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Row over Prime Minister Modi's Praise of RSS



- Ban on meat selling on Independence Day in Maharashtra
- Arab nations criticise plan for Greater Israel
- Pakistan begins Nationwide campaign against Baloch rebels
- Efforts to bring Muslims on one platform

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Summary

On the occasion of Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the service spirit of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) from the ramparts of the Red Fort. The Opposition leaders and the Urdu Press objected to this comment. They have unleashed a well-orchestrated campaign against this statement of Modi. The Opposition leaders and the Urdu Press have accused the Sangh Parivar of spreading communal hatred. It is also propagated by them that Sangh has no role in the freedom struggle of the country and it has never recognised the Indian Constitution or the National Flag. However, those who know the Sangh say that this propaganda is totally wrong and misleading.

A section of Muslims has started opposing the historic and bold step taken by the Uttarakhand government to implement Uniform Civil Code in the state. Jamiat Ulema has questioned this law before the Uttarakhand High Court. Chief of Jamiat Ulema, Arshad Madani, said that this law is against the Constitution of the country and due to this, the special rights given to Muslims in the Constitution get curtailed. He claims that this law is against Islam and Shariah. Madani said that Shariah was not created by any individual or the government, but by God himself and it is based on Quran and the Hadis. No court or government has any right to interfere in the Shariah law.

The Uttarakhand government has decided to amend the existing Anti-Conversion Law. As per the amended law, if any individual conceals his religion with the intention to get married, a provision has been made to award him a jail term of up to 10 years and a fine of Rs 3 lakh. Whereas for ordinary religious conversion, a provision of 10 years in jail and Rs 50,000 as fine has been proposed. This apart, if any individual converts women, children, Adivasis, Dalits or handicapped persons, then he may get a jail term ranging from five to 14 years and a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh.

The Pakistan government has unleashed a nationwide drive against Baloch fighters. As part of this campaign, railway service and road traffic have been stopped in several places. Meanwhile even curfew has been imposed in some regions. Along with it, internet and mobile services have also been shut down so that news about the massacre of ordinary citizens could be covered up. The surprising thing is that due to pressure from Pakistan government, the US has declared Balochistan Liberation Army, an organisation fighting for the freedom of Balochistan, and its allied organisations as terrorist organisations so that their activities abroad could be stopped.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced that the formation of Greater Israel is a mission of his life and he will fulfil it at any cost. He said that the Greater Israel will include a dozen countries, which used to be part of the Jewish Empire at one point of time which were later forcibly captured by the Arabs. There was strong reaction from Muslim nations over this announcement by Netanyahu. The Muslim countries urged the United Nations and other countries in the world that they immediately take action to curb the expansionist policy of Israel, because Israel's intention is to capture this entire region and create political instability there.

National

Controversy over Prime Minister Modi's praise of RSS



Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had praised the service spirit of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. However, the Opposition parties and the Urdu Press raised strong objection to it.

Inquilab (August 17) reports that the Congress has criticised Prime Minister Modi's praise of RSS on the occasion of Independence Day. Prime Minister Modi described RSS as the world's biggest organisation. He said that Sangh has a leading role in serving the nation. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh described this statement of Modi as a blow to the Constitution, secularism and democracy. He said that Prime Minister Modi will turn 75 years next month. In view of this, he is trying to please the RSS to extend his tenure. Jairam Ramesh also shared a post on the social media. As per this post, the Union Home Ministry under Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had imposed a ban on RSS on February 4, 1948, describing it as a threat to public peace. Commenting on this post, Ramesh wrote that these were all parts of history, which can neither be erased nor re-written.

Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, while

criticising the statement of the prime minister, said that RSS has never taken part in the freedom movement of the country, because it was against the freedom of the country. He said that Prime Minister Modi's praise of RSS is an insult to the Independence movement of the country.

Roznama Sahara (August 17) reports that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has criticised Prime Minister Modi for glorifying the RSS. He alleged that describing Savarkar, who conspired for the murder of Gandhi, as the flag-bearer of the country's independence is like throwing historical facts into the dustbin. This is an insult to the martyrs and the freedom struggle.

Etemaad (August 17) has published an article written by Masoom Moradabadi. In this article, it has been said that the speech of Prime Minister Modi is an insult to those who sacrificed their lives for the Independence of the country. In his article, Moradabadi alleged that Prime Minister Modi has praised an organisation on the occasion of Independence Day, which was against the independence of the country. Right from its initial days, the RSS has been spreading the poison of communalism in the country and it has unleashed a nationwide campaign against the Muslims.

Its aim is to establish Hindu Rashtra in the country and in order to fulfil this agenda, it is using undemocratic and unconstitutional methods. In its 100 years of journey, the RSS has described the minorities in the country, especially the Muslims, as a symbol of evil. Its propaganda against Muslims continues unabated.



In the article, it is being said that the Prime Minister has tried to target every Muslim in the name of infiltrators. Bengali-speaking Muslims are being harassed after branding them as Bangladeshi Muslims. Prime Minister Modi is a swayamsevak of the RSS and that is why Sangh has made him the Prime Minister. After Modi came to power, the Sangh has fully intruded into every sphere of public life and every government office. The real history of the country is being removed from textbooks and the RSS ideology is forcibly imposed on the new generation. The history and legacy of Muslim rule is being erased.

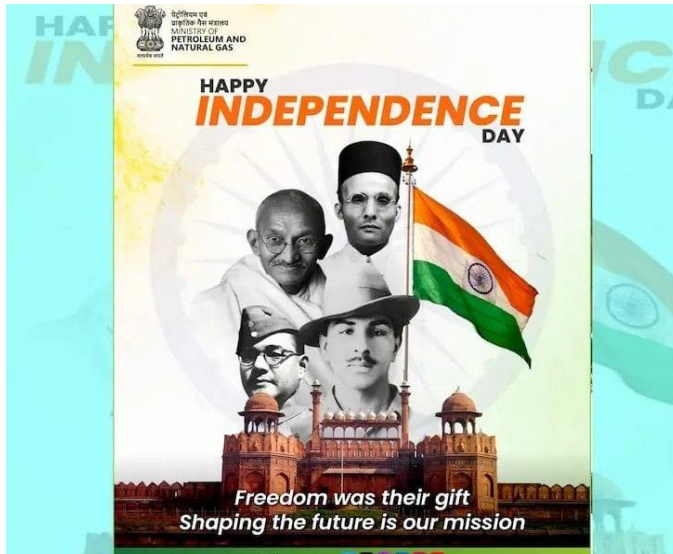
Aurangabad Times (August 17) claimed that Prime Minister Modi has praised the RSS in order to avoid retirement. The newspaper wrote that Modi has become weak after the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, and today he is totally dependent on RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat for his existence. Modi has this fear that the RSS will deprive him of the throne once he turns 75 years next month and hence he has started pleasing them.

Roznama Sahara (August 16) has given the headline for its editorial as, 'Ideological war from Red Fort.' It is being said in the editorial that Prime Minister Modi has broken the record of previous prime ministers by delivering a 103-minute-long speech. In his address, Modi has openly praised the RSS. This praise by him has stirred up a new controversy in the country. Modi, while mentioning about the 100-year-long journey of RSS, described it

as the world's biggest NGO and praised the role played by its swayamsevaks in nation-building.

The newspaper said that this is the same RSS which had to face a ban following the murder of Mahatma Gandhi. Historians have accused the RSS of inciting communal riots and dividing the society on religious basis. The Opposition has said that Modi's praise of RSS is against the spirit of the freedom struggle. CPI-M general secretary Mariyam Alexander Baby has described it as totally unfortunate and against national unity. The newspaper claimed that a poster released by the Petroleum Ministry has further fuelled the controversy. In this poster, the photo of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar is shown bigger than that of Mahatma Gandhi. The poster shows Savarkar on the top, Gandhi below and Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh further down. The Congress, while describing it as a historical farce, said that it is an insult to Nehru, Patel and other freedom fighters.

Taking a swipe, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera wrote on social media platform 'X', "After adulterating petrol with ethanol, you have now started adulterating freedom fighters as well. Those who couldn't become big in history are being made big in posters. Nation is asking you for cheap oil, not cheap comedy." Congress general secretary K C Venugopal alleged that the Prime Minister is presenting traitors as heroes. Another spokesperson of Congress Supriya Shrinete termed the attempt to portray Savarkar as bigger than Gandhi as an attack on the



martyrs. The newspaper said this controversy is not limited to pictures, instead it is an ideological battle. Savarkar is considered as flag-bearer of Hindutva and Gandhi a messenger of Ahimsa. The Modi government is accused of trying to give a new perspective to the country's history every year on the occasion of Independence Day and undermine the legacy of national leaders like Gandhi, Nehru and Patel.

When the Prime Minister praises the RSS from the ramparts of the Red Fort and Savarkar is given a position above that of Gandhi on government poster, then it gives a clear message that history is being reshaped according to new political priorities.

Akbar-e-Mashriq (August 17) in its editorial, while commenting about the speech of Prime Minister Modi, said this was the beginning of a political and ideological battle. The most surprising thing is that the Prime Minister has for the first time openly praised RSS and described it as the world's biggest NGO, whose history is full of service to the nation. The newspaper said that for years, the politics of BJP has been influenced by the RSS, but Modi had never mentioned about Sangh in his speeches earlier. Now the RSS is celebrating its centenary. Modi's salute to the Sangh from the Red Fort is a clear indication that now there is no difference

between the Modi government and the Sangh.

Urdu Times (August 19), regarding the statement of Prime Minister Modi, said in its editorial that now when the 75th anniversary of the Constitution is being celebrated, the question that arises is whether we saved the Constitution or played an important role in tearing it to pieces? Ever since the present government came to power at the Centre, Constitutional bodies have been systematically weakened. Institutions like Supreme Court, Election Commission, Parliament, CBI

and Enforcement Directorate (ED) are considered as pillars of democracy, but now questions are being raised about their impartiality and autonomy. It is being alleged that these institutions are in the control of a specific gang. Several judges of the Supreme Court have accepted that pressures are being exerted on the judiciary. The fairness of the Election Commission has become suspicious and it has become a puppet in the hands of the ruling party. The investigating agencies are being used as a weapon to crush political opponents. Cases are being registered against the leaders of Opposition parties and they are being arrested. The institutions established on the basis of the Constitution which Modi had described as guiding principle are now sinking into darkness.

Siasat (August 19) in its editorial wrote that it is being said about the Modi government at the Centre that it maintains close relationship with its ideological source namely the RSS and the entire administration is being run at the behest of the RSS. Recently, some talks have started that there is tension in the relationship between the Central government and the Sangh, because the government is not ready to accept some directions of the RSS. This is the reason why the selection of the new BJP national president is still in jeopardy. Due to the opposition of the

Sangh, the party has not succeeded in conducting the election of its new president. It is true that the government is not even able to think about coming out of the influence of the Sangh. This is the reason why the government realises that walking in the shades of the Sangh is a necessity. The government and the ruling party have started realising the importance of the Sangh and its help. Especially in the forthcoming Bihar Assembly elections, the BJP needs the support of the Sangh.



This apart, the government is facing different crises these days. The Election Commission as well as the BJP seem to be worried due to allegations of vote theft and fraud in the election. The BJP is giving more reactions than the Election Commission to these allegations and is leaving no stone unturned to save the Election Commission. May be this is the reason why Prime Minister Modi has mentioned RSS in his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Modi has described the Sangh as an NGO. However, the truth is that the Sangh is not a registered organisation, which could be described as an NGO. This apart, the BJP has also tried to keep the Sangh in good humour in the election for the new Vice-President of the country. The party has made Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan as the candidate for the Vice-President's post. Radhakrishnan's links are with the RSS and he had been a pracharak of the Sangh. The BJP has made Radhakrishnan as its candidate in order to make the Sangh happy and in order to increase its influence in Tamil Nadu and in south India. It is clear from this that it has become necessary for the BJP to obtain the support of the Sangh on its every step.

Avadhnama (August 19) states that the entire country is shocked to hear the praises that the Prime Minister has sung for

the Sangh from the ramparts of the Red Fort. The newspaper said that during the freedom struggle, the RSS and Hindu Mahasabha tried to strengthen the British Empire. In the same spirit, Savarkar tried to divide Indian society by introducing the ideology of Hindutva. He has unleashed the concepts of 'Fatherland' and 'Motherland' in order to make the patriotism of Muslims, Christians and Leftists suspicious. He had claimed that the place of origin of these three is not the land of Bharat, and hence they cannot be loyal to this country. Even today, Sanghis are strongly following this poisonous ideology.

The newspaper claimed that when the Congress gave the slogan of 'British Quit India' in 1942, the Jan Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee wrote a letter to the British governor in Bengal and gave the advice that this movement should be strongly crushed. When Congress opposed the recruitment of Indians in British army, the Sanghis established their own camps and got the Indians recruited to the British army. Sangh was in the forefront in opposing Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The newspaper has written that due to opposition to the freedom struggle and its involvement in the murder of Gandhi, a permanent ban should have been imposed on Sangh Parivar. Due to the democratic vision of the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the ban on Sangh was lifted on some conditions. It is another thing that the Sangh has never complied with these conditions. Second time, when

the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed a ban on Sangh during the Emergency, Sangh has sought to apologise. Third time, the P V Narasimha Rao government had once again imposed a ban on the Sangh. However, later this ban was also lifted.

The newspaper said that the attitude of RSS has always been negative. It had opposed the Constitution, because it wanted to make Manusmriti as the country's Constitution. Manusmriti divides society on the basis of caste system and provides dominance to Brahmins on the Hindu society. The newspaper has said that when the Tiranga was declared as the National Flag, then also Sangh had opposed it and had refused to accept it. It claimed that its flag is Bhagwa Dwaj. Ever since its establishment till today, the Sangh



had tried to destroy the communal harmony of the country. This is the reason why despite the efforts of 100 years, the Sangh has managed to make only 30-35 percent people its supporters in this country where the Hindu population is more than 80 percent. The surprising thing is that even then the Prime Minister is glorifying the RSS from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

Ban on meat on the occasion of Independence Day in Maharashtra



Roznama Sahara (August 14) reports that there has been an uproar in Maharashtra over an order issued by the municipal corporations of Nagpur, Kalyan-Dombivali, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar and Malegaon to keep meat shops and slaughterhouses closed on the occasion of Independence Day and Krishna Janmashtami. Leader of Nationalist Congress Party and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and the chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi opposed the decision of the

municipal corporations. It is worth mentioning that the Nagpur Municipal Corporation has announced that on the occasion of Independence Day and Krishna Janmashtami, all slaughterhouses and meat shops will remain closed. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar also opposed this decision. He said that it is totally

wrong to impose these kinds of restrictions. Pawar said that both vegetarians and non-vegetarians reside in Maharashtra, hence it is inappropriate to impose any kind of forcible restrictions on them. Whereas Owaisi said that this order is unconstitutional. He asked what is the relation between eating meat and celebrating the Independence Day? A similar order has been issued by Nashik Municipal Corporation as well.

Hindustan (August 14) states that following the ruckus that took place in

Maharashtra Assembly, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has clarified that the state government has not taken any such decision. These decisions were taken by the respective municipal corporations and they are free to do so. He said that as far as the issue of imposing restrictions on slaughterhouses and meat shops during Krishna Janmashtami or similar occasions, then such a decision was taken during the reign of Sharad Pawar in 1988. Since then there has been a system of keeping slaughterhouses and meat shops closed in the state during the Paryushan Parv of Jains. In this connection, a government order has also been issued.



Roznama Sahara (August 17) states that BJP legislator Sanjay Kenekar has sent a complaint to the police commissioner. In this complaint, it has been demanded that a case shall be registered against former MP Imtiaz Jaleel and legal action be taken against him. He said that on the occasion of Janmashtami, Jaleel organised a meat festival. This has hurt my religious sentiments.

Hindustan (August 14) in its editorial has condemned the decision of various municipal corporations. The newspaper said that this violates the right to freedom. The newspaper said that the municipal corporations of Nagpur, Kalyan-Dombivali, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Malegaon and Nashik kicked up a controversy by imposing a ban on the sale of meat on the occasion of Independence Day and Janmashtami. This decision was taken when the Qureshi community, which is involved in the trade of the meat of big animals in the state, was observing a hartal for one month. Due to this hartal, the people of the state and the animal traders were suffering losses. This apart, it also had a bad effect on the economy of the state. If these kind of restrictions are imposed on some selected religious festivals in the entire country, one could still accept it but

it is totally wrong to impose such restrictions on the occasion of Independence Day.

The newspaper said that ever since the present government came to power, slaughterhouses, meat traders and meat shops are being targeted. Hundreds of Muslims are being made the targets of violence in the name of Gauraksha and mobs have brutally murdered several dozen people. In the Indian Constitution, every individual has got the freedom to consume the food of his choice. However, despite this, the BJP government is hampering the basic rights of citizens on one pretext or another. Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray clearly stated that they will violate the ban imposed on meat in different cities and will eat meat on the occasion of Independence Day.

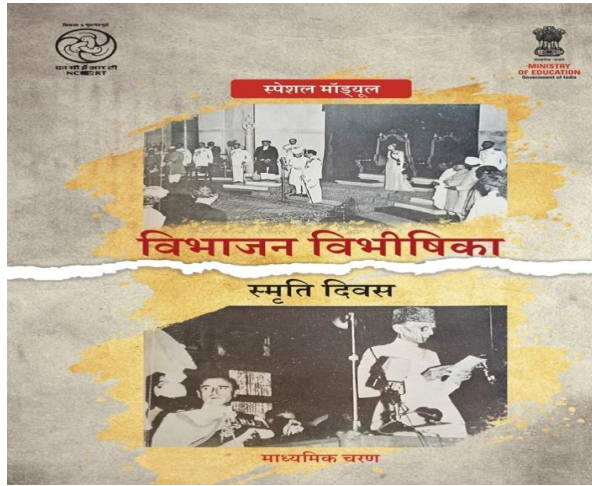
Urdu Times (August 16) in its editorial has opposed the ban imposed on meat shops and slaughterhouses in several places in Maharashtra. The newspaper has described this ban as against the basic tenets of the Constitution. The newspaper said that the municipal corporation has no right to impose restrictions on the food of anyone and neither the government has got any right to impose its choice on any citizen. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut asked the chief minister why a decision has been taken to keep the meat shops shut on August 15? He took a swipe on the statement of Fadnavis that the decision was of the municipal corporations and not of the government. Raut said that we know that this decision was not of the

government, but the municipal corporations that took this decision do not have elected members and instead they are working under the control of the administrators appointed by the state government. Who gave these administrators the power to shut down slaughterhouses and meat shops? The surprising thing is that such a ban has been imposed in Nagpur as well and the chief minister himself is an MLA from there.

AIMIM's Maharashtra unit president Imtiaz Jaleel claimed that he has organised

a mutton party at his house on the occasion of Independence Day. He also posted photos of this party on the social media. He said that he hopes that the chief minister of the state and the administrator of the municipal corporation would definitely come to his house to eat Mutton Biryani and Mutton Khorma. Jaleel said that Bharat is an independent country. There is no dictatorship in Maharashtra. No party has the right to interfere in the food habits of any particular community.

In NCERT textbook, Congress responsible for Partition



Urdu Times (August 17) states that the Indian government has declared August 14 as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.' The aim of this day is to remind the students and the society about how deeply the partition of India affected the lives of millions of people. In this connection, the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has designed a special module for middle and secondary classes from Class 6 to 8. Its meaning is that now the students of middle and secondary school students will be taught how many hardships and sufferings did we have to face and what should we learn from them?

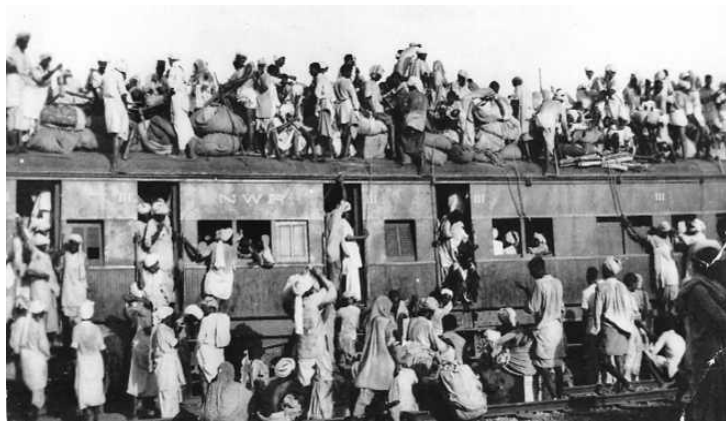
It has been said in this special module of NCERT that the partition of the country was not because of one person, but

three were responsible for it. First, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who demanded the Partition. Second, the Congress which accepted the Partition and third, Lord Mountbatten who implemented it.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara, while raising objection to this module, said that the Partition of the country took place due to the 'jugalbandhi' between Hindu Mahasabha and Muslim League. As per the NCERT module, the partition of the country took place due to wrong thinking. The Muslim League

organised a conference at Lahore in 1940. Addressing this conference, Mohammad Ali Jinnah said, "Hindus and Muslims follow different religions, different customs and different literature. The history of these two communities are also different." Whereas the British government wanted India to be independent, but should not get divided. For this, they made a plan where they talked about giving dominion status to Bharat. Which means the British King will remain the head of the state in India only in name, but the real administration of the country will be in the hands of Indians. The British government also gave different provinces the option of either becoming a part of this Dominion or remain separate from it. However, Congress rejected this plan of the British government.

As per this module of NCERT, during the time of independence, there was different opinions among the leaders regarding Partition. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was not in favour of partition but later he accepted it like a bitter medicine that he was forced to take. In a meeting in Bombay in July 1947, he had said, “the country has become a battlefield. The two communities are no longer living in peace. It is better to partition the country than having a civil war.”



As per the module, the last Viceroy of India Lord Mountbatten did a major mistake. He preponed the date of transfer of power from June 1948 to August 1947. Means, only five weeks’ time were left to complete the process of partition of the country. During the partition, the borders were also decided in a hurry. The situation was such that lakhs of people in Punjab had no information even two days after August 15, 1947 that whether they were in Pakistan or in Bharat. Apart from Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party and AIMIM also criticised this module.

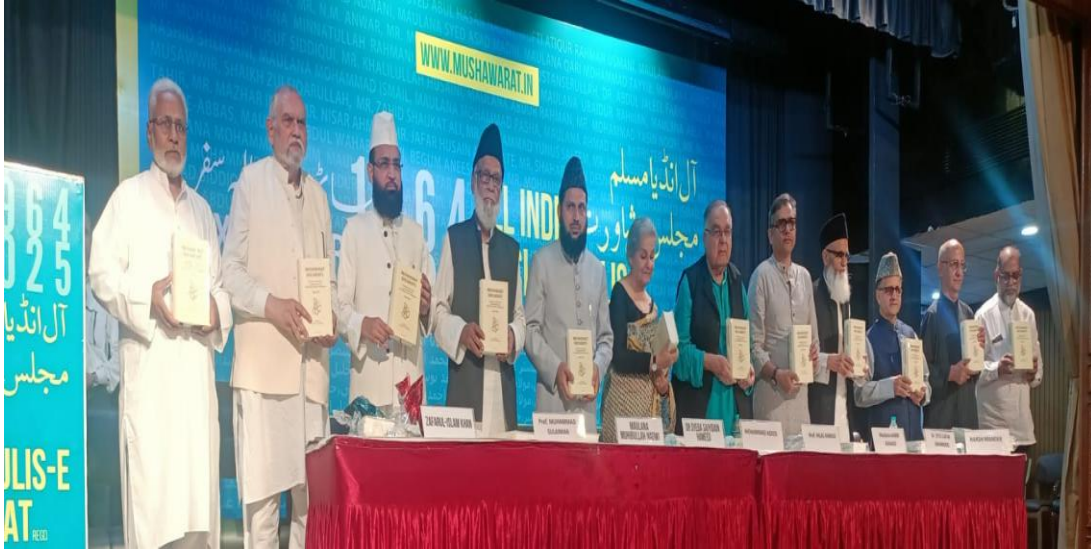
Hindustan (August 17) reports that in a module issued by NCERT, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Congress and the then Viceroy Lord Mountbatten have been described as those responsible for the partition of Bharat. It has also been said in the module that the Kashmir problem also started after the Partition. This problem was initially not in Bharat. It has created a question for India’s foreign policy. It has also been claimed in this module that several countries started putting pressure on Bharat after taking sides with Pakistan. The newspaper said that later Mountbatten had accepted that the partition of Bharat was his mistake.

Etemaad (August 17) states that the chairman of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul

Muslimeen and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said that Muslims are being blamed for the partition of the country. It is totally wrong. It is being propagated that in the elections held in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the Muslim voters had voted in favour of creation of Pakistan. Clarifying it, Owaisi said that the ordinary people did not have the right to vote that time. Only the rich, landlords and royals had the right to vote in the elections, hence more than 90 percent of Muslims did not even take part in these elections. NCERT should have included in this module the efforts made by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to stop the partition of India, which has been mentioned by Shamsul Islam in his book, ‘Muslims against Partition.’ Owaisi said that the founder of Jan Sangh Shyama Prasad Mukherjee entered into an alliance with Muslim League in Bengal and he even became a minister there. His cabinet was headed by Fazlul Haque, who moved the resolution for Pakistan in the Lahore session of Muslim League in 1940. In such a situation, are these people not responsible for Partition?

Aurangabad Times (August 17) states that Aam Aadmi Party leader Saurabh Bharadwaj, while commenting on the NCERT module, said that the RSS had always supported the ‘two-nation theory.’ Savarkar had also mentioned it in his book. He said that Muslim League, RSS and Hindu Mahasabha were responsible for India’s partition.

Attempt to bring Muslims on one platform



Inquilab (August 18) reports that at the national convention organized on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat in Delhi, it has been demanded that to resolve the problems of Muslims in the country, all Muslim organizations should forget their internal differences and come together to form a united front. It has been claimed at this meeting that the Muslims of the country are victims of backwardness and they are on the target of communal forces. For their existence, it is necessary that Muslims come together and launch a united campaign against the communal forces who are working with the agenda of destroying Muslims and Islam.

Chairman of Mushawarat, Dr Zafarul Islam Khan, said that 61 years ago in 1964, our elders had laid the foundation of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat. Now some mischievous elements at the behest of their masters are trying to divide the Muslims and destroy them in every manner.

Former MP Mohammad Adeeb said there is a need for the Muslims to get united as a community. He said that today some people are trying to end our separate identity. They want to forcibly separate us from Islam. If we lose our separate identity, it will be the biggest tragedy. Former member of Planning Commission Syeda

Saiyidain Hameed said there is a need to include women also in the struggle for the rights of Muslims. Today, the ruling party is hell-bent on evicting Muslims from the country by branding them as infiltrators. A conspiracy is hatched to drive Muslims away from this country and its beginning is going on at full speed in Assam. Muslims are described as Rohingyas and declared as foreigners and they are forcibly thrown into the sea. He said that there is an atmosphere of cruelty against Muslims in the country.

Samajwadi Party MP Mohibullah Nadvi said that today some people are trying to change the history of this country. They are involved in erasing the names of Mughals and other Muslim rulers from the history of the country. They want to end the Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb of the nation and impose the agenda of Hindu Rashtra. Nadvi said that Muslims have to get united for the rights and justice and they need to fight for their own safety and existence. Maulana Amir Rashdi said that unless they are politically powerful, their voices will not be heard. He said that there is a need for Muslims to remain alert against those trying to divide the community.

The chief of Karwan-e-Mohabbat, Harsh Mander, said what Prime Minister Modi said about the changing demographics, its direct target is Muslims. Muslims are described as Bangladeshis and

Rohingyas and they are expelled from the country. A fear is being created in the minds of Muslims that they are not citizens of this country. The government is sending them to detention centres so that they could be pushed out of the country after branding them as infiltrators.

Background: It is worth mentioning that All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat had split several times. The last time a split took place in this organisation was in 2024. This was duly announced by former chairman of Majlis-e-Mushawarat and the newly elected president of newly constituted All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat (Registered) Dr Zafarul Islam Khan at a press conference. He claimed that All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat is registered in his name. He had said that renowned Muslim leader Maulana Mohammed Salim Qasmi had transferred the registration in his name in the year 2003. Its registration number is S/46913. He said that only his organisation is a registered institution. Those who established the other organisation is unregistered and it has no legal standing.

It is worth mentioning that the election of office-bearers of the organisation of Zafarul Islam Khan took place in July 2024. During this, Dr Zafarul Islam Khan was elected as president. This apart, Professor Mohammad Sulaiman, Maulana Jinan Ashgar Maulai and Maulana Ataur Rahman Qasmi were elected as vice-presidents. Masoom Moradabadi (general secretary), Syed Tahsin Ahmad (acting general secretary), Dr Javed Ahmad (secretary) and Shamsuz Zoha (treasurer) were also elected. This apart, 21 people were elected as members of the executive.

That time the president of the other faction of Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Firoz Ahmad, described the claim of Zafarul Islam Khan as illegal. He had said that Dr Zafarul Islam's organisation is illegal and unconstitutional. He had claimed that Mushawarat got split into two factions a



few years ago and later the two got united as well. Later when the elections were held, there was a contest between Naved Hameed and Dr Zafarul Islam for the president's post. In this elections, Dr Zafarul Islam got defeated. As per the constitution of the Mushawarat, one can hold the post of the president consecutively for two terms only and Zafarul Islam had been the president two times and hence he could not contest for the president's post for a third time.

Firoz Ahmed claimed that in the elections held in December 2022, he was elected as the president of Mushawarat for four years and he took the office on April 2, 2023. The next election is supposed to take place in 2027. Hence the claim of Zafarul Islam being the president is against the law. Firoz Ahmed said that the office which was bought using the money of Mushawarat is with us and since then till today we are operating the bank account of Mushawarat. He claimed that All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat (Registered) is a fake organisation and it was created by some people to fulfill their vested political interests.

It is said that largescale communal riots broke out in Kolkata, Jamshedpur and Rourkela in 1963. Following this, several Muslim leaders in the country decided at a meeting held in Kolkata that various Muslim organisations in the country should be brought together on one platform to find solutions to the problems of Muslims. In 1964, a meeting of representatives of more than 100 Muslim organisations was called at Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulema located in



Lucknow. In this meeting, representatives belonging to different Muslim sects and organisations gathered on one platform. They included Ahle Sunnat, Deobandi, Bareilvi, Ahle Hadis, Shia, Bohra, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, Jamaat-e-Islami, Emarat-e-Shariah, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Tamir-e-Millat, Indian Union Muslim League etc. This meeting was presided over by the then chief of Darul Uloom Nadvatul Ulama Maulana Abul Hasan Nadvi.

It is being said that the Congress did not like the formation of this organisation. The opinion of the Congress high command was that formation of a separate organisation for Muslims is against the interests of Congress. This is the reason why due to pressure from Congress high command, former Union Minister Syed Mahmood and several leaders belonging to Congress resigned from this organisation. Congress-supported Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind had also announced its decision to distance itself from this new organisation. The leaders of Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat urged Abul Hassan Nadvi that he accept the presidentship of this organisation, but he still refused. On his request, an older leader of Jamiat Ulema, Mufti Atiqur Rahman Usmani, was appointed as the president of Majlis-e-Mushawarat.

There were huge differences among the constituents of Majlis-e-Mushawarat on the issue of the organisation's participation in politics. Later a leader belonging to one of its constituents, Dr Abdul Jaleel Faridi, announced the decision to form a new political organisation named Muslim Majlis

on June 2, 1967. The Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat tried to ensure that various Muslim organisations field joint candidates for the Lok Sabha elections, but this attempt proved futile due to lack of consensus. In 1978, a meeting of the Mushawarat took place in Delhi. In this meeting, discussions were held on problems faced by Muslims

like increasing influence of RSS, communal riots and minority status of Aligarh Muslim University. Earlier, as soon as the Emergency was implemented, the general secretary of the Mushawarat Yusuf Siddiqui was arrested and sent to Ambala jail. He died in jail itself. In 1979, Maulana Ahmed Ali Qasmi was appointed as the new general secretary of Mushawarat. During this time, Mufti Atiqur Rahman passed away in 1982. In order to run the daily affairs of Mushawarat, two vice-presidents, Sheikh Zulfikar Ullah and Syed Shahabuddin were appointed. Mushawarat urged the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Abul Lais Illahi that he take over the presidentship of Mushawarat, but he was not ready for it.

In 1983, communal riots broke out in Nellie in Assam. In this connection, the Archaeological department of Indian government imposed a ban on offering namaz in those masjids which are under the control of Archaeological Survey of India. Mushawarat opposed this. In this connection, Syed Shahabuddin took over as the acting president of Mushawarat. In October 1990, the government of then Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh issued a notification and brought the land of Babri Masjid and the Kabristan belonging to it under its jurisdiction. Mushawarat strongly opposed this as well. In 1992, some people belonging to Mushawarat formed a parallel organisation, Milli Council. This has dealt a major blow to Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat.

In February 1993, a decision was taken to reconstitute Majlis-e-Mushawarat,



but this effort failed. Mushawarat president Syed Shahabuddin wrote a letter to the founder of this organisation Maulana Abul Hasan Nadvi in 1995, where he had stated that the organisation named Mushawarat no longer exists. Now the organisation that has been running is illegal and it is being run by Zulfikar Ullah, Maulana Ahmad Ali Qasmi and Mohammad Qasmi. Shahabuddin alleged that the funds collected for the restoration of Babri Masjid are being spent on Majlis-e-Mushawarat in an unfair manner.

A meeting of Majlis-e-Mushawarat was called on November 18, 1995 in which 47 members of Mushawarat out of total 68 took part. In this meeting, Maulana Mohammad Salim Qasmi was appointed as the new president of Mushawarat. Whereas Shafi Munis of Jamaat-e-Islami was made the general secretary. Maulana Junaid Ahmad Banarsi was made the treasurer and

Asaduddin Owaisi was made secretary. Later Mushawarat got split into two parallel organisations. Maulana Salim Qasmi became the chief of one organisation and Syed Shahabuddin became the president of the other organisation. In June 2000, Syed Shahabuddin claimed to have become the chief of the Mushawarat, but some other people alleged that this election was held in an unfair manner and Syed Shahabuddin became the president through manipulation. In 2013, efforts were made to bring together the two groups and Syed Shahabuddin announced his resignation from the post of the president. In a press conference held in Delhi, it was announced that the next president of Mushawarat will be Dr Zafarul Islam Khan. Whereas Maulana Salim Qasmi has been announced as the chief of the supreme guidance council.

Implementation of Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand questioned in high court

Hindustan Express (August 19) states that Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema has filed a petition in the Uttarkhand High Court against the implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttarakhand. As per a press statement issued by Jamiat Ulema, the Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court Justice G Narendra and Justice

Alok Mehra, while admitting the petition, fixed September 23 as the next date of hearing. The court issued notices to the Central and state governments and directed them to file counter affidavits. Senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, who appeared in the court on behalf of the petitioners, said that as per the Constitution, no state



government has the power to implement the Uniform Civil Code. It has been prohibited under Article 44 of the Constitution. He also argued that the new law brought by the state government is a violation of the rights given to the minorities under Article 14, 19, 21 and 25 of the Constitution.

It is worth mentioning that after the Uniform Civil Code was passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly, it has been implemented in the entire state in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the beginning of this year. This apart, Uttarakhand became the first country state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code. Chairman of Jamiat Ulema Arshad Madani said this law is against Quran and the Shariah and is a direct interference in the religion of Muslims. The present government, by bringing the Uniform Civil Code, wants to deprive Muslims of the rights which they got from the Constitution. Madani said that as per our belief, Shariah law was not made by any individual or by the court, instead was created by the God. It is based on Quran and the Hadis, hence no government or court has any right to interfere in them.

Roznama Sahara (August 18) states that the Uttarakhand government has decided to scrap the Madarsa Education Board Act. The government is bringing Uttarakhand Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2025 in its place. The effect of this government decision will be that the benefits that have been received by the madrasas of Muslims will now be received by the institutions of other minority communities as well. As per a government spokesperson, the state government has decided to scrap Uttarakhand non-government Arabic and Persian Madrasa

Recognition law, 2019 along with the Uttarakhand Madarsa Education Board Act, 2016.

Inquilab (August 15) reports that the Pushkar Singh Dhami government in Uttarakhand has decided to make the law regarding religious conversions through force, fraud or inducement more stringent.

The Uttarakhand cabinet has given nod to the Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2025. As per the amended bill, religious conversions using money, gift, lure of a job, the promise of free education, lure of marriage, the evils of another religion and the praise of another religion or the attempt to convert religion through social media will be considered as non-bailable offence. Concealment of religion for the purpose of marriage will result in a jail term ranging from three years to 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 3 lakh. Whereas in normal cases of religious conversion, the punishment will be a jail term of three to 10 years and a fine of Rs 50,000.

As per the amended bill, if any person converts any woman, child, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe people or handicapped persons, then he could be awarded a jail term ranging from five years to 14 years and a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh. As per the new bill, there is a provision to award a jail term ranging from seven years to 14 years and a fine of Rs 1 lakh for mass conversions. If it is proved that the person involved in mass conversion has been receiving money from abroad, then he could be awarded a jail term ranging from seven years to 14 years and a fine of at least Rs 10 lakh. This bill provides for life imprisonment for conversion through threats, assault or trafficking. As per this bill, the district magistrate may seize the property of the institutions or people involved in conversion. This apart, the victim will be provided legal help, food and treatment facilities by the government. This bill also allows the police to arrest the accused on suspicion of religious conversion without a warrant.

Nationwide campaign against Baloch rebels in Pakistan



The Pakistan government has launched a nationwide drive against Baloch rebels. Internet services have been shut down after imposing curfew in entire Balochistan and Karachi.

Roznama Sahara (August 14) reports that the Pakistan army has claimed to have killed 50 Baloch fighters within two days in a military operation. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) of the Pakistani army, a large quantity of foreign weapons, ammunition and explosives were seized from the possession of the Baloch fighters who were killed. The army announced that this operation will continue until Pakistan is free from terrorism.

Urdu Times (August 11) states that Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan, announced that if the situation in Balochistan did not improve and the Pakistani army did not stop the arrests and brutal killings of innocent Baloch people, then his party would hold nationwide protests and besiege the military headquarters in Islamabad. He gave a six-month ultimatum to the Shehbaz Sharif government. If their demands are not met by then, they would start a series of nationwide protests.

Maulana Rehman warned the Pakistani government that if basic facilities

like electricity, clean drinking water, health facilities, and employment are not provided to the residents of Gwadar, the Gwadar port would be shut down. He said that if the problems of the people are not resolved, the government would have to walk over our dead bodies.

According to another news report, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has criticised the government for suspending internet and mobile services across the country. HRCP stated that this was a violation of the fundamental rights of the Pakistani people. Suspending internet and mobile services harms the common public, not terrorists. HRCP has also requested the Supreme Court of Pakistan to immediately intervene in this matter so that the basic rights of the country's citizens could be secured.

Hindustan Express (August 18) states that the Pakistan government has announced the imposition of Section 144 across the country. Under this, all types of demonstrations and public gatherings have been banned. Riding pillion on motorcycles and covering faces with masks have been banned. Additionally, the movement of all types of vehicles at night has also been restricted. Train and bus services have been suspended for a week in Balochistan. Indefinite curfew has been imposed in 21



out of 36 districts of Balochistan, and the army has been deployed on all roads. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has claimed that this restriction has been imposed owing to national security. This restriction will be lifted as soon as the situation improves.

Chattan (August 13) reports that the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) targeted the Jaffer Express, on its way from Quetta to Peshawar near Mastung, with a missile. Six coaches of the train derailed in this attack.

Roznama Sahara (August 13) states that the US has declared BLA and its allied organisation, Majeed Brigade, as terrorist organisations. The US foreign ministry has

formally announced this ban by issuing a press release. This release also states that the campaign against terrorism by the Trump administration would continue.

According to **Urdu Times** (August 16), BLA has condemned the US listing it as a terrorist organisation. BLA claimed in a press release that we are fighting for the freedom of our homeland. We do not

need a certificate from any foreign country. Balochistan Liberation Army spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch said that the US made this decision under pressure from the Pakistani army chief. He claimed that Pakistan forcibly occupied Balochistan in 1948. Balochistan Liberation Army has been fighting against the Pakistani army ever since. The spokesperson said that our fight is against Pakistani army, Frontier Corps, intelligence networks and government organisations like death squads. He said that we are not against the Pakistani people, nor do we have any animosity towards any country. We are fighting for our rights and the freedom of our countrymen.

Islamic terrorist arrested in South Korea

Urdu Times (August 13) reports that a dangerous Pakistani terrorist of Lashkar-e-Taiba has been arrested in South Korea. Lashkar-e-Taiba was also involved in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks. Police say this terrorist was arrested from Seoul, the capital of South Korea. The Korean newspaper 'Korea Herald' claimed that this terrorist was working in a store in a local market by changing his identity. Officials of the Gyeonggi Nambu Provincial Police Agency said that a case has been registered against this 40-year-old terrorist on charges of violating the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Immigration Act. Following the interrogation of this terrorist, some other individuals connected to his gang have also been arrested. The police have refused to disclose the number of people arrested,

stating that the investigation into the matter is still ongoing.

Police claim that this terrorist has confessed to being associated with the Pakistan-based Islamic terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba and had received training in the use of weapons and infiltration tactics. In 2023, he entered South Korea. His objective was to establish a terrorist gang in South Korea.

Police are also investigating whether this gang was receiving funding from foreign sources. Significantly, this is the first instance of a Pakistani terrorist being arrested in South Korea. The United Nations Security Council declared Lashkar-e-Taiba a terrorist organisation in May 2005 owing to its involvement in terrorist activities and its support for Al-Qaeda,



Osama bin Laden, and other terrorist organisations.

According to the Korean police, during interrogation, this accused also admitted that the Lashkar-e-Taiba was behind the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

According to **Hindustan** (August 2), the United Nations Security Council claimed in a report that after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, terrorists might be preparing for a major attack in the region. According to the report, The Resistance Front (TRF) was behind the attack in

Pahalgam, which is linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba. The report also claimed that this organisation's links were found with the banned terrorist organization Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). TTP is also linked to the Khorasan wing of the Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. Six thousand terrorists are associated with TTP. They possess sophisticated weapons left behind by US soldiers in Afghanistan.

The report claims that these terrorists were trained in secret camps located in Afghanistan. BLA fighters were also trained in these very camps. The report states that the Afghan government has not yet been able to stop the activities of these terrorist groups. The ISIS-Khorasan wing is most active in Central and South Asia. The number of its terrorists is 2,000. This organisation targets Shias and officials of the Taliban government.

Peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Siasat (August 10), reports that an agreement has been signed to end the decades-long dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan, mediated by US President Donald Trump. This agreement took place in the White House in the presence of President Trump. According to media reports, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan have signed this agreement. Trump described this agreement as historic. He said that normal relations would be established between the two countries after this agreement. It is noteworthy that Armenia and Azerbaijan fought a war over the Nagorno-Karabakh region in the 1980s. Although this region belongs to Azerbaijan, it has a larger population of Armenian-



origin Christians. The US President said that he has also signed bilateral agreements with both countries to increase trade in the fields of energy and technology. The newspaper claimed that this agreement has dealt a major blow to Russia in Central Asia, while US influence has increased.

Etemaad (August 11) in its editorial has welcomed the peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. With this, the 37-year-long war between the two countries has ended. Although Nagorno-Karabakh is a part of Azerbaijan, ethnic Armenian Christians live there. Ethnic Armenian Christians found it unacceptable to live with the Muslims of Azerbaijan, so they joined Armenia. After this, Armenia established its puppet administration in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijan completely captured Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023 with the help of Turkey, forcing one lakh Armenian

Christians living in this region to flee to Armenia. The population of Azerbaijan is approximately one crore, with 95 per cent of the population being Muslim. Whereas the population of Armenia is 30 lakhs and Christians are in majority there. There was also a war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh in September-November 2020. In this war, Turkey supported Azerbaijan and captured a large part of this region. Later, Russian mediation saw Armenia withdrawing its soldiers from there, and about 2,000 Russian peacekeepers were deployed in the region to monitor the ceasefire.

Bid to cripple Afghanistan economy



Pakistan and Iran have started forcibly sending more than one crore Afghan-origin citizens from their respective countries to Afghanistan. The goal of both these countries is to cripple Afghanistan's entire economy.

Inqilab (August 19) reports that Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni told the Iranian Parliament that currently, more than 60 lakh Afghan-origin citizens are living in Iran. The government has decided that by the end of this year, at least 20 lakh Afghan-origin citizens would be sent to Afghanistan. Significantly, Iran had earlier forcibly pushed 15 lakh Afghan-origin citizens into Afghanistan. He visited the detention camps in Mashhad where Afghan-origin citizens are kept. He said that so far more than 12 lakh Afghan

citizens have been sent from Iran to Afghanistan.

Momeni said that the Afghan government's claim that the citizens being expelled from Iran were born in Iran and are therefore Iranian citizens was absolutely false. He clarified that his country is not anti-Afghanistan. In the recent past, several Afghans have been found involved in anti-Iran activities. Many of them

are accused of spying at the behest of Israel and the US. He said that Iranian security agencies are vigorously conducting a search operation for Israeli and US spies, because due to these people, Iran has suffered considerable damage in the Iran-Israel conflict.

Chattan (August 7) states that the Pakistan government has decided that by the end of this year, all Afghan-origin citizens holding Proof of Registration (PoR) would be expelled from Pakistan. This campaign is starting from September 1. Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said that Afghan citizens living in Pakistan are involved in anti-Pakistan activities and many of them are found to be involved in smuggling, espionage and



terrorist activities. This is why we have been sending Afghan citizens living in Pakistan back to Afghanistan for the past year.

Significantly, in 2002, after the pro-Russia government came to power in Afghanistan, the Pakistani government, at the behest of the US, sheltered 90 lakh Afghan-origin citizens in its country. The US intelligence agency, CIA, trained these refugees in guerrilla warfare and sent them back to Afghanistan to start a civil war there. Since then, these Afghan citizens have been living in Pakistan.

The Pakistan government is forcibly pushing Afghan-origin citizens into Afghanistan, labelling them as infiltrators, even though most of them were born in Pakistan and are therefore its citizens.

Hindustan (August 9) reports that the return of more than 40 lakh Afghan citizens from Pakistan and Iran has completely crippled Afghanistan's economy. A spokesperson for the Afghan government stated that Afghanistan was already facing a severe economic crisis. Now, the arrival of these new people has aggravated the situation. We have appealed to the United Nations for economic assistance. A report by the French news agency, AFP, was published in the Pakistani newspaper *Dawn*. According to

this report, seeing the influx of refugees coming from Iran and Pakistan, landlords in Kabul have increased the rents of their houses. Additionally, the food crisis in the country is also increasing.

According to a news report published in **Hindustan** (August 10), more than 40 lakh Afghans have returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan since September

2023. As a result, the country's entire economy has been destroyed and people are suffering from hunger. The governments of Iran and Pakistan had confiscated all the belongings of these refugees, so they are facing great difficulties in rehabilitation. If the United Nations does not intervene, millions of Afghan citizens could die of hunger.

Chattan (August 10) states that Afghanistan's Energy Minister Abdul Latif Mansoor alleged in an interview to Shamsad TV that Pakistan wants political instability in Afghanistan. He said that whether it is the Taliban, Mujahideen or Communists, Pakistan does not want any government in Afghanistan. When asked by a correspondent about a press release issued by Pakistan's defence ministry stating that the Pakistani army had killed 33 terrorists operated by a neighbouring country in a bid to infiltrate the Zhob district of Balochistan, Mansoor said the accusation was completely baseless.

The Pakistani government has failed to eliminate terrorists, and therefore, it is misleading the public by blaming the Afghan government. He said that the TTP issued a press release confirming that their bases are not on the Afghan border, but they are operating from secret camps located in the tribal areas of Pakistan.

Protests abroad in support of Palestine



Urdu Times (August 12) has reported that the London Metropolitan Police have arrested approximately 700 protesters demanding recognition for Palestine. This protest was organised by the Palestine Action Group. The British government has banned the Palestine Action Group. A total of 522 people were arrested for participating in the protest, while others were arrested under anti-terrorism laws. Police stated that never before in a decade had so many protesters been arrested in a single day.

A senior police officer leading the police operation stated that their goal was to ensure that public life was not affected by these protests. UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said that the Palestine Action Group was banned for security reasons because people associated with the

organisation were promoting terrorism. Significantly, the British Parliament has passed a law in August, according to which members of organisations that encourage terrorists could face up to 14 years in prison.

Urdu Times (August 16) reports that the UK Home Ministry has granted special powers to the British police. Under this, the police can declare the racial identity of suspects. They have been given the authority to monitor the activities of suspected individuals involved in terrorist and violent activities.

Previously, the British police did not have these powers.

Urdu Times (August 5) reports that despite heavy rain in Sydney, Australia, more than three lakh people held a historic demonstration in support of Palestine. The demonstrators were demanding an end to Israeli action in Gaza and recognition of a Palestinian state. An organisation called March for Humanity arranged this demonstration.

According to New South Wales Police, one-and-a-half to two lakh people took part in this demonstration. Whereas, according to demonstrators, the number of participants in this rally was more than three lakhs. The demonstrators have demanded the Australian government to immediately recognise the Palestinian state.

West Asia

Arab countries criticise Greater Israel plan



Inqilab (August 9) reports that the Israeli cabinet has given its nod for full occupation of Gaza. According to the newspaper, the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has clarified that military preparations are underway to implement this occupation. Many countries, including the United Nations, have condemned Israel's decision. They have demanded that Israel immediately revoke this decision, as it violates the ruling of the International Court of Justice.

The International Court of Justice's ruling stated that Israel should vacate all unauthorised areas so that the two-state formula could be implemented. The Chinese foreign ministry has condemned Israel's decision and stated that Gaza belongs to the Palestinian people and Israel has no right to occupy it.

Urdu Times (August 15) reports that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Greater Israel is a historic and spiritual mission for me. We will achieve this mission at all costs. It's the dream of every Jew in the world. He said that he was not at all ashamed of this mission. This mission belongs to every Jew living in any corner of the world. Our doors are always open for them and will remain open in the future too. In such a situation, it

is necessary to expand the current territory of Israel. He clarified that Greater Israel does not mean only the current Israel, but it includes all those countries that were once part of the Jewish empire.

Netanyahu said that for the beginning of Greater Israel, it is necessary to include East Jerusalem, West Bank, Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula in it. Netanyahu said in an interview given to the Israeli channel, i24 News, that there was a plan to include all countries from the Nile river to the Euphrates river in Greater Israel. This includes Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq and Syria.

Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia have criticised the concept of Greater Israel. They have said that this could endanger the peace and stability of this entire region.

Etemaad (August 15) reports that various Arab countries have opposed the Greater Israel plan. They have alleged that the Jews, with the help of the US, want to seize several Muslim countries in West Asia. This Israeli plan is a threat to the existence of Arabs, so they will continue to oppose this plan until the last moment.

According to the Saudi Arabian official news agency, SPA, Saudi Arabia rejects Israel's expansionist policies. SPA alleged that some Western countries are

supporting this Israeli plan. The Egyptian foreign ministry said that this Israeli mindset was a threat to peace and stability in the entire region. No Arab country would accept this. Egypt said that it has now become necessary to establish an independent Palestinian state based on the June 4, 1967, borders and make East Jerusalem its capital.



The Jordanian foreign ministry described Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement about Greater Israel as provocative and dangerous. The spokesperson of the foreign ministry called Netanyahu's statement a blatant violation of international law and the declaration of the United Nations. The spokesperson said that it was a threat to the existence of Arab countries.

He appealed to the countries of the world to impose sanctions on Israel's expansionist intentions. Qatar also opposed this plan of Israel and said that Israel wants to grab the Muslim countries of West Asia with the support of Western countries. Muslims all over the world should unite and oppose this plan.

Urdu Times (August 17), in its editorial, said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement has created a new storm in the Islamic world. The demand for Greater Israel is to violate international laws. This demand would increase war and destruction in West Asia. The newspaper said that the concept of Greater Israel was not new but a very old concept. It started with the establishment of Israel by the UK and other Christian nations.

Surprisingly, the Arab countries are silent on these dangerous intentions of Israel owing to US pressure. Countries like Jordan and Egypt have already signed peace treaties with Israel and Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries are trapped in the Abraham Accords. The US has always been Israel's biggest supporter. It is strange that so far it has not condemned this new

plan of Israel, but is promoting Israel by remaining silent. India has also remained silent on this dangerous plan. Although India's foreign policy has been pro-Arab, in the current situation, it is not serious about following its old policy. Netanyahu recently stated that the best phase of India-Israel partnership was yet to come.

The statement indicates that Israel believes India would support its expansionist policy.

Munsif (August 18) stated in its editorial that Israel has decided to realise its dream of Greater Israel. For those who keep an eye on West Asian politics, this decision by Israel is not unexpected. They believe that Israel will never accept any obstacle in the path of Greater Israel. The US, Britain, and other European countries are against Muslims. It is a pity for those so-called Muslim countries that consider themselves 'guardians of the Kaaba' and 'flag bearers of Islam'. In reality, they are more anti-Islam and anti-Muslim than Christians.

The newspaper stated that even before Netanyahu's statement, Hamas had made it clear that Israel had planned to annex Gaza and Lebanon. Although the United Nations, Britain, Turkey, Egypt, Australia, and China have condemned Israel's decision, organizations like the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates are openly playing into US' hands. Even the United Nations has become a puppet of Western countries. It has never given a justice-based decision in favour of any weak country because it is



influenced by the five 'veto power'-holding major countries.

The US' puppets are not just oil-producing Muslim countries, but Turkey is also among them. Turkey has been dreaming of usurping the leadership of the Muslim world for decades. It is strange that Israel has diplomatic relations with Turkey

and Egypt. The Egyptian government has made the biggest deal to buy oil and gas from Israel. The question arises whether the Egyptian government does not know that before 1948, these oil and gas reserves were the property of Palestinian Muslims, which Israel forcibly occupied.

The truth is that every Muslim country is hypocritical. They only express verbal sympathy for the Muslims of Palestine, but their ties are connected to Israel. The reality is that the Jews want to occupy all Muslim countries in West Asia. Given the stance of these Muslim countries towards Israel, there is no hesitation in saying that stopping the plan of Greater Israel is now impossible for any country.

Flames of civil war erupts again in Syria



Roznama Sahara (August 16) reports that the Syrian defence ministry has confirmed that supporters of the deposed President Bashar al-Assad have started targeting government soldiers. These attacks were carried out in the areas of Latakia and Tartus. Several military vehicles suffered considerable damage in these attacks.

According to the ministry of defence, curfew has been imposed in the coastal areas of Syria so that action could be taken against the rebels. The ministry has clarified that no leniency would be shown to those who target the army. A

government spokesperson told the media that supporters of Bashar al-Assad are behind these attacks. News agencies have confirmed that the flames of war between Shias and Sunnis have flared up again. The government army has been accused of burning, looting and demolishing Shia homes, shrines and Imambaras.

Inquilaab (August 18) reports that blasts have occurred in some places in the Syrian capital, Damascus. According to the police, supporters of former President Bashar al-Assad are behind these blasts. The army has been deployed in those areas of the capital Damascus where Shia fighters are active. Osama Mohammad Khair, head of Damascus police, said that many explosions have occurred in the capital. However, security forces are assessing the damage caused by these explosions.

According to another news report, Syria's acting president Ahmed al-Sharaa has alleged that some people are trying to

spread unrest in the country at the instigation of Israel. He said that some external forces want to weaken Syria and are planning to divide this country on religious grounds. He said that these forces would not be tolerated at any cost.

Inqilab (August 12) reports that a 'Justice Commission' has been constituted under the direction of Syria's acting

President Ahmed al-Sharaa. Representatives of women, the Alawi sect (Shia), Kurds, and Christian minorities have also been included in it. This commission will investigate the oppression that occurred during the rule of the deposed President Bashar al-Assad and will recommend action against the culprits to the government.

Hezbollah refuses to disarm

Avadhnama (August 8) reports that the Lebanese government had instructed Hezbollah to prepare for disarmament and hand over all its weapons to the government. Hezbollah has rejected this directive from the government. Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam has announced that no organisation or individual other than government soldiers would be allowed to carry weapons in the country. He said that this order also applies to organisations like Hezbollah. We hope that they would respect this decision of the government. It is said that the US is exerting pressure on Lebanon to make Hezbollah ready for disarmament.

This latest decision by Hezbollah is likely to lead to an increase in Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

A Hezbollah spokesperson stated that the government's decision to disarm to stop the conflict against the enemy country, Israel, was a great sin. Hezbollah said that the Lebanese government made this decision under foreign pressure. This is against Lebanon's sovereignty, so we will not accept it. Hezbollah claimed that the government made this decision at the direction of US envoy Tom Barrack. This will strengthen Israel's position and leave Lebanon at the mercy of its enemies.

Significantly, after the civil war that lasted from 1975 to 1990, various Lebanese organisations surrendered their weapons to the government but Hezbollah did not do



so. Recently, Hezbollah has weakened politically and militarily in the war with Israel because Israel eliminated its top leadership. Israel has destroyed most of Hezbollah's weapon stockpiles. However, Iran is still secretly providing weapons to Hezbollah. The ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in November 2024 is still in effect, but Israel is still carrying out sporadic attacks on Hezbollah and other armed organisations.

Israel has threatened that until Hezbollah accepts the proposal for disarmament, these attacks will continue. Hezbollah has stated that we are committed to ending Israeli aggression, the return of prisoners, and the reconstruction of war-devastated areas. As long as Israel does not stop its attacks, we will neither reconsider our defence policy nor surrender our weapons to anyone.

According to another report, Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said that



the plan for Hezbollah's disarmament devised by the US and Israel would not succeed. We want Hezbollah not to be ready for disarmament, he said. Araghchi stated that Iran would continue to support Hezbollah in every way. He added that the effort to disarm Hezbollah is not new, such attempts have been made before, but when war is ongoing, the question of disarmament does not even arise.

Urdu Times (August 13) reports that the threat of war breaking out again in Lebanon has arisen. The Lebanese government had instructed Hezbollah to hand over all its weapons to the government, but it refused to comply. Hezbollah claimed that under pressure from Israel and the US, the Lebanese government was pressuring it for disarmament. However, for the security of Lebanon, it was very important for Hezbollah to remain armed. Hezbollah also targeted Saudi Arabia, stating that owing to the US pressure, Saudi Arabia was indirectly pressuring the Lebanese government to prepare Hezbollah for disarmament.

The newspaper stated that the Lebanese government's compulsion was to obtain financial aid from the US and Saudi Arabia for the reconstruction of Lebanon, which was devastated by Israeli attacks. Whereas Hezbollah is a Shia militia organisation with deep ties to Iran. The literal meaning of Hezbollah is 'army of Allah'.

It is a powerful organisation in Lebanon, which also has representation in the Parliament and the government. This organisation started participating in

Lebanese elections in 1992. Iran used Hezbollah to maintain its control over Syria during the reign of Bashar al-Assad. It is said that Sunni countries want to reduce Hezbollah's power, while Iran wants to keep it strong so that it can maintain its influence in Lebanon.

Qaumi Tanzeem (August 7) reports that Hezbollah's secretary-general Sheikh Naim Qassem has stated that his organisation would never accept the disarmament plan. Recently, demonstrations were held by Hezbollah in some areas of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon.

The demonstrators were carrying pictures of Hezbollah's deceased leaders in their hands. Lebanese Justice Minister Adel Nasser has said that Naim Qassem's statement held no significance for the Lebanese government. Hezbollah must abide by the decision made by the Lebanese government because the former held no legal status.

He added that in the recent war, more than 4,000 Hezbollah fighters had been killed, while 6,000 had been injured.

Chattan (August 7) reports that Hezbollah is a political party in Lebanon as well as a military group, which many European countries including the US, Germany and the UK have declared a terrorist organisation. Hezbollah started during the civil war in Lebanon. Iran has been funding Hezbollah. In addition, Iran has also been providing it with weapons. Hezbollah's secretary-general Sheikh Naim Qasim had said that as long as Israel's aggressive activities continue, their organisation could not be ready for disarmament.

Roznama Sahara (August 19) states that Lebanese president Joseph Aoun has said that Iran should not interfere in Lebanon's affairs. He said that Iran is our friendly country, but our condition is that it should not interfere in our affairs at all. As far as the disarmament of Hezbollah is concerned, it is an internal matter of Lebanon. Iran has no connection with it.

Germany stops arms supply to Israel



Inquilaab (August 9) reports that German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has said that Germany would stop supplying weapons to Israel. He claimed that German weapons could be used to implement the Israeli cabinet's recent approval of the Israeli occupation of Gaza. In view of this potential threat, we have decided to stop supplying weapons to Israel. Significantly,

Germany is counted among the major countries supplying weapons to Israel. On the other hand, Germany has supplied weapons worth US dollar 564 million to Israel from October 7, 2023, to May 2025.

According to a government report, US supplies weapons worth US dollar 3.3 billion every year to Israel under the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) programme. In addition, equipment worth US dollar 500 million was supplied to Israel every year under the Missile Defence Programme. According to the report, Israel used US weapons to target Palestinian cities, schools, refugee camps, and hospitals. US President Donald Trump had recently announced that US was committed to Israel's defence and would continue to provide military and economic assistance to Israel in this time of crisis.

Iran's threat to the US



Inquilaab (August 19) reports that Amir Hayat Moghadam, a member of the National Security Committee of the Iranian Parliament, stated that Iran could target the US with its missiles from the sea. Our

missiles can reach Washington and New York. Moghadam said that the Air Force of Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC) has been developing missile launching capabilities using naval vessels for the past 20 years.

Moghadam added that the US is 10,000 kilometres away from Iran, but we can bring our ships within a range of 2,000 kilometres and attack Washington, New York, and other cities with missiles.

Iran has demonstrated its missile capability during attacks on US bases. He said that the reality is all European countries are within the reach of our missiles, and we can target the UK, France, Germany and Europe whenever we want. Moghadam said that those countries threatening us if we don't resume nuclear talks should understand that Iran would respond to these threats. We will not allow any foreign expert to reach our nuclear plants and we will continue to move forward to achieve our goals under the defined programme of nuclear development.

Hindustan Express (August 18) states that Iran and Russia have decided to increase mutual cooperation in various sectors, including security. According to a press release issued by the office of Iran's Vice-President Mohammad Reza Arif, Reza recently met Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

In this meeting, emphasis was laid on increasing cooperation between the two countries regarding security, energy, tourism, transport and scientific research. Discussing the Iranian nuclear programme, the Vice-President said we are also committed to the use of nuclear technology developed by Russia. He said that some Western countries were deliberately trying to hinder the development of our nuclear energy, but we will continue the cooperation programme with Russia to achieve our goals.

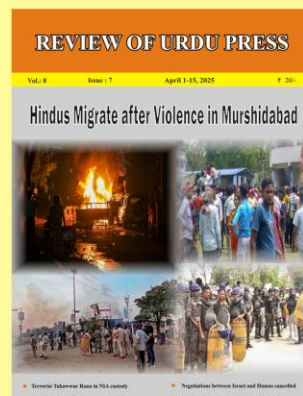
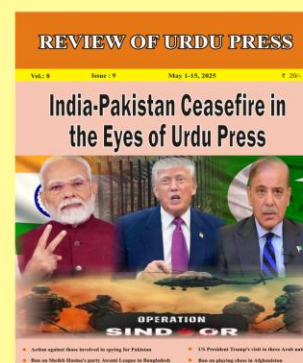
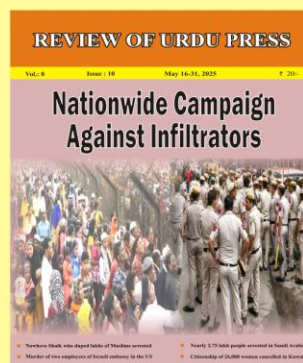
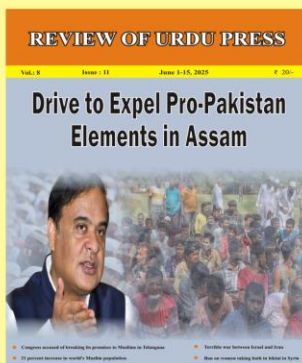
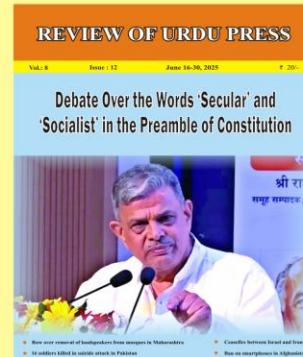
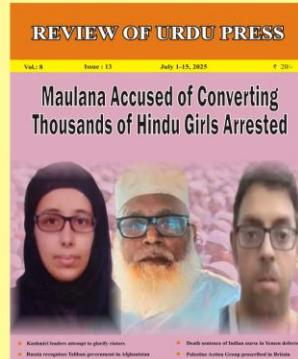
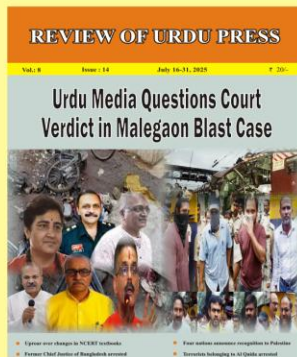
Urdu Times (August 10) reports that Iranian security agencies have arrested



20 Israeli spies. According to state media, Iran has also hanged three of its nuclear scientists. They were also accused of spying for Israel and identifying nine Iranian nuclear scientists killed in an Israeli attack on Iran in June. The Iranian government has announced that Israeli spies and those of its allied countries would not be spared and would be completely eliminated.

The Iranian government also confirmed that Israel recently killed Mohammad Hamza Shehadeh, the intelligence chief of Hezbollah's Radwan Force in Lebanon, in an airstrike. This is a clear violation of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon. In such a situation, the disarmament of Hezbollah could prove fatal for its existence.

Aurangabad Times (August 3) reports that more than 2,000 clerics in Iran have issued a fatwa. This fatwa supports the assassination of US President Donald Trump. The fatwa states that shedding Trump's blood is religiously permissible because Iran's top military commander General Qasem Soleimani was killed at the behest of US President Trump. It is the duty of every Muslim to avenge Soleimani's killers. Now, that bloody criminal will not be spared. It is noteworthy that the US killed General Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad in 2020.



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