing is that the BJP’s election formula, namely Hindutva, is losing its appeal. The trump card of Muslim enmity has also now hit a wall. Last year, the BJP had openly adopted an anti-Muslim policy for polarisation of Hindu votes, as per which a ban was imposed on hijab in states. Tipu Sultan was described as anti-Hindu. Organisations like Bajrang Dal created a ruckus over Love Jihad. But when the election campaign started, the BJP remained silent on all these issues. The second biggest indication of the Karnataka election results is that the magic of Narendra Modi did not work. Earlier in Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal elections also he could not utilize his magic. The third indication is that nowadays the voters cast their votes more in the name of caste than in the name of religion. In Karnataka, the Lingayat voters who used to support the BJP has turned their face away. However, the JD(S) of Deve Gowda has managed to win their votes.

The Karnataka results has proved to be a Sanjeevani for the Congress and it has helped infuse fresh blood into the veins of Congress which has been struggling for survival. Priyanka Gandhi has also managed to leave the imprint of a political leader. In Himachal, the credit for Congress victory goes to Priyanka Gandhi. However, in Karnataka also there is no short of her influence. Now, the possibility of Congress winning the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to be held towards the end of the year has increased. If the Congress wins in these two states, then the party will emerge as the main opposition party in the Lok Sabha elections.

**Salar** (May 14) has described the victory of Congress in Karnataka as a historic one and said the reason for this victory is corruption, commission, bribery and the neglect of local issues by the BJP government. The effort made by Modi to collect the votes of people by creating an atmosphere of hatred has failed. The allegations made by Prime Minister Modi

against Congress over separatism and neglect of Lingayat community have failed to reap any benefit. Bajrang Bali also did not come to the ground to extend help. In Bellari, the attempt made by Modi to raise the issue of Love Jihad on the pretext of the film 'The Kerala Story' has also failed. The intriguing thing is that the hijab issue, which hit the headlines in newspapers for several months, was not even discussed during the election campaign. The BJP conducted 9,125 rallies and 1,377 road shows in Karnataka, but despite all this, the people did not show up their face.

**Salar** (May 16) in its editorial said the Congress is facing a new test after winning the elections. Time has come for it to fulfill the promises that the party has made in its election manifesto.

**Salar** (May 16) in an article has emphasized that after winning the elections, the Congress should not rest on its victory and whatever assurances it had given to the people, those have to be fulfilled.

**Salar** (May 17) in its editorial has stressed on fulfilling the promises made by the Congress to provide 4% reservation to Muslims and said that during Congress rule, the minorities hope to participate in power. Hence there should be special focus on the problems being faced by Muslims. It is also necessary that there is one Muslim Deputy Chief Minister and four Muslim ministers. Now, as soon as the power has changed hands, some people have come out on the fields like rain frogs and want to taste power claiming to be Congressmen though they are not.

In an article published in **Salar** (May 17), it was being said that the Chanakya Niti of Amit Shah has failed in Karnataka. In this edition, it has also been claimed that if the Opposition parties get united and expose the policies of BJP then it could be easily get rid of. Till now, the Congress has



ignored the interests of Muslims and its leaders. The worrying thing is that even secular parties close their eyes to the problems of Muslims fearing Hindu backlash. Hence it is necessary that Muslims get united and make aware of the importance of their vote bank to different political parties in the Lok Sabha elections.

In another article published in the same edition, Ghulam Ghouse said that the Muslims need to adopt a special strategy in casting their votes so that their votes do not get divided. Muslims should not give their votes to the weak candidates of small parties and to those candidates who do not win, even if they are our brothers. Muslims should give their votes to the candidate who is capable of removing BJP from power. This apart, a situation where a number of Muslim candidates vying for single seat should be avoided so that the votes of Muslims do not get divided.

**Salar** (May 19) in its editorial has said that the increasing differences between Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar is a threat to the Congress in future and appealed to the high command that it make efforts to keep Congressmen united in states.

**Quami Tanzeem** (May 15), while analyzing the Karnataka elections, said the Congressmen, after a long time, have got an opportunity to be happy due to the victory in Karnataka elections. Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra has played a major role in this victory. The election took place at a time when the existence of

democracy and secularism seemed to be in danger. The newspaper said that the Congress should increase the quota for minorities and impose a ban on Bajrang Dal and Popular Front to send a message that Congress is against communalism. The Congress government should specially focus on resolving local issues. It is necessary to stop the issues created by BJP on hijab, love jihad, halal meat and use of loudspeaker for azaan in mosques. The people should remain alert against BJP's attempt to bring Uniform Civil Code in order to polarize the Hindu votes. Meanwhile, Congress has won the majority. But it has to pay more attention to fulfill the promises made and remain united.

**Salar** (May 23) reports that the chief of Jamiat Ulema, Arshad Madani, while commenting on the election results in Karnataka, said that the people of Karnataka has rejected those who play communal politics. Muslims want the nation to be a centre of peace and stability and hence the Congress has to make special efforts to end communalism.

**Salar** (May 24) has congratulated U T Khader for becoming the Speaker of the Assembly and expressed the hope that the government will do justice for Muslims. Initially, Khader had rejected the proposal to become the Speaker of Assembly and was keen on becoming a minister. However, later the Congress incharge for Karnataka, Randeep Surjewala, had

persuaded him to work as the Speaker of the Assembly for two years. After that he will be included in the ministry.

**Salar** (May 24) in its editorial has stressed that those with a Sanghi mentality in the administration shall be removed immediately from their posts and fulfill the promises being given to the people.

**Salar** (May 26) in its editorial has described Karnataka as a model in the country's politics and said that there is no space for communal agenda in the country's politics. Hence the people of the country should encourage India's culture and spirit of brotherhood. The atmosphere of hatred that has been created against Muslims should be stopped.

**Salar** (May 25) in its editorial has expressed concern that the BJP has again started raising communal issues after being removed from power. Recently, a legislator of BJP had accused the chief minister of state for the murder of 24 Hindu activists. Immediately after this, several TV channels had carried the statement of the minister Priyank Kharge promising to repeal the anti-conversion bill and anti-cow slaughter bill. This apart, the BJP has also threatened that in case the new government makes any changes in the syllabus formulated by the previous government, then there could be a religious war in the state. The Congress leadership had announced before the elections that once it comes to power, it will withdraw the controversial laws being imposed on the people by the BJP.

## 29 Muslim candidates clear Civil Services Exam

**Inquilab** (May 30) states that 29 Muslim candidates have cleared the competitive examination of Union Public Service Commission held in 2022. This time, 933 candidates have cleared the examination in which there was one Muslim among the top 10 and three Muslim candidates among the top 100. Jammu and Kashmir's Waseem Ahmad Bhat has got the seventh position. Whereas Naveed Ahsan Bhat got the 84<sup>th</sup> rank and Asad Zubair got 86<sup>th</sup> rank. There

are 11 women among the Muslim candidates who cleared the exam.

It is to be noted that among the 933 candidates who cleared the exam, 345 are from the general category. Whereas 99 got success through the EWS quota. Besides, 263 candidates cleared through OBC quota and 154 got through Scheduled Caste quota and 72 cleared through Scheduled Tribe quota. Out of these candidates, 38 have been selected for foreign service, 180 for



IAS, 200 have been selected for IPS and 473 have been selected for central services.

Chairman of Zakat Foundation, Syed Zafar Mahmood said that this year the selection of Muslim candidates was good. Nearly 88 Muslim candidates have been called for interview out of which 29 have cleared. He said that Zakat Foundation of India has been running its centres in more than 50 districts in order to prepare Muslim children for this examination, which are managed by former IAS and IPS officers. The head of another centre, Atiqur Rahman Siddiqui, said that compared to the last year, this year more Muslims have won the Civil Services Examination. Compared to last year, there is an increase in the number of posts this year. Despite this, there is no increase in the number of Muslim candidates.

Siddiqui said that in the past 25 years, there is no increase in the rate of Muslim candidates who clear the exams. If we look at the expenses that we are incurring in the name of free coaching for minority candidates, the results are not up to the mark. We are not moving ahead than 20-30 candidates. We are providing all facilities to the candidates. But there is no

increase in their number. He said that the cut-off marks for Muslim candidates in the UPSC (Mains) exam is very low. Hence the Muslim candidates need to focus more on passing the exam.

#### **Roznama Sahara**

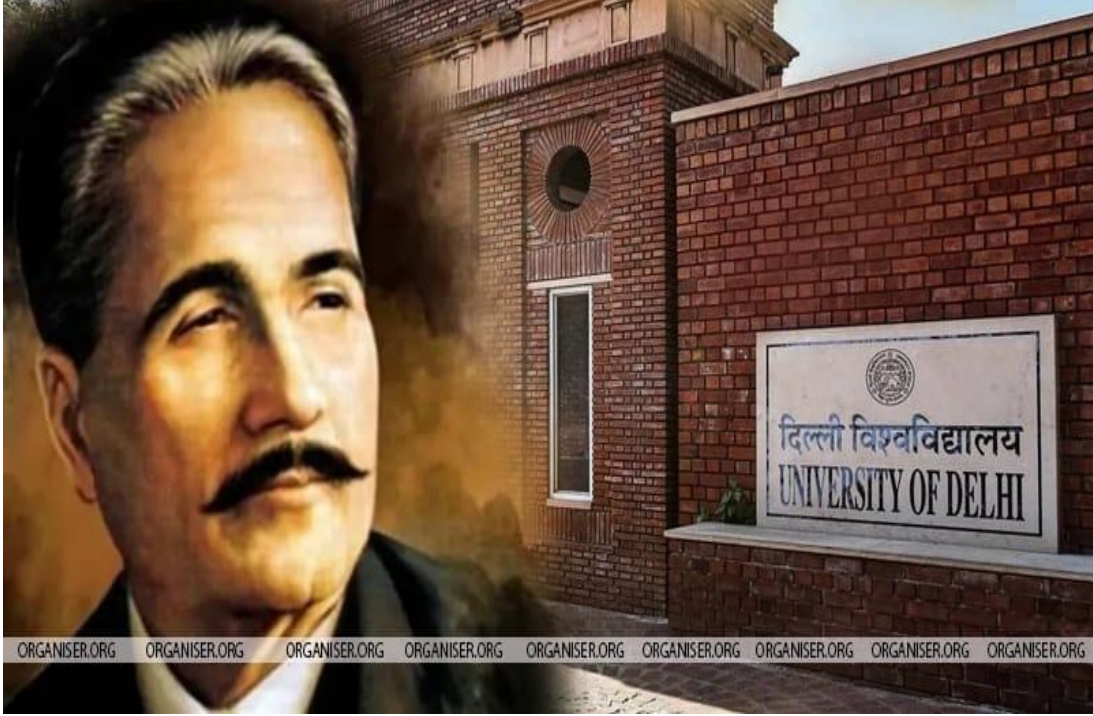
(May 30) has released a list of Muslim candidates who cleared the UPSC exams and their names are: Waseem Ahmed Bhat, Naveed Ahsan Bhat, Asad Zubair, Aamir Khan, Ruhani, Ayasha Fatima, Shaik Habeebulla, Zufishan Haque, Manan Bhat, Aakip Khan, Moin Ahamd, Mohammad Idul Ahmad, Arshad Muhammed,

Rashida Khatoon, Aiman Rizwan, Mohamed Riswin, Mohd Irfan, Sayed Mohammed Husain, Qazi Ayesha Ibrahim, Muhammad Afzel, Mohammed Yakub, Mohd Shada, Taskeen Khan, Mohammed Siddiq Shariff, Akhila B S, Md Burhan Zaman, Fathima Haris, Iram Choudhary and Sherin Shahana T K.

**Comment:** Earlier, in the 2021 Civil Services Examination, only 25 Muslim candidates could clear the exam. Whereas in 2020, 31 candidates; in 2019, 44 candidates; in 2018, 28 candidates; in 2017, 50 candidates and in 2016, the largest number of 52 candidates cleared the exam. In the year 2015, 34 Muslim candidates cleared the exam. In 2014, 38; in 2013, 34; in 2012, 30; in 2011, 31; in 2010, 21 and in 2009, 31 Muslim candidates cleared the exam.

Currently, 10 Muslim institutions are running 51 centres to prepare students to appear in the all India services examination where Muslim candidates are given free food, accommodation and books. Through the ministry of minority affairs, a financial aid of Rs 1.5 lakh is also given to Muslim candidates who appear for the examination.

## Delhi University removes chapter on Iqbal from its syllabus



**Aurangabad Times** (May 28) reports that the Academic Council of Delhi University has decided to remove a chapter on controversial Urdu poet and the author of the poem, 'Saare Jahan Se Accha, Hindustan Hamara,' Sir Mohammad Iqbal from the syllabus of BA Political Science. Now the executive council of the University will take a final call on this decision.

It is to be noted that a meeting of the Academic Council of Delhi University took place recently in which a decision was taken to remove a chapter on Pakistan's national poet Mohammad Iqbal. The title of this chapter is 'Modern Indian Political Thought.' This was part of the sixth semester of BA Political Science.

Sangh-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad has welcomed this decision. A member of the Academic Council said that a resolution was brought in to amend the syllabus in Political Science. As per this resolution, a

decision was taken to remove the chapter on Iqbal. The six members of the Academic Council said that no opinion was taken from the teachers of the university regarding removal of chapter on Iqbal from the syllabus.

It is to be noted that earlier NCERT had also changed the syllabus of Class XII History, Civics and Hindi and removed portions on Mughal Empire, Maulana Azad etc from the History syllabus.

It is being said that Mohammad Iqbal is the national poet of Pakistan. He was born in Sialkot (now in Pakistan) in the undivided India. From a study of Iqbal's writings, one could clearly understand that he had changed his viewpoint and philosophy many times. Sometimes he was influenced by nationalist thoughts and had written poems like 'Saare Jahan Se Accha, Hindustan Hamara.' However later he became a fundamentalist Muslim and he had written 'Tarana-e-Milli' and its title

was, ‘Muslim Hai Hum, Watan Hai, Saara Jahan Hamara.’

Through this poem, he glorified the incident where Mahmoud Ghaznavi had destroyed Somnath Mandir. In 1930, he presided over the meeting of the All India Muslim League held in Allahabad in which a resolution was duly passed seeking the creation of Pakistan which was presented by Mohammad Iqbal himself. This apart, his two books on Islamic history are specially being discussed and they are titled ‘Shikhwa’ and Jawab-e-Shikhwa. These books have glorified the fundamentalist side of Islam and expressed regrets over the collapse of Islamic Empire.

**Inquilab** (May 29) reports that some groups have opposed the removal of the chapter on Iqbal from the Political Science book of Delhi University. Professor of Delhi University, Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, described the decision as an influence of communal mindset and said that this decision of the university was beyond his comprehension. This is because Iqbal is studied not just in Bharat or in Pakistan, but in the entire world. Apart from being a poet of high stature, he was also a thinker. He said that this decision was taken due to the pressure from the head of the political science department Sangit Kumar Ragi, who is rightwing and belongs to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Muslim leader Dr Taslim Rehmani demanded that this decision should be withdrawn. This is because this decision was taken on the basis of a particular political ideology.

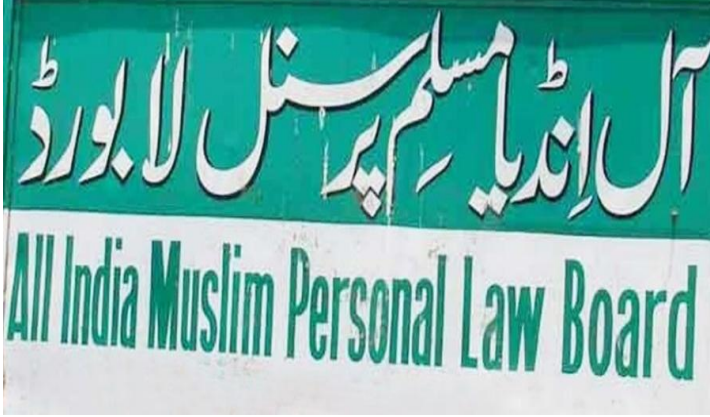
Convenor of central social reforms committee Maulana Nazimul Haque Qasmi said that it has been argued on behalf of this decision that Iqbal was a supporter of ‘Two-nation theory.’ However, it is wrong. Dr Abrar Rahmani

has said that there is a particular ideology behind this, which is responsible for the decision. The head of the Urdu department in Delhi University Dr Najma Rehmani said that it was not a correct decision. I would admit that space should be given for every ideology and thinkers in the syllabus of the university. If you are teaching Savarkar, then you should teach Iqbal as well. She said that before taking any decision, the opinion of students should also be taken into consideration.

**Inquilab** (May 30) states that a section of Muslims has condemned the removal of a chapter on the life and contributions of Iqbal from the syllabus of University and inclusion of a chapter on Savarkar. Mohammad Abdul Wahab said that at one level Iqbal has been removed from the syllabus and on the other, proponent of Hindutva V D Savarkar has been included. The limit is that Gandhi has been put in the seventh semester. This means that the students who complete the preliminary education will remain ignorant about the life and achievements of Mahatma Gandhi. He complained that the party which is in power at the Centre, deliberately wants to erase the contribution of Muslims.

Social activist Mohammad Sabir Qasmi said that the reason which has been cited to remove the chapter on Iqbal from the syllabus has no basis. This is because Iqbal passed away in 1938, before the creation of Pakistan. He wanted an independent Muslim-majority state within Bharat. Left wing student organisation All India Student Association has been making a plan to hold nation-wide protest on the issue of removal of Iqbal from the syllabus of the university. In this connection, students of different universities are being contacted.

## Two important decisions regarding Muslim Personal Law



**Salar** (May 27) states that the Odisha High Court has made it clear that Muslims cannot adopt minor children under Muslim Personal Law. They have to strictly follow the directives issued under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. It is true that a Muslim man can adopt a child. But he has to follow the J J Act and the rigorous process prescribed in the rules made there under. On this issue, they cannot act on their own. This is the reason why generally in Islamic countries, instead of children being given for adoption, guardians are being provided. Hence we assume that the claim for adoption is not sustainable as per law.

The petitioner has filed an application before the high court to restore the guardianship of his minor daughter. It is being said that the minor girl, whose age was currently stated to be 12 years, was detained by the defendant in an illegal manner. Despite several efforts by the petitioner, he was not given permission to meet his daughter. Apart from police, details regarding this issue has been given to Child Welfare Committee. However, these officials did not take any action. Later, the petitioner approached the high court and filed a habeas corpus petition. The court directed those in whose custody the petitioner's minor daughter is, to produce the child before the court and hand her over to the petitioner. It has been

argued on behalf of the petitioner that nobody has any right to give adoption under Muslim Personal Law.

In another issue, the Uttarakhand High Court, while hearing a petition filed against permission being given to girls below the age of 18 years to marry under Muslim Personal Law, has directed the All India Muslim Personal Law Board to file a reply within four weeks. The

hearing in this case was held before a bench comprising Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Alok Kumar Varma. On behalf of Youth Bar Association of India, a public interest petition has been filed in which it has been stated that on the pretext of Muslim Personal Law, marriage of girls below the age of 18 is being held in the country. Studies have clearly confirmed that due to the lower age of marriage of girls there is adverse effect on the health of the mother and the child and in such cases, the mortality rate of children is also high.

It has been stated in the petition that the Central government had described the sexual abuse of girls below the age of 18 years as a criminal offence and in order to stop them, stringent laws like POCSO have been formulated. Secondly, in the name of Muslim Personal Law, permission has been granted for the marriage of girls below the age of 18 years and in majority of the states, the courts have also given protection to them. From this it is clear that there is difference of opinion in the courts as well. On behalf of the petitioner, a demand has been raised that a stringent law shall be made on this matter like in Karnataka and said that the high court shall issue notice in this connection and issue necessary orders.

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 14) has published an article written by Zaifur Rahman in which it has been stated that

after the death of Maulana Rabbe Hasani Nadwi, a controversy has erupted over the post of chairman of Muslim Personal Law Board. It is necessary for the Muslim leaders in the country to know that the Muslim Personal Law Board is neither a political nor a social organisation, instead it

is an organisation originally formed for the protection Shariah Islamia. In the present situation, seeing the anti-Muslim stand of the government, the Muslim Personal Law Board shall be strengthened so that Shariah and the issues related to Muslim Personal law shall be protected.

## Law to ban polygamy in Assam



**Inquilab** (May 12) states that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has already started issuing statements for polarization of votes ahead of the next Lok Sabha elections. After converting more than 400 madrasas in the state as schools and bringing their properties under government control, he has announced that a ban will be imposed on polygamy before 2024 and an inquiry committee has been set up to examine this issue, which will present its report within three months. The Assam government will create a law in this connection before the end of this year. In a tweet, the chief minister said that the Assam government has decided to form a committee of experts which will examine

whether the state government has the power to ban polygamy or not.

This committee will also closely examine the provisions of Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act 1937. Chief of All India United Democratic Front, Badruddin Ajmal, while strongly criticizing Himanta Biswa Sarma, said that the chief minister has adopted an anti-Muslim stand. On the pretext of marrying at a lower age, more than 2,000 people in the state have been arrested and majority of them are Muslims. A state-wide

campaign has been unleashed to take action against marriage below the age of 18 years. Following this, a campaign to arrest of in-laws of minor girls has started.

**Siasat** (May 36) in its editorial has claimed that it's the people and not the government which has destroyed the madrasas. This is because a complaint has come that the madrasas have become the centre of anti-national activities. The chief minister of Assam has said that anti-national activities will be strongly dealt with and no religious discrimination will be tolerated in this connection. He said that the Assam government is making efforts to win the hearts of minorities, especially the Muslims.

## Aligarh Muslim University lands in controversy again

**Inquilab** (May 20) reports that Aligarh Muslim University has once again landed in controversy. The students of Aligarh University allege that the Indian government is quietly ending the minority identity of the university.

It is to be noted that following a lengthy agitation in 1981, the Indira Gandhi government amended the Aligarh Muslim University Act and granted it the status of a minority institution which the Allahabad High Court had scrapped and declared as unconstitutional in 2005. The UPA government had appealed against this decision of the Allahabad High Court in the Supreme Court. However, after coming to power, the Modi government had withdrawn this petition in 2016.

It is being discussed in Muslim areas that the government cancelled the 1981 amendment and ended the minority status of the Muslim University. There is widespread anxiety among the students of Aligarh and those who completed their education from there on this information. Whereas legal expert Faizan Mustafa claimed that the cancellation of the amendment will no way affect the original Act of the Aligarh Muslim University of 1920. On the other hand, former MP Mohammad Adeb does not agree with his opinion. He says that by cancelling the amendment, the government has once again created a 1965-like situation. Chairman of Inter-faith Harmony Foundation Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmed said that in 1965 also there was a storm over the issue of minority tag of the university.

Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmed said that it is necessary to understand that the university runs on the basis of certain rules and its biggest beneficiary is the employees there. He said that Jamia Hamdard University has really got recognition as a minority university. They got this tag from a five-member bench of the Supreme Court. Here



is a provision for 50% reservation for Muslims where other minorities are not included. He said that even during the 10-year rule of the UPA, this issue was not resolved. Even today, the issue of minority status of Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Milia Islamia is pending in the Supreme Court.

Secondly, former chairman of Aligarh Muslim University Students Union, Z K Faizan said that this amendment act was cancelled in 2019 itself and a notification regarding it was issued on August 8, 2019. He expressed surprise that no discussion took place regarding the notification either in the media or in the parliament.

It is to be noted that following a ruckus in the university in 1965, the University Act was suspended through an ordinance against which Muslims across the country held strong protests in which a number of people were killed and thousands of people went to jail. Due to this agitation, the then Indira Gandhi government, while accepting the demand of Muslims, amended the Aligarh Muslim University Act in the Parliament and granted the minority status to Aligarh Muslim University. In 2005, the Allahabad High Court, describing it as unconstitutional, cancelled the minority tag of the university. Following this, the then UPA government questioned this order of the Allahabad High Court in the Supreme Court and since then this issue is being heard in the Supreme Court.

## Preparations on to ban Imran Khan's party in Pakistan



**Siasat** (May 25) states that there is no scope of ending the crisis that had begun in Pakistan last month. Pakistan defence minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that after the incident that took place on May 9, the government is thinking about imposing a ban on the political party of Imran Khan, PTI. He said that from the evidence that were received over the attack on military outposts on May 9, it is clear that the PTI has done this attack with proper planning. Analysts say that those people who have been questioning the Army had to face such incidents right from the beginning. However, even earlier also such restrictions were imposed on different political parties in Pakistan. But such bans were not made permanent. If the ruling party tries to finish off PTI in this manner, then there will be a huge political crisis in the country.

It is to be noted that till now, more than 750 Imran supporters have been arrested in connection with the attacks. There are hundreds of such people, who were given bail by the courts, but were arrested again the moment they stepped out of the courts. The Pakistani rulers have

warned the people that cases will be registered in military courts against the suspected persons who take part in such violent protests. After May 9, more than a dozen MPs of Imran Khan's party and a former minister have left the party. Imran Khan alleged that pressure was exerted on these people to resign from the party.

Imran Khan was dismissed from power last year. Since then he has been strongly criticising the Pakistan Army. In the beginning of this month, Imran Khan had accused the Army of kidnapping him. Due to this, the entire Army has become his opponent. A journalist in Karachi, Tousif Ahmed Khan said that whoever questions Pakistani Army, they will be at the receiving end of their anger. Preparations have been made to register a case against Imran Khan and he could even be banned from contesting elections again. Pressure has been exerted on many of his prominent colleagues to keep themselves away from Imran Khan. In this way, his party is being banished from the political sphere of Pakistan. Islamabad-based journalist Noor Fatima said that by imposing a ban on the party of Imran Khan,



the current rulers of Pakistan will end up facing more damages.

**Etemaad** (May 15) reports that the process of arresting the supporters of Imran Khan is on across the country. If one looks at the recent controversies, it is being assumed that Pakistan government properties worth billions of rupees have been damaged. In these protests, 152 police officials and employees were injured. On the other hand, 94 police vehicles have been damaged and 22 police stations were set on fire. Director General of Police in Punjab province said that the mischievous elements will not escape from the law. The Rawalpindi police has arrested 76 persons on charges of attacking the military headquarters. Among them, 26 accused have been presented before the media. In the protests, the buildings of the Army and other equipment have been vandalised, resulting in damages to the tune of Rs 80 crore. Punjab's caretaker chief minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi said that in Punjab alone government properties worth six billion were damaged in the protests. In Lahore, many stations of Metro train were set on fire and its reconstruction would incur 2 billion to 2.5 billion rupees. Imran Khan said they would strongly protest for the freedom of Pakistanis.

**Etemaad** (May 16) reports that the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf, Imran Khan, has alleged that a conspiracy has been hatched to keep him in jail for 10 years on charges of rebellion. The Pakistani rulers want to put me and my wife Bushara Bibi in jail and humiliate us. He said that the sole aim of the drama being organised in the name of protest outside the Supreme Court of Pakistan, at the behest of Jamiat

Ulema-e-Islam, is to put pressure on the chief justice, so that he will not deliver the judgment in accordance with the Constitution. In 1997, a similar attack was launched on the Supreme Court of Pakistan, following which Chief Justice Syed Sajjad Ali Shah was removed. Imran Khan said that my message to the people of Pakistan is that I will fight for their original freedom till the last drop of my blood.

**Etemaad** (May 27) in its editorial, while commenting on the political situation in Pakistan, said that the tug of war between former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Army has created a situation of political instability in the country and due to this, there is a sense of fear and tension among the people. Till now, thousands of people have been arrested. In Pakistan, the government's power is indiscriminately used against the Opposition. In Pakistan, corruption, inflation, unemployment and poverty are on their peak. However, due to the fear of the administration and the Army, nobody is willing to raise their voice. The Pakistanis believe that martial law is being imposed on them through back door.

**Hamara Samaj** (May 16) reports that Pakistan's Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has alleged that the hands of Imran Khan and his supporters were behind the largescale violence that took place in Pakistan. Before this, Imran Khan had announced that if he was arrested, then he would set the entire country on fire. Marriyum said that the mastermind behind the terrorist attacks that took place in Pakistan is Imran Khan. He should change the name of his party as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Dahshatgardi. She accused Imran Khan of indulging in corruption to the tune of 50 billion rupees and said that Imran Khan and his wife had embezzled government properties worth billions of rupees in the name of Al Qadir Trust. His attitude is anti-Pakistan and he has links with foreign agencies, whose agenda Imran Khan is trying to implement.

## Maulvi Abdul Kabir appointed new Prime Minister of Afghanistan



**Roznama Sahara** (May 18) reports that the Prime Minister of Afghanistan Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund has resigned from his post and Deputy Prime Minister Maulvi Abdul Kabir has been appointed as the new prime minister in his place. According to a spokesperson of Afghan government, Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund was removed from his post due to

ill health. Maulvi Abdul Kabir will take over as the caretaker prime minister. This apart, the Taliban government has made largescale changes in its administration, the purpose of which is to tighten the control on administration and media.

The rift between various groups in the Taliban leadership are getting serious daily. The differences between the Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani have come to the fore. This is the reason why the Interior Minister constituted a special council to take important administrative decisions so that a group of the ruling dispensation do not take decisions in an arbitrary manner. It is being said that recently Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani has improved his relationship with Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar's son Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob. A few months ago, Haqqani had criticised the prominent leader of Taliban, Hibatullah Akhundzadah.

## Suicide attack on the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami



**Hamara Samaj** (May 21) reports that the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul Haq had to face a suicide attack on Friday in which he barely managed to escape. His six colleagues were injured in the attack. The condition of one of them is serious. The body of the suicide attacker was recovered from the spot. This incident took

place when Siraj-ul Haq was on his way to a hospital where he was supposed to address a public meeting. On the way, a person stopped his car and wanted to garland him. As soon as he stepped out of his car to receive the garland, the attacker detonated himself. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned the incident and said that he had directed the Balochistan government to conduct an inquiry into the attack and identify the accused. In the past two years, there is a huge increase in terrorist attacks and explosions in Pakistan, in which hundreds of security personnel and ordinary people were killed.

## US terrorist Tahawwur Rana to be handed over to India

**Mumbai Urdu News** (May 19) reports that a US court has granted permission to hand over Pakistan-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana to India. He is accused of being involved in the terrorist attack in



Mumbai in 2008. Rana was arrested in US following a request by the Indian government. A US court has agreed to hand over Tahawwur to India. Judge of district court in California, Jacqueline Chooljian, examined all the documents submitted in favour and against the petition submitted in the court and issued a 48-page verdict in which it has been said that the court, after examining all the documents, has arrived at the conclusion that the charges framed on Tahawwur Rana are correct and he shall be handed over to India as per the US law. The Indian government had accused Tahawwur Rana and his childhood friend David Coleman Headley, apart from others, of planning the terrorist attack in Mumbai. David Coleman Headley

is also known by the name Dawood Ghilani.

It is to be noted that on November 26, 2008, ten Pakistani terrorists killed more than 160 people including six Americans in serial blasts. According to the judge, India had issued

an arrest warrant for Rana after charging him of the crime on which the US is also taking action now. The court said that Rana has been accused of waging war against India, commit mass murder, create fake documents and use electronic equipment for terrorist activities which seemed to be right as per the documents presented in the court.

Earlier in 2011, Rana was sentenced to jail on charges of providing financial help to Pakistani terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is active in Chicago. This apart, he has also been accused of attacking a newspaper office in Denmark in 2005. The court said that there is an extradition treaty between India and the US and this matter comes under it.

## New law in Italy to stop illegal immigration

**Etemaad** (May 15) reports that the Italian parliament has recently approved a new law to stop infiltration of illegal immigrants in the country.

However, those who immigrate to the country in a legal manner will get protection. However, along with this, the law has been tightened and made limited for the immigrants. The Italian government had to create such a stringent law because in February last year nearly 90 people travelling in a boat to illegally enter Italy got drowned in the sea in southern Italy.



It is to be noted that human traffickers often lure illegal infiltrators with good job opportunities in European countries and take them to the coastal regions of Italy through the Mediterranean Sea in an illegal manner. Till May this year, more than 42,000 illegal

foreign infiltrators have been caught which is almost four times compared to the data in the same period last year. The Italian government claims that since there is a system in place to give protection to illegal immigrants in Italy, the immigrants take benefit of it.

## Recep Tayyip Erdogan becomes Turkiye president again



**Etemaad** (May 29) reports that Recep Tayyip Erdogan has won the race in the second phase of the Presidential elections in Turkiye. He got 52% votes in the second phase of the elections. On the other hand, his main rival candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu got 48% votes. The supporters of Erdogan soon started celebrations across the country. Addressing lakhs of people in Istanbul, Erdogan claimed that the election results proved that development took place in the country under this regime. Now, nobody can stop the progress of the country. Several world leaders, including Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, have congratulated Erdogan on his victory. Erdogan is towering over the politics of Turkiye for the past two decades. Now he will remain in power for the next five years.

It is to be noted that the first phase of Presidential elections in Turkiye took place on May 14. However, no candidate got 50% votes in this phase. Hence the Presidential election had to be held again on May 28. It is being said that Turkiye is passing through a huge financial crisis these days and the Turkish currency is

constantly depreciating in international markets.

**Etemaad** (May 16) states that Erdogan won the elections due to the support from the third candidate in the Presidential elections, *Sinan Oğan*. When Erdogan started the campaign for the Presidential elections, his chances were said to be slim. Later, he made an increase of 45% in the wages of government employees. Erdogan's party, Justice and Development Party, which is also known as A K Party, has been in power in Turkiye since 2002 and Erdogan is towering over the politics of Turkiye since 2003. Earlier he was the Prime Minister (2003-2014) and now he is the President (from 2014). In the Parliament, the number of MPs of Erdogan's party has come down from 296 to 266. On the other hand, Republican People's Party has won 166 seats and it is in the second position.

**Aurangabad Times** (May 30) reports that after the huge win of Erdogan, celebrations took place on the roads of Turkiye. Erdogan said that this victory belongs to the 8.5 crore people of Turkiye and it is a victory for democracy. He said



that for the first time in the 100-year-history of Türkiye Parliament, the Presidential winner was decided in a voting held two times. Now time has come to work unitedly. He said that our responsibility towards those people are the highest whose houses were destroyed in the February 6 earthquake. We will improve the lives of people and reduce inflation.

**Siasat** (May 30) states that since Erdogan could not secure 50% votes in the first phase of presidential elections, the voting had to be held again. Later he won the elections with the help of a candidate who extended his support to him. The results of this election will influence not just Türkiye, instead will also have an effect on the politics of western nations and in the middle-east. Erdogan has become the first leader of Türkiye to come back to power after being in power for 20 years. He has broken the old record of Kemal Attaturk who remained in power for 15 years. However, Erdogan's opposition candidate put up a strong fight and the two had a tight contest.

Erdogan is not much liked in Western countries. This is the reason why the Western media did not give much importance to his victory. In world politics, Erdogan is considered to be close to

Russia. He made efforts to end the war between Ukraine and Russia. However, he did not succeed in this effort. The western nations do not like even the independent foreign policy of Türkiye. This is because they expect Erdogan to be a puppet in their hands, but Erdogan is not prepared for it.

**Etemaad** (May 30) in its editorial has welcomed the victory of Erdogan. Commenting on the election results, Erdogan's main rival candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu refused to acknowledge the elections as a fair one. The risk that Tayyip Erdogan has taken to conduct elections to the office of the President along with elections to the parliament even before the term for the President ended has been a success.

It is to be noted that a few years ago, the army had tried to overthrow the government in Türkiye. However, on an appeal by Erdogan, people took to the streets and foiled their attempts. From this, one could estimate the popularity of Erdogan. The newspaper said that Erdogan was born on February 26, 1954. His childhood was of financial difficulties. He even used to sell lemon juice in the market. His primary education was in an Islamic madrasa. Later he got a management degree from Marmara University. In the 1970-80 decade, he was active in fundamentalist Islamic politics. Later he joined the political party of Necmettin Erbakan namely Islamic Welfare Party. However, newspapers across the world expressed doubts about the victory of Erdogan. But their assumptions were proved wrong and Erdogan managed to win the elections.

## Iran appoints Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

**Roznama Sahara** (May 24) reports that Iran has appointed its best diplomat Alireza Enayati as its Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Whereas Saudi Arabia has also announced the appointment of its Ambassador in Iran. From year 2016, there was no diplomatic

relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran. However, a few months ago, following talks between the officials of Saudi Arabia and Iran in China, both these countries announced their decision to improve the relationship between them.



Iran's new Ambassador Enayati had worked as an assistant to Iran's foreign affairs minister *Hossein* Amir-Abdollahian and as director general of Gulf affairs. Earlier, he had been Iran's Ambassador in Kuwait.

Due to the efforts of China, Saudi Arabia has announced a ceasefire with the

Iran-supported Houthi rebels in Yemen. It is to be noted that the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia became tense in 2016 when Saudi Arabia hanged to death a Shia scholar Nimr Al Nimr in Saudi Arabia. This incident has evoked strong reactions in Iran and the Saudi embassy in Teheran was set on fire. Later the diplomatic relationship between the two countries ended.

In March this year, after lengthy talks between the officials of Iran and Saudi Arabia in Beijing due to the efforts of China, both the nations decided to open embassies in each other's country, start flight services and announced visa to the citizens of both countries.

## Iraq launches project to link Asia and Europe

**Siasat** (May 29) reports that Iraq has announced a plan to construct a road and rail network to link Europe and Middle East nations. Through this project, it wants to project itself as a hub of traffic and transportation. It is estimated that the project would incur an expenditure of 17 billion dollars and it has been described as a path to development. This road

will be of 2,000 kilometre length, starting from the northern border of Turkiye to the Gulf in the south.

Iraq Prime Minister Mohammed Shiaa Al-Sudani made this announcement during a meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and United Arab Emirates. The plan is to complete the construction work within three to five years. It will give an opportunity to Iraq, trapped in the



destruction caused by war and caught in corruption, to strengthen its infrastructure and due to this there would be growth in the transportation and trade between Iraq, Turkiye and European nations. In the first phase of this project, the work to increase the capacity of Iraq's port Al Faw situated in the Gulf coast has already begun. As part of this plan, along with Basra, Baghdad and Mosul, 15 new cities are being developed till the Turkish border.

## Saudi Arabia succeeds in sending traveller to space



Rayyana Barnawi and Ali Al-Qarni, were sent to the space on a special mission. A space vehicle named 'Falcon-9' was launched from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. Along with these two space travellers, a former astronaut of NASA, Peggy Whitson and US trader John Shoffner also went to the space.

**Inquilab** (May 23) reports that with the joint cooperation of NASA, Saudi Space Authority and two other organisations, two space travellers from Saudi Arabia,

It is to be noted that it is a special programme of Saudi government to send space travellers and its aim is to create a Saudi cadre for the space and take part in scientific research on space.

## Clashes on the Iran-Afghanistan border

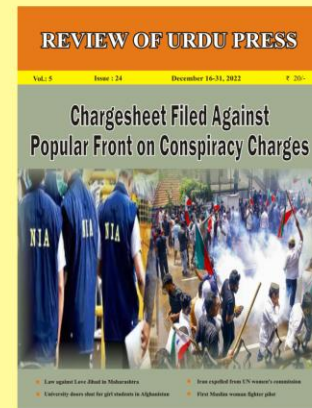
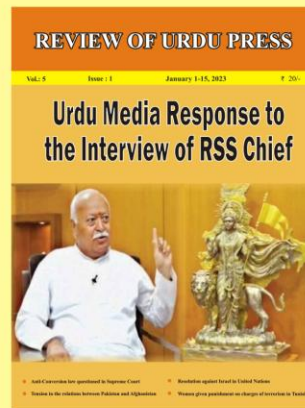
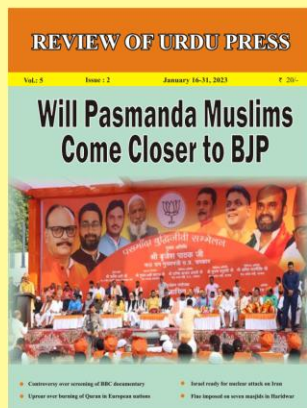
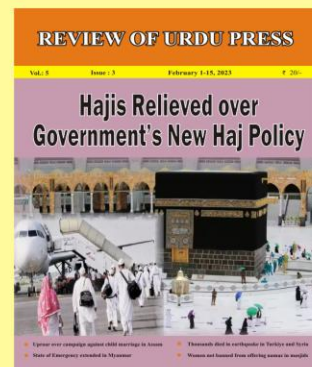
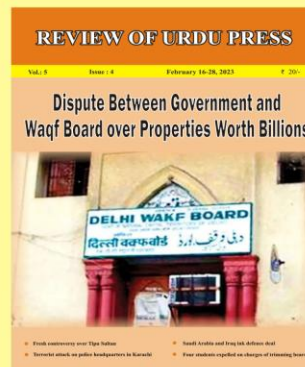
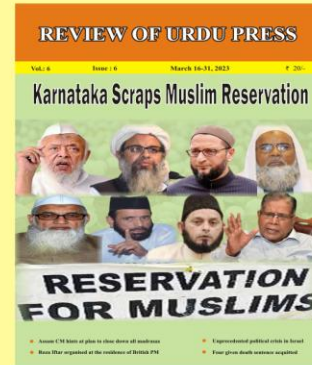
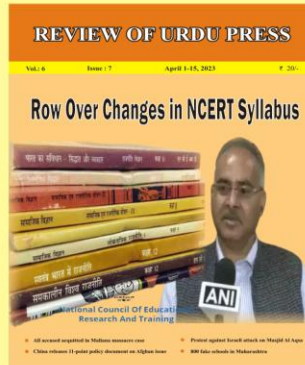
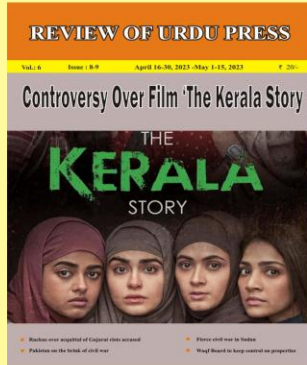


**Etemaad** (May 29) reports that at least six persons including four Iranian soldiers were killed in clashes that took place on the border between Iran and Afghanistan.

**Avadhnama** (May 29) reports that the deputy chief of Iranian police Brigadier General Qasim Razai has alleged that armed fighters of Taliban launched an attack on a post of Iranian police, to which the soldiers of Iranian border force retaliated. In this connection, the clashes continued throughout the day. Similar clashes took place in at least five border regions also which are located in Iranian province Sistaan, Balochistan and Afghanistan's province Nimroz. During the

clash, different types of weapons were used by both the sides. After the clash erupted, mutual talks also took place between Iranian embassy and Afghanistan's defence ministry in Afghanistan. However, even after the talks, the clashes continued between the border guards of the two nations. The chief of Iranian police, Brigadier General Ahmed Raza Radan has directed the Iranian border security force that they give befitting reply to the attacks carried out by Afghanistan soldiers so that nobody would dare to violate the border of Iran in future. He said that we are determined to give a befitting reply to any border violation by Afghanistan.

As per another news, the deputy foreign minister of Iran Seyyed Rasoul Mousavi has described the clashes taking place on Afghanistan border as a handiwork of 'imperialist elements.' He said that we are not in favour of taking any offensive action against any Muslim nation. However, we are ready to take any steps to protect our nation.



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