

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Strong Reaction in the Urdu Press on Saugat-E-Modi Scheme



- Efforts to seize the office of Imarat-e-Shariah
- Protest against arrest of Opposition leader in Turkiye
- Nationwide campaign against Balochis in Pakistan
- Action against 136 madrasas in Uttarakhand

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## Summary

A split has occurred in Muslim organisation Imarat-e-Shariah on the issue of opposing the Waqf Bill. An announcement was made recently on behalf of this organisation to hold a nationwide campaign against the Waqf Bill. Before this, the iftar party organised by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was also boycotted following an appeal by this organisation. It is worth mentioning that Imarat-e-Shariah is a prominent organisation of Muslims. It was established in 1921. This organisation is active in the promotion and protection of Shariah among the Muslims of Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. Hundreds of madrasas and Shariah courts are being run in this region by the organisation. The Amir-e-Shariah of Imarat-e-Shariah, Maulana Ahmad Wali Faisal Rahmani, is active in the campaign being run against Waqf Bill. The administrator of Imarat-e-Shariah, Maulana Shibli Al-Qasmi, alleged that the Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah, Maulana Faisal Rahmani, is a foreign citizen. Hence its board of trustees has removed him from his post.

The minority morcha of Bharatiya Janata Party distributed 'Saugat-e-Modi' kit among 32 lakh Muslims on the occasion of Eid. This kit was distributed through 32,000 masjids in the country. The kit included *sevaiyyan* (vermicelli), dry fruits, sugar, oil and clothes. National president of BJP's minority morcha Jamal Siddiqui told journalists that in future such kits would be distributed among Christians and other minority communities. Majority of Urdu newspapers have opposed the distribution of 'Saugat-e-Modi' kits. It is worth mentioning that a 'Modi Mitra' campaign was carried out across the country to attract Muslims towards BJP.

In Balochistan in Pakistan, the struggle against the dominance of Punjabis and Chinese is getting more intense day-by-day. Recently, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) hijacked Jaffar Express and killed several Punjabi passengers and Pakistani security personnel. This incident has shaken the whole Pakistan. The Federal government of Pakistan has declared to strongly crush the Balochis fighting for the independence of Balochistan. As per the latest news, several dozen Balochi leaders have been shot dead in Balochistan. In protest against this massacre, leader of Baloch Yakjehti Committee, Mahrang Baloch and other Baloch leaders organised an indefinite dharna. In order to disperse those who staged the sit-in, the security forces opened fire. Several people were killed in the firing. The Pakistan Army arrested 200 Baloch activists including Mahrang Baloch. Protests were held in several places across the world in protest against these arrests.

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is adopting dictatorial methods to crush his opponents. Recently, the mayor of Istanbul and a popular leader of the country, Ekram Imamoglu, was arrested on charges of corruption and supporting terrorist organisations. The court refused to release him on bail. The opposition party, People's Republican Party (CHP), has made Imamoglu as the presidential candidate for the forthcoming elections. Due to the increasing inflation and unemployment, public anger is rapidly growing in the country. Erdogan saw a threat to his throne and hence he is strongly crushing his opponents. This apart, massive anti-government protests have also erupted in Turkiye. The army has arrested hundreds of people in an effort to crush these protests. Even the foreign journalists covering the news about the protests have also been arrested. A ban has also been imposed on internet and mobile services across the country.

## Strong reaction in Urdu press against 'Saugat-e-Modi' scheme



The Bharatiya Janata Party's Minority Morcha has distributed 'Saugat-e-Modi' kits among 32 lakh Muslims of the country through 32,000 mosques in the holy month of Ramzan. It is said that the Saugat-e-Modi kit contains vermicelli, dates, dry fruits, sugar, oil and clothes. The Urdu media has launched a massive attack on the 'Saugat-e-Modi' scheme.

**Roznama Sahara** (May 26) states that 'Saugat-e-Modi' kits were distributed at a function organised at Ghalib Academy located in Nizamuddin colony in Delhi. The event was organised by the minority morcha of BJP. National president of BJP's minority morcha, Jamal Siddiqui, presided over the function. BJP national general secretary and incharge of minority morcha, Dushyant Kumar Gautam, was the chief guest at the event. Jamal Siddiqui distributed 'Saugat-e-Modi' kits to nearly 200 needy people at the event. On this occasion, president of BJP Delhi unit minority morcha Anish Abbasi, national vice-president S M Akram, national incharge of Sufi Samvad Abhiyan Dr Aslam, Yasir Jilani and Delhi incharge of 'Saugat-e-Modi' campaign Irfan Salmani Dehlvi were among those present.

Jamal Siddiqui told journalists that Bharat is moving ahead under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas' policy. As part of this policy, the office-bearers of BJP's minority morcha have distributed 'Saugat-e-Modi' kits to 32 lakh needy Muslims through 32,000 masjids in the country. The kit contains salwar suit for women, kurta-pyjama for men and vermicelli, nuts, sugar etc. Siddiqui said that a similar programme is being organised to distribute kits to Christians on the occasion of Easter. He said that this is a live example of Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb in the country.

**Inquilab** (March 26) said the BJP wants to improve its popularity among Muslims through this campaign. The BJP has also made efforts to reach out to Muslims through the Sufi campaign as well.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 31) has published an article in this connection. The headline of this article was 'BJP's political drama in the name of Saugat-e-Modi on the occasion of Eid.' It is said in this article that the government sector and the Godi media have expressed happiness over the distribution of 'Saugat-e-Modi' kits among 32 lakh Muslims. Whereas, the Muslims have not shown any special interest in this. Muslims want the right to live with peace and dignity, which is being taken away from them. It is being alleged in the article





that the Modi government has closed the doors of higher education for Muslim students. Even the Maulana Azad National Scholarship Scheme is being taken away from them. Muslim children were getting higher education through these programmes.

The newspaper alleged that Hinduvadi organisations like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Hindu Sena and Gauraksha Dal are searching the fridges of Muslims and finding out what all are sold in Muslim hotels, dhabas and pushcarts. How many people's faith is being corrupted? They are taking lives of people like Mohammad Akhlaq, Pehlu Khan or Tabrez Ansari. Nobody had shown any mercy on Junaid who was going home to celebrate Eid. A jawan of a security force shot Muslims in a moving train with government bullets. Fake propaganda of love jihad, land jihadi, judicial jihad, don't know how many such jihads, are being unleashed. The rioters arrive by sitting in vehicles right under the nose of Modi government in Delhi and destroy Muslim colonies and leave. Nothing happens to them. Those who incite rioters and spit venom against Muslims are made ministers.

The Delhi Police, which functions under the control of Central government, is sending Muslim youths like Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam who have received higher education to jail on fake charges. Umar Khalid is behind bars for four years without any trial. He did not get bail from the temple of justice. The brave Delhi Police enters Jamia Millia Islamia and

breaks the bones of the students studying in the library using sticks, and there is nobody to question them. The Modi government at the Centre is giving such gifts to Muslims. Now the gift of Waqf (Amendment) Bill will be given.

The newspaper has asked whether these gifts are not enough that a drama is being done in the name of 'Saugat-e-Modi'? In a jibe, the newspaper said that the Subedar of Modi is also not behind. The Subedar of Uttar Pradesh has run bulldozers on the houses and shops of Muslims. The Muslims of Sambhal were given the bodies of their four sons as gift. Muslims of Sambhal are being made to grind flour in jails. The Subedar of Uttar Pradesh has patted the back of the 'wrestler' police officer who distributed these gifts. Now, other police officers are drooling too. Currently there is a competition among them as to who will be the first one to break the record of this 'Pahalwan' and tighten the screw on Muslims so that he can come in the sight of the Subedar of Uttar Pradesh. The Subedar of Uttar Pradesh has now become the ideal for the subedars of other states as well. The Subedar of Uttarakhand is not behind anyone in running bulldozars over masjids and mazars. This Subedar has implemented even the Uniform Civil Code. Even Prime Minister Modi himself could not do this work. Why should the Subedar of Haryana fall behind? He issued a Tughlaki *firman* and cancelled the Eid holiday of government employees. The question for those who beat the drums of 'Saugat-e-Modi' is that after receiving so much saugat, is there any need for 'Saugat-e-Modi'?

**Hamara Samaj** (March 30) has given the headline for its editorial as "The cat went for Haj after eating 70 rats." The editorial states that the Prime Minister of our country does wonders. After ruling the

country for 11 years, he has remembered Muslims all of a sudden on the occasion of Eid. His conscience shook him and he wondered how long he would continue to fire poisonous arrows of hatred against Muslims. How long his people will enter the houses of Muslims and keep rummaging through their fridge to see whether the cow meat is there or not. How long will we continue to honour the killers of Muslims who are killed in mob lynching? How long will the religious processions of Hindus stand outside the doors of masjids and keep abusing the Muslims? After keeping silence on all such matters, did anyone advice Modi or did he get a divine revelation to announce a gift for Muslims so that Muslims can forget all their atrocities and embrace them.



Now Modi's followers are asking him why we brought Modi from Gujarat to Delhi and gave him the honour of taking oath as the Prime Minister not once but three times. He was even made an incarnation of Vishnu but it never occurred to Modi to announce a gift for us on the occasion of Hindu festivals. The question that arises here is how come there is so much change in Narendra Modi? In fact, Prime Minister Modi is passing through his worst days of his regime. No one is ready to listen to him not only in the country but also abroad. Recently, the whole world has seen the insult of Modi by his biggest friend Trump. The US human rights organisations have informed their country's government that Narendra Modi is continuously doing injustice to the minorities of his country. Now, the only way they thought of for a damage control across the world was to announce a gift for the Muslims of India and try to send a message to all the countries of the world including the US that the allegations against them are baseless.

The question that arises is, has not Prime Minister Modi become a laughing stock due to his step? Will Indian Muslims

pardon him just because of offering gift on the occasion of Eid? The newspaper said that the Muslims in the country have been appealing to Modi time and again that brother, you have not only decided to expel us from the politics of the country but has also implemented it. Despite being the biggest minority community in the country, we were not even given one ticket of the party. Despite that we have remained silent. They took away our mosques and built temples on them. Even then we remained silent. At least the properties that have been made Waqf by our ancestors shall not be deprived, but every step of Narendra Modi ends on Muslim enmity.

**Munsif** (March 28) in its editorial has criticised the distribution of 'Saugat-e-Modi' kits. The newspaper asked whether it is an election gimmick for the forthcoming Bihar Assembly elections? However, this election gimmick will not work because the current BJP is not of Atal Bihar Vajpayee's BJP. This is the BJP of Modi, Shah and Yogi, which openly incites hatred against Muslims and makes laws to destroy and ruin them. At one level, Prime Minister Modi is distributing Saugat kits. On the other hand, he is taking away the properties of Muslims through Waqf (Amendment) Bill. The strange thing is that Prime Minister Modi, who is distributing the Eid gifts, is openly endorsing the controversial film 'Chhaava', which is sowing the seeds of hatred in the minds of Hindus against Muslims.

**Hindustan** (March 29) in its editorial said that when we think that all limits of shamelessness and disgust have



been crossed, then the BJP gives us a new wound. When this news came that the BJP is distributing 'Saugat-e-Modi' kits to Muslims on the occasion of Eid, the image that flashed in the mind was of a blood-soaked hand stuffing sweets into the mouth of its victim.

The BJP is enacting this drama so that it could get a few votes of Muslims. Till now BJP has been unable to reach Muslims. The newspaper asked whether the BJP people will line up poor Muslims or go house-to-house and distribute these gifts. Will they go to the house of Faizan who was beaten up by Delhi Police over national song after which he passed away.

**Hindustan** (March 30) in its editorial has expressed surprise over the 'Saugat-e-Modi' scheme. The newspaper alleged that religious madrasas are being shut down. Temples are being searched beneath masjids. In such a situation, if it is

claimed that lakhs of Muslims are being distributed Saugat, anybody would be surprised. The truth is that it would be impossible for any change in BJP's policy and viewpoint regarding Muslims. The BJP has separate teeth for eating and display. The Naib Singh Saini government in Haryana has cancelled the Eid holiday. This has happened for the first time in the country. At one level, claims are being made about the distribution of 'Saugat-e-Modi' kit. On the

other, Eid holiday is not acceptable for the BJP government. In such a situation we have the right to say that Prime Minister Modi's Saugat is just a show and fake.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 27) in its editorial said the history of BJP is filled with anti-Muslim policies. From the demolition of Babri Masjid to the advocacy of Uniform Civil Code, efforts were being made to deprive Muslims time and again their basic identity and rights. Efforts were being made to wipe out Muslims in the name of Love Jihad, ban on hijab and cow slaughter. Now, efforts are being made to end Waqf and madrasas as well. In view of the forthcoming Bihar Assembly elections, the BJP is staging the drama of distributing 'Saugat-e-Modi' kit to lakhs of Muslims. This is a planned political strategy of BJP. This is the reason why the opposition parties had described it as a political fraud.

## Action against 136 madrasas in Uttarakhand

**Sahafat** (March 26) states that Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed sealing of 136 madrasas in the state. This apart, an investigation is being conducted into the funding of these madrasas. These madrasas are not registered with education department or with the madrasa board. Majority of the madrasas are located in border areas. According to government sources, there are 450 registered madrasas in Uttarakhand. Whereas, more than 500 madrasas are

being run without any registration. According to official sources, 64 madrasas are being sealed in Udham Singh Nagar. Whereas 44 madrasas have been sealed in Dehradun, 26 in Haridwar and 2 in Pauri Garhwal. An official spokesperson said that non-recognised madrasas, mazars and dargahs are encroaching government land. He said the drive to remove these encroachments is on. The spokesperson said that recently several madrasas have been established in the border areas of the





state, but there is hardly any population of Muslims in these areas. He said that it is being investigated whether these madrasas are a threat to the national security.

It is worth mentioning that the Uttarakhand government has started a campaign to conduct a survey in January. That time the district administration was directed to conduct a detailed inquiry into the sources of the financial aid being received by these madrasas. The Jamiat Ulema in Uttarakhand has described this action of Uttarakhand government as unconstitutional. Recently, a delegation of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind visited Uttarakhand and held detailed talks with the administrators of madrasas which have been sealed. Chairman of Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board Mufti Shamoon Qasmi told correspondents that arrangements have been made to admit the students studying in the sealed madrasas to nearby government schools so that there shall not be any hurdles in their studies. He said that the education of children is included in the fundamental rights. We do not want to make any kind of interference in them.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 24) states that the Uttarakhand government has started a campaign against madrasas in the state on the pretext of the directions of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind has filed a petition in the Supreme

Court against it. It is worth mentioning that the NCPCR had written a letter to the chief secretary of all state governments and Union Territories and told them that those madrasas which do not follow the NCERT-recognised syllabus shall be shut down immediately and the students studying in them should be enrolled in government schools. The newspaper claimed that this decision of the Uttarakhand government is against the directions of the Supreme Court. It is worth mentioning that the Uttar Pradesh government has started a campaign against the madrasas and they were being forcibly shut down. The Jamiat Ulema has approached the Supreme Court against this. On this, the Supreme Court has directed the Uttar Pradesh government that no madrasa shall be closed down until the final verdict and the order that has been issued in this connection shall be kept in abeyance.

Chief of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani, said the government has no right to interfere in those madrasas which are not receiving government grants and are being run using the donations given by the Muslim community. Madani said the Constitution has given the minorities the right to run educational institutions as per their religion and faith.

**Sahafat** (March 28) has condemned the decision of Uttarakhand government to close down unrecognised madrasas. The newspaper said that the BJP has made the life of minorities of the country especially



Muslims difficult. In BJP-ruled states, Muslims are being harassed on one pretext or the other. Mob lynching is taking place in the name of cow and their houses are razed using bulldozers. Now the Pushkar Singh Dhami government in Uttarakhand has launched an attack on Urdu and Arabic madrasas. In the past two months, 136 madrasas in the state have been closed. In the past one week, 15 madrasas in Dehradun, 12 in Vikasnagar and 9 madrasas in Khatima have been shut down after describing them as illegal. The sad thing is that the chief minister has announced that this campaign by the government against the madrasas will continue. Muslim organisations have condemned this action taken in the holy month of Ramzan. They have described this action of the government as motivated by malice. Chief of Muslim Seva Sanghathan Naeem Qureshi, while condemning the action of the state government, said that now the Uttarakhand government has also joined the anti-Muslim campaigns being run in Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Maharashtra. Earlier, several dargahs and madrasas have been razed in Uttarakhand after describing them as illegal.

**Inquilab** (March 25) states that Jamiat Ulema has decided to launch a campaign against the government in Uttarakhand. In this connection, a meeting of Jamiat Ulema was held at Landour town. This meeting was presided over by Mufti Riyasat Ali. He alleged that the policies of Uttarakhand government are anti-Muslim and it is harassing Muslims on one pretext

or the other. The government has shut down the madrasas on the basis that they are not recognised by the state madrasa board. However, there is no mention in the Constitution or in the law that madrasas need to be recognised by madrasa board.

**Inquilab** (March 25) states that the Uttar Pradesh government has declared the appointment of 308 teachers appointed in the madrasas in 33 districts in the state as illegal. The Uttar Pradesh Minorities Welfare Department has also directed that the amount being paid to the teachers in these madrasas shall be extracted from the managers of these madrasas. In this connection, the director of Uttar Pradesh Minorities Welfare Department, Ankit Kumar Agrawal, has sent a letter to all the district magistrates in the state. It is being said in this letter that the government has handed over the responsibility for investigation into the appointments done in madrasas during the lockdown to special secretary of Minorities Welfare Department, D S Upadhyaya. The investigation has found that the appointment of 308 teachers in madrasas as illegal. This includes the appointment of 54 teachers in Mau district, 28 in Barabanki, 21 in Kanpur, 21 in Varanasi, 18 in Balrampur, 17 each in Prayagraj, Siddharthnagar and Lucknow, 16 in Ghazipur, 12 in Aligarh and 10 in Kaushambi. This apart, the managers of these madrasas have appointed other employees also in huge numbers. In order to pay them wages, an amount of more than Rs 40 crore has been extracted from the government.

## Efforts to seize the office of Imarat-e-Shariah

**Hindustan Express** (March 30) states that the fight for dominance has once again started in Muslim organisation Imarat-e-Shariah. As per the latest information, at the behest of Bihar police and the administration, a section of this Muslim organisation tried to occupy the office of Imarat-e-Shariah located in Phulwari Sharif in Bihar. The police were also present with

them in large numbers. The group that has come to seize the office claimed that the Nyasi Mandal of Imarat-e-Shariah had removed the Amir of this organisation, Maulana Ahmad Wali Faisal Rahmani, from his post, and hence they came to take control of the office of Imarat-e-Shariah. The supporters of Faisal Rahmani claimed that with the support of Nitish Kumar



government, a section of Janata Dal (United) attacked the Imarat-e-Shariah. It is being claimed that the Nyasi Mandal of Imarat-e-Shariah Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand has removed Ahmad Wali Faisal Rahmani from his post and Maulana Anisur Rahman Qasmi has been made the caretaker Amir-e-Shariah in his place.

It is being propagated through media that the Amir of Imarat-e-Shariah, Faisal Rahmani, is opposing the Waqf Amendment Bill. In view of this, the JD-U wants to replace him with a supporter of Nitish Kumar, because since Nitish Kumar being an ally of Modi government is supporting the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. In a press release, the supporters of Faisal Rahmani claimed that efforts are being made to grab Imarat-e-Shariah at the behest of JD-U leaders. This group is supported by a few leaders close to Nitish Kumar like Ahmad Ashfaq Karim, Maulana Anisur Rahman Qasmi, Maulana Abu Talib Rahmani, Maulana Shibali Al Qasmi, Maulana Abdur Rauf etc. In the press release, it has also been alleged that the Bihar government is supporting this group. This attack took place amid the holy month of Ramzan. The purpose of this attack is to create a rift in the unity of Muslims against the Waqf Bill. This action of JD-U is a disgusting conspiracy to divide the Muslims.

On the other hand, the group that entered the office of Imarat-e-Shariah with

the help of police claimed in a press release that the Nyasi Mandal of Imarat-e-Shariah said that Ahmad Wali Faisal Rahmani is a foreign citizen and hence he has been removed from his post. The Imarat-e-Shariah board has also decided that Faisal Rahmani shall not take any decision on the matters of Imarat-e-Shariah in future and neither he would be able to issue any directions in this connection. Maulana Shibali Ali Qasmi, while talking to correspondents, claimed that now Imarat-e-Shariah has no executive council, because its term had expired in September 2024. Ever since, the executive council has not been constituted. He said that Faisal Rahmani is deliberately creating hurdles in the functioning of the organisation. He is neither the Aalam-e-Din nor is he a citizen of this country. This is the reason why All India Muslim Personal Law Board had removed him from the post of the secretary earlier itself.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 30) claimed that the efforts made by the supporters of JD-U to seize the central office of Emarat-e-Shariah, Bihar Odisha and Jharkhand, situated in Phulwari Sharif, has been foiled. The newspaper said that Maulana Shibali Al Qasmi had arrived to take control of Imarat-e-Shariah with the help of the administration and the government and he described himself as its manager. He declared Maulana Anisur Rahman Qasmi as the Amir of Imarat-e-



Shariah. The newspaper claimed that a case of rape is pending against Maulana Shibali Al Qasmi. A huge ruckus took place there during the effort to take control of Imarat-e-Shariah with the help of the government. In view of the explosive situation, the district magistrate and the police arrived at the spot and police personnel were deployed at the office of Imarat-e-Shariah. The newspaper said that the former caretaker manager, Maulana Shibali Al Qasmi, was removed from his post on March 3, because a rape case was filed against him in a local police station and he is out on bail. Office secretary of Imarat-e-Shariah, Maulana Arshad Saifullah

Rahmani, has claimed through a press release that the Nitish group got peeved over the campaign being unleashed against Waqf Bill by Imarat-e-Shariah and tried to seize the Imarat-e-Shariah.

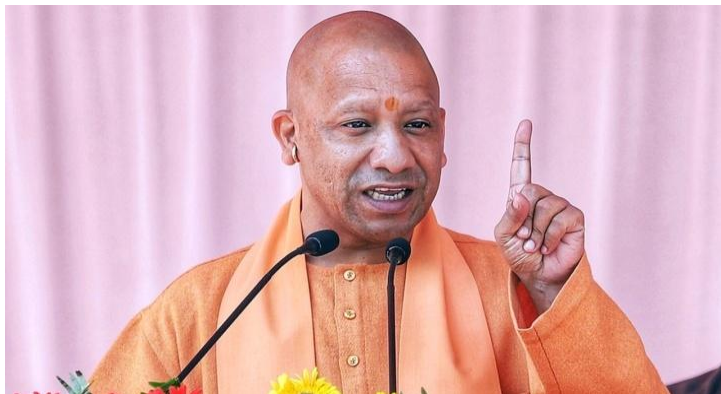
**Roznama Sahara** (March 30) states that Amir-e-Shariah, Syed Faizal Rahmani, claimed that the supporting group of Waqf Bill tried to forcibly occupy Imarat-e-Shariah. The local people have foiled the attempt and they fled

from there along with the police force. He claimed that if it is a crime to protect Waqf, then I will do this crime again and again.

It is worth mentioning that Imarat-e-Shariah was established in 1921. It is an Islamic organisation that protects the Shariah rights of Muslims in Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. This institution is responsible for hundreds of Shariah courts in the region. This organisation along with All India Muslim Personal Law Board held a massive rally against the Waqf Bill in Patna. It was on an appeal by Imarat-e-Shariah that Nitish Kumar's iftar party was boycotted.

## Order to keep meat-fish shops closed during Navratri

**Inquilab** (March 31) states that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed that all the shops in the state selling meat-fish shall remain closed during Navratri. As per an order issued by the Uttar Pradesh government, on the occasion of Navratri, shops selling meat, fish, egg and beef within a radius of 500 metres of temples shall be shut down completely. A decision had been taken to keep all these shops in the state closed during Nam Navami as well. This apart, a direction has also been given that on the day of Ram Navami, continuous



recitation of Shri Ramcharitmanas will be done for 24 hours in all the temples of Uttar Pradesh. If those who sell meat-fish do not close their shops, then stringent punishable action will be taken against them under the provisions of Uttar Pradesh



Municipal Corporation Act, 1959 and Food Security Act, 2006 and 2011.

Commenting on this decision of the Yogi government, Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh said that all liquor shops near the temples should also be shut down. This apart, there should be total ban on cooking of meat in hotels and restaurants. This ban should be specially implemented strictly in the outlets of multinational companies like KFC and McDonalds. Congress spokesperson Alimullah Khan has condemned this decision of Uttar Pradesh government. He said that our Constitution gives every person the freedom to practice his religion and faith, but the government is deliberately flouting it. Just as a ban has been imposed on selling meat-fish during Ram Navami and Navratri, why was a ban not imposed on liquor shops during the month of Ramzan? Samajwadi Party spokesperson Abdul Hafiz Gandhi said that Hindustan is a democratic nation. Here every individual has the right to take food.

In no democratic country the government has the right to direct the citizens what they should eat and what they should wear.

**Inquilab** (March 29) states that Varanasi Mayor Ashok Kumar Tiwari has taken the decision during a meeting of the corporation that meat-fish shops in the city will be kept closed on the occasion of Navratri. The corporation has constituted 10 mobile teams to implement this decision. These teams will take rounds of the city and will take stringent action against those who violate the ban. It is worth mentioning that in the past also similar restrictions had been imposed in Varanasi but such curbs were limited to a 2-km radius of Kashi Vishwanath Temple. Uttar Pradesh Minister Kapildev Agrawal has directed that all meat-fish shops should remain closed for nine days in Hapur district. He directed the police to strictly implement the decision. He also directed that legal action shall be taken against those who violate this ban.

## Announcement to change the names of 17 places in Uttarakhand

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (April 2) states that the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami has announced the changing of several Islamic names of places in four districts in the state. As per an official announcement, changes have been made in the names of 10 places in Haridwar district, four in Dehradun, two in Nainital and one in Udham Singh Nagar. The name of Aurangzebpur in Haridwar district has been changed to Shivaji Nagar. This apart, the name of Gaziwali in the same district has been changed to Arya Nagar, Chandpur's name has been changed to Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Mohammadpur Jat's name changed to Mohanpur Jat, Khanpur Kursali's name



changed to Ambedkar Nagar, Idishapur's name changed to Nandpur, Khanpur's name as Srikrishnapur, Akbarpur Fazalpur's name as Vijaynagar, Asafnagar's name as Devnarayan Nagar and Salempur Rajputana's name has been changed to Sursen Nagar. In Dehradun,



निम्नलिखित स्थानों के नाम जनभावनाओं के अनुरूप परिवर्तित किए जाते हैं।

स्थान नाम परिवर्तन सूची

[illegible]

## देहरादून जिला

कृषक / स्थान का नाम	वर्तमान स्थान का नाम	प्रसारित गया नाम
देहरादून नगर निगम	मिर्वावाला	रामजीवाला
शिवकुशनगर कृषक	पौरवाला	कैसरी नगर
	बादपुर राई	पुष्करिणी नगर
सहस्रपुर कृषक	अद्वुतानपुर	दक्षिणनगर

नेनीताल जिला

क्षेत्र / स्थान का नाम	वर्तमान स्थान का नाम	प्रस्तावित नया नाम
	नवाबी रोड	अटल मार्ग
	पनघुकी से आईटीआई मार्ग	मुक्त मोहनकर मार्ग

उधम सिंह नगर जिला

कुल / स्थान का नाम	वर्तमान स्थान का नाम	प्रस्तावित नया नाम
	नगर पंचायत सुत्तानपुर पट्टी	कौशल्या पुरी

Miyanwala has been changed to Ramjiwala, Peerwala has been changed to Kesari Nagar, Chandpur Khurd has been changed to Prithviraj Nagar and Abdullahpur has been changed to Dakshnagar. Similarly, Nawabi Road's name in Nainital has been changed to Atal Marg and the road from Panchakki to ITI has been changed to Guru Golwalkar Marg. Whereas the name of Sultanpur Patti in Udham Singh Nagar has been changed to Kaushalapuri.

Chief Minister Dhami said these changes were brought due to the demand by the people. This will enrich the Bharatiya culture and civilisation. The BJP has welcomed the change of names of 17 places in four districts. Whereas the Congress, while condemning it, said the chief minister has taken this step in order to distract the attention of people.

**Roznama Sahara** (April 2) states that the chief of Bahujan Samaj Party Mayawati has criticised the changing of names of towns and institutions by the BJP governments in Uttarakhand and different other states. She said that this is an example of narrow politics.

**Comment:** Earlier, a decision was taken to change the name of Aurangabad to Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv in Maharashtra. From Independence till now, the names of more than 100 cities have been changed. After Independence, the name of United

Province of Agra and Awadh has been changed to Uttar Pradesh. On November 9, 2000, a new state was carved out of Uttar Pradesh and it was named Uttaranchal. Later its name was changed to Uttarakhand. In 1996, the name Madras was changed to Chennai. In 1995, the name Bombay was changed to Mumbai and name of the capital of West Bengal was changed from Calcutta to Kolkata. Similarly, Bangalore's name has been changed to Bengaluru. Whereas Poona's

name has been changed to Pune. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh also, the names of more than a dozen cities have been changed. Faizabad's name has been changed to Ayodhya and Allahabad's name has been changed to Prayagraj. This apart, Mughalsarai's name has been changed to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

It is worth mentioning that the campaign to change the name was started by Samajwadi leader Ram Manohar Lohia. Due to his agitation, the names of several roads in national capital Delhi named after British rulers were changed. This apart, during the massive protest by the workers of Samyukt Socialist Party, more than four dozen statues of foreign rulers erected in several places in Delhi were damaged. Following this, the administration decided to remove the statues of foreign rulers from public places. The interesting thing is that Lohia did not campaign to change the names of roads named after Mughal rulers or Muslim rulers of foreign origin. Later the leaders of Jan Sangh launched an agitation to change the names of roads named after all the rulers of foreign origin. Following this, the Delhi Municipal Corporation and New Delhi Municipal Corporation decided to change the names of several roads named after foreign rulers. In November 2023, the Aligarh Municipal Corporation has passed a resolution to change the name of Aligarh as Harigarh.

## Nationwide campaign against Balochis in Pakistan



**Qaumi Bharat** (March 26) reports that on the directions of Pakistan cabinet, the Pakistan army has unleashed a nationwide campaign against Balochis. As per latest information, 25 Balochis have been shot dead till now. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told media that the campaign will continue until the back of all anti-nationals seeking the independence of Balochistan is totally broken. According to Pakistani media, the Balochis have held massive protests against Pakistan government in a dozen places in the country including Karachi, Hyderabad, Attock and Lahore. The protesters alleged that the Pakistan army is committing massacre of Balochis in a well-planned manner. The Pakistan army has taken nearly 3,000 Balochis into its custody. They have not been produced in any court and neither any cases have been registered against them in any police station. Addressing a press conference in Karachi Press Club, spokesperson of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) alleged that plans are being made to kill the Baloch citizens taken hostage by the Pakistan army and intelligence agencies and throw their bodies on the streets in different towns in Balochistan so that those who demand freedom for Balochistan could be intimidated and discouraged.

**Chattan** (March 20) states that the Pakistan army has shut down all the

colleges and three universities of Balochistan for an indefinite period in order to stop the mass protests of students and their hostels have been forcibly evacuated.

**Urdu Times** (March 24) states that the Baloch rebels attacked the Pakistan army in Nushki district in Balochistan. At least 10 Pakistani soldiers were killed in this attack. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti condemned the attack. As per another news, the terrorists killed seven Punjabi labourers in Kalat district.

**Etemaad** (March 25) states that a case has been registered against 150 people including the chief of BYC, Dr Mahrang Baloch, on charges of treason and spreading violence. According to the spokesperson of Pakistan government, these people tried to forcibly take away the bodies of the attackers of Jaffar Express, which the army foiled. According to the newspaper, on an appeal by Mahrang Baloch, a total hartal was observed in several parts of Balochistan. Fierce clashes took place between police and the protesters in Quetta. Following this, the Army has shot dead at least seven persons. A dharna was held under the leadership of Dr Mahrang Baloch, Dr Sabiha Baloch and Dr Shali Baloch against the police firing. On this, the police arrested more than 200 people including Mahrang Baloch and sent them to jail.





**Qaumi Bharat** (March 28) states that 32-year-old Mahrang Baloch is fighting for the independence of Balochistan since 2018. Her father was also a supporter for the independence of Balochistan. In 2009, the Pakistan army had abducted Mahrang's father. Later in 2011, the body of her father was found lying on the street. Annoyed by the activities of Mahrang Baloch, Pakistan's security agencies had kidnapped her brother as well. Later he was released in a dying condition.

**Etemaad** (March 18) in its editorial said the Pakistan government is making this allegation that the Indian government is provoking the Balochis for terrorism.

However, the Indian government has rejected this allegation. The Balochis claim that they are fighting to stop Punjabis and Chinese from exploiting the Balochis. The Pakistan government claims that a handful of people are creating disturbance to divide the unity of Pakistan at the behest of foreigners.

**Qaumi Bharat** (March 27) states that a protest was held in Netherlands capital Amsterdam on behalf of Baloch National Movement against the persecution of Balochis by the Pakistan government. The leaders of Pashtun Protection Movement also took part in this protest. Later the protesters staged a dharna outside the Pakistani embassy. Several leaders including the president of Netherlands-based Baloch National Movement Abdul Rahim, vice-president Wahid Baloch and general secretary Mahira Baloch addressed the protesters. The protesters also sent a memorandum to the Pakistani Embassy. In this memorandum it has been demanded that the Pakistan government immediately stop the persecution of Balochis and Pashtuns and release all the Balochi prisoners lodged in jails.

## Five get death penalty on charges of insulting Prophet

**Sahafat** (March 28) states that a court in Rawalpindi has awarded death sentence to five persons on charges of posting an objectionable online post against the Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad. This apart, a fine of Rs 1 lakh each has been imposed on them. The accused were convicted under Pakistan Penal Code and Electronics Crime Prevention Act. There has been a rapid increase in incidents of insulting the Prophet in Pakistan recently. According to a member from the legal commission on blasphemy, Rao Abdur

Raheem, the accused have been awarded a jail sentence of 10 years each on charges of desecrating Quran and hurting the religious sentiments as well. Among the accused, apart from four Pakistani citizens, there was one Afghan citizen as well.

This apart, a case has been registered against Pakistan's popular YouTuber Rajab Bhatt on charges of blasphemy and cyber crime law because the radicals in Pakistan are angry over his launch of a perfume brand. The police registered a case against Rajab Butt due to pressure from extremist



Islamic party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan. It is alleged that Rajab Butt had reportedly made fun of Pakistan's blasphemy law during the launch of the perfume. It is worth mentioning that Rajab Butt had uploaded the video of this perfume launch on his social media account. However, later he deleted this video. After registration of this case, Rajab Butt fled from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia. From there he released a video and rendered an apology. Lahore police said that Rajab Butt will be arrested once he returns to Pakistan. If he does not return, Pakistan government will urge Saudi Arabian government to hand over the accused to the Pakistan government.

**Chattan** (March 23) states that the Islamabad High Court after seeing the increasing number of cases for insulting the Prophet and Islam, directed the courts that they directly telecast the hearings on such cases on television, because several

complaints have reached the courts that people are fraudulently trapped in such cases in order to settle personal scores. It is worth mentioning that three women have filed a petition in the high court stating that they have been trapped in fake cases. The investigations into this case have been handed over to the intelligence wing of Pakistan. In its report, the intelligence wing said that those witnesses who had testified in the courts have now retracted from their statements. The court said that this was a serious issue.

**Hindustan** (March 30) states that a co-worker attacked a 22-year-old Christian man Waqas Masih and cut his throat in Shekhupura in Pakistan. A seriously injured Waqas Masih had been admitted to Mayo Hospital in Lahore. The attacker alleged that Waqas Masih had thrown a few pages of Quran into the waste bin and hence he attacked him. The lawyer of the victim alleged that Waqas Masih had a long-term dispute with his colleagues working in his office and they attacked him as revenge. Later in order to trap him, the fake case of desecration of Quran was registered against him. General secretary of Pakistan Christian League, Joseph Jenson, alleged that Christians are deliberately trapped in fake charges in Pakistan and they are forced to adopt Islam.

## Eight lakh Afghanis expelled from Pakistan

**Urdu Times** (March 18) states that the Afghanistan government had urged the Pakistan government that they stop the campaign to expel Afghan citizens from the country for some time, but the Pakistan government has refused to accept it. A spokesperson of Pakistan government told journalists that we had told the Afghanistan government in clear terms that from next month onwards the Pakistan government would expel 15 lakh Afghan infiltrators staying in the country. The Federal ministry of Pakistan has decided to cancel

the citizenship card of Afghan citizens staying in Pakistan. It is said that the number of such card holders is more than eight lakhs. The officials of Pakistan's intelligence agencies, and the personnel of police and paramilitary organisations have been directed to identify the Afghan citizens staying in Pakistan and sent them to detention camps so that they could be expelled from Pakistan.

According to sources in Pakistan government, 40 lakh Afghan citizens are staying in Pakistan currently. During the





Russian occupation of Afghanistan, these Afghan citizens had fled from Afghanistan and took refuge in Pakistan. The Afghan government claims that the people of Afghan origin staying in Pakistan are not infiltrators. They are such citizens of Afghan origin, who were born in Pakistan

itself and their families were staying there even before the creation of Pakistan. The Afghanistan government also says that the border line between the two countries have not been determined yet. The British had forcibly imposed the Durant Line as the border line between the two countries which Afghanistan has never accepted. Whereas Pakistan says that the Afghanistan government had recognised the Durant Line as the border line much before the creation of Pakistan. Pakistan also alleges that the hands of Afghanistan government were behind the terrorist attacks taking place in Pakistan and they are giving refuge to terrorists in their country.

## Rohingya leader arrested in Bangladesh

**Avadhnama** (March 20) states that the Bangladesh Police arrested the 48-year-old chief of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army Ataullah Abu Ammar Jununi from Dhaka. Superintendent of Police Pratyush Kumar Majumdar told media that Ataullah has been accused of murder and taking part in anti-Bangladesh activities. Earlier, four other Rohingya leaders were arrested from Mymensingh district. Ataullah was arrested following their interrogation. Police inspector Qayoom Khan said the five arrested persons were produced in a court in Mymensingh district. They were accused of murder, spreading riots and illegally entering Bangladesh. The police sent these accused to police remand of 10 days.



It is worth mentioning that the Aarakan Rohingya Salvation Army has been running a campaign for the past 10 years to convert the Rakhine province in

Myanmar into an Islamic State. A spokesperson of Salvation Army claimed that from 2016, the Buddhist Army of Myanmar has been running an armed campaign against the Muslim Rohingyas staying there. Till now, they have killed 50,000 Rohingyas. Due to this, nearly 15 lakh Rohingyas had to flee Myanmar to save their lives and take refuge in Bangladesh. Later when the Bangladesh government launched a campaign against Rohingyas, nearly seven lakh people infiltrated into other countries. The



spokesperson said that Rohingya Muslims are staying in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh government has refused to grant them citizenship. This apart, a ban has been imposed on them from doing business and doing jobs. They are fully dependent on the financial aid being extended by the refugee department of United Nations.

A spokesperson of Bangladesh government alleged that Abu Ammar and his colleagues were caught on charges of killing three officials of the intelligence wing of Bangladesh Army. The government spokesperson also alleged that these Rohingya refugees are also involved in smuggling of narcotics, kidnapping and other illegal activities and are spreading disturbances in Bangladesh.

**Urdu Times** (March 22) states that public anger is growing rapidly against the Yunus government in Bangladesh. Students are protesting against the Yunus

government across the country because the food crisis has taken a serious turn in the country and inflation is sharply increasing. The newspaper alleged that a section of Bangladesh Army is trying to overthrow the Yunus government. Protests are being organised across the country on an appeal by National Citizen Party. Similarly, student leader Hasnat Abdullah claimed that the hands of a foreign country were behind the anti-government protests that took place in Dhaka University. This country wants an Awami League government once again in Bangladesh.

**Urdu Times** (March 22) states that for the first time in the history of Bangladesh, a nine-day official holiday has been announced on the occasion of Eid.

**Urdu Times** (March 18) states that recently Bangladesh Prime Minister Mohammad Yunus visited China. He sought the cooperation of China to overcome the present crisis in Bangladesh.

## Indian student expelled from the US for supporting Hamas



**Sahafat** (March 21) states that the US administration has announced the expulsion of a student of Indian origin, Badar Khan Suri, studying in Georgetown University in Washington, from the US. The US government alleged that Suri has been

inciting people against the foreign policy of the US, hence it is very much necessary to expel him from the US. It is worth mentioning that the Homeland Security department in the US had arrested Badar Khan Suri on March 17. Later he was

produced in the court. According to British news agency 'Reuters,' the administration has alleged in the court that Badar Khan Suri has close relationship with Hamas. He has been promoting Hamas on social media and inciting hatred against Jews. US Secretary of State Mark Rubio said the government has decided to expel Suri from the US after seeing his anti-US activities. Suri's lawyer told the court that Suri had obtained a PhD from Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi. He was staying in the US on a student visa and he married US resident Mapheze Yusuf Saleh. Saleh is an original resident of Gaza.

It is worth mentioning that the Trump administration had announced that those foreign citizens supporting the Hamas attack on Israel and had taken part in anti-Israel protests in the US will be expelled from the US. Human rights organisations, while opposing the expulsion of Badar Khan from the US, said it is against the secular policy of the United States. A spokesperson of Georgetown University said that Suri is a post-doctoral fellow at the Alwaleed bin Talal Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding department of the university. The spokesperson said that he has no information on Suri's anti-US activities.

**Qaumi Bharat** (March 30) states that Badar Khan Suri is a resident of Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. His relatives told correspondents that Badar Khan has been studying in the US. They don't have



the information that the US government has decided to expel him from the United States.

**Sahafat** (March 22) states that the spokesperson of India's external affairs ministry Randhir Jaiswal said that neither the US government nor any Indian citizen contacted the external affairs ministry in this connection. We have got information from the media that an Indian citizen has been taken into custody in the US. One correspondent, while raising the issue of the cancellation of the US visa of another Indian student Ranjini Srinivasan, said the US government cancelled the visa of this girl student because she took part in the protests that took place in the US in support of Palestine. On this, the spokesperson of external affairs ministry said that as far as the issues of visa and immigration policies are concerned, it is a matter of the policy of foreign government concerned. We expect that when our citizens stay in foreign countries, they should follow the official laws of that country.

## Protest against arrest of Opposition leader in Turkiye



**Urdu Times** (March 21) states that a staunch opponent of Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem Imamoglu, has been arrested on charges of corruption. Turkiye's Opposition party, Republican People's Party (CHP), had declared him as its candidate for the forthcoming presidential elections. According to foreign media, the intelligence wing arrested Ekrem Imamoglu by raiding his residence. He has been accused of corruption and supporting terrorists. On the orders of President Erdogan, 100 prominent people were arrested from across the country. They include leaders, journalists and industrialists. Imamoglu said the dictator will not be able to suppress the people.

Earlier, the Turkiye government had declared the degree of Imamoglu as fake. He was accused of having a fake educational degree. In this connection, a case has also been registered against him. As per the Constitution of Turkiye, if the presidential candidate is accused of fraud, he would not be able to contest the presidential elections. Following these arrests, public anger has erupted across the country. The army has so far arrested more than 3,000 protesters. They include women

and children as well. Though the government has imposed a ban on protests, people are holding protests after violating the ban. A ban has been imposed on internet and mobile services also in Turkey.

**Munsif** (March 24) states that a court in Turkiye has sent the Mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem Imamoglu, to jail. The court ordered that 50 others including Imamoglu, who were arrested on charges of corruption, shall also be sent to jail. These accused will not be released on bail. The judge said that the investigation into the issue of giving support to terrorism is still on. The accused will be kept in jail until this investigation is completed. It is worth mentioning that Presidential elections are scheduled to be held in Turkiye in 2028. The lawyer of Imamoglu told correspondents that all the charges levelled against Imamoglu are fabricated. Turkiye President Erdogan is adopting such dictatorial tactics in order to remove his opponent from the electoral field and the judiciary is supporting Erdogan instead of delivering justice.

Turkiye's Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya alleged that the hands of Turkiye's enemies were behind the protests taking place across the country. According



to foreign media, out of the total 81 provinces in Turkiye, protests are taking place in 55 provinces and the government has failed to control them. Clashes are taking place between protesters and police across the country. Hundreds of people have been injured in these clashes. The government lawyer has claimed that 130 YouTubers and journalists have been arrested on charges of making objectionable news and video viral on social media. Whereas, a search is on for other people. According to local Turkish media, the police and intelligence wing officials interrogated Imamoglu for four hours in the jail. Observers said that such anti-government protests have not taken place in Turkiye after 2013.



The International Press Union has claimed that more than two dozen journalists have been taken into custody. These journalists were covering the news about the protests. Their cameras were seized from them. The journalists' union claimed that Turkiye is in the 158 position among the 180 countries included in the Press Freedom Index. The press union demanded the government that those journalists who were arrested while covering the news about the protest marches should be released immediately. Commenting on the statement of journalists' union, the Justice Minister of Turkiye said that the media in Turkiye is totally independent. He said that the report regarding the Press Freedom Index is fake and its purpose is to defame the Turkish government.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (March 3) states that the lawyer of Imamoglu, Mehmet Pehlivan, was also arrested. Turkiye journalists' union alleged that the police and intelligence personnel raided the houses of nearly a dozen women reporters at midnight and arrested them. The journalists held a dharna at Turkiye's capital Ankara. A journalist from Sweden

was arrested as soon as he entered Turkiye. Swedish newspaper 'Dagens ETC' alleged that its journalist Joakim Medin was arrested when he was covering the news related to the protests. Meanwhile, Turkiye's government spokesperson claimed that this journalist was arrested because he had insulted President Erdogan during the coverage of the news and his contacts are with armed terrorist groups. The chief editor of this newspaper said that the allegations raised against his journalist are baseless and fake. The Turkish government arrested the journalist so that the dictatorial methods adopted by the government to crush the protesters are not revealed. Spokesperson of Turkiye's interior ministry claimed that among the arrested journalists, 11 have been released. Majority of those released are foreign journalists. The Bar Association of Istanbul alleged that the Turkiye police have arrested teens in large numbers and they were sent to jails without registering any cases.

**Avadhnama** (April 2) has said in its editorial that opposition party CHP has declared Ekrem Imamoglu as its presidential candidate. Due to this, Erdogan sees his throne in danger. Recep Tayyip Erdogan is in power for the past two decades. He is also the president of Justice and Development Party. In 2016, the army had rebelled against him. Erdogan had crushed this revolt. Due to the increasing inflation, unemployment and devaluation of currency in the country the people have become dissatisfied with Erdogan. Erdogan does not want to lose his chair, and hence he is thinking about amending the

Constitution as well. As per the present Constitution of Turkiye, no individual can take part in the presidential elections for the third time and hence Erdogan is scared of Imamoglu. However, three more years are left for the presidential elections but he

is scared that as time passes, Imamoglu will become popular among the people. In view of this, Erdogan wants to keep Imamoglu away from the politics of the country so that he does not become a threat to him in future.

## Army seizes Sudan's capital Khartoum

**Sahafat** (March 22) states that the civil war that has been taking place in Sudan for the past one decade has taken a new turn now. After a fierce war for four days, the Sudanese Army has succeeded in bringing the Republican Palace in its control. The Republican Palace is the official residence of the President. This has been under the custody of rebel organisation Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for the past two years. In this connection, as per the video on social media, the Sudanese Army under the leadership of Major General Abdul Rahman Al-Bilawi has succeeded in capturing the headquarters of RSF. A spokesperson of Sudanese Army claimed that the RSF headquarters has been totally destroyed. This apart, the army has brought in its control all other government buildings located in Sudanese capital Khartoum. The fighters of RSF fled from Khartoum and fled to another town Omdurman. The Sudanese army has seized several bridges that come on the path to Omdurman and it is rapidly moving towards Omdurman. According to news agency 'Al Arabia,' the army has seized control of two-third parts of the country.

Sudan's army chief General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan announced that the rebel organisation RSF will be finished off within a week. Sudan's northern and eastern regions are in the control of Sudanese army earlier itself. Now they have seized control of capital Khartoum and the big regions of central Sudan. On the other hand, the western region Darfur is



sill in the control of rebel organisation RSF.

**Inquilab** (April 1) states that Sudan's Army Chief General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan has arrived in Saudi Arabia. There he met Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammad bin Salman and discussed the latest situation in Sudan.

**Hindustan** (March 25) states that Sudan's foreign minister Ali Yusuf told 'Al Arabia' that they are holding talks with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait and Qatar for financial aid for the reconstruction of Sudan. He alleged that the RSF has destroyed the economy of Sudan.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 23) states that a spokesperson of Sudan Army Brigadier General Nabeel Abdullah claimed that the army has captured all important institutions in the country. This includes Sudan's central bank, national museum, army headquarters and intelligence headquarters. In Port Sudan, the commander of RSF Lt General Mahjoob Bushra claimed that his forces will soon recapture Khartoum. It is worth mentioning that in the civil war that started in April 2023, more than 20 lakh people were killed and 1.2 crore people had fled



from Sudan and took refuge in neighbouring countries.

**Siasat** (March 28) states that Sudanese army has claimed that it has seized the international airport located in capital Khartoum and the headquarters of RSF. Recently, Army chief General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan visited Khartoum. There he addressed the Sudanese army.

**Inquilab** (March 31) states that the chief of RSF Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo admitted that his forces have vacated capital Khartoum. He said that the war is still on. Our forces are currently occupying Obdurman. He expressed hope that they would once again seize Sudan's capital.

**Background:** It is worth mentioning that the population of Sudan is approximately 5 crore. Among them, nearly 70 percent are Arab Muslims. In Sudan, there are huge deposits of gold, platinum, copper, zinc, cobalt etc.

Meanwhile, the US, European Union and the United Nations had declared South Sudan as a separate country. In South Sudan, the population of Muslims is just 6 percent. The rest of the population are Christians. Unfortunately for Sudan, a civil war is taking place in the country for the past 30 years. At least 20 lakh people have been killed in this civil war so far and nearly 1.25 crore people have been

rendered homeless.

In Sudan, from May 1986 till June 1989, Ahmed Al-Mirghani was in power. In 1989, the then chief of Sudanese army, Omar Al-Bashir, rebelled and captured power. He ruled Sudan for next 30 years like a dictator. Later, public anger erupted over his dictatorship. Due to mass anti-government protests and hartals, a military coup took place in Sudan in 2019 and the chief of Sudan army General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan seized power. He had announced his colleague and commander of RSF General Mohammad Hamdan Dagalo as vice-president. Later a fight broke out between the two friends over power sharing and ever since the war is on. Sudan is now divided into two groups. Both the groups are attacking each other with the help of the forces. There is a huge food crisis in Sudan due to this civil war.

## Huge increase in the cost for Umrah package in Saudi Arabia

**Siasat** (March 24) states that in view of the huge rush for Umrah during Ramzan, aircraft operating companies and hotels have increased their charges by 25 to 30 percent. This apart, the Saudi government has also increased the fee for Umrah Visa. According to sources in Saudi government, 1.25 crore to 1.5 crore Muslims are likely to reach Saudi Arabia for Umrah this year. Those who had gone to Saudi Arabia for Umrah said there is an increase of 2,000 to

5,000 Riyals in the expenses for Umrah. Compared to last year, this year 25 percent more people are likely to arrive in Saudi Arabia.

**Siasat** (March 28) states that during the Shab-e-Barat day, nearly 50 lakh people offered namaz at Masjid Al-Haram located in Mecca. The imam of the masjid, Sheikh Badr bin Muhammad Al-Turki, led the namaz. On the other hand, the taraweeh namaz at Masjid-e-Nabawi was led by





Sheikh Muhammad bin Ahmad Barhaji. More than 50,000 security personnel were deployed for the security of namazis.

**Roznama Sahara** (March 29) states that the Saudi government has extended health facilities to 65,000 people in Mecca and Medina during Ramzan. Whereas one lakh namazis have been admitted to different hospitals. In view of the huge number of pilgrims arriving for Umrah during Ramzan, the Saudi government has made arrangements for more than 1,000

health centres. In view of the crowd during Ramzan, the Masjid-Al-Haram was widened for the third time so that 25 lakh people can offer namaz at one point of time. Two dozen new doors have been constructed in the masjid in view of the huge crowd. Twenty-two new domes have been added to the mosque, of which 12 are made of glass.

The width of the central dome which has been constructed on the third floor is 36 metres while its height is 25 metres. The weight of this dome is 800 tonnes. This dome is an amazing example of Islamic architecture.

**Inquilab** (March 23) states that the Haj department has made arrangements to provide 300 tonnes of Ab-e-Zamzam daily to the pilgrims who arrive at Masjid-e-Nabawi. Every pilgrim will be given two bottles of Ab-e-Zamzam free.

## Israeli attack on Gaza on the occasion of Eid

**Inquilab** (March 31) states that Israel carried out air and ground attacks in several places in Gaza even on the occasion of Eid. At least 2,000 people were killed in these latest attacks. Whereas it is claimed that more than 50 people were killed and over 500 injured in the bombing that took place on Eid day. According to Qatar's television channel 'Al Jazeera,' till now more than 50,000 people were killed in Israeli bombings and lakhs of people were rendered homeless. Similarly, the number of injured is said to be 2.5 lakh. On the other hand, according to the government media office in Gaza, more than 61,000 people were killed and thousands of bodies were buried in the rubble. Till now, no arrangements have been made to take out these bodies. On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr Hamas has appealed to Muslim nations across the world that they extend help with an open heart and Muslims across the



world openly support the Palestinians. Hamas claimed that until even a single Palestinian is alive, their fight against Israel will continue.

**Urdu Times** (March 25) states that Israel carried out airstrikes on Nasseer Hospital in Khan Yunis. Nearly 50 people were killed in this attack. Similarly, Israeli government claimed that they carried out this attack in order to destroy a base of Hamas.

**Hindustan** (March 25) states that Hamas has confirmed that its 16 senior commanders have been killed in Israeli attacks.

**Inquilab** (March 28) states that continuous attacks were carried out on Gaza Strip by the Israeli military. The

Israeli army bombed the house of Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif Al-Qanoua. In this attack, Abdel Latif was killed along with his family. Due to the latest attack of Israel, 1.5 lakh Palestinians had to abandon their houses and take refuge in relief camps.

## Terrorist attack on masjid in Niger



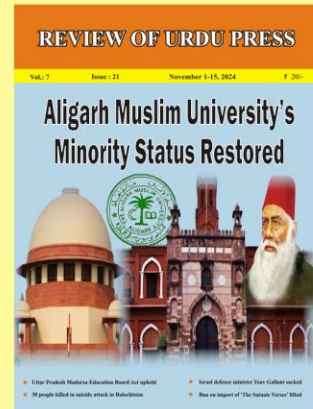
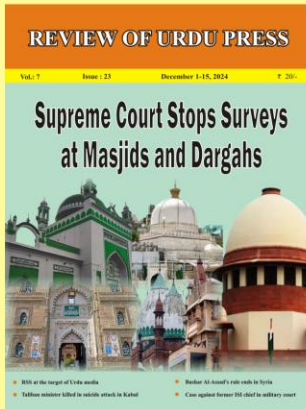
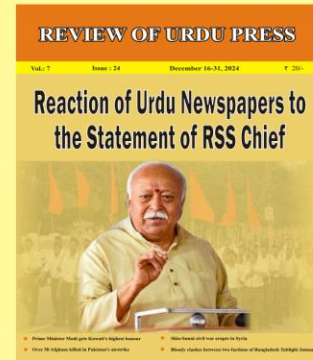
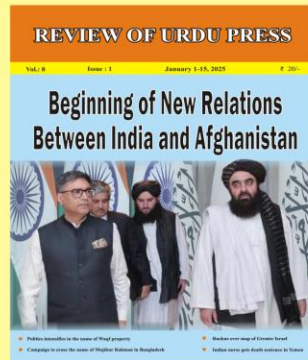
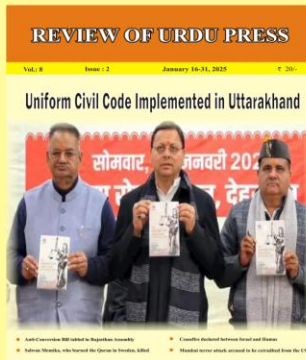
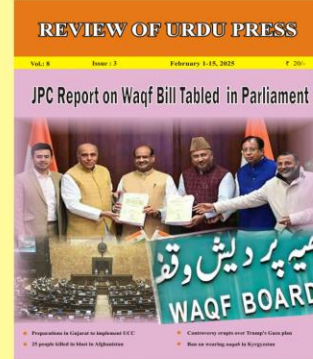
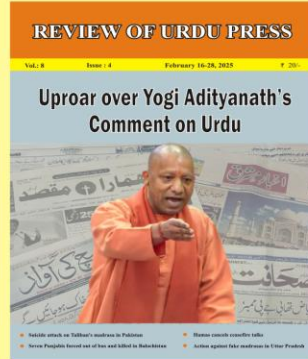
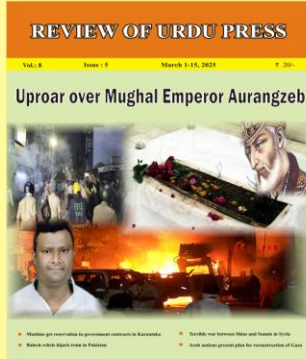
**Inquilab** (March 23) states that in the African country of Niger, the terrorists of Islamic terrorist organisation, Islamic State Greater Sahara (ISGS), attacked namazis who were doing namaz in a masjid and killed at least 50 people. Nearly 130 people were injured in this attack. The government has announced a three-day national mourning in memory of those who were killed in this attack.

It has been claimed in a statement broadcast over government television that this attack took place on a masjid in a town named Kokorou. This attack was carried out when people were offering namaz in the masjid on the Juma day. Terrorists

armed with heavy weapons surrounded the masjid. Before this, the attackers set fire to the entire locality. When people ran out of their burning houses in order to save their lives, they were fired upon. It is claimed that more than 100 people were killed in this firing. This town is located near the borders of Burkina Faso and Male. The terrorists of ISIS and Al Qaida are active in this region for the past one decade. The government army used to engage terrorists in firefights in this region. The government claims that the terrorists have killed 3,500 citizens in the past one year. Whereas the government army has killed nearly 500 terrorists.



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॥ इंदीयपतेन खलत् सर्वम् ॥

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