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## Nationwide Campaign Against Infiltrators



- Nowhera Shaik who duped lakhs of Muslims arrested
- Murder of two employees of Israeli embassy in the US

- Nearly 2.75 lakh people arrested in Saudi Arabia
- Citizenship of 26,000 women cancelled in Kuwait

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## Summary

Post-Operation Sindoor, the Union Home Ministry has directed all state governments to launch a nationwide campaign to identify illegal immigrants. Following the issuance of this order, some states started the procedure to identify the infiltrators and expel them from the country. It is a fact that the influx of illegal immigrants into the country has been going on for the past 50 years or so. This infiltration and encroachment have changed the demographic ratio in many parts of the country. The situation in many states of Northeast India is extremely worrying.

The undeniable lure of vote bank saw many senior leaders of the erstwhile ruling parties, including the Congress, indirectly supporting infiltration in the country and never any effective steps were taken to expel these immigrants from the country. Also, no official figures have been provided regarding the number of Bangladeshi and Rohingya immigrants in the country. According to intelligence sources, their number is said to be more than two crore. A few years ago, the Delhi Police submitted a report to the Delhi High Court, stating that the number of these illegal immigrants residing in Delhi was estimated to be between 2 and 2.5 lakh. It is surprising that whenever the government takes concrete steps to expel these immigrants from the country, some political parties and human rights activists start opposing it.

The recent arrest of a woman called Nowhera Shaik in Andhra Pradesh is an example of how people are exploited in the name of religion. The barely educated woman from Andhra Pradesh allegedly formed several companies and encouraged Muslims to invest in these companies. Some Muslim organisations and Maulanas too supported her for a huge commission. It is said that these Maulanas propagated among members of the Muslim community that taking interest from banks was considered *haram* (forbidden) in Islam, and therefore, they should invest their savings in Nowhera Shaik's companies, as the money they would receive as profit would be considered *halal* in accordance with Islamic Shariah. This misleading propaganda resulted in millions of Muslims worldwide investing billions of rupees in companies established by Shaik. Initially, these companies also paid dividends to shareholders but later embezzled this money.

Islamic jihadis and their Leftist supporters have become a headache for peace-loving people worldwide. Recently, a pro-Palestinian Leftist opened fire indiscriminately outside the Jewish Museum in Washington, killing two employees of the Israeli embassy in the US. The attacker also shouted 'Free Palestine' while firing. US President Donald Trump has condemned the incident. He has announced that anti-Jewish campaigns would not be tolerated in the US and stringent action would be taken against those who cause disturbances.

The Saudi Arabian government has arrested nearly three lakh people for attempting to perform Haj without a permit. The Saudi government has announced that this step has been taken to reduce crowding during the Haj season. Earlier, the Saudi government had announced that only those people would be allowed to perform Haj who enter Saudi Arabia with a special permit under the quota set by the government.





## National

## Nationwide campaign against infiltrators



**Rojnama Sahara** (June 3) states after Operation Sindoor was launched against Pakistan, the Indian government has intensified a nationwide campaign against illegal immigrants residing in the country.

According to a government spokesperson, more than 2,000 Bangladeshis have been expelled from the country so far. This campaign started from Gujarat. The spokesperson added that a campaign against Bangladeshi immigrants is also being run in several states including Delhi, Haryana, Assam, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The central government has instructed all states to also run campaigns against foreign infiltrators who illegally occupy government land. With the cooperation of security agencies, the police in these states are arresting suspicious individuals, keeping them in detention centres, and interrogating them.

A senior official of the Home ministry stated that large numbers of such infiltrators migrate to states where employment opportunities are abundant for livelihood. The government reportedly received information that these infiltrators had obtained fake Aadhaar cards and refugee registration cards issued by the United Nations. Therefore, investigation agencies have been instructed to ignore Aadhaar cards and refugee registration

cards during the investigation of infiltrators and take action against them.

The spokesperson said that the Ministry of Home affairs had instructed all state governments to take part in this campaign but some state governments were not fully cooperating in this matter. Military aircraft are being used to transport these infiltrators to border areas. Thereafter, they are handed over to the Border Security Force (BSF). They are kept in camps there. Apart from food, these infiltrators are also given some Bangladeshi currency before being pushed back into their country.

**Munsif** (June 3) states that Ahmedabad Nagar Nigam razed nearly 9,000 unauthorised buildings, dargahs and masjids around Chandola Lake. The administration claimed that this action was taken against foreign infiltrators. The displaced people claimed that they had been living at the said place for the past 40 years. The newspaper alleged that previously 2,000 houses and shanties were forcibly evacuated, and many residents were detained, branding them as Bangladeshi infiltrators.

The publication complained that only Muslims were targeted in this campaign. Fifty-eight-year-old Salma Bano said: "How can we be Bangladeshis? I was born here. My parents were also born here.



We have Aadhaar cards, ration cards and electricity bills but no one listened to us.” Her neighbour, Mohammad Yusuf, said that bulldozers arrived without any notice and razed their homes.

The newspaper claimed that armed policemen had surrounded the entire area and did not allow any journalist or social worker inside. The government claimed that all these houses were illegally built on government land. Maulana Jawed of Ahmedabad said it was a shameful example of state oppression. The government is bent on erasing the very existence of Muslims. The newspaper claimed that the police have so far detained over 10,000 suspected infiltrators and their interrogation is in progress.

**Qaumi Bharat** (May 28) states that Haryana police have detained over 500 suspected infiltrators from various parts of the state. The highest number, 210 people, were caught in Gurugram, while 95 were caught in Nuh, 122 in Faridabad and 170 in Panipat. The Haryana government has demolished the slum dwellings at 23 locations where Bangladeshi citizens were illegally occupying land.

According to media reports, Delhi Police have raided various locations and detained over a thousand suspected infiltrators. Among them, 300 people have been confirmed to be Bangladeshis. These Bangladeshi citizens have been handed over to the Border Security Force to be sent to Bangladesh. The rest have been kept at

the Lampur detention centre. Delhi Police claim that the hideouts of illegal infiltrators have been identified. These hideouts have been demolished by the municipal corporation and DDA using bulldozers. It is also claimed that most of the infiltrators living in Delhi have fled to neighbouring states due to police action.

**Inquilab** (May 23) reports that campaigns are on against Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators in various

parts of Uttar Pradesh. So far, in this regard, more than 7,000 suspects have been taken into custody. Most of the people were caught in Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow and Kanpur.

**Etemaad** (June 2) states that the Maharashtra police and intelligence department have taken more than 6,000 suspected infiltrators into their custody from various places in the state. They are being interrogated. Local bodies have demolished many settlements of these infiltrators in Mumbai, Pune, Kolhapur, Beed and Aurangabad. The government claims that these people had encroached on government land and built their houses and slums. In Mumbai, the highest number of suspects, 2700, have been caught.

**Etemaad** (May 24) states that 277 infiltrators have been arrested in Madhya Pradesh and handed over to the Border Security Force. The newspaper claimed that the police had taken about 2,000 suspected infiltrators into their custody from Bhopal, Ujjain, Indore, Jhansi and Datia, and they are being interrogated. The newspaper complained that the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh was targeting innocent people out of hatred towards Muslims.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (May 30) states that the Assam government has taken more than 7,000 suspects into custody and are interrogating them. The newspaper claimed that about 2,000 infiltrators have been expelled from India so far.

**Rojnama Sahara** (June 3) states that the Supreme Court has dismissed a petition challenging the Assam government's policy of expelling infiltrators from the country.

The court said that they should approach the high court in this regard. It was alleged in this petition that the Assam government was running a campaign to expel legitimate Indian citizens from the country by declaring them as infiltrators and the people concerned were not being given an opportunity to present their case in the courts. This is against the spirit of justice. The petition also stated that this policy of the Assam government is against Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. In the petition filed by the BTC Minority Students' Union, it was alleged that the Assam government was expelling poor and backward Muslims from the country by declaring them as foreign infiltrators due to its communal policy. They are also not being allowed to challenge the government order in courts.

**Inquilab** (May 25) states that the Supreme Court has dismissed a petition filed by a Sri Lankan citizen. This person had challenged his expulsion from India by filing a petition in the court. The Supreme Court, in its remarks, said that India was



not a *dharmasala* where refugees from all over the world can be given shelter. The court said that foreign citizens could not be allowed to reside illegally in the country.

**Inquilab** (May 29) reports that 45 Rohingya infiltrators have been identified and taken into custody in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. Bareilly Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anurag Arya said that a campaign was underway in the district against Rohingya and Bangladeshi infiltrators living illegally. In this regard, investigations were carried out at 83 locations in all police station areas of the district. In this, 775 people were found suspicious. He said the district police had formed 50 investigative teams in this regard. These teams are going from door-to-door to check people's identities.

## Foreign tour of all-party delegations and Urdu media

**Inquilab** (May 18) reports that the Indian government had decided to send seven delegations of all-party MPs to 33 countries around the world to expose Pakistan. The Congress had not officially sent the name of former Union Minister and MP Shashi Tharoor for these delegations. However, despite this, the central government has given the responsibility of leading a delegation to Shashi Tharoor. These seven delegations include 51 MPs from various parties.

**Urdu Times** (May 30) states that in order to clarify the Indian government's

perspective on Operation Sindoor to the world, a delegation led by Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule visited South Africa. They met Indian citizens there. According to a press release issued by the Indian High Commission in South Africa, this delegation informed citizens of Indian origin that Pakistan was promoting terrorism in India. The delegation told the attendees that the Indian government follows zero-tolerance policy on cross-border terrorism.

The delegation stated that India was determined to eradicate terrorism. The





members also met with Members of Parliament and ministers in Cape Town, South Africa. The delegation included former minister of state for external affairs V Muraleedharan and former permanent representative of India to the United Nations, Syed Akbaruddin.

**Urdu Times** (May 25) reports that a delegation led by Janata Dal (United) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha visited Japan. This delegation met the Japanese foreign minister, former Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament and MPs of various parties. India's ambassador to Japan, Sibi George, stated that Japan has fully supported India's campaign against terrorism. BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi said that this visit was successful and they had been successful in exposing Pakistan-sponsored terrorism to the world.

**Urdu Times** (May 3) states that another delegation led by Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde made a trip to UAE. This delegation met Ahmed Mir Khozai, member of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates, in Abu Dhabi. Shinde said that they elaborated on the role of the Indian government in Operation Sindoor and the dangers of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

According to **Chattan** (May 28), the Indian delegation met Indian citizens in Kuwait. On this occasion, Asaduddin Owaisi, president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, alleged that Pakistan

would use the loan given by the IMF to fuel terrorism. Owaisi said that more Muslims live in India than in Pakistan. This delegation visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Algeria.

**Etemaad** (May 30) reports that addressing Muslim scholars and other influential personalities of Saudi Arabia, Asaduddin Owaisi said that 24 crore Muslims live in India. Our *Ulema* are counted among the top scholars in the world. They can speak brilliant Arabic. The Pakistan propaganda that India is against Muslims is totally false. The delegation said that if Pakistan stops supporting terrorists, political stability can be created in South Asia.

Owaisi said that the person in Pakistan who led the funeral prayers of terrorists has also been declared a terrorist by the US. He alleged that high-ranking Pakistani officials and many senior military officers also took part in these funeral prayers. He demanded that Pakistan be included in the FATF grey list. Owaisi said that India has solid evidence that terrorist attacks in India are orchestrated from Pakistan.

**Etemaad** (May 26) states that the Indian delegation met Bahrain's deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa and informed him about the dangers of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. This delegation also met the chairman of the Upper House of the Bahrain



Parliament, Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh. The delegation also discussed friendly relations between Bahrain and India and expressed its hope that Bahrain would extend its support to India at such a crucial time. Another delegation led by JDU MP Sanjay Kumar Jha met senior officials in South Korea and apprised them of various aspects of the campaign being run by India against terrorism.

**Urdu Times** (May 26) said in its editorial that after the Pahalgam attack, India took action against Pakistan. Thereafter, India became isolated in the world. Considering that, the Modi government decided to send seven all-party delegations to 33 countries. The newspaper alleged that the Modi government made no effort to create a suitable environment for Operation Sindoor. Whereas during the Chinese attack in 1962, then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru not only called a special session of Parliament but also sought cooperation from writers, poets, journalists, filmmakers and actors. It is surprising that after the Pahalgam attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made no effort to get support from various sections and left all meetings to campaign in Bihar. The newspaper asked what was the reason that India had to suddenly surrender to the US proposal for a ceasefire?

**Urdu Times** (May 21) said in its editorial that Operation Sindoor had been a great achievement for the Indian military but no country in the world supported us. On the contrary, China, Turkiye, Iran and Saudi Arabia supported Pakistan's stance, while the US and other Western countries played a neutral role. The newspaper stated

that Prime Minister Modi's foreign policy has completely failed. Surprisingly, the Modi government did not hesitate to engage in political manoeuvring even in the selection of members for these all-party delegations.

**Munsif** (May 23) said in its editorial that the country's politics has now become a spectacle. The

rulers of the country are daily becoming street performers, showing the public a new spectacle. The public has also become so engrossed in these spectacles that they don't even remember that they need to question these rulers about the serious problems of the country, who gained power by showing heaven in their palms during the elections.

More than a month after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, those responsible for this cowardly attack are still at large but the street performer showed a spectacle of entering Pakistan and destroying terrorist hideouts, which the spectators applauded enthusiastically. In this spectacle, the crucial question of why the Pahalgam attack happened in the first place, and why the government could not protect innocent tourists, was lost. This is the most important question.

**Hindustan Express** in its editorial dated May 28 said following the success of Operation Sindoor, delegations of Indian MPs were sent on a world tour to expose Pakistan's propaganda and present the true facts to the public. It is strange that the selection of these delegations also began with political controversies. The special thing is that in the Indian media, special importance is being given to two persons included in these delegations. One of them is Congress leader Shashi Tharoor and the other is Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi. The reason for this is that during their foreign tour, both these leaders not only highly praised the Indian government but also made full efforts to expose Pakistan's wicked intentions. Owaisi strongly



criticised Pakistan and clarified that Indian Muslims are living a life of more peace and tranquility compared to Muslims in Pakistan.

In addition to Owaisi, Ghulam Nabi Azad was also included in these delegations. There is no doubt that Ghulam Nabi Azad is one of those veteran Indian politicians who also happens to be Muslim. However, he has never played his role as a spokesperson for Muslims. Ghulam Nabi Azad always ignored the problems of Muslims, while proving his loyalty to the Congress.

Of the seven delegations sent abroad, four were being led by leaders of the ruling party, whereas the responsibility for leading three delegations has been given to Opposition leaders. In addition to Owaisi and Azad, other Muslim MPs included in these delegations were Sarfaraz Ahmed, Salman Khurshid, Javed Ashraf, Mian Altaf Ahmed, Syed Akbaruddin, Ghulam Ali Khatana, ET Mohammad Basheer and M J Akbar. Yusuf Pathan was also supposed to be included in this team but he refused to join this delegation on the orders of Mamata Banerjee.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (May 22) stated in its editorial that the Modi government is known for its anti-Muslim stance and hateful rhetoric. Now, what message does the government want to send to the world by including Muslim and Sikh representatives in delegations against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism?

If someone asks these delegations about the government's anti-Muslim stance, what would they answer? The question is, why did India appear alone during the military confrontation with Pakistan? Even Nepal and Bhutan did not appear to stand with India. The question is also, why did US President Donald Trump, while announcing a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, place both countries on the same scale? How did Pakistan get a loan of USD 1 billion while India is a member of



the IMF? None of the 25 members on this board opposed the grant of loans to Pakistan. It appears that Prime Minister Modi and India's diplomacy have completely failed.

**Avadhnama** (May 25) stated in one of its articles that after the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, India became isolated in the world. This is why the Modi government was forced to send its delegations abroad. Prime Minister Modi's fondness for foreign tours is no secret. As per the information presented in Parliament, Rs 254 crore has been spent on the PM's official foreign tours in the last five years. Whenever Modi goes abroad, pictures of his close embraces with foreign rulers are widely seen. It is surprising that in times of crisis, no country supported him, nor did any leader speak out in his favour.

**Avadhnama** (May 23) said in its editorial that the delegations comprised 51 leaders from different political parties. Meanwhile, eight were old diplomats. India had selected Colonel Sofia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh for the briefing of Operation Sindoor as part of a special strategy. The inclusion of nine Muslim MPs in these delegations was also another part of this strategy.

**Inquilab** (May 23) welcomed in its editorial the sending of all-party delegations to various countries. The newspaper stated that these delegations should explain to foreign governments that Pakistan wants to destabilise India and hinder its development by causing it economic harm.

## Nowhera Shaik held for swindling billions of rupees from lakhs of Muslims



**Aurangabad Times** (May 29) reports that Hyderabad police arrested Nowhera Shaik, the main accused in the infamous Heera Gold fraud case, from Surajkund in Haryana's Faridabad. The central crime station team had been trying to locate her for a long time. Nowhera is accused of cheating nearly two lakh people of billions of rupees.

An arrest warrant for Nowhera Shaik was issued in 2018 in connection with three cases in Hyderabad. She was arrested thereafter but had been absconding since procuring bail from the court. In October 2024, the Supreme Court rejected Nowhera's bail application because she had not appeared in the local court. The Heera Gold scam is considered one of India's major financial scandals.

Allegations have been levelled that Nowhera Shaik's companies lured investors by promising monthly returns of 36 per cent and annual returns of 80 per cent. Nowhera had formed companies like Heera Gold, Heera Textiles and Heera Foodex to loot billions of rupees from people. In 2018, these companies suddenly stopped paying those who had invested capital.

Nowhera's first arrest was in 2018 but she was later released on bail. Dozens of cases were registered against her across the country and the Enforcement

Directorate seized 124 immovable properties of her companies.

**Background:** According to media reports, no one in the Muslim community had ever committed such a large scam. Many Maulanas encouraged people to invest money in these companies. In return, the Maulanas were given huge bribes by these companies. These Maulanas propagated in the Muslim community that the interest received from depositing money in banks is considered *haram* according to Shariah, and therefore, Muslims should invest money in various companies of Nowhera Shaik so that they can receive dividends instead of interest. They also said that banks give a maximum of 13 per cent interest, whereas Nowhera's companies promised to pay out up to 80 per cent annual dividend to depositors.

A notable aspect is that most women had secretly invested their savings in Nowhera Shaik's companies. Their family members were also unaware of this. The police arrested three persons in this case, including Heera Gold's chairperson and CEO Nowhera Shaik, company director Biju Thomas and general manager Mary Thomas. Cases were filed against these companies in Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra.

The story of Nowhera Shaik's rise is also very interesting. She is the daughter of



a vegetable vendor from Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, and is minimally educated. However, she claims to be an Islamic scholar and prefixes 'Doctor' with her name. She began the process of collecting money from the public in Tirupur. In 2006, she established an organisation called At-Tawheed International Dawah Centre for Women. Nowhera founded a company called Heera Gold in 2007. Its first office was in Mumbai. Nowhera had claimed that she traded gold from Ghana. Due to the strong promotion by Maulanas, her business flourished.

In 2012, Heera Gold was converted into a public limited company. Nowhera claimed that investors were the true shareholders of the company. After this, people started investing heavily in it. Nowhera's companies had a widespread network across the country and her agents were present in most cities of the country. They encouraged Muslims to invest in her companies. In return, they were given large sums of money as commission.

Muslims from India, Pakistan, Indonesia, America, Britain, and almost all Gulf countries invested money in Nowhera's companies. One Shahbaz first complained against Nowhera Shaik and her companies in 2010. He wrote letters to the

CBI and NIA, alleging that the imams and Maulanas of local mosques were encouraging common Muslims to invest in Nowhera Shaik's companies. In return, these Maulanas were given a hefty commission by the company.

Shahbaz had alleged that these clerics were associated with Jamiat-e-Ahle Hadees and other Islamic organisations. From this company, a mosque named Masjid-e-Bilqis was built

in Hyderabad's Toli Chowki area at a cost of Rs 50 lakh. Nowhera Shaik's company collected Rs 5 crore with the help of the imam of this mosque. Surprisingly, no investigating agency took any action on this complaint. Later, when these companies stopped paying dividends to shareholders, matters worsened.

Significantly, Nowhera Shaik had also announced her entry into politics in 2017 and formed a political party called All India Mahila Empowerment Party. She decided to field candidates in all seats in the Karnataka Assembly elections. Even many Bollywood actors campaigned for this party.

In 2018, the company's shareholders filed cases against Nowhera Shaik and her companies in Hyderabad. Subsequently, Hyderabad police arrested Nowhera, but the court later granted her conditional bail. In this regard, in addition to Nowhera Shaik, cases were filed against six other persons under various sections, including criminal breach of trust, cheating and conspiracy. Among the others against whom cases were filed were Mubarak Jaan Shaikh, Mauli Thomas, Aziza Juwale, Akhtar Modak, Mudassir and Rizwan Shaikh.

## Ali Khan Mahmudabad released on bail

**Inquilab** (May 19) reports that an associate professor of Ashoka University, Haryana, Ali Khan Mahmudabad, was arrested from Delhi on charges of commenting on

Operation Sindoor on social media. Yogesh Jathedi, a leader of Haryana BJP's Yuva Morcha, had filed a police complaint against Ali Khan. Following this, the



Haryana Women's Commission had also issued summons to Ali Khan. Earlier, the associate professor had stated in a statement that his comments were interpreted in a wrong manner. The matter does not fall under the purview of the women's commission. Ali Khan said that Colonel Sofia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh were chosen for the press briefing during Operation Sindoor as representatives of India's multi-religious society.



It is noteworthy that Ali Khan, in his Facebook post, called the briefing of Operation Sindoor by women officers a sham and a show-off. He had said that while they are praising right-wing Colonel Sophia Qureshi, they should also raise their voice against the killing of Muslims by mobs, the destruction of their homes with bulldozers and the hate campaign against Muslims by the BJP. Earlier, more than 200 academicians and officials had submitted a memorandum to the Haryana Women's Commission to express solidarity with Ali Khan Mahmudabad. They had demanded that the commission withdraw the summons issued to Ali Khan, but the police arrested the academician under alleged political pressure.

According to another news report, Jamiat Ulema chairman Arshad Madani, MP Asaduddin Owaisi and educationist Apoorvanand condemned this arrest. Arshad Madani stated that the government was deliberately targeting Muslims and implicating them in false cases. He said the police arrested Ali Khan under pressure from the BJP. Professor Rajib Ray, president of the Democratic Teachers Front, alleged that the law was being misused for political purposes. He demanded the immediate release of Ali Khan.

According to **Inquilab** (May 22), the Supreme Court has granted conditional bail to Ali Khan Mahmudabad. The court has

directed him not to post any controversial content on social media or deliver any controversial speeches in future. He is also asked not to comment on social media regarding terrorist attacks in the country or Operation Sindoor. The newspaper stated that while the Supreme Court has granted bail to Ali Khan, it has also directed the Haryana government to form a special investigation team (SIT) to investigate the case.

The SIT should not include any police officers from Haryana or Delhi, and its head should be an officer of the rank of inspector-general of police. The remaining members should include two officers of deputy commissioner of police (DCP)-rank. This SIT should also include a female officer.

Earlier, Haryana police had arrested Ali Khan and produced him in court. The court sent him to judicial custody for 14 days. This decision of the court was challenged in the Supreme Court. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal appeared on behalf of Ali Khan in the court. Sibal argued in court that Ali Khan's entire post was based on patriotism. He had said in his post during the press briefing of Operation Sindoor that it showed that the argument on the basis of which Pakistan was formed has failed. Ali Khan had written 'Jai Hind' at the end of his post. Representing the Haryana government, additional solicitor general S V Raju said that it is a matter of investigation whether a female police



officer was targeted in Ali Khan's post or not.

**Hindustan** (May 29) alleged in its editorial that on one hand, emphasis was being placed on national unity to deal with Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. On the other hand, Muslims are being framed in false cases under the guise of commenting on Operation Sindoor.

A case has been filed against Professor Ali Khan, head of the political science department at Ashoka University, on charges of commenting on Operation Sindoor. Similarly, Khadija Sheikh, an engineering student from Pune, has also been framed in a case. Bombay High Court strongly reprimanded the Maharashtra government, stating that they were destroying the future of a child.

**Hindustan Express** (May 21) condemned the arrest of Ali Khan Mahmudabad in its editorial. The newspaper stated that on one hand, every individual has freedom of expression in the Constitution. On the other hand, if a person criticises government policy, he is framed in a sedition case. The newspaper

condemned the indiscriminate arrests of people across the country on alleged charges of supporting Pakistan. In this regard, 30 people in Uttar Pradesh, 78 in Assam, and seven people in Madhya Pradesh have been arrested. Such government action is highly condemnable.

**Urdu Times** (May 28) stated in its editorial that the arrest of Ali Khan was a dictatorial attempt to silence the voice of Muslims. The newspaper said that Justice Suryakant's remark in this

matter was concerning. Justice Suryakant said that Ali Khan should have exercised caution before commenting on such a sensitive matter. The judge said that for the past 75 years, we have only been talking about rights but never mentioned duties. He said that Ali Khan's statements were a danger signal. The newspaper said that this observation by Justice Suryakant would affect freedom of expression, which was already being brutally suppressed in the country. Taking advantage of such remarks, the police and lower courts could harass any innocent person.

**Avadhnama** (May 22) stated in its editorial that Ali Khan Mahmudabad had not written anything in his post that could be considered against the country. The ground reality was that Muslims are being discriminated against and mob lynchings are on. Their homes are being bulldozed. Their mosques, khanqahs, and shrines are being razed to the ground. The newspaper said it was surprising that after the case was registered, the police did not interrogate Ali Khan but arrested him and sent him directly to jail.

## Restrictions on Urs of Syed Lakkad Shah

**Inquilab** (May 31) reports that the Bahraich district administration has banned the annual Urs and fair of Dargah

Syed Shah Hussain alias Lakkad Shah, located in the Katarniaghat wildlife division of the district. PAC personnel



have been deployed on all roads leading to the dargah. PAC is not allowing anyone to go to the dargah. Local residents are peeved at the ban. It is noteworthy that the district administration had earlier also banned the annual Urs of Syed Salar Masood Ghazi alias Bale Miyan and Dargah Syed Afzaluddin alias Amirmaah Bahraichi. Local residents claim that for the past 600 years, a fair and Urs were being organised at Lakkad Shah Baba's Dargah but this time the forest department has banned this event.

Divisional forest Officer B Shivshankar said the Katarniaghat wildlife division is a forest protected area. This area has several animals

including tigers. He said that this area is in a core zone, hence permission for the fair and Urs had not been granted. He added that the mazaar (shrine) falls within the sanctuary area, hence imposing a ban was necessary. Every year, a fair and Urs are organised at the shrine of Lakkad Shah, which draws thousands of devotees.

It is worth mentioning that recently the forest department had issued a notice to the management committee of Lakkad Shah Dargah. The notice stated that they had encroached upon forest department land, and therefore, the said dargah should be removed. A petition was filed against this ban in the Lucknow court, but the court is yet to hear the matter.



## Murder of two employees at Israeli embassy in US



**Sahafat** (May 23) reports that two employees of the Israeli embassy were killed and several people were injured in an indiscriminate firing by a Palestine-supported terrorist in Washington DC, the US capital. Police have arrested an assailant in this regard. This assailant was firing at the scene and also raising slogans of 'Free Palestine'. This incident happened when a ceremony was going on at the Jewish Museum. Among the dead are a man and a woman. According to Washington police chief Pamela Smith, a person was roaming outside the Jewish Museum before the incident and suddenly started indiscriminate firing. Security officials arrested him on the spot. A pistol has also been seized from the accused. The assailant has been identified as 30-year-old Elias Rodriguez. The accused is a resident of Chicago.

The Israeli embassy has released the photographs of the deceased in the public domain. Both of them were embassy employees. Commenting on this incident, US President Donald Trump said it was a horrific incident, which showed the feeling of hatred towards Jews in the country. He added that there was no place for hatred

and fundamentalism in America. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that it was a cowardly and anti-Jewish violence. "We would find out the truth behind the entire conspiracy," he said. Israel's representative to the United Nations, Danny Danon, said that it was part of the campaign of hatred being run against Israel in the US.

**Hindustan Express** (May 24) states that the killer told the police that he had carried out this attack for the freedom of Palestine. He said he had taken revenge for Gaza. Both the deceased had come to the ceremony for the engagement ritual. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that after this incident, the security at Israeli embassies worldwide would be beefed up because enemies of Israel could attack it anytime.

The FBI has launched a high-level investigation into this incident. The killer is said to be associated with a Palestinian organisation.

**Etemaad** (May 24) stated that the deceased were a loving couple who were coming out of the ceremony after exchanging engagement rings. The Israeli ambassador to the US said that President



Trump had called and assured him that his administration would make every possible

effort to eliminate the campaign of hatred against Jews. He stressed on the unity of the US and Israel. A spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry in Washington DC condemned the killing of Israeli embassy employees and said it was the duty of the US to provide complete security to employees working in embassies of all countries.

## Tripartite meeting between Pakistan, Turkiye and Azerbaijan



**Munsif** (May 28) reports that after his visit to Iran, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

According to media reports, a high-level meeting was held in Lachin, a city in Azerbaijan, between the top leaders of Pakistan, Turkiye and Azerbaijan. It is said that important decisions regarding the defence policy of all three countries were made in this meeting. Pakistani media has not provided any information regarding the decisions made at this conference but it is claimed that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also took part in this meeting. Turkish media has also confirmed this news. Shehbaz Sharif reached Tehran after visiting Turkiye. Azerbaijan was his

next stop. After participating in this meeting, he will also visit Tajikistan.

Shehbaz Sharif was accompanied by Pakistan's foreign affairs minister Ishaq Dar, army chief General Asim Munir and information and broadcasting minister Ataullah Tarar. Earlier, the Prime Minister of Pakistan met the President of Turkiye for the second time in the past month. Turkish President Erdogan had a long conversation with Shehbaz Sharif in Ankara on April 22. Turkiye and Azerbaijan have emphasised staying united with Pakistan. Recently, in the India-Pakistan conflict, both these countries openly expressed support for Pakistan.

**Avadhnama** (May 29) reports that Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev has announced the investment of two billion dollars in Pakistan. He said they are supporters of the sovereignty and integrity of Pakistan and Turkiye. Azerbaijan is also investing 20 billion dollars in Turkiye. He said that their effort was to bring more stability in the relations among Pakistan, Turkiye and Azerbaijan.

These three countries had started mutual cooperation in July last year.

Addressing the conference, Turkish President Erdogan said that we are happy that a ceasefire has been established between India and Pakistan. He said that during the recent India-Pakistan dispute, the role of Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his government has been positive. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the proposal for a joint investigation into the Pahalgam incident that we had given to India was rejected by them. This indicates India's aggressive intentions.

**Etemaad** (May 22) said that Pakistan foreign minister Ishaq Dar met China's foreign minister Wang Yi and Afghanistan's acting foreign minister Maulvi Amir Khan Muttaqi in Beijing, the capital of China. In this meeting, the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan and various measures to stop terrorism in the region were discussed. On this occasion, high ranking officials of the Chinese Communist Party were also in attendance. The next tripartite meeting is scheduled to be held in Kabul.

It is noteworthy that an announcement issued by the Afghan foreign ministry at the beginning of this month stated that the Taliban government of Afghanistan wishes to increase positive coordination with Pakistan and China. This statement was issued when special envoys from Pakistan, Mohammad Sadiq Khan,



and China, Yu Xiaoyong, met Afghanistan's interior minister Sirajuddin Haqqani in Kabul.

**Avadhnama** (May 31) reports that more than 30 countries in Hong Kong have decided to form a group for the resolution of international disputes. This group includes representatives from 30 countries including Pakistan, Indonesia, China, Belarus and Cuba. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi will be the executive chairman of this organisation.

The formation of this international mediation group indicates that China is trying to rapidly increase its influence among developing countries. A press release issued after this meeting stated that this group will work under the rules of the United Nations and will strive to resolve disputes among developing countries through mutual dialogue. Hong Kong government spokesperson John Lee has expressed hope that this new organisation will begin its work by the end of this year. More than 50 countries are likely to be included in it.

## Beginning of India's new diplomacy in Afghanistan

**Roznama Sahara** (May 27) reports that India has decided to adopt a liberal policy to improve relations with Afghanistan, considering its strained relations with Pakistan. According to the ministry of external affairs, India had imposed a ban on issuing visas to Afghan citizens after the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021.

This ban has now been lifted. It has now been decided to issue online visas to Afghan citizens. An online portal has been launched for this purpose. This portal will issue visas to industrialists, artists, players, students, and patients coming to India for treatment. Under this new policy, visas are being issued in six categories. These





Afghanistan. More than 15,000 fighters are involved in them. The operations of these terrorist organisations pose a serious threat to the peace and security of Central Asian countries. The Russian foreign minister made these observations at a meeting of the Council of Defence Ministers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) held in Bishkek,

Kyrgyzstan.

According to the Russian news agency TASS, the Russian foreign minister alleged that these terrorist groups also include several factions that were previously active in the Middle East. His reference was to the ISIS and its allied organisations.

Refuting the accusations made by the Russian defence minister, a spokesperson for Afghanistan said that no terrorist organisation or armed fighters associated with them are active on Afghan soil. Russia started making such allegations when the US army was stationed in Afghanistan. The spokesperson said that they could assure Russia that there was no possibility of political instability or unrest in Central Asia because of Afghanistan. “We are not a threat to any country.”

include business, education, medical, medical attendant visas, entry visas and UN diplomatic visas.

No formal announcement has yet been made by the ministry of external affairs in this regard. However, the process of issuing online visas had already begun at the start of May. The Indian government has also decided to issue visas to Afghan artists so that they can come to India and present their cultural programmes. Individuals wishing to obtain an Indian visa will have to upload their photo, passport, and identification document online. After this, they will be issued an online visa.

**Inquilab** (May 30) reports that Russia’s defence minister Andrei Belousov alleged that there are more than 20-plus terrorist organisations operating from the soil of

## Baloch leaders demand opening of embassy in India



According to **Urdu Times** (May 30), Baloch leader Mir Yar Baloch has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking permission to open a Balochistan embassy in New Delhi. In a letter written to

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mir Yar Baloch stated that Baloch people have been engaged in an armed struggle for liberation from Pakistan for the past 27 years. The Pakistani army has conducted nuclear tests in Balochistan four times without their consent and permission. Due to nuclear radiation, Baloch people have suffered from various mental and physical illnesses and these explosions had destroyed millions of acres of agricultural land in Balochistan.

Mir Yar Baloch has also demanded from the United Nations that it take control of the nuclear weapons developed by Pakistan to save the world from the threat of a world war. He also expressed concern

over Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Iran and other Muslim countries. Mir Yar said that now Iran is also trying to develop nuclear weapons. He alleged that Abdul Qadeer Khan stole the method of developing nuclear weapons from Europe and brought it to Pakistan. If at that time, the world had taken stringent action against this act, Pakistan would never have emerged as a dangerous nuclear power. They said that Balochis are struggling for their freedom.

**Hindustan** (May 25) reports that Baloch leader Mehran Marri has accused Pakistan of illegally occupying Balochistan with its army since 1948. He said that while the problems of Ukraine and Palestine are widely discussed in the countries of the world, Balochistan is being ignored.

He stated that Balochistan was an independent region at the time of the country's independence. The nawab of Balochistan had refused to join Pakistan. Marri said a few months after the formation of Pakistan, on March 28, 1948, Pakistan had sent its army and occupied the region. He said that Pakistan has turned Balochistan into an open prison. Pakistani agencies arrest every person who raises the issue of Baloch rights. Recently, Pakistan has started a new series of looting Balochistan's resources by signing an agreement with China. He has demanded that India liberate it from Pakistan's oppression.

According to another news report, the Baloch Yakjehti Committee has intensified the series of protests and sit-ins in various areas of Balochistan. To suppress the news of protests in Balochistan, internet services have been shut down for the past week. Protests and sit-ins continue in Turbat, Mastung, Kharan, Quetta, Nushki, and Panjgur. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee has warned the Pakistan government that their protests will continue until the abducted Baloch people are released.

According to **Urdu Times** (May 26), a senior journalist from Balochistan, Abdul



Latif Baloch, was shot dead in front of his family. It is reported that when a government-backed militia group attempted to abduct the journalist, his family resisted. Following this, Latif was shot. Notably, some individuals had abducted Latif's elder son three months earlier. His body was later found lying on a road. The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists has condemned the killing of Abdul Latif Baloch and called it an attack on freedom of expression. The union has demanded that the Pakistani government immediately arrest the killers.

**Hindustan** (May 25) reports that Fazlur Rahman Afridi, secretary of the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), has alleged that the Pakistani army carried out drone attacks on many villages in North Waziristan. Many people were killed in this attack. Majority of those killed were women and children. They alleged that the Pakistani army carried out 32 attacks on Pashtun areas in North and South Waziristan in the first four months of 2025. Afridi also said that after India's Operation Sindoor, the Pakistani army has intensified the attacks on Pashtun citizens.

**Hindustan** (May 25) reports that the Pakistani army abducted and brutally killed three youths in Tirah Valley, located in Khyber district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on charges of espionage. The deceased have been identified as Ibrahim, Samad and Naveed. The army alleged that this area is a stronghold of the terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Islam led by Mangal Bagh, and terrorist activities against Pakistan are carried out from here at the behest of foreign powers.

## Trial against Sheikh Hasina begins



**Inquilab** (June 2) reports that a case of genocide has been registered against deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Bangladesh. The proceedings of this case are being broadcast live on television channels. The trial against Sheikh Hasina began 10 months after her removal from power.

The prosecution has alleged that Hasina employed cruel methods to control protests. Cases are also being pursued against former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and former inspector-general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, alongside Hasina. Al-Mamun is currently in police custody. Chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam has urged the tribunal to declare the Awami League an illegal organisation and immediately arrest all its officials on charges of treason.

**Rojnama Sahara** (June 2) reports that Bangladesh's interim government has issued new currency notes. The image of Bangladesh's founder, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has been removed from these new notes. Arif Hussain Khan, spokesperson for the Bangladesh Central Bank, stated that

the new notes would feature images of Hindu and Buddhist temples, historical sites, and martyrs' monuments.

It is noteworthy that before this, there were two changes made to Bangladeshi currency notes. The first time, after the formation of Bangladesh in 1972, a new currency was issued in place of Pakistani currency, which bore the

picture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Later, when the Bangladesh Nationalist Party came to power, it removed Mujibur Rahman's picture from Bangladeshi notes and imprinted pictures of archaeological sites on them.

According to another news, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh has reinstated the registration of the country's largest Islamic organisation, Jamaat-e-Islami. Now, after a decade, Jamaat-e-Islami would be able to participate in elections again. Significantly, Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government had revoked the recognition of Jamaat-e-Islami and banned it from contesting elections.

Now, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh has declared that order as illegal. Mohammad Shishir Monir, lawyer for Jamaat-e-Islami, said that this decision of the Supreme Court would strengthen the multi-party system. In another decision, the Supreme Court has quashed the death sentence of ATM Azharul Islam, a prominent leader of Jamaat-e-Islami. Islam was sentenced to death in 2014 in a 1971 war crimes case. Jamaat-e-Islami had openly supported Pakistan in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.



## Nearly 2.75 lakh people arrested in Saudi Arabia



**Sahafat** (May 30) states that the Saudi Arabian government has arrested 2.69 lakh people for trying to enter Mecca without a permit to offer Haj. They belong to different countries. According to the Haj ministry of Saudi government, they were arrested in order to stop overcrowding during the Haj. It is worth mentioning that last year, more Haj pilgrims arrived in Mecca compared to the prescribed quota. Nearly 2,000 people lost their lives due to massive crowds and extreme heat. Official sources claimed that majority of those who were killed were infiltrators. These infiltrators entered Saudi Arabia during the Haj season after obtaining different kinds of visa. These infiltrators were not registered with the government. Hence they could not get the healthcare facilities arranged by the government. The deaths took place due to it.

It is worth mentioning that the Saudi government had announced cancellation of all kinds of visa to stop overcrowding during the Haj season. The Saudi Arabian government issues visa in 14 categories including tourist visa, Umrah visa, business visa etc. This year, the Saudi government announced that anyone who tries to enter Saudi border without a Haj permit will be arrested and a fine of 50,000 Riyals will be

imposed on them. Later they will be expelled from the country. This apart, the Saudi government has also made the provision that if any person or organisation gives refuge to these infiltrators they will be awarded a jail term of 10 years apart from a fine of 10 lakh Riyals. This apart, their entire property will also be seized.

**Inquilab** (June 2) states that Saudi Arabia's interior minister and the head of Haj committee Prince Abdul Aziz bin Saud presided over a high-level meeting on security arrangements during the Haj season. Director general of public security Lt General Mohammed Al-Bassami has been appointed as the head of security arrangements during the Haj. The chief of Haj committee has directed the military and the security agencies to fully remain alert. During the Haj, 200 drones will keep flying continuously. This apart, the movement of pilgrims will be monitored using most modern equipment. One lakh employees have been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring security of Hajis.

**Inquilab** (June 1) states that 14 lakh Hajis have arrived in Saudi Arabia from different countries. For the convenience of Muslims across the world, the Kutb-e-Haj will be directly broadcast in 35 languages. The head of religious affairs in Saudi

Arabia, Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais said that the Kutba will be delivered on June 5. The responsibility to deliver the Kutba has been given to Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah Al-Humaid.

**Aurangabad Times** (May 29) states that the Saudi police has arrested an Iranian Shia scholar Gholam Reza Qasmian on charges of making remarks against the Saudi government on social media. Qasmian had gone to Saudi Arabia from Iran to perform Haj. The Iran government has condemned the arrest of Qasmian and



demanded his immediate release. The foreign minister of Iran Abbas Araghchi said that we condemn every such activity where the 'Muslim unity' has been harmed.

## Hamas and Israel agree for 60-day ceasefire



**Roznama Sahara** (May 31) states that British news agency 'Reuters' has claimed that White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said that Israel has signed the US proposal for ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Now this proposal has been sent to Palestinian organisation Hamas. She said that US President Donald Trump had sent the proposal to Hamas for final acceptance only after getting the nod from Israel. Leavitt said that we are hopeful that a ceasefire in Gaza for two months would be announced soon and all Israeli hostages will be returned. When she was asked whether Hamas has accepted this proposal, Karoline said we think there is no possibility of any hurdles in this path.

It is worth mentioning that earlier Hamas had accepted a proposal by the US for the ceasefire plan in Gaza, but Israel had rejected the same. According to

'Reuters,' in this US proposal, there is talk of a two-month long ceasefire in Gaza and immediately after its implementation, Hamas will release 28 Israeli prisoners alive or dead. In return for this, 125 Palestinian prisoners will be released from Israeli jails. This apart, Israel will also return the bodies of 180 Palestinians. After Hamas signs this proposal, the process to extend relief to Gaza will begin. The office of Israeli Prime Minister has not confirmed any information regarding the ceasefire. Whereas Palestinian organisation Hamas said that it is studying the plan. A senior leader of Hamas, Sami Abu Zuhari, said we have not yet agreed to this proposal, because this proposal is in line with Israel's old stance. The proposal does not clearly mention about ending the war, withdrawing the Israeli soldiers from Gaza or about providing relief material to Gaza residents.

It is worth mentioning that earlier a deadlock had occurred during the negotiations that were being held between Israel and Hamas on the mediation of US, Qatar and Egypt. Following this, Israel had once again stepped up its military operations in Gaza. As per another news,

Hamas said they have not taken a final decision on accepting a US proposal for ceasefire. Hamas has confirmed that it is preparing to hand over 10 hostages alive apart from the bodies of 18 hostages to Israel. In return, Israel will have to immediately release all Palestinian prisoners lodged in Israeli jails.

**Hindustan** (May 31) in its editorial has expressed concern that Hamas has refused to accept this ceasefire. The matter of satisfaction is that the talks have not been cancelled yet and the US and other countries are trying to ensure that an agreement is reached. The newspaper alleged that the US is putting pressure on Hamas and forcing them to sign on this agreement. Until Israel completely withdraws its soldiers from Gaza, there is

no possibility of the ceasefire becoming a success.

**Etemaad** (May 23) in its editorial complained that the entire Muslim world has turned away its face from the crisis-hit citizens of Gaza. Israel has stepped up its military operations in Gaza and hundreds of Palestinians were killed in just five days. People are dying of thirst and hunger, but Israel has been refusing to provide relief to the people of Gaza. The interesting thing is that while European nations are putting pressure on Israel to leave aside its assertiveness, the Arab world and the entire Muslim countries remain insensitive and careless towards their Muslim brothers. The newspaper asked whether the claim of unity of Ummat-e-Islamiya in the Quran is only on the paper?

## Citizenship of 26,000 women cancelled in Kuwait



**Roznama Sahara** (May 26) states that the Kuwait government, in a major step, cancelled overnight the citizenship of 37,000 people, out of which 26,000 are women. As per media reports, this was the official data. However, in reality the number of people whose citizenship have been cancelled is much bigger. After the cancellation of the citizenship, the bank accounts of all these women have also been closed and they have been deprived of all government facilities. It is being said that the majority of those women whose citizenship have been cancelled are not of Kuwait origin, but got the citizenship after

marrying Kuwaiti citizens. It is worth mentioning that in May 2024, the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, had described democracy as a threat to the nation and announced amendment to the Constitution and scrapping of the democratic system.

Earlier in December 2023, Al-Sabah had dissolved the Parliament and suspended several provisions of the Constitution. The Kuwait Emir said that only those whose ancestors were born in Kuwait and were Kuwaiti citizens from that time itself will be considered as Kuwait citizens. He said that currently the population of Kuwait is more than 50 lakh, and among them only 15 lakh are of Kuwaiti origin. Whereas the rest of the people have come from outside and settled here and they are getting the benefits of government facilities. He said that now only those people can reside in Kuwait whose ancestors were original residents of the country.





It is worth mentioning that Kuwait was earlier under the British rule, and hence a large number of Indian citizens are also residing there. In 1961, Britain declared Kuwait as an independent nation,

but even now majority of the people residing there do not have Kuwaiti citizenship. As per Kuwaiti law, those who are not residents of Kuwait cannot open bank accounts in the country and neither receive education. Even the doors of government jobs are not open to them. After 1987, only those women have been provided citizenship who had married Kuwaiti citizens. As per official data, from 1993 to 2020, 40,000 women have been provided Kuwaiti citizenship on the basis of their marriage. Now the government is reconsidering that decision.

## Three Indian youths kidnapped in Iran

**Chattan** (May 31) states that three families in Punjab have informed the Indian embassy in Tehran that three youths from their families have been kidnapped in Iran and taken as hostage and a ransom demand running into crores have been sought for their release. It is being said that those who sought the ransom belong to Pakistan. The kidnappers had also threatened that if the ransom is not given for the release of the hostages, they will be killed. The newspaper claimed that one month ago, three youths from Punjab namely Amritpal, Husanpreet and Jaspal Singh left their homes for Australia. Later they were found missing. It is being said that they were kidnapped in Iran and the kidnappers have been making a ransom demand of Rs 2 crore each for their release. The three Indian citizens who have been kidnapped belong to Sangrur, Hoshiarpur and Naushera in Punjab.



According to the Indian embassy in Tehran, the relatives of the three Indian citizens said their boys had gone missing after reaching Iran. The Indian embassy has demanded the Iran government to immediately trace these missing Indian citizens. The Indian embassy said these

youths fell prey to those gangs who illegally send people from India to abroad. These kinds of human trafficking gangs are more active in Punjab because in the greed of earning money abroad, the youths there fall into the clutches of such gangs. This issue is also a similar one. According to BBC correspondent Pradeep Sharma, 23-year-old Amritpal from Bhagowale village in Hoshiarpur had left his home for Australia last month, but he did not reach there. Amritpal's mother Gurdeep Kaur said an agent had told her that her son has got a job in a company in Australia for five years. In return for this, the agent has taken Rs 18 lakh from him.

A few days later, the agent told her that the ticket to Australia was on April 26. Gurdeep said that when we went to the

agent, he said the paper has not come yet. After that, he said that the April 26 ticket got cancelled and a ticket for April 29 has been received now. Following this, Amritpal left for Delhi with his two colleagues, Husanpreet and Jaspal. In Delhi, a member of this gang told them that due to technical reasons, they couldn't get a direct ticket to Australia and hence they will be first sent to Tehran. After reaching Tehran, arrangements will be made for their further travel. Later the agents sent these three youths to Tehran. After reaching Tehran, the youths told their families that they had reached Tehran and they are going to a hotel for their stay. However, they did not reach the hotel. Later a video call was made at the behest of kidnappers, in which they were shown pleading in a wounded state. The kidnappers threatened that if the families don't send Rs 2 crore, they will be killed. Gurdeep said that when we asked the kidnappers how to send the money, they sent us a bank account number. When we investigated, we found out that the number belonged to Pakistan. Gurdeep Kaur demanded the Indian government that her



children should be freed from the clutches of the captors as early as possible.

The agents had similarly trapped Husanpreet of Sangrur and Jaspal of Naushera. External affairs ministry spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal told correspondents that the Iran government has been contacted so that the security agencies there could trace these kidnapped Indian citizens and free them from the clutches of the kidnappers. The Iran government has assured to take necessary steps in this connection. The spokesperson of external affairs ministry has urged the citizens of the country that they do not fall into the trap of such agents. He said that the Punjab government has also been asked to register cases against these agents and arrest them.

## Attack on Syrian army at the behest of ISIS



According to **Munsif** (May 31), Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS has taken responsibility for the two attacks that took place on the government army in south Syria. These attacks were carried out on the

government army and its bases. According to Syrian newspaper 'War Monitor,' this was the first attack by the ISIS on the soldiers of the Ahmed Al-Sharaa government which came to power in Syria

after the collapse of the Bashar al-Assad administration. In a statement, the ISIS said they had targeted the vehicles of the army of the 'kafir' government in Syria. This attack was carried out using missiles. Seven soldiers were killed in this attack. This attack was carried out at the Al-Safa military cantonment in the desert region in the southern province of Sweida on May 22. During this attack, the US-backed Free Syrian Army was also targeted.

Six government officials were killed in this attack. The Syrian government has refused to comment on this claim of the ISIS.

It is worth mentioning that the Sunni terrorist organisation ISIS, which controls major parts of Syria and Iraq, is against the Ahmed Al-Sharaa government based in Damascus. Ahmed Al-Sharaa was once the chief of Al-Qaida in Syria and he had fought a war against ISIS for five years, but the ISIS is still active in eastern and southern Syria. There are several bases of this organisation in this region.

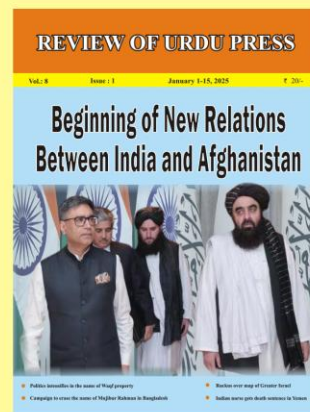
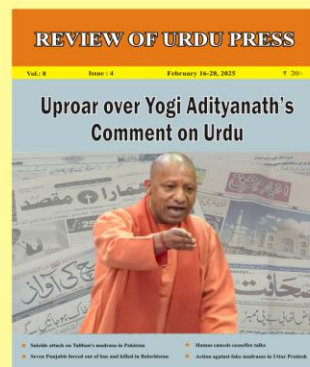
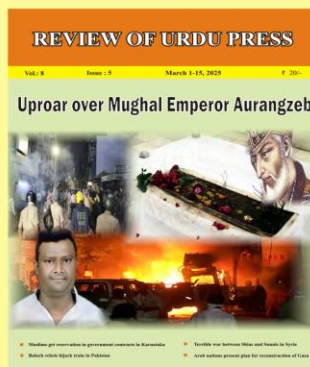
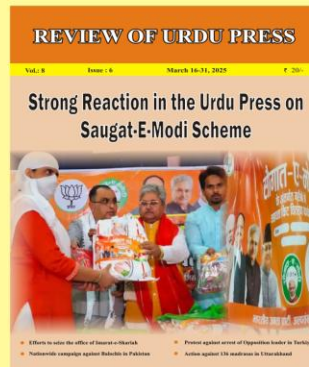
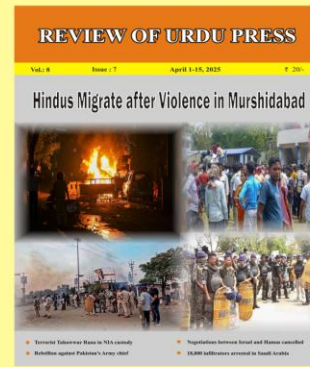
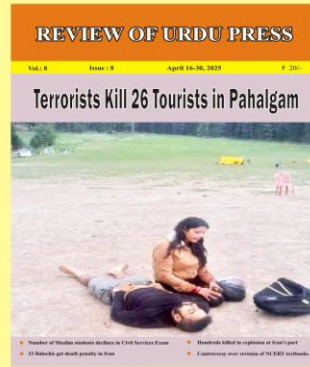
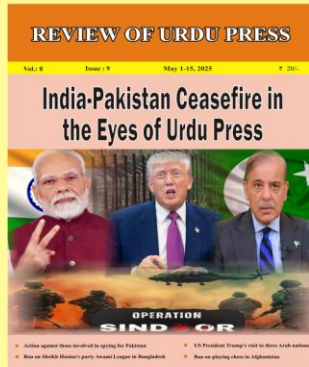
**Qaumi Tanzeem** (May 31) states that ISIS carried out this attack on the 70<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Syrian army. The ISIS was very active against Bashar al-Assad during his rule. In 2014, the ISIS had captured several places in Syria and Iraq but in 2019, it suffered a crushing defeat in Syria due to the attack by the Russian army active in Syria against it. However, despite this the ISIS is still occupying several



places in south Syria. Last week, the Syrian government had claimed that it had raided a secret base of ISIS in Damascus and arrested a gang of their fighters who were making preparations to carry out an attack in Damascus. In Halab this month, three top commanders of ISIS were killed during an operation by the government army.

It is worth mentioning that this month, during a meeting with US President Donald Trump at Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh, Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa sought the help of US military for operations against the ISIS in Syria. Following this meeting, the US announced opening of its embassy in Damascus after a gap of 13 years. Trump also announced that it would extend all possible help to ensure the stability of the Ahmed Al-Sharaa government in Syria. US special envoy Thomas Barrack announced in Damascus that the US would help Syrian government to eliminate ISIS.





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