

# REVIEW OF URDU PRESS

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## Uniform Civil Code Implemented in Uttarakhand



- Anti-Conversion Bill tabled in Rajasthan Assembly
- Salwan Momika, who burned the Quran in Sweden, killed

- Ceasefire declared between Israel and Hamas
- Mumbai terror attack accused to be extradited from the US

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## **Contents**

<b>Summary</b>	03
<b><u>National</u></b>	
Uniform Civil Code implemented in Uttarakhand	04
Preparations to table Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament	07
Mumbai terror attack accused to be extradited from the US	10
Anti-Conversion Bill tabled in Rajasthan Assembly	11
Bail application of former PFI chairman rejected	12
<b><u>World</u></b>	
Salwan Momika, who burned the Quran in Sweden, killed	14
Pakistan's plan to spread terrorism in North-East India	16
Imran Khan gets 14-year jail term	17
Four sentenced to death in Pakistan for 'online blasphemy'	18
Six Pakistanis jailed for attacking French journalists	18
Chinese citizen killed in Afghanistan	19
<b><u>West Asia</u></b>	
Ceasefire declared between Israel and Hamas	20
Terrorist attack on Supreme Court of Iran	22
Houthi rebels declared international terrorist organisation	23
Ahmed al-Sharaa appointed interim President of Syria	23
Saudi Arabia to invest 600 billion dollars in the US	25
54 people killed in attack in market in Sudan	26

## Summary

Uttarakhand has become the first state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country. With the implementation of this law, the practice of polygamy will come to an end in the state. This apart, all the residents of Uttarakhand, even if they stay outside the state, will have to register their marriage and divorce. It will be mandatory to register all the marriages and divorces that have taken place after March 2010. Also, the same law will be applicable to the followers of all religions on marriage, divorce, alimony and succession. A provision has been made to award a three-month jail term and a fine of Rs 25,000 for non-registration of marriage and divorce. For marriage, a minimum age of 21 years has been prescribed for men and a minimum age of 18 years has been prescribed for women. With the implementation of this law, prevalent practices like *halala* and *iddat* have also been stopped. If husband and wife are alive, the other partner will not be allowed a second marriage without a divorce. Sons and daughters will get equal rights in ancestral property. This apart, adopted children as well as children born outside wedlock will also get the same rights as normal children. It will be mandatory for all couples staying in live-in relationships to register themselves. A couple can take a house on rent only on the basis of the receipt of such a registration. The law also gives legal sanctity to children born out of live-in relationship. Muslim organisations have decided to question this law in the court. Their argument is that the government is making undue interference in Islam and Shariah.

An anti-conversion bill has once again been tabled in Rajasthan Assembly after a gap of 16 years. This bill prohibits conversion by force, inducement or by luring people with the promise of marriage and declares it as a non-bailable offence. Though the bill does not mention about Love Jihad, it definitely says that if any individual converts a minor by offering to marry her, he will be awarded 10 years in jail and will have to pay a fine of Rs 5 lakh. The same punishment will be awarded for illegal conversion of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe members. It is worth mentioning that earlier during the regimes of Vasundhara Raje in 2006 and in 2008, a bill named 'Religious Freedom Bill' was passed in the Assembly. That time the UPA government was in power at the Centre and hence the Bill did not get the consent of the President.

Islamic terrorism is growing rapidly in Europe. Recently, a man of Iraqi origin, Salwan Momika, was murdered in Swedish capital Stockholm. This man was accused of burning Quran outside a masjid in 2023. There were strong reactions in Britain and Denmark against the murder of Momika. In protest against this murder, the copies of Quran were burned in public in both the countries.

After one-and-a-half years, a ceasefire agreement has been signed between Israel and Hamas due to pressure from Egypt, Qatar and the US. This apart, a new Sunni government has assumed power in Syria. These Sunni rebels had overthrown the Shia government of Bashar Al-Assad two months ago. Following this, Al-Assad had to flee to Russia with his family.

Pakistan has rapidly started spreading its influence in Bangladesh. Recently, a top military official of Bangladesh, Lt General S M Kamrul Hassan, secretly visited Pakistan. Following this, a high-level delegation under the leadership of ISI chief Lt General Mohammad Asim Malik visited Dhaka. There they also met Paresh Baruah, the chief of banned extremist organisation ULFA. Informed sources believe that Pakistan is again conspiring to ignite the flames of terrorism and separatism in Northeast India with the help of Bangladesh.

## Uniform Civil Code implemented in Uttarakhand



**Roznama Sahara** (January 28) states that Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code. In this connection, a government notification has also been issued. State Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has launched the UCC portal as well. On this occasion, Chief Minister Dhama said that today is a historical day not only for the state, but for the entire nation as well. Now, all the citizens in the state will get same legal rights. He said that all these became possible due to the directions given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is worth mentioning that with the implementation of UCC in the state, there will be same law for all religions on matters of marriage, divorce, alimony and succession. It has been made mandatory to register all the marriages that have taken place after 2010. Arrangements have been made for registration of marriages at gram panchayats and municipal bodies. If any person does not register his or her marriage, he or she will have to pay a fine of Rs 25,000. This apart, he will also be deprived of all governmental benefits. For marriage, the minimum age for man will be 21 years and for women, it will be 18 years. Now, women will also be able to get

divorce like men. Practices like *halala* and *iddat* will end. There will not be any kind of restrictions on women to get married for a second time.

As per the new law, if any individual converts his or her religion without the permission of his or her wife or husband, then the other person will have the right to get divorce and obtain alimony. If both husband and wife are alive, then none among them will be able to get married again without getting a divorce. In the case of divorce or domestic violence, the mother will be the guardian of the child till the age of five years. The son and daughter will have equal rights on the properties. There will be no difference between legitimate and illegitimate children. A child born out of wedlock will have equal rights as a child born outside wedlock. Adopted child or surrogate child will have the same rights as children born naturally. Any individual can give his property to anyone through a Will. It will be mandatory for all staying in a live-in relationship to register themselves on the web portal. Couple in a live-in relationship can take a house on rent only on the basis of the receipt obtained from the registration. Children born out of live-in relationship will be considered as



government has implemented the Uniform Civil Code on the ground. As per another news, the Jamiat Ulema has decided to question this law before the Uttarakhand High Court and the Supreme Court. Jamiat Ulema chief Maulana Arshad Madani said that this law is against the Shariah and hence we will not accept it under any circumstance. A Muslim can

legitimate child. Couple in a live-in relationship needs to do registration for their separation as well. If registration is not done, there could be a jail term of three months and a fine of Rs 25,000 as well. This law will be applicable to all communities except Adivasis.

It is to be noted that a committee of experts was constituted for the UCC on May 27, 2022. This committee had handed over its report to the government on February 2, 2024. The UCC bill was passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly on February 7, 2024. Later it was sent to the President for approval. On March 13, 2024, the President had granted her approval for the UCC Bill. It is worth mentioning that before preparing the draft for the UCC, the committee of experts had studied the Uniform Civil Code in force in countries like Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Indonesia, Nepal, France, Azerbaijan, Germany, Japan and Canada.

As per this new law, if the marriage of any individual in Uttarakhand had taken place after March 26, 2010, it is mandatory to register the same. If the marriage is not registered within six months after the law comes into being, then the individual concerned will have to pay a fine of Rs 10,000. If any individual files wrong information during registration, then a fine of Rs 25,000 will be imposed on him.

As per another news published in this newspaper, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar congratulated the Uttarakhand government for implementing the Uniform Civil Code. He said that today was a very auspicious day, because the Uttarakhand

compromise with everything but can never compromise with his Shariah and Islam. He said that if Adivasis are kept outside this law, why is it implemented on Muslims? Similarly, the chairperson of the other group of Jamiat Ulema, Maulana Mahmoud Madani said that this step by Uttarakhand government is against the Constitution. Its influence will be on the unity and integrity of the nation. Muslims are completely committed to Shariah and Islam and we will not accept those laws that violate the Shariah law. We will not accept it under any circumstance.

**Etemaad** (January 20) states that former chief justice of Supreme Court, Justice Ranjan Gogoi said while delivering a speech in Surat that a same law should be applicable for all people in the country so that everyone should get equal justice. He said that UCC has nothing to do with religion.

**Urdu Times** (January 29) states that All India Muslim Personal Law Board has described the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand as unfortunate. The board said that this is anti-democratic, unconstitutional and a major slap on the basic rights of the citizens. The Muslims in this country will not accept this under any circumstance. No state government has any right to implement the Uniform Civil Code. The Muslim League also passed a resolution and condemned this decision of the government and described it as anti-Islam and anti-Muslim.

**Siasat** (January 28) in its editorial said that it is a new step towards Hindu Rashtra at the behest of BJP. The

newspaper said that the Adivasis have been kept away from this law. It is clear from this that only Muslims are at the target of the BJP. They want to keep Islam and Shariah away from them. The newspaper has appealed to opposition parties that they oppose this dictatorial stand of the government.

**Etemaad** (January 24) in its editorial has opposed the implementation of UCC in the state and said that this is an undue interference by the government in the religion and Shariah of Muslims. Muslims will not accept this under any circumstance. Asaduddin Owaisi, Chief of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, said this cannot be called Uniform Civil Code, because it has not been made applicable to Hindu Marriage Act and Hindu Succession Act. The BJP government is targeting only Muslims. The newspaper said that the BJP is forcibly imposing the Hindu culture on Muslims.

**Hindustan Express** (January 28) in its editorial said this law is against Muslims and its aim is to keep Muslims away from Islam and Shariah. The newspaper has advised that Muslims should strongly oppose this law and should take the cooperation of other minorities as well.

**Hindustan** (January 28) in its editorial has condemned the implementation of UCC in Uttarakhand. The newspaper alleged that the BJP is violating the Constitution. The newspaper said the Uniform Civil Code is a pretext only. The real aim of BJP is to keep Muslims away from Islam and Shariah and integrate them with the majority community. Staunch communal and anti-Muslim Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the saffron organisations affiliated to it are dreaming to convert this secular nation into a Hindu Rashtra for several years, but due to the Constitution, they have not been able to fulfill their nefarious intentions. Now the BJP has started tampering with



the secular Constitution of the country. This decision of the Uttarakhand government is clear evidence of it.

**Munsif** (January 28) in its editorial said the Uniform Civil Code is part of the Directive Principles of the Constitution and discussions have been taking place on it since Independence. However, seeing the political situation that may arise if it is implemented, no government till now has got the courage to implement it. As soon as becoming the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi had made clear his intention to implement the UCC in the country, because he want Indian Muslims to be deprived of the rights given in Shariah. If UCC is implemented in the country, Islam and Shariah will be finished. In the past, the Supreme Court had interfered in Shariah in the Shah Bano case.

The newspaper said the Law Commission had constituted a committee headed by Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan to deliberate on the UCC. In 2018, this commission had stated in its report that may be there is no need for a Uniform Civil Code in the country and in view of the current situation in the country, it would also not be appropriate to implement the same. Muslims have been consistently opposing the Uniform Civil Code. Muslims believe Shariah as being created by Allah and they are strongly against the interference of any court or the government in it. Earlier, the government had created a law against triple talaq and an attempt was made to gauge the mood of the Muslims.

When they accepted it, the confidence of the government increased and now it has openly started interfering in Shariah.

**Etemaad** (February 1) in its editorial said the BJP has demanded implementation of UCC in Bihar as well. Senior BJP leader Prem Ranjan Patel said the UCC should be

implemented in Bihar also like in Uttarakhand. Whereas Janata Dal (United) has rejected this demand. Muslim leaders of JD (U) said the implementation of UCC in Uttarakhand was sad and it is a method to harass the Muslims. This will create communal tension in the state. ■

## Preparations underway to table Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament



**Inquilab** (January 28) states that the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) constituted to deliberate on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill has accepted 14 amendments suggested by the BJP and its allied parties. Whereas it has rejected all the 44 amendments suggested by the Opposition. Now this Bill will be tabled in the Lok Sabha. According to the newspaper, JPC chairman Jagadambika Pal has arbitrarily rejected all the amendments suggested by the Opposition. The suggestions made by crores of Muslims and Muslim institutions in order to amend the draft of this bill were also not accepted. Committee member and Samajwadi Party MP Mohibullah Nadvi described it as a bad joke on Muslims. MPs of Opposition parties alleged that the JPC has become a puppet in the hands of the ruling party and the stand of its chairman Jagadambika Pal is dictatorial.

It is to be noted that there was a total of 31 members in the JPC constituted to

deliberate on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. It had 16 members of NDA, out of which 12 were from the BJP. Similarly, 13 members of the Opposition were also kept in the committee. This apart, one member of YSR Congress and a nominated member were also made part of the committee. When voting took place on the report of the committee, 16 members supported the amendments tabled by the BJP and its allied parties. Whereas 10 members of the Opposition opposed it. Opposition MPs who are included in the JPC said in a joint statement that the chairman of the committee has totally violated the law and only five percent minorities were given the opportunity to present their opinion before the JPC. The memorandums of 95 percent people, who were given importance, had nothing to do with Waqf. The chairman did not even give an opportunity to the Opposition members to present their view. The Central government is trying to paint



this secular country saffron by using its strength in Parliament.

**Avadhnama** (January 28) states that after the end of the JPC meeting, its chairman Jagadambika Pal told journalists that the draft accepted by the committee will make the Waqf law better and more effective. The opposition members opposed the report prepared by the committee and described it as a violation of the religious rights of Muslims. Whereas the BJP said that due to this amendment, there will be transparency and the plunder of Waqf properties will be curbed.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 28) states that Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee alleged that the JPC chairman did to listen to the Opposition members and rejected all our amendments. This is a dictatorial stand. Whereas Jagadambika Pal, while rejecting this allegation of the Opposition, said we worked in a democratic manner and respected the opinion of the majority. He said that all the 44 amendments moved by the Opposition were rejected through division of votes.

**Urdu Times** (January 28) states that the Opposition created a ruckus at a meeting of the JPC held on January 24. They claimed they were not given enough time to deliberate on the amendments being made to draft of the law. Leader of Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema Mirwaiz Umer Farooq said the district magistrate has been given lot of powers in the Waqf Bill and he can do whatever he pleases. The amendments which have been accepted in the draft are totally against the Muslims. Whereas the BJP said the Opposition

parties want to delay the issue and hence they are deliberately creating obstacles in it. Chairman of the JPC Jagadambika Pal said he had given the opportunity to all the members to give their opinion. When I tried to answer to their questions, they created a ruckus and used unparliamentary language against me. This is an effort to weaken the democracy. He said that we will submit this report during the budget session of the Parliament.

**Siasat** (January 20) states that Jamaat-e-Islami had sent 65 suggestions to JPC in which light was thrown on the religious importance of Waqf. The committee also wanted to know whether the benefits of the Waqf property are reaching all the communities of the society or limited only to Muslims? The committee also raised questions over legal complications, unauthorised possession of Waqf and about the role of the members of the Waqf board. Vice-Chairman of Jamaat-e-Islami Malik Motasim Khan said Waqf is very much necessary for the social, economic and religious uplift of Muslims. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill presented in the Parliament will reduce the powers of those who manage the Waqf and the government could seize masjids, kabristans and dargahs. He said the Waqf is centuries-old and it is providing service to the people. It is possible that they do not have legal documents and hence due to the new bill, new controversies may erupt over ownership. The power that has been given to district magistrates is against the original sentiments of the Waqf and also against Islamic Shariah.

**Etemaad** (January 25) states that 10 Opposition members who were taking part in the JPC meeting were suspended. They were protesting against the stand of JPC chairman Jagadambika Pal. The Opposition MPs had alleged that Jagadambika Pal was dancing to the tunes of the government. The chairman lodged his protest over this. During this time, a heated debate took place between Trinamool Congress MP





Kalyan Banerjee and Jagadambika Pal. Later BJP MP Nishikant Dubey moved a resolution seeking the suspension of Opposition members, which the committee approved.

As per another news, Opposition members wrote a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla alleging that Jagadambika Pal has been treating the members like domestic servants and he is not listening to their arguments.

**Roznama Sahara** (January 31) states that the JPC report has been handed over to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Jagadambika Pal told correspondents that this report is of 655 pages. He said they had tried to take the opinion of all sections of the society and visited nine places in this connection. Our aim is to ensure that the benefits of Waqf reach the poor, women and the orphans.

**Etemaad** (January 28) states that the chairman of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Asaduddin Owaisi has alleged that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill presented by the government is an interference in the Muslim Personal Law and it is against the basic tenets of the Constitution.

**Akhbar-e-Mashriq** (January 26) in its editorial alleged that the government is all out against the Muslim Shariah and it wants to pass this bill in the Parliament in a dictatorial manner on the basis of its majority. This is against democracy. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has stressed that the government should not take any decision

regarding Waqf in a haste, because it will create tension in the country. He claimed that the amendments proposed by the people's representatives in Jammu and Kashmir were rejected without any discussion.

**Urdu Times** (January 29) in its editorial alleged that efforts were being made to impose saffron culture on this country, which is totally against the Constitution. The places of worship of Muslims are declared as illegal and bulldozers are used to raze them and Waqf properties are being illegally occupied. The newspaper criticised that Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu have joined the saffron gang instead of raising their voices in support of Muslims. Congress MP Imran Masood said that 90 percent land of the Waqf is not registered. This will give an opportunity to the district magistrate to do arbitrariness and they will hand over the Waqf properties to those people who are not eligible for it. Now it has become clear that the government had constituted the JPC to throw dust in the eyes of Muslims and the Opposition.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (January 29) in its editorial criticised that the chairman of the JPC has rejected all the amendments mooted by Opposition MPs in a dictatorial manner. Whereas all the 14 amendments of BJP and its supporters were approved. It is clear from it that in Parliament the same Waqf (Amendment) Bill will be presented in the Parliament which the BJP wanted.

The surprising thing is that two non-Muslim members will be included in the Central Waqf Council. However, Waqf is purely a Muslim issue and non-Muslims do not have anything to do with it.

**Munsif** (January 29) in its editorial said the JPC has approved the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. It is clear from the manner in which its chairman presented the report that the sending of the Bill to the JPC was just a show-off. It is clear from the report that the chairman of the JPC and BJP leader Jagadambika Pal was fully under the pressure of the Central government. He did what the BJP wanted him to do. Now all the eyes are on the stand of the Telugu Desam Party and the Janata Dal (United) when the Bill is presented in the Parliament. Muslims hope that these two parties will oppose this Bill in the Parliament.

**Hindustan** (January 29) alleged that the government is deliberately interfering in the Shariah matters of Muslims. This is against the basic tenets of the Constitution.

The government wants to impose the UCC on the Muslims in the country and wants to seize their Waqf so that they could arbitrarily handle the Waqf of Muslims.

**Etemaad** (January 30) in its editorial expressed surprise that the JPC has accepted all the 14 amendments moved by the members of the ruling NDA. Whereas all the 44 amendments moved by the Opposition were rejected on the basis of the numerical strength. The stand of the chairman cannot be considered as fair. There is lot of substance on this allegation by the Opposition MPs that the chairman acted in haste at the behest of the government. Due to this, a fear has risen among Muslims that now the BJP government wants to take over Muslim religious places and Waqf properties on the pretext of the law. There is substance in the argument of Muslim leaders that the government, instead of making any interventions in the administration of temples, wants to take control of the Waqf of Muslims.

## Preparations on to extradite Mumbai terror attack accused from the US



**Chattan** (January 28) states that the US Supreme Court has rejected the petition of Canadian businessman of Pakistani origin Tahawwur Hussain Rana. In his petition, Tahawwur had questioned the verdict of a court in Chicago. It is worth mentioning that in May 2023, a court in Chicago had

accepted a request of the Indian government that the US hand over Tahawwur Rana, an accused in the terror attack case that took place in Mumbai on November 26, 2008, to India. The court had also said that Rana will remain in the custody of US government until the US

State department takes any decision on handing over him to India. Commenting on this decision, government lawyer in Mumbai terror attack case, Ujjwal Nikam said this was a major victory for India. Tahawwur is a person who has full information regarding the conspiracy hatched in the terror attack that took place in Mumbai. Nikam said that if this Pakistani origin businessman is handed over to India, it will help unravel Pakistan's role in the entire conspiracy behind the terrorist attack that took place in Mumbai.

It is worth mentioning that in the terrorist attack that took place in Mumbai on November 26, 2008, 166 people were killed. It is said that Pakistani terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba was behind the attack. In 2011, the court in Chicago found Tahawwur Rana guilty of helping Lashkar-e-Taiba, but he was acquitted on charges of planning the Mumbai attack and taking part in it. In 2013, the court sentenced him to 14 years in jail. In 2020, he was released from US jail due to Corona pandemic, but the Indian government requested the US government to hand over Tahawwur Rana to the Indian government because Rana is a wanted accused in India. Following this, Rana was arrested once again. Tahawwur Rana rejected all the allegations raised against him. Whereas India had said that Rana, along with his friend David Coleman Headley, conspired for the Mumbai attacks and extended cooperation to Pakistani terrorist

organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba to carry out attacks in Mumbai.

In this case, the Indian government had said that Tahawwur had established a branch of his firm 'First World Immigration Service' in Mumbai with the help of Headley. Headley had used this firm to carry out the attack in Mumbai. Headley, who was undergoing a 35-year jail term in the US on charges of involvement in the Mumbai attacks, had testified against Tahawwur Rana in 2011. Government pleader in the Mumbai terror attacks case Ujjwal Nikam told news agency 'ANI' that as per his information it happened for the first time that the US government had accepted the evidences produced by an Indian investigation agency.

Tahawwur Hussain Rana was born in Pakistan. He joined the Pakistan Army as a doctor after obtaining a medical degree. In 2001, he and his wife got Canadian citizenship. In 2009, the couple were staying in Chicago just before their arrest. Rana was running an immigration and travel agency there. Tahawwur Rana was accused of 12 charges. This included extending help to kill American citizens. He was also accused of maintaining contacts with Major Iqbal of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. Tahawwur used to provide financial help to Lashkar-e-Taiba at the behest of Iqbal. It is worth mentioning that six American citizens were also killed in the Mumbai attacks. ■

## Anti-conversion bill tabled in Rajasthan Assembly

**Etemaad** (February 4) states that the BJP government in Rajasthan has tabled an anti-conversion bill in the Assembly. The bill has been named as 'Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025'. As per this bill, those involved in illegal conversion will not get bail and a case will be filed against them in the court. The purpose of this bill is to ban illegal conversion from one religion to another. A provision has been made to award 10-year-

jail term and a fine of Rs 50,000 to those involved in illegal conversions. Presenting the bill in the Assembly, state minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar said the purpose of this bill is to declare conversions using fraud, coercion, pressure or marriage offer as an offence. In this bill, a provision has been made to award a jail term of at least one year to those accused of conversion through illegal means. This sentence could be extended to five years. This apart, the



accused will also have to pay a fine of Rs 15,000. Those accused of converting minor girl or any person belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe will be given a sentence of at least 2 years in jail. This sentence could be extended up to 10 years. Along with this, the accused will have to pay a fine of Rs 25,000 as well. If any person is involved in mass conversions, then he could get a sentence ranging from 3 years to 10 years and the accused will have to pay a fine of Rs 50,000. As per this bill, if any person wants to convert his religion on his own, he has to inform the district magistrate regarding the same 60 days in advance.

According to the government, the purpose of this bill is to give religious freedom to all the people in the country and to maintain secularism. Though the law that bans conversions through force, coercion and marriage offer is present in several states, there is no such law in Rajasthan till now. In this bill, it has also been provided that if any person is converted through fraud, coercion or

marriage offer, the victim should be given a compensation upto Rs 5 lakh. In this bill, a provision has also been made that if any person is caught for conversion after being punished for the same once, he will get double punishment next time.

State's law minister Jogaram Patel said in the Assembly that there is a rapid increase in incidents of forceful conversion, conversion using allurements and love jihad; hence it has become necessary to bring a law in this connection. If any person converts on his own will, there will not be any kind of restrictions on him, but he has to give in writing regarding the same to the district magistrate 60 days in advance. Patel said that currently there is no law in Rajasthan to stop forceful religious conversion and love jihad and hence this law is being presented in the Assembly. It is to be noted that the Vasundhara Raje government had also presented an anti-conversion bill in the Assembly in 2008, but the President did not give consent to the same. Now the Bhajan Lal Sharma government has presented this new bill.

## Bail plea of former president of Popular Front rejected

**Hindustan** (January 18) states that the Supreme Court has refused to grant bail to the former chief of Popular Front of India (PFI), E Abubacker, on health grounds. It is to be noted that the National Investigation

Agency (NIA) had carried out a drive against the banned Islamic organisation Popular Front in September 2022. Abubacker was arrested during this time. The government opposed the bail

application of Abubacker in the court. The NIA submitted a report in the court and claimed that the Popular Front has been organising secret camps to provide training to youths on terrorist activities and it has been getting financial aid from abroad to spread disturbance in the country. NIA said that the Central government imposed a ban on Popular Front for five



years on September 28, 2022 on the basis of this report. The government has got strong evidence that Popular Front had been in regular touch with Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS. In his bail application, 72-year-old Abubacker had said that he has been suffering from Parkinson's disease and cancer. He also claimed that the NIA had failed to provide any credible evidence against him in the court and hence he should get bail, but the Supreme Court rejected his bail application.

**Roznama Sahara** (January 29) states that the NIA raided 20 places in Tamil Nadu. The raids were conducted jointly by teams from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. According to police sources, the raids were conducted on the bases of banned organisation Popular Front of India. Earlier also the NIA had raided 50 places in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. Meanwhile, the raids were linked to the murder of PMK leader Ramalingam. In 2019, the activists of Popular Front had murdered Ramalingam. He was opposing the conversion of Dalits to Islam. Earlier,

the NIA had filed chargesheet against 18 people on this issue. This apart, the NIA had raided 12 places including Chennai, Kanyakumari and Pudukottai. This raid was conducted in connection with the recruitment done for banned terrorist organisation Hizb-ut-Tahrir. On August 31, 2024, a senior leader of Hizb-ut-Tahrir Jaleel Aziz Ahmad was arrested from Bengaluru airport when he was trying to flee to Malaysia. Earlier, the Tamil Nadu police had arrested six persons belonging to this banned organisation on the basis of secret information. Cases were registered against them under UAPA.

**Inquilab** (January 26) states that the NIA had raided more than 50 places in Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Jammu and Reasi. More than 50 people were arrested in this connection. This apart, NIA conducted raids in search of terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba and organisation linked to it TRF in Srinagar, Budgam and Sopore. In this connection, nearly a dozen suspects were taken into custody.

## Salwan Momika, who burned Quran in Sweden, murdered



**Etemaad** (January 31) reports that Salwan Momika, who was accused of desecrating Islamic religious text Quran, was murdered in Sweden. In 2023, Momika had publically burned Quran several times. A huge uproar took place in Islamic world that time over the burning of Quran in Sweden. Many Muslim nations even cut-off diplomatic relationship with Sweden. A case has also been pending against Momika in a court in Sweden over desecration of Quran and in this connection the verdict was also expected in a few days. It is worth mentioning that Salwan Momika, accused of burning the Quran, was a Christian of Iraqi origin. According to police sources, the attacker intruded into the flat of Momika and shot him dead. When the police received information regarding the incident, they reached Momika's flat. They found Momika lying riddled with bullets. He was later taken to the hospital. The doctors declared him dead at the hospital.

Commenting on this incident, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said the hands of foreign powers were behind the murder of Salwan Momika. Addressing a press conference, the Prime Minister said our security department is investigating this murder case with utmost seriousness. An indication has been received that this murder was executed at

the behest of a foreign government. In this connection, the police have taken five persons into custody and they are being interrogated. It is also claimed that the murderers had shown the incident live on social media. A co-accused of Momika in Quran burning case, Salwan Najem, said he is also getting death threats and his life is in danger.

According to the newspaper, the Swedish government had decided to expel Momika from the country, but seeing that his life is in danger, the decision was stayed. In 2023, public anger erupted in Muslim world over the so-called desecration of Quran. A huge mob attacked the Swedish Embassy located in Baghdad and set it on fire. Similarly, a huge mob targeted the Swedish Embassy in Tehran as well. Massive protests were held in several Muslim countries against the incident. The Swedish government had condemned the incident of desecration of Quran. However, the government also said that since there is freedom of expression in Sweden, there is difficulty in stopping such incidents. In view of the protests from Muslim world, Sweden had cancelled the residential permit of 38-year-old Salwan Momika and the issue of granting him political asylum was kept in abeyance. Though Iraq had demanded that Momika, accused of

burning Quran, should be handed over to it so that a case could be registered against him, the Swedish government, citing the law regarding the freedom of expression, refused to hand over Momika to Iraq.

Momika was a resident of Mosul city in Iraq. He was staying in Sweden for the past few years. He burnt a few pages of Quran outside a masjid in Swedish capital Stockholm on June 28, 2023. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini had issued a fatwa to kill Momika. He had announced that whoever kills Momika would be given refuge in Iran. This apart, he will also be given a reward of one crore Riyals.

**Urdu Times** (January 31) states that French news agency 'AFP' has claimed that when Salwan Momika was shot dead, he was doing live streaming on TikTok from his flat in Stockholm. The newspaper also mentioned that when Momika announced to burn Quran in Sweden, the Muslims there demanded a ban on his activities. Following this, Salwan Momika filed a petition before a local court and said that if the government imposes any ban, it will be a violation of freedom of expression in Sweden. On this, the court granted him permission to burn Quran and directed the police to make arrangements for his security. Setting Quran on fire, Momika said he was a critic of Islam and Shariah. He said that a few aayats of Quran are against humanity. In 2017, Salwan Momika had formed an armed group against Islam in Iraqi city of Mosul. Later he was forced to leave Iraq. In 2021, Sweden had decided to grant him refuge in the country.

**Etemaad** (January 26) states that for the first time a case was registered in Denmark on charges of desecration of Quran. Two persons were made accused in this case. It is to be noted that on December



7, 2023, insult to Quran or Islam has been declared as a crime in Denmark. In this connection, a law was also passed by Denmark Parliament. As per this new law, a provision has been made to award a two-year jail term and a fine for those desecrating Quran.

**Urdu Times** (February 3) states that the police have taken into custody a man who burnt Quran in Manchester in Britain. This incident took place two days after the murder of Salwan Momika in Sweden. This apart, leader of right wing organisation Stram Kurs, Rasmus Paludan, also burned Quran outside the Turkish Embassy located in Denmark in protest against the murder of Momika and posted it on social media. It is worth mentioning that a court in Sweden had sentenced Paludan on charges of desecrating Quran in November 2024. Saudi Arabia has protested against these incidents and demanded from the government that it take stringent steps to stop increasing incidents of insulting Islam and Quran.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (January 24) states that an Islamic Jihadi stabbed to death a two-year-old child and a 41-year-old man in Germany. Several people were also injured in this attack. This incident took place in Bavaria province in Aschaffenburg region in Germany. German police said that the 28-year-old attacker is of Afghan origin. He was given asylum in Germany as a refugee four years ago.

## Pakistan's plan to spread terrorism in North-East India



military activities taking place in the neighbourhood of Bharat. As per a news of Daily Star, these Pakistani military officials also met the chief of terrorist organisation ULFA, Paresh Baruah. Baruah is staying in Bangladesh for a long time now. After Sheikh Hasina came to power, he was arrested. He was accused of trying to send 10 truckloads of

According to the **Daily Star** (January 24) published from Dhaka, a high-level team of officials of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI recently visited Bangladesh. After the Yunus government came to power in Bangladesh, Pakistan has started rapidly spreading its network in Bangladesh. Its plan is to spark the flames of terrorism in North-East India once again. It is worth mentioning that last month, Bangladesh's army chief Waker-uz-Zaman visited Pakistan. There he met the army chief of Pakistan and the top officials of intelligence agency ISI. The Bangladeshi newspaper has also confirmed that four top officials of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI visited Bangladesh. These Pakistani officials have stayed at Rangpur located on India-Bangladesh border for two days. Rangpur is located near India's military cantonment Siliguri. This Pakistani delegation included the chief of ISI Lt General Mohammad Asim Malik, Major General Shahid Amir Afsar, Major General Alam Amir Awan and Mohammad Usman Jatif. It is worth mentioning that in the beginning of January, a top officer of Bangladesh Army, Lt General S M Kamrul Hassan, also visited Islamabad.

Spokesperson of India's foreign ministry Randhir Jaiswal told journalists that we are keeping a close watch on the

weapons and ammunition from Chatgaon to India with the help of former home minister of Bangladesh, Lutfozzaman Babar and five other persons. According to Bengali newspaper 'Pratham Oli' published from Dhaka, the Dhaka high court has acquitted all the six accused in the case, which included Paresh Baruah. A court in Bangladesh had awarded death sentence to Baruah. According to the newspaper, during the regime of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), an effort was made to send these weapons to India in order to spark the flames of terrorism in North-East India. Those involved in the conspiracy included the then home minister of Bangladesh and BNP leader Lutfozzaman Babar. It is said that these weapons were supplied by China. The purpose was to spark the flames of terrorism in North-East India.

According to Pakistani newspaper **Jung** (January 20), Lt General S M Kamrul Hassan of Bangladesh Army met Pakistan army's chief General Asim Munir in Islamabad. Following this visit, ISI chief Lt General Asim Malik had made a secret visit to Bangladesh this month. After the independence of Bangladesh, this was the first visit by Pakistan's top military officials to Bangladesh.



## Imran Khan gets 14 years in jail



**Hindustan** (January 18) states that a court in Pakistan has awarded a 14-year-jail term to former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, currently lodged in a jail in the Al-Qadir Trust case. In this case, wife of Imran, Bushra Bibi, has also been sentenced to seven years in jail. This case was heard by judge of anti-corruption court Nasir Jawed Rana at Adiyala jail. Imran Khan is currently lodged in Adiyala jail in Rawalpindi. In his verdict, Rana has found Imran Khan and his wife guilty of corruption. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Imran Khan and Rs 5 lakh on Bushra Bibi. If the fine is not paid, Imran Khan has to spend six more months in jail while his wife will have to spend three more months in jail. The court also directed that the Pakistan government take the Al-Qadir University into its control. Following the verdict of the court, Bushra Bibi, who was present in the court, was immediately taken into custody.

According to government lawyer, former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi have been accused of giving bribe to a businessman in Pakistan, Malik Riaz, and acquired land worth billions of rupees for Al-Qadir University. The Pakistani media has described the Al-Qadir Trust case as a scam worth 190 million pounds. The court had concluded the hearing in the case on December 18,

2024. Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and lawyer Faizal Chaudhary said this verdict of the court is a shameful example of the misuse of judiciary for political purposes. He said this verdict will be questioned in the high court. As per a statement issued through the official Facebook page of PTI, Imran Khan, while commenting about the verdict, said the verdict has lowered the dignity of the

court. He said that all the cases registered against him were baseless and were out of political enmity.

According to the newspaper, the foundation of Al-Qadir Trust was laid during the regime of former prime minister Imran Khan in 2019. Its prominent trustees include Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi and their close friend Farah Gogi. In order to establish the Al-Qadir Trust, the then Prime Minister Imran Khan had taken permission in a blank cheque from his cabinet. For this, Pakistan got 190 million pounds from Britain. This amount was transferred to Pakistan to settle a plot of Bahria Town.

Britain's National Crime Agency had conducted an investigation against the owner of Bahria Town, Malik Riaz. Following this, instead of fighting the case, Malik Riaz reached an agreement with the government. Britain's national crime agency described the 190 million pounds as Pakistan's money. Instead of depositing this amount in the treasury of the Pakistan government, the money was handed over to the account of the Supreme Court in which Malik Riaz was donating money in installments to the Pakistani Supreme Court in connection with a dispute of Rs 460 billion in Bahria Town case.

Imran Khan was arrested from the premises of Islamabad High Court on May 9, 2023. Nationwide protests took place

against the arrest of Imran Khan. Later the court released Imran Khan on bail but was arrested again in November 2023 in the same case and the case was handed over to the court. On February 27, 2024, the anti-corruption court in Rawalpindi had found Imran Khan and his wife guilty. According

to Pakistani media, hearings took place 100 times in the case and more than 30 witnesses were produced in the court. The witnesses include former defence minister Pervez Khatak, former minister Jubaida Jalal and the then principal secretary of Imran Khan, Azam Khan.

## Four sentenced to death in Pakistan on charges of ‘online blasphemy’

**Chattan** (January 29) states that a court in Pakistan has awarded death sentence to four persons on charges of posting material related to insulting the Prophet of Islam on social media. Spokesperson of Law Commission on Blasphemy (LCBP) Rau Abdur Rahim said that a court in Rawalpindi awarded death sentence to the accused for the crime of posting online material against Prophet Mohammed and the Quran. Abdur Rahim said that there is rapid increase in incidents of insulting Islam and the Prophet in Pakistan. In August 2023, a Christian village and a church were attacked on charges of so-called desecration of Quran. Abdur Rahim said the government does not encourage such issues. Generally, due to mutual malice and enmity, fake cases of defaming Islam are filed.



As per a report of the Pakistan’s National Human Rights Commission, 767 people were sent to different jails last year

on charges of insulting Islam. Majority of the cases related to insult to Islam are filed against minorities. It is worth mentioning that during the regime of Pakistan’s former President Zia-ul-Haq, an amendment was made in the Pakistan’s Penal Code and a provision was made to award death sentence or life-term to those making objectionable comments against Islam, Quran, Prophet Mohammed and or his family members.

## Six Pakistanis sentenced on charges of attacking French journalists

**Avadhnama** (January 25) reports that a court in France has sentenced to jail six Pakistanis on charges of carrying out a fatal attack on two journalists belonging to ‘Charlie Hebdo’ which published cartoons of the Prophet of Islam. According to French news agency AFP, when 29-year-old Zaheer Mahood attacked the two journalists, he did not know that the office of this journal was shifted from there. Zaheer Mahmood entered the old office of

Charlie Hebdo where he stabbed two persons using knife and seriously injured them. It is worth mentioning that when this French journal published a few cartoons of the Prophet in 2015, a huge controversy erupted in Muslim world. Following this, armed terrorists of Al Qaida attacked the office of this journal and killed 12 people. Following this attack, a controversy had erupted in France over freedom of expression and religious freedom. The



court had held Zaheer Mahmood and his colleagues guilty of conspiring for the murder and spreading terrorism. After the accused complete their sentence, they will be expelled from France.

It is worth mentioning that on September 1, 2020 this French journal had once again published the cartoons of the Prophet. Pakistan's radical maulana and the founder of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan, Khadim Hussain Rizvi, had directed the Muslims across the world that they cut off the head of those who insult the Prophet.

Following this, in order to take revenge on those who insulted the Prophet, Zaheer Mahmood illegally entered France and attacked the old office of the journal along with his colleagues. Two persons were seriously injured in this attack. During the hearing of the case, the lawyer of Zaheer Mahmood argued in the court that Zaheer Mahmood was born in a village in Pakistan and he had no knowledge about France. He did not even know French. He entered France through illegal infiltration and started staying with Pakistanis there. He created a group of five Pakistanis for this attack. There were some minors also among this group. The court meant for the teens awarded punishment ranging from three years to 12 years to the colleagues of Zaheer Mahmood. The children's court also rejected the mercy petition of these attackers. The lawyer of Zaheer Mahmood said they will appeal in the high court against this verdict.

## Murder of Chinese citizen in Afghanistan



**Hindustan** (January 24) states that a Chinese citizen was murdered in Afghanistan. Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS has taken responsibility for this murder. As per media reports, the attack will have a negative effect on the Chinese investments in various projects in Afghanistan. It is being said this Chinese citizen was murdered when he was travelling in a bus in Takhar province in Afghanistan. The Afghan government informed the Chinese embassy that this Chinese citizen had given no prior information to the government regarding his journey, and hence no arrangement could be made for his security. If any

Chinese citizen intends to travel to any region of Afghanistan, he has to provide prior information regarding the same to the government so that arrangements could be made for his security. Police spokesperson Akbar Haqqani said this Chinese citizen was pulled down from the bus and shot dead. The Afghan government has accepted that Islamic terrorist organisation ISIS has been active in the region for a long time where this Chinese citizen was killed.

The Chinese Embassy in Kabul refused to comment on the incident. It is to be noted that work is being done on two dozen projects for the mining of mineral wealth in Afghanistan. China has made investments worth more than 40 lakh dollars on these projects. It is to be noted that after Taliban came to power, there has been a spike in the activities of ISIS. The terrorists of ISIS have been targeting the citizens of Afghanistan, soldiers and senior officials.

## Ceasefire declared between Israel and Hamas



**Urdu Times** (January 17) reports that an agreement has been reached between Israel and Hamas for ceasefire in Gaza. Qatar Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani made a formal announcement regarding this at a press conference in Cairo. He said it was a matter of satisfaction that due to the efforts of Qatar, Egypt and the US, an agreement has been reached between Israel and Hamas. This will be implemented from January 19. Talks are continuing with Israel and Hamas in this connection. Both the sides have decided to release hostages and prisoners. Newly elected President of United States Donald Trump also welcomed this agreement. He said that in the first phase of this deal, arrangements will be made for the exchange of bodies and the injured. This apart, financial aid will be made available on humanitarian basis for the reconstruction of Gaza Strip so that the homeless could be rehabilitated.

As per media reports, Palestinian organisation Hamas has approved the deal for ceasefire. They also said that Israeli hostages will be released in phases. In exchange for this, Israel will release more than 1,000 prisoners. There are some prisoners among them who are in Israeli jails for the past 15 years.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (January 21) states that the Israeli cabinet has approved the

ceasefire agreement but a group of ministers had opposed it. Three ministers including Israel's minister for national security Itamar Ben-Gvir had announced to resign from the cabinet of Benjamin Netanyahu. Ben-Gvir's party Otzma Yehudit announced that they view this agreement as against the interests of Jews and Israel. The party has announced its decision to withdraw its support to Netanyahu government but it would not try to overthrow the Netanyahu government. Israel's finance minister Bezalel Smotrich has also submitted his resignation.

In its edition on January 22, this newspaper said the Israeli Army has also opposed this agreement. Chief of Israeli Army Lt General Herzl Halevi has resigned from his post. He alleged that the Israel government's goal of eliminating Hamas was not achieved. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has assured the countrymen that until Hamas and Hezbollah are eliminated, this war will not be stopped. Halevi said the Netanyahu government has betrayed the Jewish community.

**Hindustan** (January 24) states that ever since the Hamas attack on Israel, six Israeli Generals have resigned from their posts till today. Earlier in November, Benjamin Netanyahu had sacked the then defence minister Yoav Gallant following



differences over the war strategy in Gaza. In Israel, the head of internal security Ronen Bar had also submitted his resignation from his post. Similarly, Mossad chief David Barnea had criticized Hamas for blaming Mossad for attacks on Israel. He said that Mossad's duty is to keep an eye on the enemies of Israel outside the borders of Israel. Commander of Israel's Southern Command Major General Yaron Finkelman has also submitted his resignation from his post. Along with him, head of Israeli military intelligence Aharon Haliva also had to resign, because the media had alleged that Israel's intelligence agencies have failed to provide prior information regarding the attack by Hamas.

**Etemaad** (January 20) states that the newly elected President of United States Donald Trump warned Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu that if Israel does not implement the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, then there would be serious consequences.

**Siasat** (January 17) states that Hamas has described this agreement as the result of Palestine people's courage and valiant struggle. The newspaper said that in the past 15 months, more than 1.5 lakh people were either killed or injured and 10 lakh people became homeless. Israel has totally failed to wipe out Hamas.

**Urdu Times** (January 17) said in its editorial that India did not play any role in the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas. The newspaper claimed that had India been with Palestine, Israel would not

have the courage to attack Gaza, but don't know why the Modi government kept itself away from this. This stand by Bharat has dealt a blow to its image.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (January 23) states that a top official of Hezbollah has admitted that Hezbollah has made the mistake of underestimating the strength of Israel. Due to high-end technological equipment, Israel has succeeded in inflicting massive damage to Hezbollah.

**Urdu Times** (January 22) said in its editorial that it would be difficult to implement this agreement, because the newly elected President of US Donald Trump is not a supporter of it. Similarly, though Israel has signed this agreement for ceasefire due to international pressure, but if one sees the manner in which it is being opposed in Israel, it looks like Israel will not implement this for a long time.

**Siasat** (January 17) in its editorial has welcomed this agreement. The newspaper has requested the United Nations that it provide financial help in huge numbers for the reconstruction of Gaza which has been destroyed in the war. This apart, credible efforts shall be taken for the rehabilitation of those Palestinians who have become homeless in their place. The Jews should be evicted from those places where Israel has illegally seized.

**Hindustan** (January 21) has claimed in its editorial that this agreement reached between Israel and Hamas will not remain for many days. Israel had announced that it would finish off Hamas and Hezbollah, but due to the valour of the people of Palestine it has failed to achieve its objective. Israel will definitely take revenge for this defeat.

**Avadhnama** (January 24) states that this agreement is a good example of diplomatic skills. However, there is doubt whether this agreement will remain for long, because currently both the sides do not trust each other.

**Avadhnama** (February 1) reports that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu has announced that in case Hamas delays in implementing this agreement or violates it, then the Israel Army will enter Gaza again and will wipe out Hamas forever.

**Hindustan Express** (January 30) states that the United Nations had said that 3.75 lakh Palestinians have returned to Gaza Strip. Nearly 50 percent of them are men and the rest are women and children. Earlier, Hamas had also announced that more than 3 lakh people have returned to Gaza. The Israeli soldiers conducted a search on them before allowing them to

enter the area. A top official of the US claimed that Gaza is totally destroyed due to the war and it will take 10-15 years for its reconstruction.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (February 1) states that after visiting Gaza, US Ambassador Steve Witkoff said there is no electricity, no water and no place to live there. Those who are returning are facing lot of difficulties in rehabilitation. Nothing remains in Gaza. Explosives are strewn all around. Walking there is not without risks. He said he has given an indication to the US President about the whole situation.

## Terrorist attack on Supreme Court in Iran



**Etemaad** (January 19) reports that an attacker had intruded into the Supreme Court located in Iran capital Tehran and opened indiscriminate firing. Two judges of the Iranian Supreme Court were killed in this attack and one judge was injured. Later the attacker shot himself and committed suicide. It is being said that a dangerous attack was carried out against one of the murdered judges, Ali Rizini, in 1998 as well. That time a bomb was planted in his car, which was detonated using remote control. He was seriously injured in this attack. The other deceased judge has been identified as Mohammad Moghiseh. According to Iranian media, the hands of Israel's intelligence agency Mossad could be behind the attack.

**Qaumi Tanzeem** (January 24) states that the Supreme Court of Iran has awarded death sentence to a singer, Amir Hussain Tataloo. According to the newspaper, Tataloo has been staying in Turkiye since

2018. He has been accused of insulting Prophet of the Islam in one of his songs. Following this incident, he fled from Iran to Turkiye. On a request from Iran government, Turkiye had sent him back to Iran in 2023. In the past also, a court in Iran had sentenced Tataloo to 10 years in jail on charges of spreading obscenity and for carrying out propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran. When the Iran's intelligence wing started an investigation against him, it was found that Tataloo had insulted Islam in one of his songs in the past as well. For this the court had awarded him an extra five year-jail term.

Later it was also found that Tataloo had also insulted the Prophet of Islam. On this, a case was heard against him for a second time. During the case, it was established that he had really made objectionable comments against Prophet Mohammad in one of his songs. On this, a court in Iran had awarded him death sentence. Though an appeal was filed in the Supreme Court, the court rejected the appeal of Tataloo. A spokesperson of Iran government, Asghar Jahangir, has confirmed that the Supreme Court has rejected the appeal of Tataloo. Tataloo is one among the popular singers in Iran. He also did a television interview of the then President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi in 2017.

**Avadhnama** (January 25) states that the director for human rights and women's issues in Iranian foreign ministry, Marzieh Afkham, has condemned a resolution passed by European Union. It has been alleged in this resolution that the Iranian army and its intelligence are targeting the political opponents of the government. Last year, across the world, the highest number of people were awarded death sentence in Iran. Afkham said the judiciary of Islamic

Republic of Iran is totally independent and they conduct hearings as per the law where the accused is given full freedom to present their view. This apart, they were also given the freedom to present their lawyer. Afkham said the foreign agencies are deliberating conducting a campaign to give a bad name to Iran and its judicial system. The terrorist elements are given promotion through these foreign agencies, which is an open violation of the international laws.

## Houthi rebels declared as international terrorist organisation



According to **Etemaad** (January 24), US President Donald Trump has declared the organisation of Houthi rebels in Yemen, Ansar Allah, as a terrorist organisation. In this connection, an order has also been issued. Yemen's information minister Hashem Ahmad Abdulrahman Sharafuddin said that the Trump administration is stunned over the campaign unleashed by

Houthis against Israel and its allied countries. He said that it is surprising that the outgoing President Joe Biden had removed Houthis from the terrorists list. As soon as Trump took over power, we were once again included in the list. He said that the US and its allies were stunned over our anti-Israel activities. They have been regularly making us the target of their airstrikes. Despite this, we are firmly standing on the ground. Sharafuddin said that an agreement has been reached between Hamas and Israel over Gaza and hence we have stopped our attacks on the ships of Israel and its allied nations. Now we are stepping up our attacks once again. He rejected the claim that the Houthis are getting weapons from Iran.

## Ahmed Al-Sharaa appointed interim President of Syria

**Urdu Times** (January 31) states that the spokesperson of Syrian army, Hassan Abdel Ghani, announced that Ahmed Al-Sharaa alias Abu Mohammed Al-Julani has been appointed as the interim President of the country. He has also been given the power to constitute a temporary Legislative Council. This apart, the 2012 Constitution of Syria has been suspended. All the laws

passed during the emergency in the country have also been repealed. The spokesperson said that the legislative council constituted under the supervision of Al-Sharaa will help run the administration of the country until a new Constitution is ratified. Various armed groups in the country have been directed that they hand over all their weapons to the Army. In future, all these



armed groups will be given permission to work only under the supervision of the army. A ban has been imposed on Socialist Baath Party which has been in power in the country for the past 50 years. The ban has been imposed on this party because they had colluded with the army and intelligence agencies and deprived the citizens of their fundamental rights. It is worth mentioning that the deposed President of Syria Bashar Al-Assad belonged to the Baath Party.

Syria's defence ministry announced that a meeting was organised under the leadership of Ahmed Al-Sharaa in Damascus. Kurdish rebel organisation Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) did not take part in this meeting. Whereas, the representatives of 18 other rebel organisations took part in this meeting. According to observers, earlier most of these rebel organisations were fighting against each other. This was the first time all these organisations have met together in one place under the leadership of Ahmed Al-Sharaa. It is to be noted that the armed rebellion under the leadership of Ahmed Al-Sharaa had overthrown the Assad family which held power in the country for the past five decades. Following this, President Bashar Al-Assad fled to Russia along with his family. It is known that Bashar Al-Assad belongs to Shia sect. Whereas Ahmed Al-Sharaa belongs to the

Sunni Sect. Majority of the armed groups of Shias have not joined the new administration.

**Etemaad** (January 25) states that the new interim President of Syria, Ahmed Al-Sharaa had announced that the terrorist organisations which have become a headache for Turkiye will not be allowed to use Syria's territory in order to spread disturbance in Turkiye. He said that terrorist organisation Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and People's Defence Unit (YPG) will have to pack their bags from Syria immediately. We will not tolerate them under any circumstance. Ahmed Al-Sharaa said the so-called Islamic Caliphate ISIS is using PKK and YPG as puppets in their hands and spreading disturbances in Turkiye and Syria. He said that during the regime of Bashar Al-Assad, those Syrian citizens who had gone abroad due to persecution should now return to their own country.

**Etemaad** (January 16) states that Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appealed to all countries that they desist from making any kinds of interventions in the Syrian issue. He said that Turkiye has the capacity to crush all terrorist organisations including the ISIS and the Kurd rebels. He said until the Kurd rebel organisation YPG surrender and hand over their weapons to the government, the





campaign to finish them off will continue. He said the rebels will not be allowed to utilise the natural resources of Syria.

**Etemaad** (January 17) states that Turkiye's foreign minister Hakan Fidan said there is no place for PKK, YPG and ISIS in Syria. Addressing a press conference, he said we are committed to providing all kinds of help for the reconstruction of Syria. Fidan said that our embassy in Aleppo (Halab) has started the work. Along with this, the services of Turkish Airlines will also begin from Syria. He thanked the people for giving an opportunity to start a new chapter for Syria and Turkiye.

**Urdu Times** (January 30) states that a high-level delegation led by Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov visited Syria and met the interim President Ahmed Al-Sharaa. The meeting continued for three hours. Mikhail Bogdanov told correspondents that Syria's interim President Ahmed Al-Sharaa, Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani and Health Minister Maher al-Sharaa took part in the meeting. He said our relationship with the people of Syria is quite old.

During this meeting, we held discussions on trade and economic relationship. We have assured Syria that Russia will give full support for the reconstruction of basic infrastructure of the country. This apart, they will also be provided with manure, seeds etc.

**Hindustan** (January 17) states that Israel has started airstrikes in Syria. An Israeli drone targeted a convoy of Syrian army in Ghadir al-Bustan village. Several vehicles were damaged in this attack and some Syrian soldiers as well as ordinary citizens were killed. It is to be noted that after Bashar Al-Assad was deposed on December 8, Israel carried out several attacks on Syria's military outposts. Israel claimed that this attack was carried out because the enemy would not be able to capture those areas. Israel had also announced to deploy its soldiers in the buffer zone of Golan Heights as well. On December 14, 2024, Syrian leader Ahmed Al-Sharaa had condemned the intervention of Israeli military. He had said that Israel should not violate the border of Syria because it would be threat to the peace in the region.

**Urdu Times** (January 16) states that Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdul Aziz announced after a meeting of Saudi cabinet that Saudi Arabia will not tolerate terrorism in Syria under any circumstance. He said we are committed to providing all kinds of help for the reconstruction of Syria. If any foreign power attacks Syria, we will extend all kinds of support to it for its security.

## Saudi Arabia to make investments worth 600 billion dollars in the US

**Siasat** (January 24) reports that Saudi Arabia has expressed its intention to make investments worth at least 600 billion dollars in the US in the next four years. According to the Saudi press agency, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman held detailed talks with US President Donald

Trump in this connection. It is to be noted that Trump had visited Saudi Arabia during his first term and the two countries signed on various agreements related to investments worth 400 billion dollars. In 2018, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman had said the US was ready to



The Saudi Crown Prince congratulated the US President for his assuming power once again.

**Siasat** (January 25) states that US President Donald Trump said that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman is a great personality. We have a long-standing relationship with him. He said he would try to ensure that

produce certain weapons in Saudi Arabia. This will increase fresh employment opportunities in Saudi Arabia. This would strengthen the economy of Saudi Arabia and would also be a help for our security.

Saudi Arabia will make investments worth at least 1,000 billion dollars in US. This apart, he also urged Saudi Arabia and the organisation of OPEC countries to cut the price of oil.

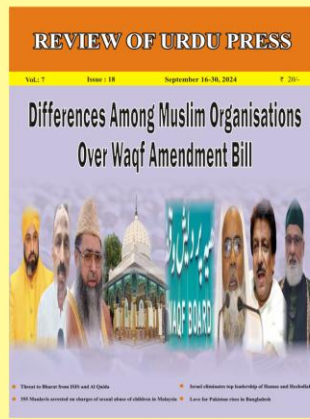
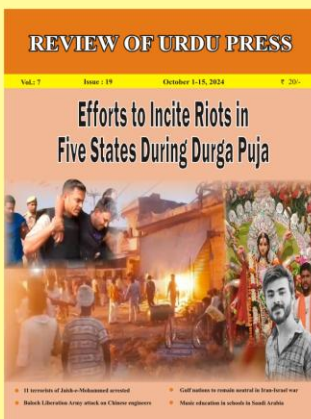
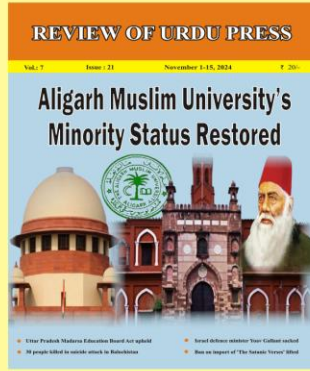
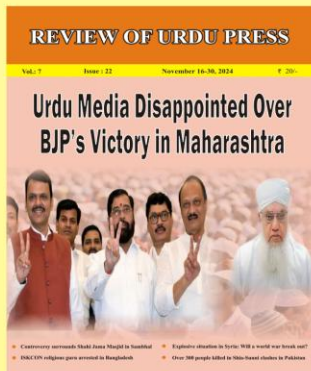
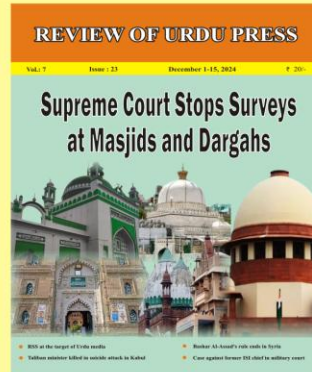
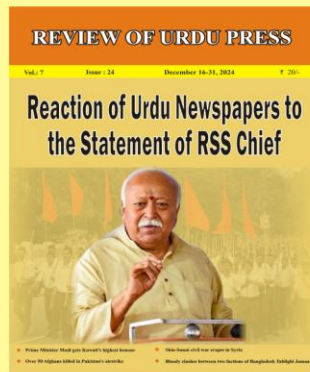
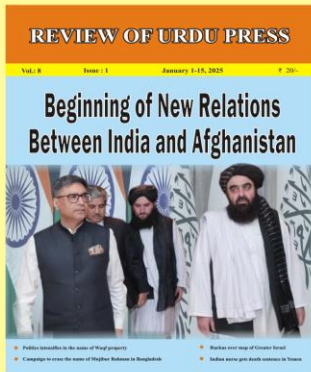
## 54 people killed in attack in market in Sudan



**Avadhnama** (February 3) states that the civil war is taking a serious turn in Sudan. As per a press release issued by Sudanese defence ministry, at least 54 people were killed and more than 200 people were injured in an attack by rebels in a crowded market in Omdurman, a prominent city of Sudan. Sudan's defence ministry has blamed Sudan's paramilitary force Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for this attack. This Islamic rebel group has been fighting a war since April 2023 in order to seize power in the country. According to German news agency 'DPA,' an Emergency has been declared in Sudan.

It is worth mentioning that for the past two years, bloody clashes have been

taking place between Sudan's ruler Abdel Fatah Al-Burhan and his deputy military chief Mohammad Hamdan Dagalo for control over power. Sudan's army stands with Al-Burhan. Whereas paramilitary organisation RSF is with Mohammad Hamdan Dagalo. It has been claimed that between 50,000 and one lakh people have been killed in this civil war. Whereas 1.2 crore people have been rendered homeless. The effort made by the United Nations to stop the civil war in Sudan have failed. Both the groups are targeting the citizens. Foreign news agencies had reported detailed accounts of gang rape of women and girls. Both the groups are also targeting hospitals and churches.



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