



## Deaths, displacement & destruction as Ukraine-Russia war continues

***Year 2025 is ending & the conflict is entering yet another year***

### WIDE ANGLE

**\*78% of all civilian casualties in Ukraine**

**\*Hundreds of thousands have died in war**

**\*Millions of people had to leave Ukraine**

**\*Around 7 million internally displaced**

**\*More than 1 million Russian military men died, as per claims.**

**\*War going on for 3 years & nine months**

**\*Over 10 million people have to leave their homes due to the conflict**

**\*The ongoing war has been one of the worst for Russia too, since World War II**



**The Asian Tribune**  
www.asiantribune.net

The year 2025 is coming to an end but the Ukraine-Russia war still continues.

Hundreds of thousands have been dead, millions have fled homes and economies of both the countries have been badly hit, yet, this war is still on.

While the conflict between the two nations has been going on since 2014, the full-fledged war began in February 2022.

Now three years and nine months have elapsed and there is no sign that the war would end soon.

Though the efforts for peace are being made, the attacks continue and the casualties are also reported on a regular basis. This is happening even as the world is all set to enter the new year, 2026.

One of the worst wars that has occurred since World War II,

the Ukraine-Russia war has led to immense destruction. A large population of Ukraine has been forced to leave their land.

Millions of people from the country, left their country and have settled in Eastern European nations.

Within Ukraine too, huge internal displacement has also occurred in the last couple of years due to the Russian strikes.

Civilian casualties have been high in Ukraine. But Russia has suffered too in a big way.

Estimates about number of troops who died in the nearly four year war, range from over 100,000 to as high as nearly a million.

Russia has been facing sanctions and despite the enormous impact on its economy, it is able to survive and fight as it's a huge nation.

Ukraine's tilt towards European

Union (EU) had already angered Russia has got territorial Putin, but controlling Lithium or gain but its army has other resources of Ukraine is suffered in a big way. could be the likely Russian aim. *editor@asiantribune.net*

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# Towns' Tradition: Culture of establishing, maintaining personal, home libraries

Shams Ur Rehman Alavi

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It's not an easy job—keeping the termites away, protecting the books from dampness and taking care of the age-old collection of books.

The ritual to bring books out in sunlight off and on, the constant preservation and visits to book binders—all this needs special interest and dedication.

But for those who have libraries and rare collection of books at home for over a century, its part of their lifestyle.

In one town in Awadh alone, there were libraries in dozens of homes and though several collections perished, many still exist.

The library in Kaifi Manzil in Kakori town in Lucknow district is one of the many such personal libraries that have rare books and files of old magazines & journals as well as manuscripts.

“My great grand father Nooruddin Kaifi had a unique collection of books, and my father too kept on adding books all his life. We have collection of the famous Maa'rif magazine ever since it started publication, much before independence”, says elderly Mazhar Habib alias Kamaal Miyan.

“It was in early 1940s when my father Moin Ahmad sahab started his professional life, with a job in Hathras. He later shifted to Sitapur later on. Books were his first and last love”.

“For generations, our elders kept the books and its now up to next generation”.



“Once a major publication house was facing financial crunch and it made an appeal for life term super subscription that was a princely sum but could get a person all books published by the publication house later. Decades later, they told us that my father was the sole man to offer the sum & shared his letter mentioning that as it was a big sum, he could pay the money in instalments”, says Kamaal Miyan, with pride. “Towns in Awadh are known for their love for the written word, especially, literature. We have libraries in other homes too in this qasbah (town). Bibliophiles come here”, says Kamaal Miyan showing Bollywood actor (late) Dharmendra's message to him in Urdu, drawing attention towards handwriting of the actor who had come here nearly two years ago. [Email: editor@asiantribune.net](mailto:editor@asiantribune.net)

## Lynching incidents continue, latest in Bihar

\*For over a decade, lynching incidents have become a regular feature. The killings of Md Akhlaq in Dadri, Mohsin Sheikh in Pune, Hafiz Junaid in Delhi, apart from Pehlu Khan, Raqbar Khan and Afrazul in Rajasthan and many other such instances of mob violence, led to anger and protests in the country. The Apex court also took cognizance. Unfortunately, lynching incidents are taking place and such cases are getting reported from different parts of the country, even now.



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One more incident of mob's blood lust has come to fore and this incident of lynching has been reported from Bihar.

Muhammad Athar Husain, 40, was beaten up brutally by a group and he was later admitted to the hospital.

Athar received multiple injuries in the attack and he couldn't survive.

After getting admitted, the police recorded his statement.

Athar told the police about how he was targeted and that the assailants checked his genitals to ascertain his religion.

He told police that the attackers used pliers and tortured him. The incident occurred in Nawada district in Bihar.

Athar was a garment seller. He was allegedly stripped and beaten with iron rod.

The incidents of mob lynching have occurred in UP, Bihar,

Delhi, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and several other states in the country.

One of the initial cases was the attack on Mohsin Sheikh in Pune, over a decade ago.

The killing of Mohammad Akhlaq in Dadri in Uttar Pradesh, had shaken the country.

There were incidents like the killing of Junaid in a Delhi train,

the killings of Afrazul, Raqbar Khan, Pehlu Khan and ordinary Muslims who were targeted by the self-styled cow vigilantes.

Athar, a cloth seller, had told the police in his statement before death, that he was asked about his religion and then the assailants tortured him, cut his ears with pliers.

The assailants have been identified. Police have arrested four of out eight accused.

# The world needs free media.

Corporate funded media is not free.



## Film focuses on South Asia & conflicting identities

Zac Colah's movie shows how identities built by exclusionary narratives inherited from partition.



By Tamanna Syed

'South Asia Bound: The Cost of National Identity', a documentary that traces how India and Pakistan emerged from partition into two separate states shaped by contested identities and uneven political power, reflecting broader patterns across South Asia, was screened in Boston in United States.

The film examines how the state's narratives are built on a myth of unity but often overshadow the region's cultural, ethnic, linguistic & religious diversity.

Organized by filmmaker Zac Colah, a Tufts University senior and hosted by the South Asia Peace Action Network with Sapan News as media partner, the event drew a diverse Boston audience. The film explores the internal fragmentation in both Pakistan and India, highlighting the struggles of the ethnic minorities.

The screening was followed by a chat with journalist Beena Sarwar.



The film examines how national identities in India and Pakistan are both built through the exclusionary narratives inherited from 1947. "To define a 'them' is also to create an 'us', Colah told Sapan News.

Colah also emphasized the importance of shared spaces. "There's something special about being in the same room and exploring an idea together. One could feel the power of Collective & it spans across the borders and continents." The movie succeeded in its aim and draws attention towards the issues.

facing minorities, their challenges & their rights, statelessness, colonial as well as neo-colonial governance and cross-border solidarities.

It invites viewers to reconsider how national identities have been constructed and contested, highlighting the long reach of colonial legacies & contemporary state pressures. Colah plans to focus on struggles faced by ethnic minorities across South Asia in his future films, responsible for so much suffering across South Asia. Ethnic groups demand

autonomy, linguistic rights and relief from repression, while Shia communities face ongoing structural and social challenges. For attendees, the premiere underscored the power of public dialogue and storytelling in grappling with the political & cultural complexities of the region — and beyond.

[Tamanna Syed is a Bangladeshi-American poet, writer, artist and filmmaker. Her work centres on cultural identity & social justice].

*Photos: Courtesy Sapan News*


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