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Campaign against Infiltrators in West Bengal



- Assam Assembly passes UCC Bill
- Israeli army shuts down historical Ibrahimi mosque
- Defence agreement between Russia and Afghanistan
- Religion-based reservation abolished in West Bengal

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Summary

The BJP government in West Bengal has launched a major drive against infiltrators as soon as it came to power in the state. As part of this campaign, 'holding centres' have been opened in every district in the state where suspected infiltrators are kept for 30 days until an investigation against them is completed. Later they will be handed over to the Border Security Force (BSF) which will carry out the legal proceedings to send them back to their country. It cannot be denied that demographic imbalances are happening in a rapid manner in different parts of the country, especially in North-east India due to foreign infiltration and an unnecessary economic burden is mounting on the country. There is substantial credence in the claim that Congress and other Opposition leaders have been deliberately promoting infiltration of Muslims from the neighbouring countries to keep their grip in power. In fact, there is no such corner in this country where these foreign infiltrators have not made their base.

Fulfilling its election promise, the Assam government has got a Bill passed in the Assembly, seeking to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Once this new law is implemented, there will be a common law for all citizens on matters regarding marriage, divorce, inheritance and live-in relationships. However, the Adivasis in the state have been completely kept out of the ambit of this law to preserve their traditional customs and cultural practices. Under this law, polygamy is totally prohibited. It is to be noted that Assam has become the third state in the country which has decided to implement the UCC after Uttarakhand and Gujarat.

There is a fresh turn in international politics. A major defence deal has been signed between Russia and the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Under this agreement, Russia will supply air defence system and most modern fighter planes to the Taliban government so that the Afghan government could give a befitting reply to the aerial attacks of Pakistan air force. The Russian military will provide necessary technical training to the Afghan military. Currently, Afghanistan does not have strong air force or fighter aircrafts, a situation which Pakistan has exploited to attack Afghanistan's military bases and cities.

The bitterness in the relationship between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Pakistan is growing day by day. The main reason for this is UAE's apprehension that Pakistani territory has been used for the Iranian attacks on its territory. Furious over this, the UAE government has forcibly expelled thousands of Pakistani citizens from the country, majority of whom are Shia Muslims. These Pakistani citizens were accused of involving in espionage for Iran in the UAE, and based on the information provided by them, Iran obtained precise details for launching attacks on the US and UAE targets.

In spite of the US pressure, Israel has refused to withdraw its soldiers from Lebanese territory. This apart, Israel has stepped up its military operations to seize more Lebanese territory. Recently, the Israel government took control of the Ibrahimi mosque situated in West Bank and completely sealed it and also imposed a complete ban on the entry of Muslims and offering of namaz there.

National

Campaign against infiltrators in West Bengal



Mumbai Urdu News (May 25) states that as soon as the BJP government came to power in West Bengal, a massive campaign has been unleashed against illegal infiltrators. As part of this campaign, Bangladeshi citizens and Rohingyas who are illegally staying in the state will be identified and deported from India. The state government has decided to set up 'holding centres' in every district for this purpose. The suspected foreigners will be kept in custody at these centres for a maximum of 30 days until the completion of an inquiry into their citizenship. During this period, the administrative and police officials of the state government will conduct a detailed investigation into the documents related to the citizenship of these suspects. If the officials of the respective district confirm them to be illegal foreign infiltrators, they will be immediately handed over to Border Security Force (BSF) which will ensure that they are sent back to their places of origin in accordance with legal procedures.

The state government has started implementing the new policy to identify and deport infiltrators on the directions of the Union Home Ministry. This apart, strict instructions have been issued to the state's intelligence agencies to keep a close watch

on the activities of suspected persons. In this connection, whatever input or intelligence information is received, it shall be immediately shared with all district magistrates, police superintendents and other administrative officials concerned. According to official sources, not only new suspected persons will be kept in these special holding centres, those prisoners of foreign origin will also be transferred there who have completed their term of sentence and are waiting for deportation from India to their place of citizenship. Stressing on this campaign, state Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said, "we have promised people before the Assembly elections that not a single illegal infiltrator will be kept on the land of West Bengal. Our government is fulfilling this very resolve and promise with utmost determination."

Urdu Times (May 30) states that the new government in West Bengal has so far established 11 holding centres in the state. According to government sources, currently a total of 335 suspected people have been kept in these centres. Officials say that these centres have been set up in accordance with the new anti-infiltration policy of the state government named 'Detect, Delete and Deport.' As per government report, the highest number of



suspected people have been taken into custody from Bashirhat area in North 24 Parganas district. Intelligence sources say that currently thousands of Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators are illegally staying in different places in West Bengal. The places where these holding centres have been set up include Baruipur, Sundarban, Bashirhat, Bongav, Barasat, Murshidabad, Jangipur, Krishnanagar, Malda, Coochbehar and South Dinajpur.

As per official data, the suspected people who have been kept in these centres include 148 men, 99 women and 88 children. As per media reports, frightened by this harsh campaign, illegal foreign infiltrators are fleeing to hide in Bangladesh, Nepal and in other states in India in large numbers. A few days ago, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had also claimed that due to government's stringent policy against infiltrators, 8,000 to 10,000 infiltrators are fleeing from West Bengal daily. As per latest information, a new holding centre has been started at Chandan Park in English Bazar area in Malda, where currently nine suspected Bangladeshi citizens have been kept. They include three women and six children. All these suspected persons were arrested from Ghazol police station area. In order to ensure security and transparency, CCTV cameras have been set up in all centres and intelligence agencies are also closely monitoring them apart from police.

Hindustan Express (May 23) claimed that the issue of suspicious citizenship has become an extremely serious problem in the country. Due to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) campaign being conducted in West Bengal and other

states across the country, an apprehension and fear have begun to take root—particularly within the Muslim community—that their citizenship could be deemed suspect, leading to their eviction from their homes and their classification as foreigners.

The paper claims that an even more dangerous aspect is that the citizenship of those who have been classified under suspicious category under SIR will be deprived of all government facilities and benefits. Subsequently, their identity documents will be re-verified, and they could be declared foreigners. Due to this policy of the government, the differences between SIR, NRC and CAA have ended for all practical purposes, due to which the threat of expulsion from the country hangs over a large section of the population.

The newspaper says that a particular political party has been using citizenship and national identity as a political weapon for the past few years in the country. In Assam, thousands of such families have been branded as foreigners under NRC, whose ancestors have been living in this country for centuries. Today, thousands of people, despite having all legal documents, are forced to make repeated visits to the Foreigners' Tribunal. Hundreds of people are caught in a legal quagmire and are running from pillar to post to prove their citizenship due to spelling errors in their names or minor discrepancies in their dates of birth. Now, a similar atmosphere is beginning to take shape in Bihar and West Bengal as well. In West Bengal, reports indicating that the cases of over 2.7 million voters are subject to various tribunals and review processes cannot be considered ordinary. Casting doubt on the citizenship of such a large number of the country's residents cannot be dismissed as merely an administrative or technical error. Casting doubt on a citizen's patriotism, legal status, and citizenship in this manner is a dangerous trend that runs counter to the basic spirit of the Indian Constitution.



The newspaper asked If there are technical flaws in the administration's functioning or digital software, why should the common and poor citizens of this country bear the brunt of it? Even today, in a vast country like India, millions of people remain completely unaware of these technical and digital systems.

Especially, those citizens who reside in rural areas do not have enough and clear documents to establish their citizenship. The truth is that for poor, deprived and backward communities of India, getting government documents had always been a headache. In the rural areas of the country, even today there are lakhs of such people whose names are entered differently in different registers. In some instances, there is a discrepancy in the father's name, while in others, the date of birth does not match, and in some cases, the spelling differs.

In such a situation, if the tendency to view people's citizenship with suspicion is encouraged, the segment most affected will be the one that is already socially and economically vulnerable.

It is worth mentioning that Indian Constitution guarantees equality and legal security to every citizen. The question of citizenship is not just an administrative or documentary issue, instead it is a fundamental Constitutional right of citizens. If the administration casts doubt on the legitimacy of people based on its own negligence, technical errors, or

political considerations, it ultimately causes irreparable damage to our democracy. This will create an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty in the society, due to which the ordinary citizens feel insecure about their future. When the fear takes root in the mind of an ordinary citizen that one day they might be declared a foreigner due to a technicality, their faith in the country's democratic framework and judicial system begins to waver.

The newspaper says that a worrying aspect of this is that a large section of the population in our country is not aware of documents and their legal rights. In our social fabric, there has been a lack of inclination to preserve documents carefully or to take government notices seriously. This negligence later become a cause for major crises. While it is essential to question the government's intentions regarding this matter, it is equally important for citizens to realize their own responsibilities. This problem is not limited to any particular community or religion. Today if any particular community is facing this crisis, tomorrow some other community will fall into this trap. It is very much necessary to ensure the citizenship of every citizen in the country. Even today, the common man does not know which documents hold administrative importance, and what legal risks could arise from their absence? In such a situation, all religious, social and volunteer organisations should



However, it is generally believed that though this is an administrative and legal issue, it is also directly linked to internal security, financial resources, social balance and political atmosphere in the country. Maintaining strict surveillance over the borders of a vast country like India has always been a complex challenge. Especially, the illegal infiltration through eastern borders have been a talking point for decades.

set up 'document assistance centres' at local level. Through these centres, necessary documents shall be examined, help should be given to make new documents, and legal assistance should be provided to the general public to rectify spelling-related errors.

The newspaper has admitted that a large number of people from neighbouring Bangladesh have arrived in India due to poverty, unemployment and political instability. The newspaper said that if illegal foreign infiltrators are really present in the country, then there should be legally allowed action against them, but this apart, it is very much necessary that this national issue shall not be given political and religious colour. In such sensitive matters, it is necessary that a serious balanced and constitutional strategy shall be adopted to find a permanent solution to such problems. Along with this, India has to strengthen the security strategy on its borders to the level that in future no citizen violates the nation's border and illegally infiltrate.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 30) in its editorial said that illegal infiltration, fake citizenship and the issue of cross-border terrorism have become the main topic of national debates. Recently, the manner in which 2,600 suspected people have been forcibly sent to Bangladesh is a clear indication that the government's stance on this issue has become very stringent. The spokesperson of foreign affairs ministry also clearly stated that stringent action will be taken against foreign infiltrators in the country as per the law and such people will not be allowed to stay in the country.

Religion-based reservation ends in West Bengal

Mumbai Urdu News (May 21) states that the newly elected BJP government in West Bengal has cancelled the present OBC list related to reservation in state government employment. This apart, the state government has granted recognition to only 66 castes eligible for the seven percent reservation. Following this decision of the new government, the reservation given to Muslim community within the backward classes category during the time of TMC government, has got cancelled. It has been decided at a meeting of the state cabinet that the OBC list will be reviewed afresh,

and all certificates issued during the tenure of TMC will be re-examined.

State Minister Agnimitra Paul announced that the entire issue will be reconsidered and the state government, as per the directions of the high court, will take a final decision on including any particular caste or group in the backward classes category. On the directions of the Governor, the previous notification in this connection has also been cancelled.

It is to be noted that the reservation system for backward classes in West Bengal has been in a controversy since



2010. During the TMC rule, 77 new castes in the state were included in the OBC list, whereas during the Left rule, the number of castes in this list was only 42. That time, the Opposition had alleged that the Mamata government had included several Muslim castes in the list in blatant disregard of rules for votes as part of political appeasement. In 2023, the Mamata government formed a new OBC reservation law, under which 77 new castes were included in the OBC list. As a result, the total number of castes which was declared as OBCs increased to 179.

This new law was questioned in the Calcutta High Court. The petitioners argued that the reservation given on the basis of religion should be treated as unconstitutional and cancelled. Later on May 22, 2024 the Calcutta High Court cancelled the reservation of 113 castes included in the OBC list in the state while upholding the reservation of 66 castes. The court confirmed that several castes were included in this list merely on the basis of their religion, which is illegal. Due to this verdict of the court, nearly five lakh OBC certificates issued after 2010 were declared invalid. The then TMC government questioned this verdict of the high court in the Supreme Court. In March 2025, the Mamata government indicated to the court that the West Bengal Backward Classes

Commission will conduct a new survey and an amended OBC list will be prepared.

In this connection, the Mamata government in June 2025 released yet another list of 76 new castes, due to which the number of OBC castes in the state had gone up to 140. That time the Opposition parties alleged that the state government had once again included all the previous castes in the new list. This new list was also questioned in the court. In July last year, a division bench headed by the then Chief Justice of India B R Gavai imposed an interim stay on this new list. Currently, the entire matter is pending before the Supreme Court.

Hindustan (May 22) in its editorial alleged that the policies of the newly elected BJP government in West Bengal is based on Muslim enmity. The new chief minister of state Suvendu Adhikari is continuously taking such decisions, the purpose of which is to harass the Muslim community. These decisions of theirs demonstrate an intent to make life miserable for Muslims in the state, deprive them of their civil rights, and create conditions that prevent them from practicing their religion.

This is the reason why he removed Muslims from the OBC quota and imposed a ban on cow slaughter. The new BJP government has plunged West Bengal into



the cauldron of communalism where the government was till recently pursuing secular policies. Currently, the country is passing through such a phase where religious divide is taking a serious form day-by-day.

The newspaper claimed that an order has been issued in West Bengal to silence the voices of government employees. The Suvendu government issued a notice and warned the government employees that they should no longer criticize the government's functioning and its decisions. This trend is very dangerous and is against the basic spirit of the Constitution. If the voices of teachers, government employees and thinkers are gagged, then what is the difference between a democracy and dictatorship? The politics in West Bengal was free from the poison of communalism for several decades, but now after the BJP came to power, the situation is changing rapidly. The OBC reservation has been brought down from 17 percent to seven percent and Muslims have been deprived of it. This apart, 'Vande Mataram' is forcibly imposed on madrasas. These are not separate decisions, but a part of a comprehensive plan. It is unfortunate that an atmosphere against minorities is already being created in the country through communal hatred, mob lynching, and inflammatory speeches. If state governments, too, begin to disregard constitutional provisions and exploit the religious sentiments of the majority community for political gain, the consequences will be extremely dangerous.

The newspaper alleged that the BJP and its ideological organisation RSS

repeatedly justify all such measures in the name of 'cultural nationalism,' but in reality, it is nothing but authoritarianism and the imposition of the ideology of a particular religion across the country. If a particular ideology is imposed on the entire society through state power, then it will not only increase the sense of insecurity among the minorities,

but also weaken the foundation of democracy. Today whatever is happening in West Bengal is not just an issue of a state, but a question about the future of the nation.

Hamara Samaj (May 20) in its editorial said that till now West Bengal was free from the communal poison, but now the situation there is rapidly changing. Due to the aggressive stand of the new government, a sense of insecurity has dawned among the Muslims. Because of this, Bengal appears to be standing at a dangerous crossroads today. It is not a hidden fact that the BJP and Sangh have made Bengal as its next political laboratory. Their entire effort is to see that the social balance of the state is changed in such a way that there is no ground left for secular politics in the future. Muslims are being targeted in a systematic manner with this objective, because communal politics always seeks an enemy, and the Sangh Parivar has been casting Muslims in this role for years.

The newspaper said that today a sense of insecurity and unease is spreading rapidly among Muslims in most parts of Bengal. Small traders, shopkeepers, and labourers are beginning to realize that their businesses, social freedoms, and religious identities are all at risk. The newspaper has advised that if a danger arises, it should be averted wisely. However, unfortunately, today everyone wants to prove themselves the greatest 'Mujahid' (religious warrior) against Muslims. When riots take place, the youths are deliberately provoked and the poor Muslims always become the victim of this atmosphere. It is their shops which are

set on fire, and their houses which are razed. Another trend that has come to the fore is that some so-called Muslim leaders have started advising that Muslims should keep themselves away from electoral politics. This advice is, in fact, tantamount to political suicide. In the democratic system, if any particular community keeps itself away from the political process, then its political stature will be finished forever. Their voices will not be heard in the Assembly or the Parliament, hence Muslims need to understand that keeping away from politics is not a guarantee for their security. If Muslims do not cast vote, and do not take part in the electoral process, then who will talk about their problems and who will protect their rights?

The newspaper urged that Muslims should forget their mutual differences and

get united so that they could save their existence, their social and economic status because no one in politics listens to the voice of the weak. The Muslims of Bengal must strengthen and activate their political organizations alongside their businesses, educational institutions, and social organizations. The true soul of Bengal has always been a composite culture and religious harmony. It is also a fact that the TMC and the Left parties also used Muslims merely as a vote bank instead of transforming them into a well-organized political force for several decades. They did not take any credible effort to solve the educational backwardness, unemployment and financial problems of Muslims. Communal forces are taking advantage of the problems that have arisen as a result of this.

Singing of Vande Mataram mandatory in madrasas in West Bengal

Urdu Times (May 22) states that the BJP government in West Bengal has made singing of national song 'Vande Mataram' mandatory in all madrasas, government and aided schools, child education centres and secondary education centres in the morning. Following this government order, a new controversy has arisen in the political and educational centres of the state. The Madrasa education board of the state government has issued an order in this connection. A similar order has been issued by the education department of the state government in the name of managers of all government schools, aided schools and all training institutes. In this order, clear directions have been issued that all boy and girl students should sing Vande Mataram before the beginning of classes. This apart, a separate order has been issued to all district magistrates, officials of education department and officials belonging to West Bengal Madarsa Education, directing that efforts should be taken to ensure strict enforcement of this law. Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari told the Assembly that

this decision has been taken to awaken the spirit of patriotism among the students.

Opposing this decision of the government, TMC leader Atiqur Rahman said that personally he has no objection to Vande Mataram, but forcefully imposing them on the students is against the spirit of the Constitution and the freedom of religion guaranteed in it. He said some people might object to 'Vande Mataram' on religious grounds due to the mention of certain devi-devatas. Although in Islam worship is reserved solely for Allah, showing reverence for one's motherland and one's mother is also a part of our faith. This is the reason why nobody has so far objected to the singing of national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana.'

Inquilab (June 3) states that All India Muslim Personal Law Board has condemned the decision of West Bengal to make singing of Vande Mataram mandatory in educational institutions. The board demanded that the government withdraw this notification and keep Muslim boy and girl students out of its ambit.



Board spokesperson Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas said that no student could be forced to sing any song contrary to his or her religious belief, because it is an open violation of Article 25 and 28 of the Constitution. Ilyas also criticized the singing of Vande Mataram during the swearing-in ceremony of Kerala government and said that this is an open violation of the directions of Supreme Court. The board urged all the Muslim students, their parents and teachers in West Bengal that they remain vigilant about their constitutional rights. If they are forced to sing Vande Mataram at any stage, they could approach the court in this connection.

Hindustan Express (May 23) in its editorial said there is a huge controversy in the country over singing of all the six stanzas of national song Vande Mataram. Recently, the Central government had issued a notification as per which singing of national song Vande Mataram has been made mandatory apart from national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' in all official functions. The government has also warned that if any person violates this direction, then legal action will be taken against him. The newspaper said that Vande Mataram has been a topic of dispute for Indian Muslims right from the beginning. This is the reason why prominent Muslim

organisations like Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, All India Muslim Personal Law Board and Jamaat-e-Islami had strongly opposed the singing of all the six stanzas of Vande Mataram. National President of Jamiat, Maulana Arshad Madani said that Vande Mataram strikes at the faith of Islam and Muslims. Making it mandatory in government functions and educational institutions is an open violation of the basic spirit of the Constitution and against the principles of religious freedom.

It is being said that the reason for the objection of Muslim organisations is that in the song, the nation is portrayed as a Devi, and stress is laid on her worship. On the other hand, as per Islamic principles, no Muslim could worship anybody other than Allah. If any person worships anybody other than Allah, it is considered as 'Shirk' (great sin). The newspaper also underlined that there is clear mention of Durga and Lakshmi in the fourth and fifth stanzas of Vande Mataram and here, Vandana means worship or prostration, hence it is against the basic principles of Islam.

The newspaper has also written that Vande Mataram is mentioned in the novel 'Ananth Math' written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in the year 1882. In this novel, Muslims and Islam are being criticized. It has been indicated in this that compared to



the British, Muslim rule in this nation was very much anti-Hindu, because during the rule of British, peace prevailed in the country and Hindu civilization or Sanatan Dharma got an opportunity to flourish again. This is the reason why one community has declared this novel as anti-Muslim and pro-British.

Due to this historical background, the Congress Working Committee took this important decision in its 1937 session that in future, instead of singing Vande Mataram in its full, only its first two stanzas shall be sung. This historical decision was taken following mutual discussions between Rabindranath Tagore and Jawaharlal Nehru. In November 2025, when the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram was celebrated, the BJP deliberately launched a nationwide

campaign in support of it and made it mandatory to sing it in government functions and schools. Though the Congress opposed this decision of the government, the BJP government did not take any cognizance of the same. This is the reason why following the recently held Assembly elections, when the opportunity for the swearing

in of the new government came, from Kerala to Tamil Nadu, Vande Mataram was sung before and after the swearing in ceremony.

Now, the West Bengal government has also made it totally mandatory in all schools and madrasas in the state, which has created dissatisfaction among a huge section of Muslims. It is being said that this is being forcibly imposed on the section that is not in favour of it. The current situation is such that if any Muslim sings this song in order to prove his patriotism, he will be violating the religious principle of 'tauheed' and if he does not sing it, he will be declared as a traitor of the country. Thus, a situation akin to being "between the devil and the deep blue sea" has now arisen for Muslims.

Assam Assembly passes UCC Bill

Siasat (May 30) reports that the Assam Assembly has passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill. It is to be noted that the BJP's Himanta Biswa Sarma government had promised in its election manifesto before the Assembly elections that if it comes to power, then UCC will be implemented first in the state. Assam has become the third state to pass the UCC Bill in the country. Earlier, Uttarakhand and Gujarat had passed this law. In the Assembly, the Opposition parties, especially the Congress, while opposing the UCC bill, said that in order to know the opinion of the different sides, it shall be handed over to the joint selection

committee of the Assembly, but the House passed it with huge majority.

As per the new law, a common law will be implemented in the state for marriage, divorce, inheritance and live-in relationship. However, the Adivasis have been exempted from this law in order to protect their traditional customs and practices. Under this law, polygamy has been completely banned. This apart, registration of marriage and live-in relationship have also been made mandatory. As per the law, it will be mandatory to register the marriage within 60 days and live-in relationship within 30 days. As per the law, children borne out of



live-in relationship will be considered as legitimate and they will also be considered for inheritance in ancestral property. In case if any woman lives with any man as part of live-in relationship, and if that man leaves her behind, then the woman will have the legal right to approach a court for maintenance. If any couple does not deliberately register divorce or marriage within the prescribed time, they will have to pay a fine up to Rs 10,000. If live-in relationship is not registered, there could be a jail term up to three months and a fine of Rs 10,000. Similarly, those who enter into more than one marriage, or contract a marriage through deceit by concealing facts, could face up to seven years in prison. This law makes a clear provision for women to have a share in their husband's property.

In the Assembly, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that this law has been passed with the aim of ensuring equal rights and justice to all citizens, especially women. On the other hand, the opposition alleges that this law is an interference in the Shariah law, which is against the basic spirit of the Constitution. It is worth mentioning that in Shariah, every person has been granted the right to contract four marriages simultaneously. This apart, in Shariah, there is no prescribed minimum age for marriage. It also does not contain a provision to grant

women a share in ancestral property equal to that of men.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 27) states that the vice-chairman of All India Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi criticised the UCC Bill passed by Assam government. He said that this law is a threat to the religious identity and Shariah of Muslims. The people should come out on the streets against it, because in the present circumstances mere rhetoric and protests on paper will not suffice.

Inquilab (May 26) in its editorial said that the Assam Assembly has passed the UCC Bill. However, the government claims that it will ensure equality and justice for all sections of society. Meanwhile, a look at the various aspects of this bill reveals that it is not limited merely to legal reform—it will have far-reaching social, constitutional, cultural, and religious consequences. The Indian Constitution not only provides equal rights to the citizens, rather, it also guarantees them the preservation of their distinct religious freedom and cultural identity. In such a situation, the effort to put the personal laws of all religions in one basket raises several questions. For example, as this law is passed, the Shariah law of Muslims is thrown into the waste bin. The truth is that its highest effect will be on Muslim personal law. It contains Islamic laws

related to marriage, inheritance and divorce, which is definitely an interference in the religious freedom of Muslims.

The most worrying aspect is that this Bill has provided a legal basis to live-in relationships and has made its registration mandatory. Those who are familiar with Indian social structure would certainly agree that granting legal protection to relationships between men and women outside of 'nikah' or marriage is wrong on moral and social grounds. This will fragment the family structure. The most important question is: if this law was passed to be applied equally to all sections of society, why have tribals been excluded from it? With the mandatory registration of marriage, divorce and private relationships,

new avenues for government interference in personal relationships have opened up, which is a threat to a nation like India.

The newspaper said that the Indian society is currently passing through a socially and religiously sensitive phase. It is necessary to hold discussions with religious leaders, constitutional experts and social institutions before implementing any law. While there is no doubt that this will enhance women's rights and reduce early marriages, the path to these reforms should not have been paved by disregarding religious and cultural identities. The proposed UCC in Assam is not merely a piece of legislation, but a stern test for India's constitutional ethos, religious freedom, and social balance.

Emphasis on not sacrificing cattle during Bakrid



This year, on the occasion of Bakrid, the appeal made by Muslim leaders including the chairman of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, Maulana Mahmoud Madani, to the country's Muslims had a widespread impact. Mahmoud Madani had appealed to Muslims not to sacrifice cattle on the occasion of Bakrid as some mischievous elements are repeatedly trying to create unrest and discord in society over this issue, which will not be in the interest of the Muslims. In their directions, Muslim organisations and leaders have made it

clear that there is a legal ban on the slaughter of cattle in most parts of the country, hence everyone should follow the law.

Hindustan (May 30) reports that Muslim organisations in Sircilla in Telangana have demanded that cow should be declared as national animal and a nation-wide ban be imposed on its killing. Earlier, chairman of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Arshad Madani and Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali of Lucknow had made similar demands. According to

the newspaper, due to the government's firm stance, no major untoward incident was reported on the occasion of Bakrid this time. However, some dispute had arisen regarding a religious place at Kasmandi Kalan located in Malihabad in Lucknow. The Pasi community claims that this structure was built on the ancient fort and Shiv Mandir



belonging to 11th century illustrious Nagavanshi ruler, Raja Kans Pasi. In this connection, leader of Pasi community, Suraj Paswan, has also sent a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Keeping in view the law and order situation and possible tension, the administration imposed a complete ban on offering namaz at this disputed site on the occasion of Bakrid. Due to the stringent orders of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi governments, Muslims did not offer namaz on the roads on the occasion of Bakrid. However, there was news about some people offering namaz on the roads in some places in Jaipur.

Hindustan (May 22) states that controversial Muslim leader in West Bengal, Humayun Kabir, threatened that he will sacrifice cattle on the occasion of Bakrid every year, because it is the right of Muslims. Adopting a stringent stand, state Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari made it clear that illegal sacrifice of cattle will not be allowed under any circumstance and stringent action will be taken against those who violate the law. Following this strong warning and tightening of the law, Humayun Kabir has since not appeared in public.

Urdu Times (May 27) in its editorial criticised the appeal made by Jamiat Ulema Maharashtra in which Muslims were urged not to sacrifice any prohibited animal on the occasion of Bakrid. The newspaper's argument is that such appeals by Jamiat Ulema create a misconception in society

that Muslims have been illegally sacrificing cattle all along.

Urdu Times (May 30) said if there is a ban on sacrifice of cattle by Muslims, then why the government is giving permission to export of meat? The newspaper claimed that 40 percent of the meat from Maharashtra is sent abroad, and those involved in this trade are not Muslims, but rather the very people who call themselves 'Gaurakshaks.'

Hindustan Express (June 2) said that in Islam it is not mandatory to sacrifice a cow, hence Muslims should sacrifice only those animals which are being directed in the Quran.

Hindustan (May 28) in its editorial said that ever since a ban was imposed on the killing of cattle, the Muslims in the country are respecting this law and they sacrifice only goats, sheep, and buffaloes. Yet, despite this, Muslims are harassed every year on one pretext or another. Recently, in Mira Road in Mumbai, some mischievous elements opposed the sacrifice of a goat and tried to flare up communal tension. Muslims should remain alert about such mischievous elements and should not get swayed by their comments.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 30) alleged that whenever Bakrid comes closer, an atmosphere of hatred is created against Muslims in the name of cow. It is being alleged that Muslims are deliberately hurting the religious sentiments of Hindus. Ever since the law has been formulated, Muslims are following it, but even then

some elements deliberately rake up the issue of cow in order to reap political benefits. In Uttar Pradesh, the government's stand has become so stringent that today Muslims fear even to offer namaz and sacrifice goats.

Munsif (June 3) in its editorial accused the BJP of adopting a double standard on the issue of cow. The newspaper said that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stresses that people openly eat beef. The strange thing is that a minister in Modi government Kiren Rijiju also claims to eat beef and the BJP government in his state has given open exemption for cow slaughter. What is intriguing is that till now no RSS or BJP leader has condemned the statements of Sarma or Rijiju. The truth is that for BJP, protection of cow is not a matter of faith or religion. They have been using this weapon to mislead Hindu voters and come to

power, but this time, Muslim leaders have also sent a Brahmastra and they have openly demanded that cow shall be declared a national animal and a legal ban should be imposed on its killing across the country.

Qaumi Tanzeem (May 19) in its editorial alleged that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is trying to make Uttar Pradesh a Hindu state and he has made life miserable for Muslims. Recently, he issued a stern warning to those offering namaz on the streets. What needs to be understood is that no one offers prayers outside the mosque out of choice or preference. Rather, people are often compelled to pray on the street due to a lack of space inside the mosque, as prayer times are fixed and cannot be altered. The strange thing is that Yogi Adityanath does not see the roads getting blocked during Kanwariya and Ram Navami processions. ■

Pakistan-controlled terrorist gang busted



Hindustan Express (May 31) states that more than a dozen terrorists, linked to Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, were arrested in a major operation by various intelligence agencies in the country. According to the Special Cell of Delhi Police, the ISI has been using Mumbai underworld and Pakistani terrorist Shahzad Bhatti to trap Indian youths. According to

the spokesperson of Delhi Police, so far eight persons belonging to this gang have been arrested, while a dozen suspected terrorists are being interrogated in custody. The arrested persons have been taken into custody from Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. Four hand grenades manufactured at Pakistan Ordnance Factory, two pistols and 24



cartridges were seized from their possession. A mobile phone being used to contact their handler in Pakistan was also seized from them. According to Delhi Police, the aim of this network was to target important government offices in Delhi, Mumbai and Punjab and police outposts.

Delhi Special Commissioner of Police Anil Shukla said a case has been registered against the arrested persons under UAPA and different sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Following an investigation, the first arrest was made in Pune on May 14, 2006 where Vijay alias Shooter, a resident of Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, was taken into custody. Vijay was in constant touch with Shahzad Bhatti network based in Pakistan and Dubai. He was given the responsibility to recruit terrorists and carry out terrorist activities in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Following his interrogation, one of his accomplices, Nitish Paswan, was arrested from Sahibganj in Jharkhand. After his interrogation, the police arrested Taukir Sheikh and Arbaz Khan from Mumbai. The two were in touch with ISI handlers Yavar Khan and Munna Jhingada alias Syed Mudassar Hussain. He was recruited by Hujaifa, who stays in Mumbai, and seems to be absconding.

Mumbai Urdu News (May 30) states that National Investigation Agency

(NIA) raided 15 places in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra and Jharkhand and arrested more than two dozen suspected persons. This apart, the Uttar Pradesh STF raided Saharanpur and arrested four terrorists, including Shahrugh, Musharaf, Mahkab and Gagandeep. Among them, Mahkab and Shahrugh are residents of Sarsava area in Saharanpur, whereas Musharaf belongs to Haridwar. Similarly,

Gagandeep alias Guri Singh is a resident of Muzaffarnagar.

Senior officer of Uttar Pradesh STF Amitabh Yash said the arrested accused were in contact with Shahbaz Bhatti and Abid Jatt linked to ISI. On the other hand, a spokesperson of NIA said that a chargesheet has been filed against nine persons in a court in connection with a terrorist attack that took place at a Mahila police station in Sirsa in Haryana. There are two Pakistani citizens among those arrested in connection with this issue.

Inquilab (June 2) states that Uttar Pradesh ATS has arrested a suspected agent of ISI, Mohammad Sheikh, from Azamgarh. Illegal weapons were also seized from him. It is being said that he was handed over the responsibility to kill a woman leader.

Urdu Times (May 26) states that the NIA carried out raids in several places in Jammu and Kashmir in search of people belonging to banned Islamic organisation Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir. These raids were conducted in Srinagar, Shopian and Anantanag. A large amount of cash and electronic equipment were seized during this raid. It is being said that these money and equipment were brought from Pakistan, whose main goal was to recruit Kashmiri youths for banned terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen.

Defence deal between Russia and Afghanistan



Urdu Times (May 30) reports that a defence agreement has been signed between Russia and the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Recently, Afghanistan's acting defence minister Mullah Yaqoob Mujahid visited Moscow in this connection, where he held high-level talks with the secretary of Russian Security Council, Sergei Shoigu. The agreement was signed following this meeting. Under this agreement, the repair and maintenance work of military equipment belonging to Russian and Soviet period, which are currently in Afghanistan, will be carried out. This apart, an agreement has been reached for the supply of most modern air defence system and technical training for the Afghan security forces.

It is to be noted that Russia has granted official recognition to the Taliban government in Afghanistan in July 2025. Along with this, Russia became the first country in the world which has entered into a defence agreement with the Taliban government in Afghanistan.

Pakistan is likely to suffer a major blow due to this agreement. Till now, the Afghan government has no modern military aircraft or powerful air defence system, taking advantage of which the

Pakistan air force has targeted several border towns including capital Kabul. So far, the Afghanistan government has been unable to give a befitting reply.

According to defence experts, US concerns have also increased; the US had been exerting pressure to maintain Western influence over the Afghan government and to keep the regional security balance in its favour. Talking to journalists in Moscow, Afghanistan's acting defence minister Mullah Yaqoob Mujahid said Russia has taken an important military step to help Afghanistan and after this agreement, Afghanistan will be able to completely protect its sovereignty.

Similarly, secretary of Russian Security Council, Sergei Shoigu has strongly condemned the economic sanctions imposed on Afghanistan by the Western countries.

On the other hand, experts believe that in view of the current financial situation, it would be very difficult for Russia to provide costly weapons totally free, because Russia itself is fighting the Ukraine war and facing sanctions. This apart, Taliban government is also currently not in a position to make largescale cash payments. Nevertheless, the military



that these terrorist organisations are getting indirect support from the Western countries.

Hindustan (May 24) reports that the purpose of Chinese efforts to include Afghanistan in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is to increase its strategic and economic influence. According to Chinese experts, China wants to link Afghanistan to its Belt & Road Initiative (BRI)

Network so that it could get alternative commercial route to Central Asia, West Asia and Indian Ocean. The Chinese intention is to mine the mineral resources of Afghanistan as well. India has expressed concern over this intention of China and described it as a threat to its security. Now, this plan of China has also suffered a massive jolt due to the defence agreement that the Afghanistan government has signed with Russia.

assistance resulting from this agreement will enable Afghanistan to give a befitting response to Pakistani airstrikes.

According to the newspaper, Russia is also very much worried about the growing influence of ISIS's Khorasan chapter. Recently, the chief of Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), Alexander Bortnikov, expressed serious concern about the increasing activities of Islamic terrorist organisations in Afghanistan. He alleged

25 people killed in BLA's attacks

Urdu Times (May 25) reports that the Majeed Brigade of Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) targeted the Jaffer Express, which was on its way from Quetta Cantonment to Lahore, carrying out a fierce suicide attack. Twenty-five people were killed in this attack, majority of whom were soldiers. Nearly 75 people were also injured in this attack. All the injured have been admitted to nearby hospitals. Since the condition of injured was stated serious, there is a possibility in the number of deceased going up. Pakistan's defence ministry confirmed this attack through a press release. In order to carry out operations against the BLA, special military units have been sent from Peshawar and Lahore to Quetta with the help of air force.



According to **Chattan** (May 20), terrorists carried out an attack on a police station in Bajour in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in which at least seven policemen were

killed. Pakistan's Home Minister Mohsen Naqvi expressed deep condolences over the death of police officials killed in this attack. He said that during the attack, the terrorists also targeted a polio immunisation team which was staying at the police station, in which three persons belonging to the team were killed. It is to be noted that a few fundamentalists and terrorists have been staging violent protests against polio eradication campaign at the local level. They believe that the Pakistan government is killing innocent children under the pretext of this campaign.

Pakistan refuses to enter into diplomatic relations with Israel



Aurangabad Times (May 27) states that Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif announced that Pakistan government has rejected the request of the US government in which Pakistan was told to grant recognition to Israel and establish diplomatic relationship with them. He said that despite the US pressure, Pakistan will not make any compromise with its fundamental principles and neither will it step back. Asif said, "How can we sit with such people, whose words cannot be trusted even for a day. Pakistan is the only such country in the world on whose passport it has been clearly written that it is valid in all the countries in the world except Israel." He admitted that US President Donald Trump has put pressure on several Muslim nations including Pakistan to join the 'Abraham Accord' but Pakistan will not join it under any circumstance. The issue of Palestine is deeply connected to the people of Pakistan, both emotionally and religiously.

Hindustan (May 27) states that Saudi Arabia has told the US in no

uncertain terms that until Israel grants recognition to an independent and sovereign Palestinian state, no kind of agreement will be possible with the country. It is to be noted that Trump has proposed Muslim nations like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan and Turkiye to establish diplomatic relationship with Israel under 'Abraham Accord,' which these countries had rejected. It is to be noted that four Muslim nations—

United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Sudan and Bahrain—which are already part of Abraham Accord, had established diplomatic relationship with Israel.

Siasat (June 3) in its editorial said the US Administration has been making continuous efforts to ensure that more and more Muslim nations join the 'Abraham Accord.' The strategy of US President Trump is that in order to contain the influence of Iran in West Asia, a new group of Muslim nations shall be formed, which will have friendly relations with Israel. This diplomatic effort was started in 2020, following which the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain granted recognition to Israel under US mediation. Later, Morocco and Sudan also joined this alliance. However, several Muslim nations strongly opposed this effort of the US. Due to this reason, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are not openly willing to establish diplomatic relationship with Israel. However, there has been talk in diplomatic circles about informal or indirect trade relations between them.

Fundamentalist Islamic stance in Bangladesh's foreign policy

Urdu Times (May 22) states that the new Bangladesh government headed by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has brought a major change in its foreign policy. As per the directions of the government, in all the passports which will be issued in future,

this sentence will once again be written, "this passport will be valid for all the nations in the world except Israel." It is to be noted that this sentence was removed in 2020 during the regime of Sheikh Hasina. This apart, in the inside pages of the new

passports, the photos of several historical places including the tomb of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman located in Tungipara, the freedom monument in Suhrawardi Udhyan, Padma Bridge, Roopur Nuclear Power Plant, Mujibnagar Memorial have been removed.

Hamara Samaj (May 27) states that Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman announced that he will begin his foreign journey with a visit to China. However, till now the tradition was that the Bangladesh Prime Minister used to first visit India. Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh told media persons that the Chinese visit of Tarique Rahman will begin a new chapter in the relations between the two countries. China will fully cooperate with Bangladesh for political stability, financial development and public welfare. This apart, the agreement with India on Ganga water sharing will be reconsidered.

The advisor in Bangladesh's foreign ministry Humayun Kabir said the talks held by Bangladesh Prime Minister with China regarding the development of Teesta river has been beneficial and China has assured to extend financial cooperation for this project. This apart, China has also assured that it would also cooperate to find a



solution to the economic and food crisis of Bangladesh and a plan is being formulated to supply Chinese rice to Bangladesh in appropriate quantity as a gift.

The same newspaper said in another news that China has assured economic cooperation in order to stop increasing inflation, energy crisis and the increasing production costs. Till now, Bangladesh imports nearly 95 percent of its energy needs. Bangladesh government hopes that now with the cooperation of China, this dependence on India and other countries will be reduced to a great extent. China has also assured to extend a financial aid for nine billion dollars to Bangladesh. ■

Attack on mosque in the US



Siasat (May 21) states that two armed assailants opened indiscriminate firing on the biggest mosque in San Diego in California in which five persons including

the two assailants were killed on the spot. As per media reports, the assailants tried to target nearly 140 children studying in the madrasa on the masjid premises. In order to



save the children, 51-year-old security person at the masjid, Amin Abdullah, returned the fire at the attackers, following which they killed Amin. This apart, two other employees of the masjid, Mansour Kaziha and Nader Awad, were also killed in this attack, who distracted the attention of the assailants and saved the lives of the children. As soon as information about the incident was received, the local police and the personnel of FBI immediately arrived on the spot and took control of the situation. Due to the cordon of the police, the two assailants fled from there in a car and after a few kilometres, they opened fire against each other and committed suicide. It said that the assailants were aged 18 years.

Etemaad (May 20) states that the police chief of New York said following

the attack on the masjid in San Diego, the security system has been tightened in all the masjids and Islamic centres in the US. The surveillance on people belonging to anti-Islam organisations in the country has been tightened. It has also been suggested that there may be attacks on Jewish places of worship in response to this incident, which will result in increased vigilance there too. New York Mayor Zohram Mamdani said that the increasing Islamophobia in the US is quite dangerous. He urged all US citizens to get united and take on Islamophobia and stand against the politics of fear. On the other hand, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer also, while condemning this incident, said that the security system has been tightened in masjids and Islamic centres in London as well.

Israeli army shuts down historic Ibrahimi Mosque



Inqilab (May 31) reports that the Israeli army has completely closed the historic Ibrahimi Mosque located in the city of Hebron in the southern West Bank. Taking forceful action, the army expelled the imams, administrators, and worshippers present on the mosque premises.

The main feature of this religious site is that followers of three religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — consider it their holy place. According to Islamic religious beliefs, the graves of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and his family are located at this sacred spot.

On the other hand, Jewish and Christian religious books refer to this place as the 'Cave of Machpelah'. Christians and Jews call it the 'Cave of the Patriarchs', while Muslims call it the 'Ibrahimi Mosque'.

According to historians, the history of the massive wall built at this site is nearly 2,000 years old. Later, in the 12th century, it was converted into a church, the construction of which was originally built

on existing ancient structures. At the end of the 12th century, sultans of the Ayyubid dynasty converted it into a mosque.

Until 1967, the entire area was under Jordan's control, and Jewish entry was prohibited. When Israel took control of the West Bank, a Jewish place of worship was also established in a part of this complex.

Arab countries are strongly protesting Israel's closure of this Muslim religious site and the restrictions on Muslim entry. The Palestinian ministry of Waqf and religious affairs called it an attack on religious freedom. The Palestinian authorities have accused Israel of trying to turn this entire Islamic worship site into a Jewish one. For this reason, the mosque has been locked and sealed, and the Israeli army has surrounded it. Military checkpoints have been established, due to which no Muslim is being allowed to enter this area.

Urdu Times (June 1) reports that a large number of Jews entered Masjid Al-Aqsa, waved the Israeli flag, and sang the



Israeli national anthem. Moreover, they also started their religious prayers and rituals within the mosque premises. The

Palestinian news agency, Wafa, has alleged that Israeli security forces provided full protection to these Jews and have long been involved in a plan by Israel to change Masjid Al-Aqsa into a Jewish place of worship. This incident is a part of that.

According to reports, since the beginning of this year, Israeli authorities have demolished more than 200 houses and other commercial establishments in the city. Their intention is to settle Jews around this sacred mosque.

Israel's refusal to vacate Lebanese regions

Etemaad (May 31) reports that the US attempt to mediate an agreement between Israel and Lebanon has failed. According to Israeli media, Israel has flatly refused to vacate the areas of southern Lebanon it recently occupied.

Significantly, Lebanon had pressured the US to make Israel vacate the areas it has occupied. It is said that the US was also in favour of Israel withdrawing its troops from these areas.

According to Lebanese media, the two countries were not engaged in any direct talks regarding this context. Instead, they were communicating through a US mediator. Lebanon had sought clarification on the conditions under which Israel was refusing to vacate these areas.

Israel clearly stated that until Hezbollah completely disarms and hands over its weapons to an international mission, it will not vacate these areas, as there remains a serious threat of new attacks on Israel from Hezbollah in this region.

It is reported that Hezbollah is continuously refusing to accept the disarmament proposal. A Pentagon spokesperson stated that they want a permanent peace to be established between the two countries and for Israel to fully

respect the sovereignty and integrity of Lebanon. Notably, despite the ceasefire between the two countries on April 16, Israel violated it by attacking several areas of Lebanon. According to a spokesperson for the Lebanese government, more than 3,500 Lebanese citizens have been killed so far due to Israeli attacks, and the series of attacks is still ongoing.

Siasat (June 1) reports that the Israeli army has entered up to 30 km into Lebanon and has captured the hills of southern Lebanon and the historic Beaufort Castle. Arab media reported that Israel has captured approximately 2,000 square kilometres of area in Lebanon, which is 20 per cent of Lebanon's total area.

The Israeli defence ministry has appealed to the citizens of Nabatieh city and its surrounding areas to vacate this area, as the Israeli army is going to bomb this region. According to media reports, for the first time in 26 years, the Israeli army has entered so deep into the Lebanese border. The Prime Minister of Lebanon has condemned the Israeli occupation, while Egypt, showing solidarity with Lebanon, has demanded the withdrawal of the Israeli army. On the other hand, rocket attacks on northern Israel from Hezbollah's side have started again.



According to latest news reports, the Israeli army is preparing for a large-scale ground attack at the border for operations in southern Lebanon. The Israeli army has claimed that its forces have crossed the Litani river and begun attacking Hezbollah positions in northern regions. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that he has ordered the Israeli army to intensify military actions not only in southern Lebanon but also in their capital Beirut and the Beqaa Valley. Lebanon has demanded immediate intervention from the United

Nations Security Council regarding this matter.

Urdu Times (May 31) reported that differences between Israel and the United States are increasing. For decades, US foreign policy was deeply influenced by Israel, but now the US is prioritising its own regional interests. Recently, the US pressured Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, but instead of retreating, Israel intensified its military campaign.

Further, the US now prefers a solution through dialogue with Iran instead of war, whereas Israel finds this unacceptable because it considers Iran's growing power a permanent threat to itself. The interests of both countries are clashing on this point. Unfortunately, President Trump has so far ignored US interests due to friendship with Israel. However, if the US reaches an agreement with Iran, the opposition against Trump in the US might decrease, as the US public is against any new war with Iran.

70% of Gaza's area under Israeli control



Urdu Times (May 30) reports that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he has directed the Israeli

army to conduct necessary military operations to establish control over more areas of Gaza. He claimed that currently, about 70 per cent of the Gaza area is under the control of the Israeli army, and the scope of this occupation will now be expanded.

According to a report by *Al Jazeera*, Germany's foreign ministry has condemned this occupation of Gaza by Israel. A spokesperson for the German foreign ministry stated that the humanitarian situation in Gaza is already extremely tense. In such a situation, if Israel occupies more areas

through military force, it will further increase tensions.

Significantly, Germany is generally considered a major and reliable ally of Israel. Despite this, it had stopped the supply of military equipment and weapons to Israel that could be used in this war. Amnesty International, expressing concern over the Israeli plan, stated that lakhs of civilians have been displaced due to the war in Gaza and the economic infrastructure has been completely destroyed. In such a situation, further escalating this war is not in the interest of world peace.

Inqilab (May 31) reports that Israel's claims of taking control over more areas of Gaza suggest that it is trying to take control of the strip. According to the report, under the proposed 20-point peace plan of US President Trump in October 2025, the Israeli government was supposed to withdraw its troops from 58 per cent of the Gaza area, but Israel did not follow this agreement.

On the contrary, it has occupied 11 per cent more area. Israel has also established many military posts in the occupied areas of Gaza.

Inqilab (May 24) reports that *Al Jazeera* has claimed that during the Gaza war since October 2023, not only the US but 51 other countries have also supplied weapons, military equipment, and other material to Israel.

Although there were appeals across the world to break trade ties with Israel, satellite images, shipping data, and government export records confirmed that 51 countries were sending weapons and



spare parts to Israel. US provided the most help in this, accounting for 42 percent of Israel's total foreign goods supplied.

India ranks second in this matter, having sent 26 percent of military equipment to Israel. This includes ammunition, drones, and other military supplies. Among other large countries, Romania supplied 8 per cent, Taiwan 4 per cent, and the Czech Republic supplied 3 per cent of the material. The report also claims that European countries supplied 19 per cent and East and South-East Asian countries supplied 8 per cent of the material to Israel, which includes China, South Korea, Vietnam, and Singapore. An important point to note is that some of these countries supported the UN proposal to not send military weapons to Israel. Despite this, they continued to send military equipment to Israel secretly.

The most surprising fact is that Türkiye also supplied material worth one million dollars to Israel. Later, the Turkish government claimed it had severed all trade ties with Israel, but it continued to send military supplies to Israel covertly.

Expulsion of Pakistani Shias by UAE

Etemaad (May 23) states that the relations between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Pakistan are becoming increasingly tense day-by-day. According to latest news reports, more than 10,000 Pakistani citizens have been deported from Dubai and Abu

Dhabi, the majority of whom belong to the Shia community.

Pakistani expatriates allege that before sending them back, UAE authorities seized all their belongings and accumulated savings. This action by the UAE

government has caused significant uproar in Pakistan. The Opposition parties in Pakistan's Parliament cornered the government on this issue and registered strong protests.

Following this, the Shehbaz Sharif government made an official announcement that a special committee of the ministry of foreign affairs would conduct a detailed investigation into this matter.

Hamara Samaj (May 26) states that the main reason for the tension that has recently arisen between the UAE and Pakistan is that the UAE suspected that Pakistan allowed the Iranian Air Force to use its military bases to attack US and UAE sites. However, the Pakistan government has officially and strongly denied these allegations.

Conversely, the UAE government has indicated that these serious allegations have been thoroughly investigated and confirmed by their intelligence department. According to another report, British news agency, Reuters, reported on the expulsion of people from the Jhelum and Chakwal districts of Pakistan from the UAE. Interviews of migrants were taken in which they alleged that UAE intelligence agencies had been monitoring their activities for a long time.

The UAE government suspects that Shia Muslims living in the country are spying for Iran, and based on information received from them, Iran has carried out rocket and missile attacks at several locations in the UAE, causing heavy damage. The Pakistani Shia organisation Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen, in a press



conference, alleged that following the recent war, more than 10,000 Pakistani Shias have been expelled from Gulf countries. These people had been living in these countries for the last three to four decades. The spokesperson of this organisation claimed that at least four Gulf countries seized all the belongings and property of these Shia Muslims before sending them to Pakistan and froze their bank accounts. Along with this, they also snatched the passports and visa documents of these citizens.

Etemaad (May 23) reports that the Pakistan government admitted in a written response to a question in Parliament that in the last five years, more than 4,50,000 citizens of Pakistani origin have been deported from Gulf countries. The highest number of Pakistanis were deported from Saudi Arabia, totalling 2,25,000. These citizens face serious allegations of entering Saudi Arabia illegally, violating visa rules, and organised begging. The government also confirmed that during this period, 370 Pakistani citizens were given the death penalty in Saudi Arabia. These individuals were accused of drug trafficking and participating in anti-government activities. UAE ranks second in the deportation of Pakistani citizens, with a total of 1,50,000.

Return of pilgrims from Mecca begins



Inquilab (May 25) reports that this time 17 lakh foreign and local pilgrims participated in the Haj in Saudi Arabia. This time too there was severe heat and a temperature of even more than 50 degrees Celsius was recorded in Mecca.

To protect the pilgrims from the severe heat, the Saudi government had made arrangements for air-conditioned sheds and water on a large scale. The use of umbrellas was made mandatory for all pilgrims. According to media reports, about 600 pilgrims died due to this severe heat, including around 100 Indian pilgrims. Air-conditioned tents were arranged for more than 10 lakh pilgrims to stay in Mina and the plains of Arafat.

For the care and security of the pilgrims, 40,000 soldiers and security personnel were deployed. In addition to this, more than 5,000 medical centres were established, in which 10,000 doctors and other medical staff were stationed.

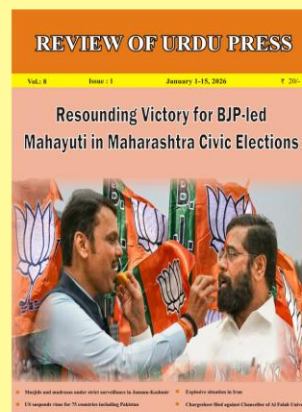
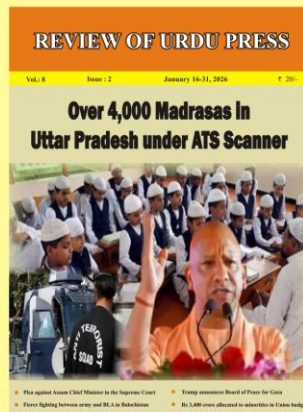
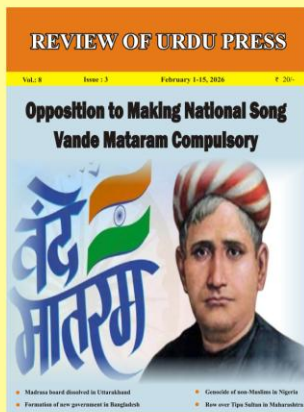
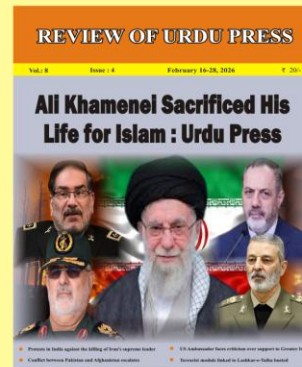
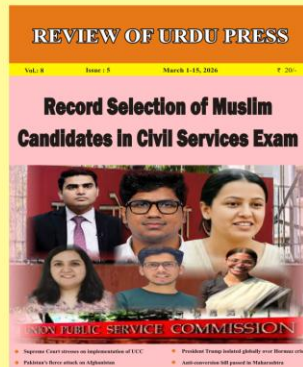
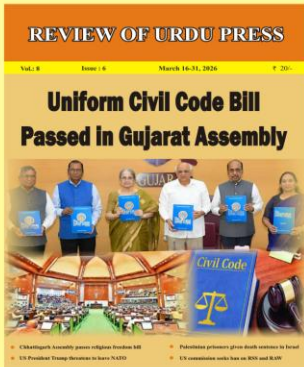
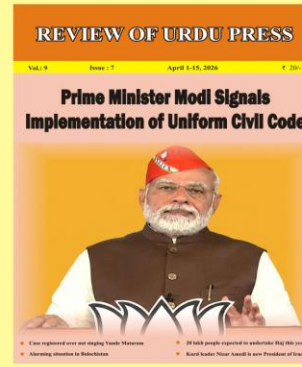
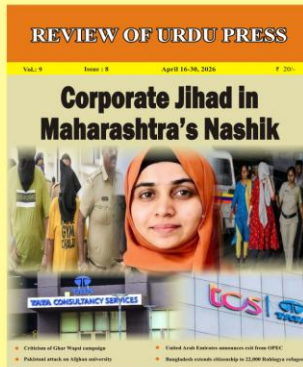
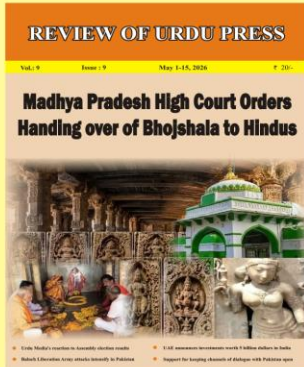
Siasat (May 26) states that due to the ongoing war in West Asia and

disruptions in air travel, the Saudi government feared that pilgrims from countries around the world might not be able to arrive as expected. However, this apprehension proved to be completely baseless because this year's figure was even higher than the number of pilgrims last year.

Muslim countries like the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, etc., arranged special flights to transport pilgrims to Mecca. Saleh Al-Murajba, commander of Saudi Arabia's Haj Passport Forces, stated in a press conference that more than 17 lakh pilgrims performed Haj this time, whereas last year this number was 16,73,230.

Hindustan Express (May 23) reports that the security arrangements for the pilgrims this time were made by Saudi Arabia's Home Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Haj Committee, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud. State-of-the-art digital systems were put in place to monitor the movement of pilgrims, and digital smart cards were provided to all pilgrims. To keep watch on the activities of the pilgrims, 26 security aircraft and 500 drones were deployed round-the-clock.

According to another news report, on behalf of the royal family of Saudi Arabia, Haj invitations were extended to 1,735 distinguished guests from 75 countries, and arrangements for their stay etc. were made by the royal family. This time, Muslims from 165 countries took part in the Haj.



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